

GERMAN WORD USED ON DOCUMENTS

Words Found On A Marriage Record

Kirchspiel = parish
Dom = cathedral
Heiratsdatum = marriage date
Auszug = extract
Bescheinigung = certificate
Trauregister = wedding register
Advokat = lawyer
Heiraths-Listen = marriage list
Ordnungs-No. = order number
Alphabetisch(es) = alphabetic
Vornamen = first Name
Familiennamen = family Name
Bornamen = groom's/bride's name [word does not exist!]
Des Bräutigams = of the groom
Der Braut = of the bride
Vater = father
Mutter = mother
Sohn von = son of
Töchter von = daughters of

Words Found On A Birth Record

Geb. or Geburtsdatum = birth date
Taufdatum = christening date
Vater = father
Mutter = mother
Vornamen = first Name
Familiennamen = family name
Ort der Geburt = place of birth
ehelich geboren den zwoelften = born in lawful wedlock on
[questionable translation, provide entire sentence!]
Alter = age
Ein Knabe = a boy
Ein Mädchen = a girl
Geburtshelfer = obstetrician [?]
Angezeigt durch = Announced by
Getauft = baptized

Occupations (Beruf)

Maschinenschlosser = engine (or machine) fitter, mechanic
Altbinder = craftsman repairing old barrels
Geselle = "grade" of craftsman
Zimmergeselle = carpenter
Maurergeselle = mason
Landmann = farmer

Köthner or Kätbner = poor farmer living on a small piece

of land which is not his own

Matrose = sailor

Fuhrmann = carter, driver, or carrier

Geburtshelfer = Obstetrician

Kesselträger = boiler carrier

Zigarrenfabrikant = cigar maker, owner of a cigar factory,

Words Found On Miscellaneous Documents

Das Rathaus = town hall

Bescheinigung = certificate

Advokat = Lawyer

Stammhaus = habitual place, ancestral seat, the house a
family comes from

Gemeindeverwaltung = municipal administration

dessen Gewerbe und Wohnort = his occupation & place of residence

deren Gewerbe und Wohnort = her occupation & place of residence

zum Wedel = place name

Kirchspiel = parish

Einwohner = citizen, resident

Dom = cathedral

Bürgereid = citizen's oath

Viertel = town quarter

Bach = small river, brook, run

Muehle = mill

Muehlbach = brook used for driving a mill

Bruch = humid, moory region [can mean many other things as well]

Sohn von = son of

Beruf = occupation

Kf. or Konfession = religion

Kinder = # of children

Söhne = sons

Töchter = daughters

Tote - died

taufen - baptized

Heiraten - Married

Geburten - birth

Juni - Matrike

German Family Relationships

Terms which are no longer in general use in present day German have been included where I felt they might be of importance to those genealogists reading older documents. These words have been marked with an asterisk and their modern day equivalent is referenced.

*Base	see Cousine
Bruder	brother
Cousin	male cousin
Cousine	female cousin
Ehefrau	wife
Ehemann	husband
Eltern	parents
Enkel	male grandchild, grandson
Enkelin	female grandchild, granddaughter
Gatte	formal term for husband
Gattin	formal term for wife
Geschwister	brother(s) and sister(s)
Grossmutter	grandmother
Grossonkel	great-uncle
Grosstante	great-aunt
Grossvater	grandfather
Kind	child
Kusine	see Cousine
Mutter	mother
Neffe	nephew
Nichte	niece
*Oheim	see Onkel
Onkel	uncle
Schwägerin	sister-in-law; brother's wife
Schwager	brother-in-law; sister's husband
Schwester	sister
Schwiegereltern	parents-in-law
Schwiegermutter	mother-in-law
Schwiegersohn	son-in-law
Schwiegertochter	daughter-in-law
Schwiegervater	father-in-law
Sohn	son
Stiefmutter	stepmother
Stiefsohn	stepson
Stieftochter	stepdaughter
Stiefvater	stepfather
Tante	aunt
Tochter	daughter
Urenkel	great-grandson
Urenkelin	great-granddaughter
Urgrossmutter	great-grandmother
Urgrossvater	great-grandfather
Vater	father
Vetter	male cousin

It is very interesting for the English language genealogist to note that distinct terms for relationships such as first cousin, second cousin etc. are virtually unknown in the German

language. In specialist circles it may be perfectly acceptable to say 'Cousin 2. Grades' (literally: male cousin of the second degree), but ordinary German speakers would be at pains to define that relationship. Distinctions like 'first cousin one removed' are, therefore, even more esoteric.

German Occupations (Berufe)

Occupations which no longer exist or words no longer in general use in present day German have been included where I felt they might be of importance to those genealogists reading older documents. These words have been marked with an asterisk and, where necessary, their modern day equivalent is referenced.

Most names of occupations in German are gender specific and have their own form. In most cases, this is simply a variant of the (grammatical) masculine form ending in "in", e.g. Arbeiter Arbeiterin, Arzt Ärztin, Autor Autorin. The female forms have generally been included if there is also a gender specific form in English, but I doubt that I was totally consistent.

The English translations or explanations are hopefully transatlantic, i.e. I have generally taken both British and American English usage into consideration.

Ackermann = farmer
Aderlasser = barber surgeon
Amman = bailiff, magistrate
Amtsverwalter = administrator
Anbauer = peasant
Angestellter = white-collar worker
Angstmann = executioner; torturer
Anspanner = farmer
Anstreicher = painter
Anwalt = lawyer
Apotheker = chemist, pharmacist
Arbeiter = blue-collar worker
Armer = poor man
Arrendator = lease holder, tenant farmer
Arzt = medical doctor
Auer = clock, watchmaker
Auermacher = clock, watchmaker
Auflader = packer, loader
Aufseher = supervisor
Aufspieler = troubadour, minstrel
Aulenbäcker = potter
Auler = potter
Automechaniker = car mechanic
Autor = author
Autorin = authoress
Bäcker = baker
Backmann = baker
Bader = barber-surgeon
Balbierer = barber
Bamutter = midwife
Barbier = barber
Bareler = cooper
Bartscherer = barber
Bartzwicker = barber
Bauarbeiter = construction worker
Bauer = farmer owning his own farm
Baumeister = builder

Baumgartner = orchardist
Beck = baker
Becker = baker
Bedder = barber, barber-surgeon
Bekenmacher = cooper
Bergmann = miner
Besenbinder = broom maker
Beständer = leaseholder, tenant farmer
Bestandmann = leaseholder, tenant farmer
Bettler = beggar
Bierbrauer = beer brewer
Bildhauer = sculptor
Bischof = bishop
Bisser = (horse's) bridle or bridle-bit maker
Bleicher = bleacher
Bleistiftmacher = pencil maker
Bleiweissholzleinmacher = pencil maker
Bleiweisschneider = pencil maker
Böck = baker
Böker = cooper
Böttcher* = see Küfer*
Boddek(er) = cooper
Bootsmann = boatman
Bortenmacher = lacemaker
Bote = messenger
Botenmeister = postmaster
Brämelmacher = haberdasher
Brauer = brewer
Brettschneider = sawyer
Briser = haberdasher
Brückenzöllner = bridge toll collector
Büchsenmacher = gunsmith
Büdner = stallkeeper; cottager, crofter
Bürgermeister = mayor
Bürstenmacher = brushmaker
Büttemacher = cooper
Büttenbinder = cooper
Büttner = cooper
Bubenmeister = schoolmaster
Buchdrucker = printer
Buchfeller = parchment maker
Buchhalter = book-keeper
Buchstabensetzer = typesetter
Bungenschlager = drummer
Buntmacher = furrier
Busschaffner = bus conductor
Busschaffnerin = bus conductress
Carpe = carpenter
Chirurg = surgeon
Corber = basketmaker
Curtzenwerter = furrier
Dachdecker = roofer, tiler, slater, thatcher
Damenfriseur = ladies' hairdresser (male)
Damenfriseuse = ladies' hairdresser (female)
Damenschneider = dressmaker
Decker = roofer, slater, thatcher, tiler
Degener = swordsmith

Degenschmied = swordsmith
Diener = servant
Dienstbote = servant
Dienstmädchen = maid
Drechsler = turner, thresher
Dreher = turner
Dreyer = turner
Drucker = printer
Durner = watchman, lookout
Einleger = cooper
Einlieger = farm laborer
Eisengiesser = iron foundryman
Eisenhändler = iron-monger
Eisenschmied = blacksmith
Eisenschneider = engraver
Erbpächter = hereditary tenant
Erdebäcker = potter
Erzgräber = miner
Esser = coachbuilder, cartwright
Euler = potter
Eulner = potter
Fährmann = ferryman
Färber = dyer
Fässler = cooper
Fabrikant = manufacturer
Fabrikarbeiter = factory worker
Fahrer = driver
Faktotum = servant, helper
Fassbinder = cooper
Fassschlupfer = cooper
Fasszieher = packer, loader, helper in market
Feger = road sweeper
Feldhüter = field watchman
Feldmeister = knacker, flayer
Feldmesser = surveyor
Feldreiter = gendarme, constable, rural policeman
Fellhändler = furrier
Fellwerkbearbeiter = furrier
Ferber = dyer
Ferche = ferryman
Ferge = ferryman
Fessler = cooper
Feuermaler = enameler
Fiedler = violin player, fiddler
Figurist = sculptor
Fingerhuter = thimble manufacturer
Fischer = fisherman
Fischhändler = fishmonger
Fläminger = cloth dyer
Flaschenmacher bottle maker
Fleischer = butcher
Fleischhacker = butcher
Fleischhauer = butcher
Fleischmann = butcher
Förster = forester
Fragner = small shopkeeper, grocer
Freiherr = baron

Friseur = male hairdresser; also see Herren-, Damen-
Friseur = female hairdresser
Fürst = prince
Füsilier = light infantryman
Fuhrmann* = carter, driver, or carrier
Fussknecht = foot soldier
Gängler = peddler
Gärtner = gardener
Gadenmann = small shopkeeper
Gantier = glove maker
Gantner = cooper; auctioneer
Gastgeber = innkeeper
Gasthalter = innkeeper
Gastwirt = innkeeper
Gaulichter = chandler
Gebissmacher = bridle-bit maker
Geburtshelfer = obstetrician
Geigenspieler = violin player, fiddler
Geistlicher = clergyman
Gemeindemann = town official
Gemüsehändler = greengrocer
Gepäckträger = porter (carries luggage)
Gerber = tanner
Gerichtsschreiber = court clerk
Gerillhändler = scrap iron merchant
Geselle = "grade" of craftsman; journeyman
Gewänder = cloth merchant
Gewürzkramer = spice trader
Giesser = foundryman
Gigenbuckler = violin player, fiddler
Girschner = furrier
Glasballier = glass burnisher
Glaser = glazier
Glaserwerter = glazier
Gleser = glazier
Glöckner = bell ringer
Glotzenmacher = wooden shoe maker
Glufenmacher = pin manufacturer
Goldschläger = producer of gold-leaf
Goldschmied = goldsmith
Graufärber = dyer of woolen cloth
Graveur = engraver
Gröper = potter
Grobbinder = cooper
Grobschmied = blacksmith
Grossbauer = a farmer with large holdings
Grütmüller = grain miller
Grütznier = grain miller
Gürtler = belt maker
Gufener = needlemaker
Häcker = small farmer
Händler = trader, merchant
Hafner = potter
Hakenbüdner = hook seller
Halbbauer = farmer on half-sized farm
Halter = cowherd
Hammacher = leatherworker, saddler

Handelsreisender* = see Reisender
Handelsvertreter = sales representative
Handschuhmacher = glove maker
Handwerker = craftsman
Haubenmacher = milliner
Hausfrau = housewife
Hausierer = peddler
Hausmädchen = housemaid
Hebamme = midwife
Hebamme = midwife
Heizer* = stoker on a ship or train
Hemdenmacher = shirtmaker
Hepner = hops farmer
Herrenfriseur = barber
Herrenschneider = tailor
Hersteller = producer, manufacturer
Heuerling = day laborer, hireling
Hippenmacher = scythe maker
Hirt = herdsman
Hölscher = wooden shoe maker
Höpfner = hops grower
Hofmann = day laborer
Hofprediger = chaplain
Holzarbeiter = woodworker
Holzdreher = turner
Holzer = woodworker
Holzhändler = lumber merchant
Holzhauer = lumberjack
Holzschuhmacher = wooden shoe maker
Honighändler = honey merchant
Hopfenbauer = hops grower
Hüfner = farmer
Hufschmied = blacksmith, farrier, shoeing smith
Hure = prostitute
Hutmacher = hat maker
Imker = bee keeper
Ingenieur = engineer
Instmann = tenant farm worker
Jäger = hunter, forester
Journalist = journalist
Käsehändler = cheese merchant
Kästner = joiner
Käthner* = shareholder, crofter
Kaffl = trader, merchant
Kammerdiener = valet, butler
Kannengiesser = pewter worker
Kantor = choirmaster, organist
Kassierer = cashier
Kaufhändler = buyer, merchant
Kaufmann = buyer, merchant
Keller = wine steward
Kellner = waiter
Kerkermeister = jailer
Kerzengiesser = chandler
Kerzenzieher = chandler
Kessler = coppersmith
Kesselträger* = boiler carrier

Kessler = boilermaker, tinker
Kiefer = cooper
Kimmer = cooper
Kirchenältester = church elder
Kirchenvorsteher = church warden
Kirschner = furrier
Kittner = glazier
Kleibener = potter
Klempner = plumber
Knecht = servant, farm hand
Knopfmacher = button maker
Köchin = female cook
Köhler = charcoal maker
Körtzner = furrier
Köthner* = shareholder, crofter
Kötter = small farmer
Koch = male cook, chef
Kolon = colonist, seller, farmer
Korbflechter = basketmaker
Kornmüller = grain miller
Korsenmeister = furrier
Krämer = small shopkeeper, grocer
Krankenpfleger = male nurse
Krankenschwester = nurse
Kritiker = critic
Kruger = innkeeper
Kübler = cooper
Küfer* = cooper
Kümmer = cooper
Künstler = artist
Kürschner = furrier
Küster = sexton
Kuchenbäcker = confectioner
Kuhhirte = cow herder
Kupferschmied = coppersmith
Kutscher = coachman, driver
Kutscher* = see Fahrer
Läuter = sexton, bell-ringer
Lakenkrämer = cloth merchant
Lakenscherer = cloth cutter
Landarzt = country doctor
Landmann* = farmhand
Landmesser = surveyor
Landwirt = farmer
Landwirt = farmer
Lapicide = stonemason
Lastträger = porter
Lebensmittelhändler = grocer
Lederhändler = leather merchant
Lehmer = potter
Lehrer = teacher
Lehrling = apprentice
Leichenbediener = undertaker
Leimenmacher = potter
Leinenreider = linen weaver
Leinenweber = linen weaver
Linner = linen weaver

Lodenmacher = weaver of woolen cloth
Lohnarbeiter = day laborer
Lokführer = train driver, engineer
Lüstrierer = textile worker
Mälzer = malt miller
Maler = painter
Maschinenschlosser = engine (or machine) fitter, mechanic
Matrose = sailor
Maurer = mason
Mechaniker = mechanic
Mehlhändler = flour merchant
Meister = master craftsman
Messerer = cutler
Messerschmied = cutler
Messingsschmied = brass worker
Messner = sexton
Metzger = butcher
Mietling = day laborer
Milchhändler = milkman
Möbeltischler = furniture maker
Müller* = miller
Müllner = miller
Musiker = musician
Näherin = seamstress
Nabenschmied = wheelwright
Nadelmacher = needle maker
Nagelschmied = nail smith
Notar = notary
Nuldener = needle maker
Obstverkäufer = fruit salesman
Ochsenknecht = cowherd
Ohlenmacher = potter
Orleymacher = clock or watchmaker
Pächter = leaseholder, tenant farmer
Paradeiser = gardner
Pedell = servant
Pelzer = furrier
Pergamentmacher = parchment maker
Pfandnehmer = pawnbroker
Pfannenschmied = pot or pan maker
Pfarrer = pastor, minister
Pfefferhändler = pepper merchant
Pfeiffenmacher = pipe maker
Pferdeknecht = stableman, groom
Pflasterer = paver
Pflugschmied = plowsmith
Pfortner = porter (at a door)
Pilsner = furrier
Pirmeider = parchment maker
Pölter = furrier
Pötter = potter
Portenmacher = haberdasher
Posamentierer = haberdasher
Postillion = coachman
Postmeister = postmaster
Prediger = preacher
Preister = priest

Pütjer = potter
Puchfeller = parchment maker
Puchveler = parchment maker
Putzfrau = cleaning woman, charlady
Putzmacherin* = milliner
Rademacher = wheelwright
Ratsherr = alderman
Rechenmeister = accountant
Rechtsanwalt = attorney
Reepschläger = rope maker
Reinemachefrau = see Putzfrau
Reisender* = travelling salesman, commercial traveller
Reisser = designer, draftsman
Reitschmied = farrier, shoeing smith
Rentner = retired
Reuter = rider; clearer of land
Richter = judge
Riemenschneider = harness maker
Rindschuster = tanner
Rindsuter = tanner
Rotgerber = tanner
Rudersmann = helmsman, coxswain
Säger = sawyer
Sattler = leather worker, saddler
Sauter = shoemaker, cobbler
Schäfer = shepherd
Schäffler = cooper
Schaffner = guard, conductor (train)
Scharmacher = cartwright, wheelwright
Schatilger = joiner, cabinetmaker
Schauspieler = actor
Schauspielerin = actress
Scheffler = cooper
Scheibenreisser = glazier
Schiffer = sailor
Schlosser = locksmith
Schmied = smith (metal worker)
Schneider = tailor, dressmaker; see Herren-, Damen-
Schnorrer = begger
Schnurmacher = lace maker
Schöffe = juror, juryman
Schöffler = bowl maker
Schönbeck = pastry baker
Schoffner = cooper
Schopper = ship's carpenter
Schornsteinfeger = chimney-sweep
Schotte = peddler
Schrader = tailor
Schreiber = clerk
Schreiner = joiner, cabinet-maker
Schriftsetzer = typesetter
Schuhflicker = cobbler
Schuhmacher = shoe maker
Schullehrer = teacher, schoolmaster
Schultheisserei = mayor
Schuster = shoemaker, cobbler
Seemann = sailor

Seidenkrämer = silk merchant
Seifenmacher = soap maker
Seifensieder = soap maker
Seigner = fisherman
Seiler = rope maker
Sekretär = male secretary
Sekretärin = female secretary
Sensenschmied = scythe maker
Sigrist = sexton
Soldat = soldier
Sozialarbeiter = social worker
Spangenmacher = brass worker
Spezereihändler = druggist, chemist
Spielmann = troubadour, minstrel
Sporenschmied = spur maker
Stäbler = peddler
Stahlarbeiter = steelworker
Steinbrecher = quarryman
Steinhauer = stonemason
Steinmetz = stonemason
Steinschneider = gem cutter
Stellmacher = wheelwright
Stempelschneider = stamp cutter, die sinker
Steuermann = helmsman, coxswain
Strassenkehrer = road sweeper
Strumpweber = stocking weaver
Tagelöhner = day-laborer
Techniker = technician, engineer
Tierarzt = vet
Tischler = see Schreiner
Torwächter = gatekeeper
Totengräber = grave digger
Trippenmacher = wooden shoe maker
Trommler = drummer
Tüncher = white-washer
Tuchfärber = cloth dyer
Tuchmacher = cloth maker
Turmwächter = watchman, lookout
Ulenbecker = potter
Ulner = potter
Unterrichter = judge
Verber = dyer
Verkäufer = salesman
Verkäuferin = saleswoman
Vertreter = sales representative
Vogt = provost, constable
Wagenbauer = coach builder, cartwright
Wagner = coach builder, cartwright
Waidmann = hunter
Weber = weaver
Wehener = coach builder, cartwright
Wehmutter = midwife
Wehrmann = soldier
Weingärtner = vine dresser
Weissbinder = cooper; house painter
Weissfrau = midwife
Weissgerber = tanner

Wetzer = grinder
Weydmann = hunter
Weyner = coach builder, cartwright
Wildschütz = hunter; poacher
Wildwerker = furrier
Winzer = vine dresser
Wirt = landlord, pub owner
Wirtin = landlady, pub owner or wife of same
Wollenweber = wool weaver
Wundarzt = surgeon
Zahnarzt = dentist
Zahnbrecher = dentist ("tooth breaker")
Zauer = cloth maker
Zaumzeugmacher = (horse's) bridle maker
Zeichner = designer, draftsman
Zeidler = beekeeper
Zengener = tongsmith
Zerrner = hammersmith
Zeugkrämer = cloth merchant
Zeugmacher = cloth maker
Ziechner = weaver of bed sheets
Ziegelbrenner = brickmaker
Ziegler = brickmaker
Zigarrenfabrikant = cigar maker, owner of a cigar factory
Zimmerchrist = carpenter
Zimmerer = carpenter
Zinsnehmer = moneylender, userer
Zugbegleiter = see Schaffner
Zwirnmacher = thread maker