

The Complete 1776 Census of Mennonites in West Prussia

Version 5, January 2015

Compiled by [Glenn H. Penner](#)

The following table contains the census of Mennonites in the former West Prussia, taken in 1776. In 1772 a large part of the Polish kingdom was partitioned between Russia, Austria and Prussia. The majority of Mennonites living in Poland became subjects of the Prussian king Fredrick the Great (Friedrich II), and residents of the province of West Prussia. In 1776 a census of Mennonites in the newly acquired territory was undertaken. This census was known as the *Special Consignation aller in West Preussen befindlichen Mennonisten Familien im Jahr 1776. Aus den von den Mennonistischen Vermahnern eingelieferten Nachrichten gefertigt vom Intendanten Schlemmer*. The census does not include the city of Danzig, the Thorn territory, the Neumark (Brandenburg) area, and the region known as the Danziger Nehrung. The latter two regions were acquired by Prussia in 1793, and census lists can be found at:

<http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/oberness.htm> and

www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/1793_Danzig_Census.htm.

A 1767 census for the Neumark area can be found at:

<http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/neumark.htm>

The Mennonites in the East Prussian regions of Königsberg and Tilsit are not included here. They are enumerated in a separate 1777 census of Mennonites in East Prussia.

The 1776 census contains information on 2,638 families and accounts for 12,186 people. This census has appeared in several publications. I have taken my information from appendix 7 of Horst Penner's book *Die ost- und westpreußischen Mennoniten*, with the help of an old template prepared by Alan Peters.

In the second revision (version 3) I added new information from West Prussian church records to a significant number of entries. I also identified several hundred household heads in the Grandma database by including their Grandma numbers in the comments column.

If anyone has comments, corrections, or additional information, please contact me. I plan on updating the census in about a year's time.

[The Complete 1776 Census of Mennonites in West Prussia](#) (with changes since version 4 highlighted).

[The Complete 1776 Census of Mennonites in West Prussia](#) (no highlights).

I have broken up the census into 14 columns. Here are brief descriptions of each column:

- #: the identification number used in the GRANDMA database to identify family names
- Last Name: the last name of the head of the family
- First: the first name of the head of the family
- Location: the village of residence of the family
- Occupation: the occupation of the head of the family
- H: counts the husband of the family
- W: counts the wife
- S: counts the number of sons
- D: counts the number of daughters
- M: counts the male servants in the household
- F: counts the female servants in the household
- Land: indicates the landowning status of the family
- Class: denotes how the Prussian officials classified each family economically
- Comments.

Here are more detailed explanations of some of the column headings:

#

For more information see the GRANDMA 7 users manual at <http://calmenno.org/grandma/index.htm>

Location

For more information on which Mennonite churches to which the people in each village belonged see: <http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/1820danz.htm> and <http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/1820mar.htm> .

Also see

http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com/prussia/West_Prussian_Mennonite_Villages_Alph.htm for more information.

Occupation

The following list contains most of the occupations mentioned in the census.

A., Arb.	Arbeitsmann	Labourer
Ack., Ackm.	Ackersmann	Farmer
Apoth.-Bude	Apothek-Bude	Pharmacist
Arrd., Arrend.	Arrendator	Tenant
B.	Bauer	Farmer

Bäkschl.	Bäkenschläger	
Brwbr., Brantwbr.	Branntweinbrenner	Brandy distiller
Brsch., Brwschenk.	Branntwienschenker	Brandy Seller
Brau.	Brauer	Brewer
Brenner		Distiller
De., Di.	Destillateur	Distiller
Essbr.	Essigbrauer	Vinegar brewer
Gewkr., Gwk.	Gewürzkrämer	Spice seller
Gr., Grüt.	Grützer	Grist Miller
Grüzm.	Grüzmüller	Grist Miller
Häker., Hk.	Häker	Proprietor of a general store
Hakbüd.	Hakenbüdner	Proprietor of a general store
Hebamme		Midwife
Hofmann		Court official
Holzflößer		Rafter
Holzhd.	Holzhändler	Wood (lumber) merchant
Holzhauer		Woodcutter
Honighandler		Honey Merchant
Kaufm.	Kaufmann	Merchant
k. Gew.	Keine Gewerbe	Unemployed
Klempner		Tinsmith
Kornm.	Kornmüller	Grain miller
Kuhp.	Kuhpächter	Cow renter???
Kürschner		Furrier
L.	Landmann	Farmer
Lw.	Landwirt	Farm-owner
Leichenbed.		Undertaker
Lein., Leinw.	Leinweber	Linen Weaver
Lederhdl.	Lederhändler	Leather Merchant
Losm.	Losmann	
Mälzer		Malter
Mi.	Mietsmann	Renter
Mg.	Mietsgärtner	Rented a small plot of land
Milchträgn.	Milchträger	Milkman
Plattenschläger		Smith
Posmach.	Posamentenmacher	Lacemaker
Radmacher		(Wagon) Wheelmaker

Rotg.	Rotgerber	Tanner
Schnd.	Scheider	Tailor
schenk. Br.	Schenkt Branntwein	Brandy seller
Schiffer		Shipper
Schuhflicker		Shoe mender
Schulm.	Schulmeister	Schoolmaster (teacher)
Schust.	Schuster	Shoemaker
Seiler		Ragmaker
Spinn.	Spinner	Spinning wheel operator
Tischler		Cabinetmaker
Uhrmacher		Clockmaker
Wagenmeister		Master Wagon Maker
Wasserm., Wmüll.	Wassermüller	Operates a Watermill
Web., Wb.	Weber	Weaver
Zeugm.	Zeugmacher	Harness maker
Zimm.	Zimmermann	Carpenter
Zwirnmacher		Twinemaker

Servants (one column for male (Knecht) and one for female (Magd))

Made up about 7% of the entire Mennonite population of West Prussia. These were often teenagers who were living with, and working for, other families. These families were usually wealthier. In some cases they were relatives or family friends. I suspect that this category included anyone who was living with the family, and not a member of the immediate family.

Land

This census classifies the families into 6 categories with respect to land ownership/rental.

A.	Arrendator	Tenant (farmer)
E.	Eigentümer, Eigengärtener	Owned their land
Gärt.	Gärtner	Owned a small plot of land
Mi.	Mietsmann	Renter
Hos.	Hospital	Lived in the hospital or poor house

Class

It is difficult to evaluate quantitatively just what each class actually means. It is probably best to indicate the percentage of Mennonite households in each class:

g.	gut	good (upper)
mm	mittelmässig	middle "class"
s	schlecht	low
a	arm	poor
sa	sehr arm	very poor

Comments

Comments found in the census are "in quotes". My comments usually contain additional information obtained from existing West Prussian church records. I have not included the details of the information found in the church records. This you will have to find yourselves.

The Mennonite congregations are as follows:

Danz	Danzig
Thag	Thiegenhagen
Lad	Ladekopp
Ros	Rosenort
Bar	Bärwalde/Fürstenwerder
Heub	Heubuden
Sch	Schönsee
Trag	Tragheimerweide
Elb	Elbing/Ellerwald
Thdf	Thiensdorf
Mxhf	Marcushof
Prz	Königsberg

I also indicate Lutheran or Catholic Church registers where I have found references to people in the census (usually deaths). For example "(Luth/Zeyer)" means that the person is also found in the Lutheran church records of Zeyer. Grandma database numbers are now included for many of the household heads. These were obtained from the Grandma 6 database.