West Prussian Mennonite Villages

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This list contains locations where Mennonites were known to have lived in significant numbers (usually over 10% of the population) up to and including the year 1820. From the 1820s on Mennonites spread throughout West and East Prussia and inhabited many hundreds of cities, towns, and villages.

Note that just because one of your ancestors lived in a particular village, this does not make it a "Mennonite" village. I have included locations at my discretion. The *Westpreussen Ortsverzeichnis* page includes many thousands of unique locations. During their first few centuries in Prussia, Mennonites lived in only 400-500 of these villages in any significant numbers.

Note that this list includes ONLY those villages which became part of West Prussia in 1772, 1793 or 1795. This list does not include villages in East Prussia, Prussian Lithuania, Brandenburg, Volhynia, or South Prussia.

All umlauts in the table have been removed – ö = oe, ü = ue and ä = ae.

Many of these locations can be found on an interactive map at:
https://trailsofthepast.com/2020/03/27/west-prussian-mennoonite-villages/

West Prussian Mennonite Villages Excel File

Column Headings:

Village – This is the German village name used by Mennonites during their time in West Prussia. Note that many of these names had multiple spelling variations. I have tried to use the same name as that used in the corresponding GAMEO article and/or the Westpreussen Ortverzeichnis web page.

Region – the region normally used in the GRANDMA database. Since administrative districts changed with time, GM often uses the geographical regions. The following regions are used: Danzig, Gross Werder, Klein Werder, Marienwerder, Mewe, Stuhm, Schwetz, Graudenz, Neuenburg, Culm and Thorn.

Year Established or first mentioned – This information comes from many sources. A year with a "?" (question mark) means that there is some uncertainty as to the founding year. A year with a "*" (asterisk) means that this is the first year the village's name was found in known records. The sources used were:

Maercker, Hans. Geschichte des Schwetzer Kreises. Band I, Danzig 1886. Band II, Danzig, 1888.

Klassen, Horst. Werderbauern im Weichsel-Nogat-Delta. Backnang, 2003.

Driedger, Gerhard. The Werder. Calgary, 1995.

Schmid, Bernhard. Bau- und Kunstdenmaeler des Kreises Marienburg. Danzig, 1919.

Prussian Kreis (District) in 1820 – according to the 1820 lists by Adalbert Goertz. Found here and here.

Polish Name – Currently used polish name. If village no longer exists then name used in the past. This information comes mostly from the Ortverzeichnis page mentioned above.

Mennonite church – In which Mennonite parish or *Kirchspiel* was the village found. In some cases, the villages had both Frisian and Flemish church members (e.g. Tiegenhof), in some cases the village was on the border (Neustaedterwald was split between Elbing and Tiegenhagen Flemish congregations).

Lutheran Church - In which Lutheran parish or *Kirchspiel* was the village found. This is important since, starting in 1800, the state church (Lutheran) was required to keep vital statistics (births, marriages and deaths) on all Mennonites within their parish. This turns out to be a fantastic source of genealogical information for regions where the Mennonite church records have been destroyed (e.g. Rosenort & Schoensee). This information comes from the 1820 Adalbert Goertz lists found here and here or the Ortsverzeichnis page.

GPS coordinates – these need to be checked and updated.

GAMEO – is there a GAMEO article on the village? If so, the cell in the spreadsheet will have an embedded link to the article.

1772 Census – is the village in the 1772 census of West Prussia? Unfortunately, there is no online version of the 1772 census. This census usually provides the following information on each family: Name of family head, a count of the family members – father, mother, sons over 12, sons under 12, daughters over 12, daughters under 12, male servants and female servants (but no names). If the family-owned land the amount is given. Occupations are usually given. Information on livestock (horses, cattle, sheep etc.) is provided. For landowning families the amount of harvested grain is often given. Occasionally the religios affiliation of the family is given – Lutheran, Catholic, Mennonite, etc.

1776 Census – is the village in the 1776 census of Mennonites in West Prussia? If so, a link to the census is provided.

1789 Land Census – is the village in the 1789 census of Mennonite landowners in West Prussia? If so, a link to the census is provided.

Ortsverzeichnis - is the village in the Westpeussische Ortsverzeichnis page? If so, a link to the village page is provided.

Note regarding the term "Hospital" – there were several locations with this name in West Prussia. A hospital was a poor house.

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