



**Staats-
archiv
Bremen**

A mouse in the archives

The "Maus", genealogical society of Bremen, and the genealogical sources in the Staatsarchiv Bremen

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Structure

- A pest or a welcome partner? The „Maus“ and its relation to the state archives
- Primary sources: Standesamt, Zivilstandsamt and Kirchenbücher
- Secondary sources: Einwohnermeldekartei, Adressbücher, Leichenbücher and Testamente
- A blind passenger – emigration overseas via Bremen



The Maus

- Founded 1924 in a room called „Mausefalle“ in Bremens „Rathscafé“
- One of Germanys oldest and largest genealogical society (app. 1,100 members)
- Covers the area of [„Bremen und umzu“](#)



The Maus

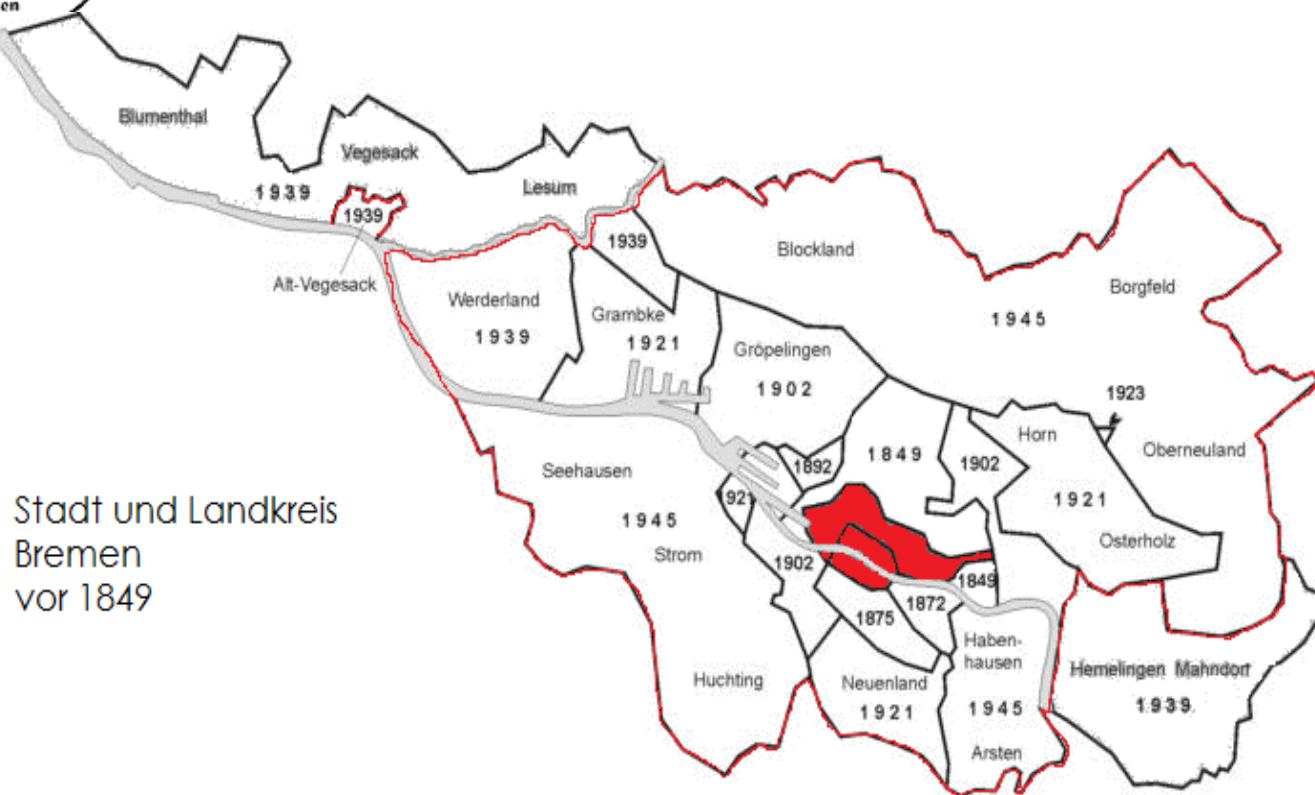
- On its [website](#), the Maus provides
 - [News](#) concerning current projects and upcoming events
 - A [library catalogue](#)
 - several indexing projects, f.e. for civil registry records and testimonies
 - pedigree databases such as [Ortsfamilienbücher](#) (local heritage books)



The Maus and the Staatsarchiv

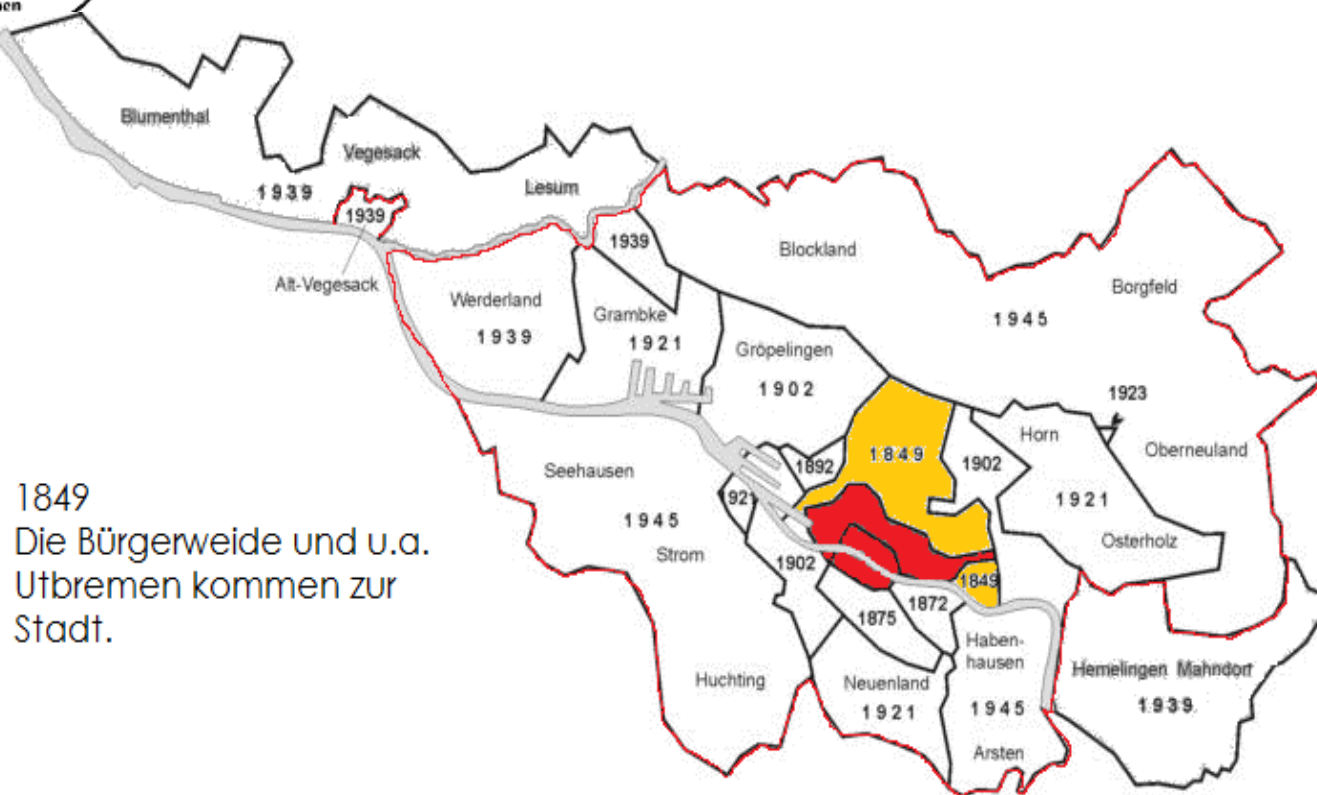
- Maus rooms located in the Staatsarchiv Bremen
- Long history of cooperation between the two institutions
- Currently several joint projects running which include linking the indexing projects of the Maus with the new archival online database [Arcinsys](#)

Territorial development of Bremen



Stadt und Landkreis
 Bremen
 vor 1849

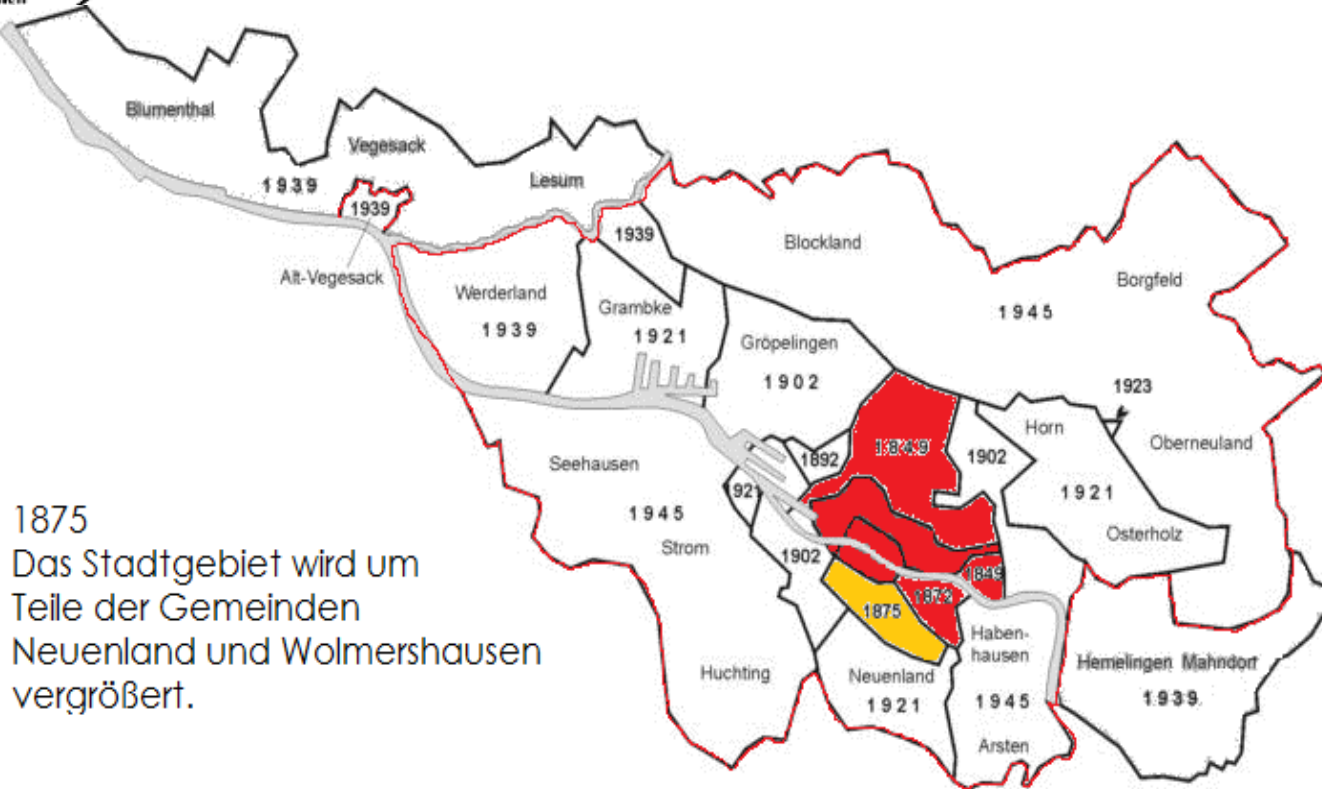
Territorial development of Bremen



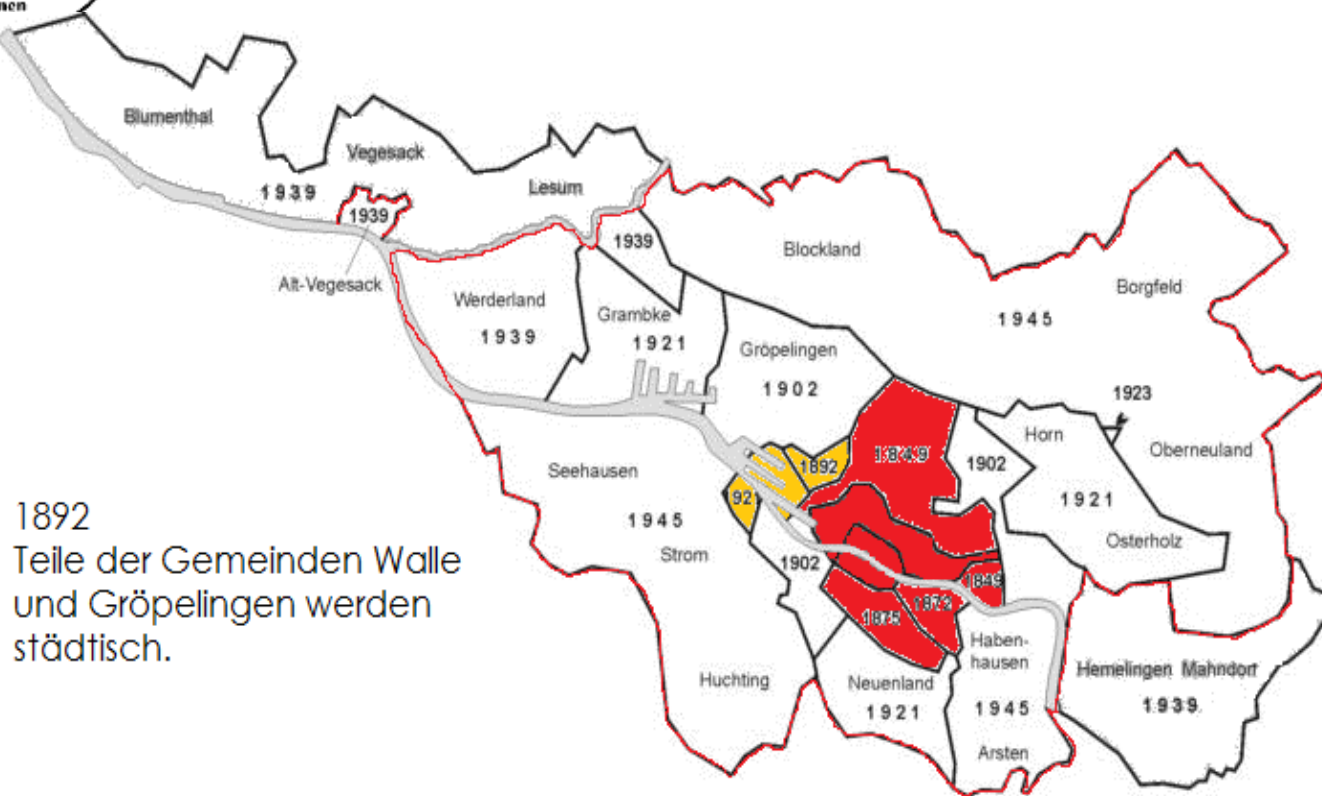
1849
Die Bürgerweide und u.a.
Utbremen kommen zur
Stadt.

Territorial development of Bremen

1875
Das Stadtgebiet wird um
Teile der Gemeinden
Neuenland und Wolmershausen
vergrößert.

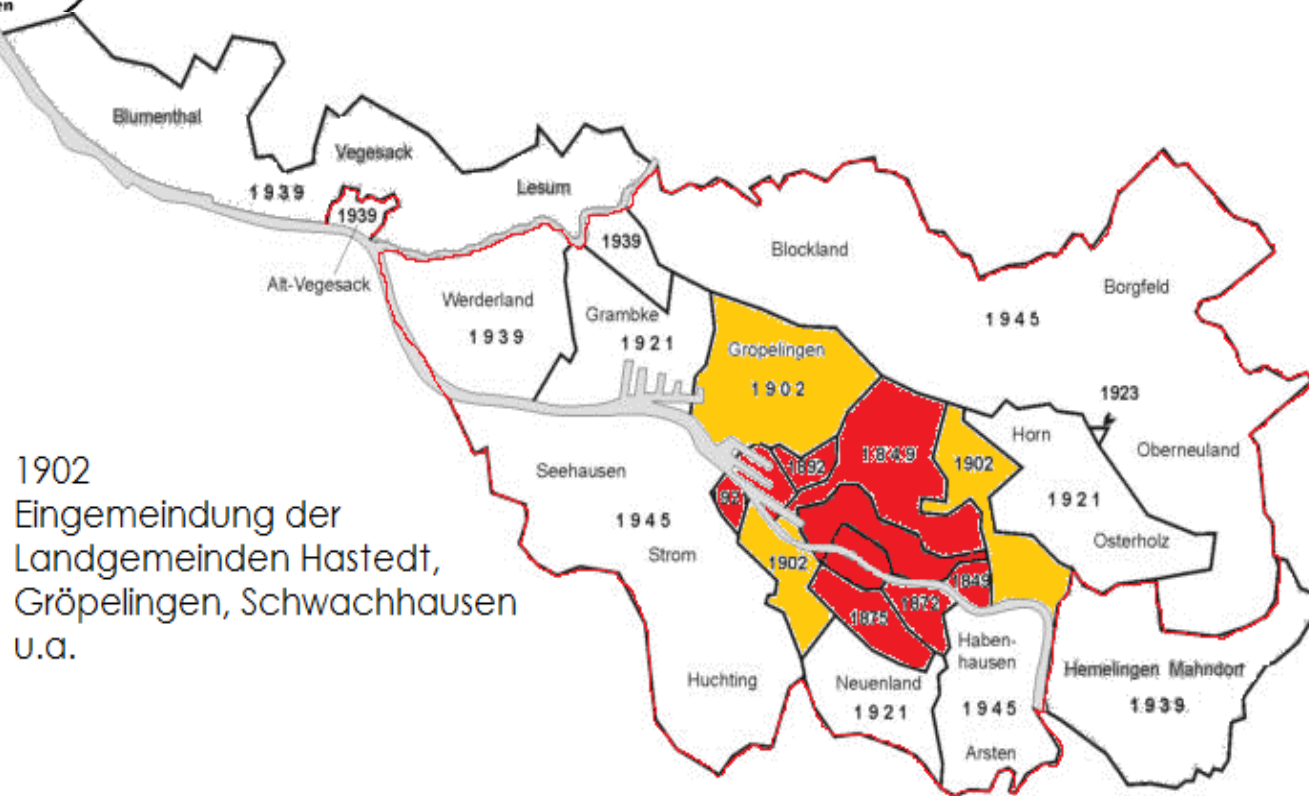


Territorial development of Bremen



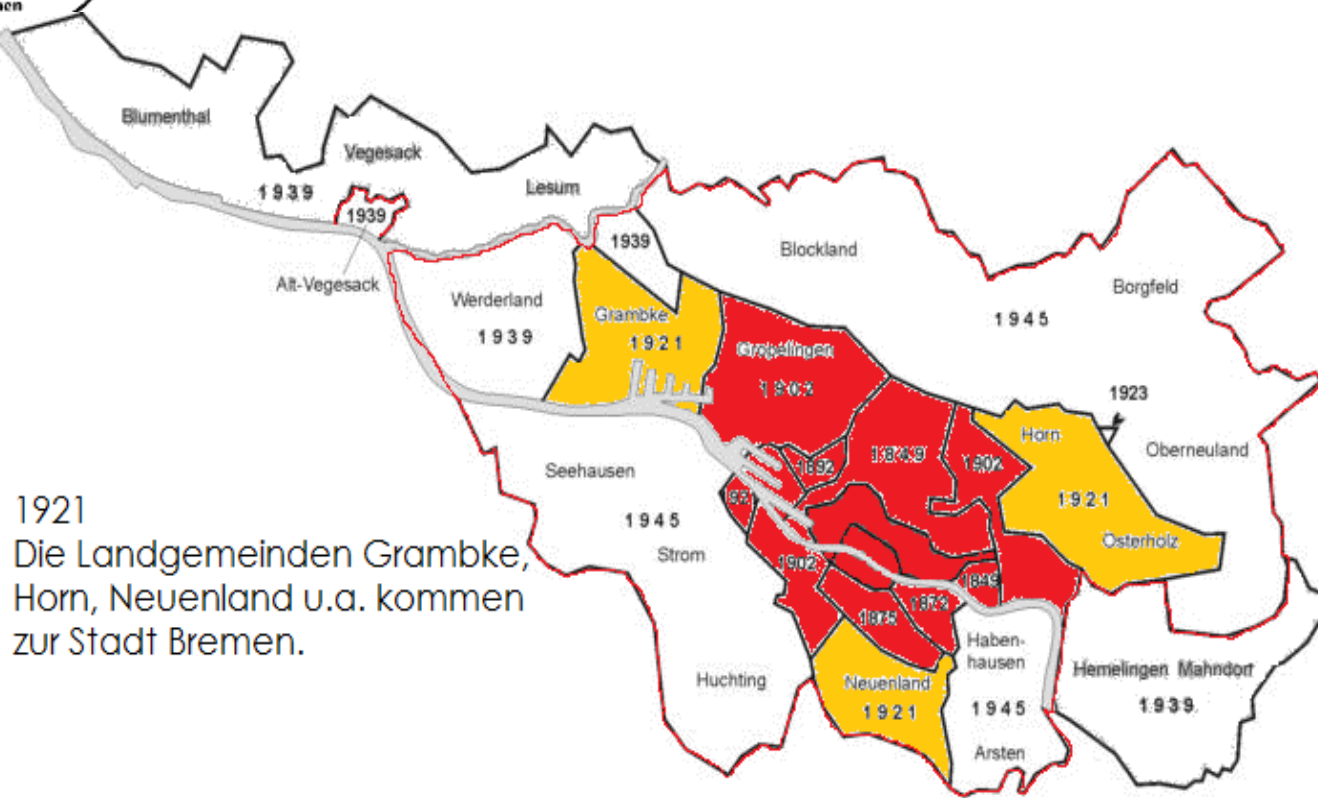
1892
Teile der Gemeinden Walle
und Gröpelingen werden
städtisch.

Territorial development of Bremen



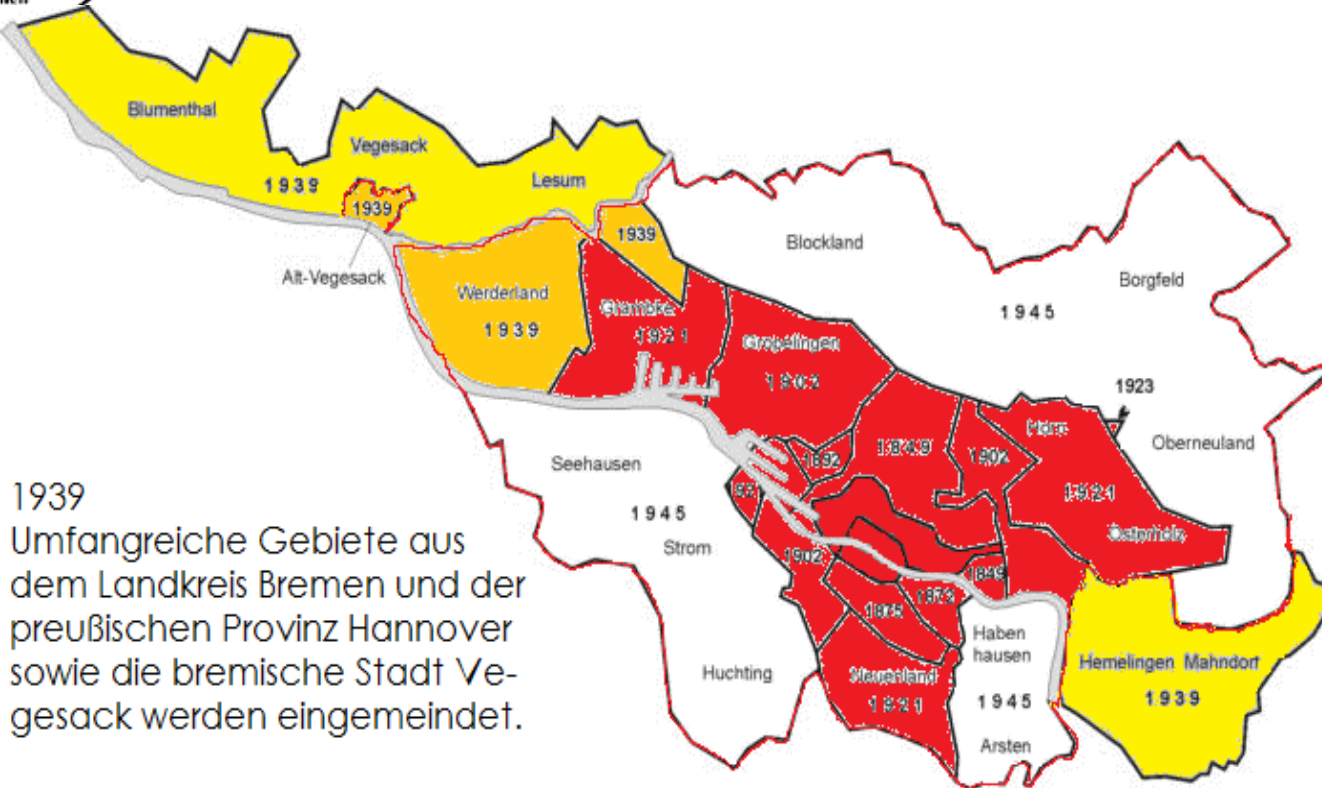
1902
Eingemeindung der
Landgemeinden Hastedt,
Gröpelingen, Schwachhausen
u.a.

Territorial development of Bremen

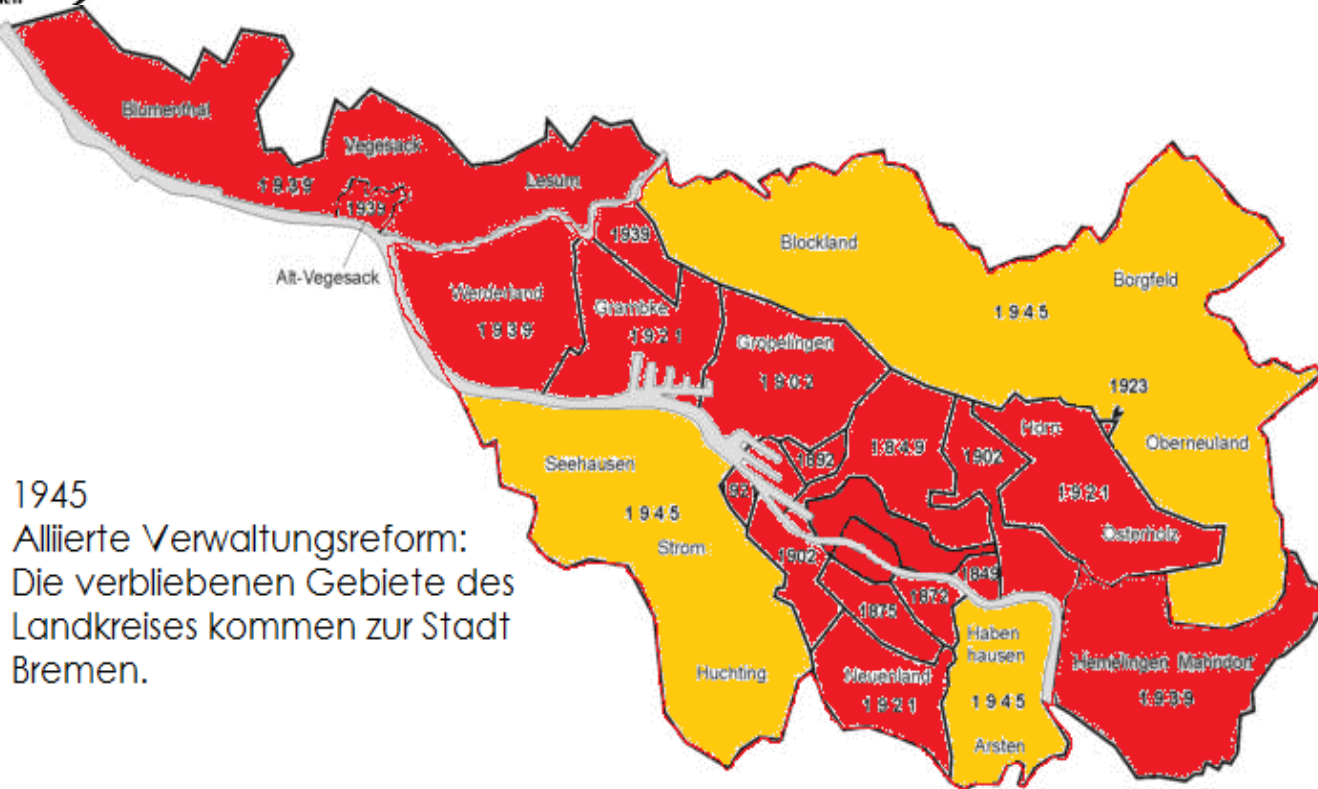


1921
Die Landgemeinden Grambke,
Horn, Neuenland u.a. kommen
zur Stadt Bremen.

Territorial development of Bremen

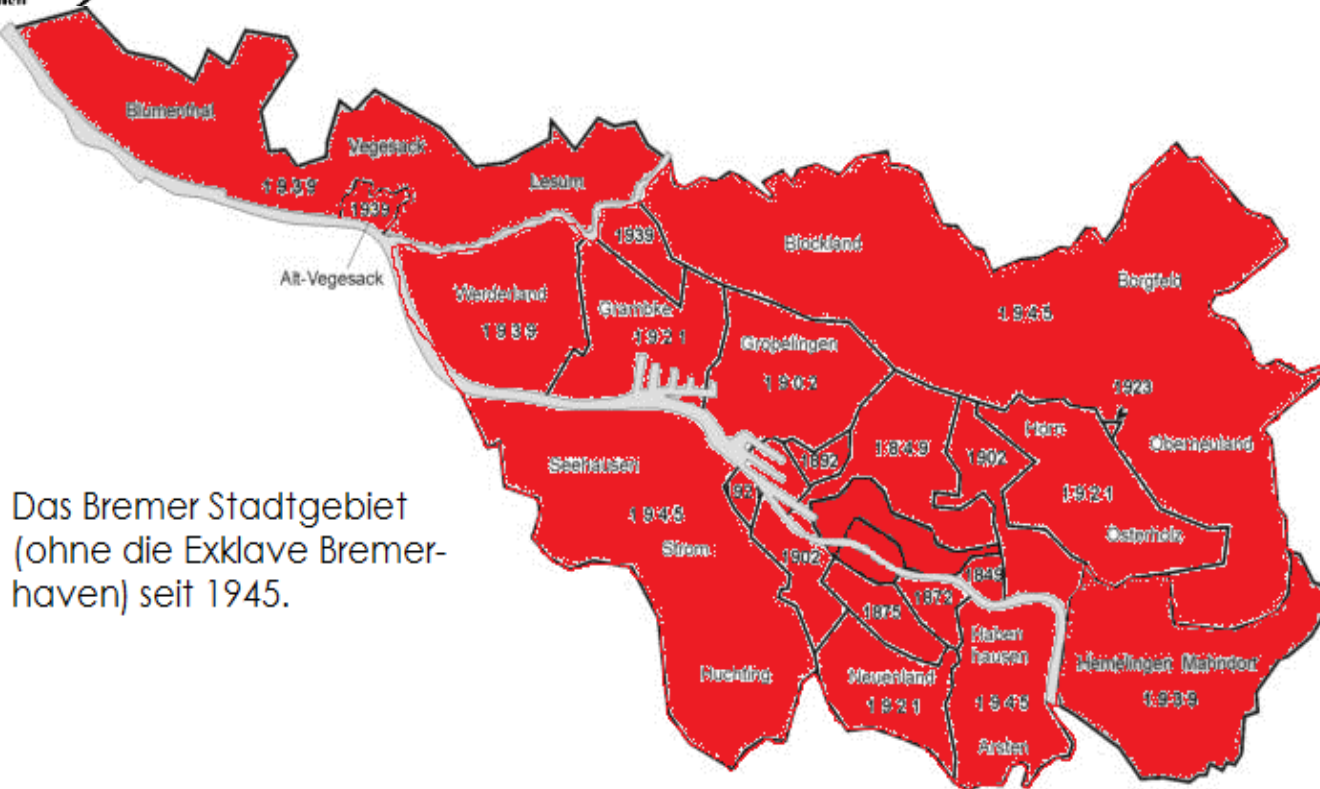


Territorial development of Bremen



1945
Alliierte Verwaltungsreform:
Die verbliebenen Gebiete des
Landkreises kommen zur Stadt
Bremen.

Territorial development of Bremen



Das Bremer Stadtgebiet
(ohne die Exklave Bremer-
haven) seit 1945.



Personenstandsregister (civil registers)

- Archive signature: [StAB 4.60/5](#)
- Years covered: 1874/76-1990
 - Births until 110 years BP = 1910
 - Marriages until 80 years BP = 1940
 - Deaths until 30 years BP = 1990



Personenstandsregister (civil registers)

- 100% listed in the [archival database](#)
- 90% digitized and to be put online for free in the next years
- 90% indexed by a [Maus Project](#) with links to the archival description
- Current accessibility:
 - in the reading rooms (on user terminals if digitized) or transmitted upon orders



Personenstandsregister (civil registers)

- Younger volumes are still located in the two remaining civil registry offices
 - Standesamt Bremen-Mitte
<https://www.service.bremen.de/de/dienststelle/5bremen02.c.335132.de>
 - Standesamt Bremen-Nord
<https://www.service.bremen.de/de/dienststelle/bremen128.c.98965.de>

Nr. 7.
(Kulturbotschaft Nr. 1357)

Bremen am _____ fünf^{ten}
Januar tausend neunhundert zwei und zwanzig

Der dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum Zwecke der
Verpflichtungsaussprache Ernst August Konrad:

1. der frühverstorbenen Kaldemar Karsten
Kunzig von Redde,

der Persönlichkeit nach
Herrn Kaldemar von Karst,
geboren am 20. September
des Jahres 1878 hundert achtundachtzig
in Hersfeld,

Schuttrregister Nr. 240 des Standesamts Hersfeld,
wohnt in Onabrück, Lottensweg 55;

2. die Adolfine Marie Siggelken,
geb. Karst,

der Persönlichkeit nach
Herrn Kaldemar von Karst,
geboren am 20. September
des Jahres 1878 hundert achtundachtzig
in Bremen,

Schuttrregister Nr. 523 des Standesamts Bremen 1,
wohnt in Bremen, Sildersmühlweg 18

Als Zeugen waren zugezogen und erschienen:
3. Herr Hilfspastor Adolf Siggelken,
der Persönlichkeit nach
Herrn Kaldemar von Karst,
63 Jahre alt, wohnt in Bremen,
Sildersmühlweg 18;

4. die Ernestine Siggelken,
geb. Schwenke,

der Persönlichkeit nach
Herrn Kaldemar von Karst,
51 Jahre alt, wohnt in Bremen,
Sildersmühlweg 18.

Der Standesbeamte richtete an die Verlobten einzeln und nach einander
die Frage:
ob sie die Ehe mit einander eingehen wollen.
Die Verlobten bejahten diese Frage und der Standesbeamte sprach
hierauf aus:
daß sie kraft des bürgerlichen Gesetzbuchs zueinander rechtmäßig ver-
bundene Eheleute seien.

Vorgelesen, geschwiegen und unterschrieben:
Waldemar von Karst
Maria von Redde geb. Siggelken
Adolf Siggelken
Ernestine Siggelken

Der Standesbeamte:
Herr Kaldemar

Zu 2: Verstorben am 14. Januar 1880
S.A. 1880

*Das Datum
ist nach 18. Januar 1880
in Eintragung an der Stelle
zu ändern.
(Standesamt Onabrück bei
Hersfeld Nr. 522 / 523)
Bremen, den 14. Januar 1880
Der Standesbeamte
zu Vertrag
Kaldemar - Karst*



Sammelakten (supplementary files)

- Archive signature: [StAB 4.60/6](#)
- Years covered
 - Marriages 1874/76-1940
 - Deaths mainly since 1950
- Not maintained for every civil registry entry



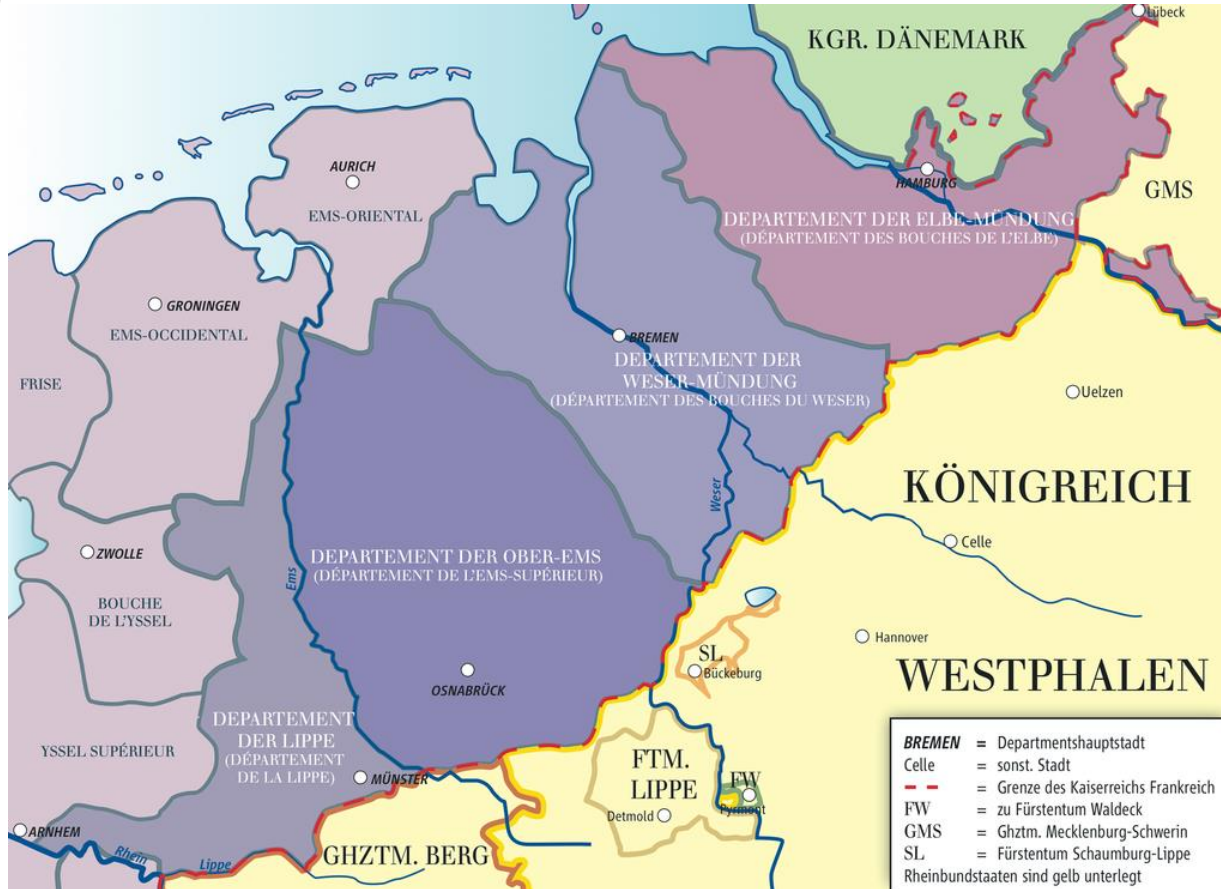
Sammelakten (supplementary files)

- 100% listed in the [archival database](#)
- Records concerning deaths digitized
- Can be researched via the file number of the civil registry entry, which can be found in the Maus [indexing project for the Standesämter](#)
- Current accessibility:
 - in the reading rooms (on user terminals if digitized) or transmitted upon orders



Zivilstandsregister (civil registers)

- Archive signature: StAB [4,60/3](#)
- Years covered: 1811-1875
- Predecessor of the Standesämter, originating from the French „Code civil“, as Bremen was part of the French Empire 1811-1813



Source: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%A9partement_des_Bouches-du-Weser#/media/Datei:Hanse-Departments.png



Zivilstandsregister (civil registers)

- Currently being listed in the archival database
- 100% digitized and to be put online for free in the next years, some scans already available at familysearch.org
- Births of the city partly indexed at familysearch.org as part of the project [„Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898“](#)
- Deaths of the city completely indexed by a [Maus project](#)



Zivilstandsregister (civil registers)

- There was one central registry office for the urban district and several minor ones for the rural districts, more or less matching the parish districts
- Besides there was an own civil registry office for the city of Vegesack
- In the Prussian area (most of Bremen-Nord and Hemelingen) there were no Zivilstandsämter after 1812/13

488 **1850.**

Nr 973. Den zwanzigsten Juni.
 Ein Knabe, **Wilhelm August.**
 ehelich geboren den zwanzigsten Juni. *1850*
 Ort der Geburt *Denkau, Po. N. 8.*
 der Vater *Wilhelm Becker.*
 dessen Alter *28* Jahr
 dessen Gewerbe und Wohnort *Ligewannufer*
 die Mutter *Wilhelmine Joh. Knoche.*
 deren Alter *25* Jahr
 deren Gewerbe und Wohnort *Handel*
 Geburtshelfer *Wunderl. Heise.*
 Angezeigt durch *W. Becker*
 Getauft den *11. August* durch Pastor *Merkel.*



Sammelakten (supplementary files)

- Archive signature: [StAB 4,60/2](#)
- Years covered: 1811-1875
- Not yet listed in the archival database
- Not yet digitized
- Can be researched via the file number of the civil registry entry, which can be found in the mentioned indexing projects
- Current accessibility:
 - in the reading rooms (on user terminals if digitized) or transmitted upon orders



Kirchenbücher (metrical books)

- Historically Bremen was mainly Evangelically Reformed after the reformation
- In the 19th century most protestants turned towards the Lutheran denomination
- Large increase of catholic population due to economic migration since the late 1800s and the influx of refugees from Germany's eastern provinces after 1945

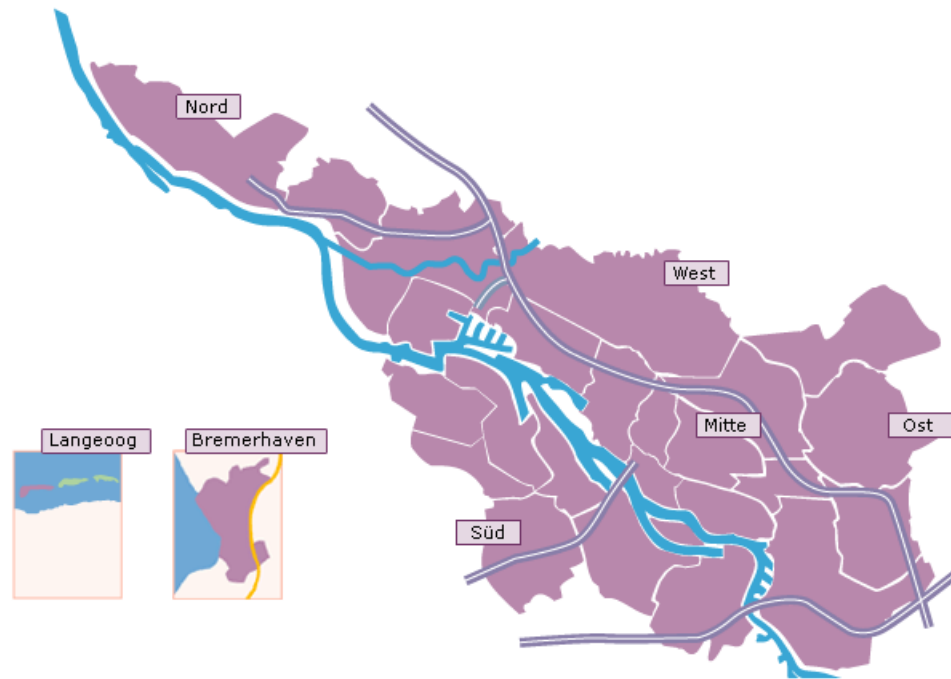


Kirchenbücher (metrical books)

- Metrical books today scattered over different archives and fonds
- Staatsarchiv Bremen
 - [StAB 6.18/20](#)
 - [StAB 8/2](#)
 - [StAB 4,60/4](#)
- Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv, Standort Stade
 - [NLA ST Rep. 84](#)
- The parishes themselves as well as
- Different ecclesiastical archives, such as ...

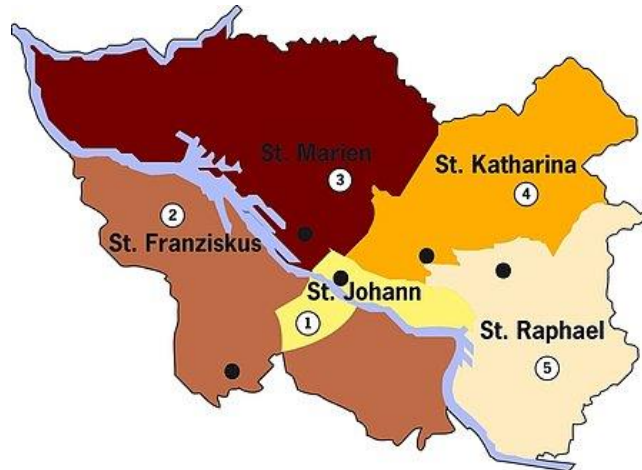
Kirchenbücher (metrical books)

- [Landeskirchliche Archiv der Bremischen Evangelischen Kirche](#)



Kirchenbücher (metrical books)

- [Diözesanarchiv Osnabrück](#) for the city of Bremen



- [Bistumsarchiv Hildesheim](#) for Bremen-Nord
- Catholic digitized metrical books available at matricula-online.eu



Kirchenbücher (metrical books)

- The status of archival description, digitization and accessibility is different from archive to archive and fond to fond
- A general inventory for all available metrical books of Bremen, structured by the different parished is currently build up and to be put online by the end of the year

Jahrgang						1862.			
Konfir- mations- Nummer.	Ort der Geburt.	Geschlecht des Kindes.	Voller Name des Kindes.	Tag und Stunde der Geburt im Jahre 1862.	Namen, Stand und Wohnort der Eltern.	Tag der Taufe.	Namen, Stand und Wohnort der Taufzeugen.	Bemerkungen.	Namen des Kirchenbuchführers nebst Datum.
a.	Sagefroh	Leiblich	Christoph, Ludwig Ludwig Linnel.	Tauf geschickten Mutter Mütter geb. am 14. April.	Christoph Linnel Christoph in Sagefroh Ludwig Linnel Mütter geboren Rumba.	den 16. von April 1862.	Christoph Linnel in Sagefroh.	den 16. von April 1862.	E. H. Künzberg den 16. April 1862.
b.	Winkel	Leiblich	Ludwig, Maria Christoph Linnel.	Tauf geschickten Mütter Mütter geb. am 14. April.	Christoph Linnel Christoph in Winkel Ludwig Linnel Mütter geboren Rumba.	den 2. von April 1862.	1. Christoph Linnel Christoph in Winkel Ludwig Linnel Mütter geboren Rumba. 2. Christoph Linnel Christoph in Winkel Ludwig Linnel Mütter geboren Rumba.	den 2. von April 1862.	E. H. Künzberg den 2. April 1862.



Jewish genealogy

- For Jewish genealogy you will find a good overview about Jewish live in Bremen [here](#)
- There is also a [local heritage book for Jewish people in Bremen](#) on the Maus website, which is part of a bigger project by Ingo Paul
- Jewish victims of Nazi persecution can f.e. be researched in the database of the initiative [“Stolpersteine”](#) and in the [archive fond](#) of the Landesamt für Wiedergutmachung (office for reparations)



Einwohnermeldekartei (inhabitant card file)

- Archive signature: [StAB 4.82/1](#)
- Years covered: 1931-1979
- 100% digitized
- Current accessibility:
 - Research only through the archive personal due to data protection
- predecessor („Familienbögen“) were destroyed when the card file was established in 1931



Einwohnermeldekartei (inhabitant card file)

- People received an own card when reaching the legal age of 18 (21 before 1975)
- People over the age of 14 received an own card when living outside of the household of their parents
- Cards could be closed due to death, departure or marriage (in case of women)
- Information for wives and children were listed on the card of the husband/father
- In case of divorce, the wife received an own card again



Einwohnermeldekartei (inhabitant card file)

- Closed cards were separated and given to the archives after certain periods
 - Layer 1: Closed cards 1931-1955 (phonetical structure)
 - Includes also forced labourers during WWII
 - Layer 2: Closed cards 1956-1965 (phonetical structure)
 - Layer 3: Closed cards 1966-1975 (strictly alphabetical structure)
 - Layer 4: Closed cards 1975-1979 + cards that were active when the registration was switched to an electronic system around 1979 (strictly alphabetical structure)

I				II Ehefrau (Witwe)					
J a n d a		16. 7. 01		Janda geb. Hausner		2.10. 94			
Josef		Kaminka/ Rumänien		Adelheid -Josef-		St. Onufry / Bukowina			
Auf dem Krümpel 105		47 drei		Auf dem Krümpel 105		47			
Steingutarbeiter		L DR				rk DR			
o.B. L 70 Abol.		verh. keine verh.				verh.			
Vor- u. Zuname des Vaters:		Josef J.		Vor- u. Zuname des Vaters:		Frau H.			
Vor- u. Zuname der Mütter:		Franziska geb. Gunkler		Vor- u. Zuname der Mutter:		Teresia geb. Hleska			
Bereits früher hier wohnhaft gewesen?		nein		Datum u. Ort der Eheschließung:		2. 9. 1934 in Adancata			
Letzter Wohnort:		Lohnhorst / Osterholz		Bereits früher verheiratet gewesen und mit wem?		Ja! Mit Lorena Weber verstorben			
Bemerkungen: H.		PA.		Bereits früher hier wohnhaft gewesen?		nein			
				Letzter Wohnort:		Lohnhorst / Osterholz			
				Bemerkungen: H.		PA.			
				Vorsterben am 22. 10. 67 in Bremen					
		NS 451674c / 67194737/27.4.66		NS 451675c		St. B. - Weg. 787/67			
Zu- und Vorname der Kinder (Rufname unterstreichen)		Geburtsdatum Tag Monat Jahr		Geburtsort		Relig.		Bemerkungen	
Janda, Adolf		15. 8. 28		Kaminka / Rumänien		rk.		I.R.	

▼
Frühere Aufenthaltszeiten:

vom		bis		vom		bis		vom		bis		vom		bis			
Distr.	Name des Wohnungsgebers			Strasse				Nr.	Tag des Einzugs		Tag des Auszugs		Bemerkungen				
Bez.	Eigentümer			Auf dem Krümpel				105	15. 10. 59		14. Juli 1978						
		16.07.019=2105(8)						16.07.019=2105(8)1									
		JANDA, JOSEF								VW							
		AUF DEM KRÜMPEL 105								ZWEI*							
				DR						E RK							
										22.12.67							



Leichenbücher (Cemetery books)

- Leichenbücher are cemetery books listing all burials conducted in the large cemeteries such as Buntentor, Riensberg or Walle
- They are indexed to a [Maus database](#) for the years 1875 to 1974
- In addition to the Standesamt database, they also include many people that died elsewhere but whose bodies were transported to Bremen and buried there
- The database also shows other persons, that were buried in the same graveside, which might give valuable hints for family relations



Testamentsbücher (Testimonial books)

- Archive signature: [StAB 2-Qq.4.c.3.b](#)
- Years covered: 1599-1899
- 100% listed in the archival database
- 80% digitized and to be put online this summer
- 90% indexed by a [Maus Project](#) with links to the archival description



Adressbücher (city directories)

- 1794-1980 digitized and available [online](#) at the website of the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen
- On microfiches in the Staatarchiv until 1990/1991
- Most of the time divided into two main chapters:
 - Sorted by street name and house numbers (important for identifying the parish)
 - Sorted alphabetically by the last name of the heads of households



A blind passenger - emigration overseas

- Digitizing and [indexing project](#) of the Maus, that started in 1999, directed by Karl Wesling and Herbert Juling
- Awarded Best European Genealogical Database by the US magazine Family Tree in June 2020



A blind passenger - emigration overseas

- Main database: [Passenger lists](#)
- 738,102 entries in the database (= 10% of the 7,5 million European emigrants going overseas via Bremen since 1820)
- [Years covered](#): mainly 1907/1908, 1913/1914 („Bremer Schiffslisten“ from the Bundesarchiv Koblenz), 1920-1939 (from the Handelskammer (chamber of commerce) in Bremen, 30% of them missing)



A blind passenger - emigration overseas

- Great losses due to general discard of the lists until 1905 and destruction during WWII
- [Passenger lists after 1945](#) are completely preserved in the Staatsarchiv but do underlie data protection and only small parts are digitized
- Many of this data is also included in the online archives of the [International Tracing Service \(ITS\) in Bad Arolsen](#)



A blind passenger - emigration overseas

- Other databases include
 - [Passport registers](#) for people living in Bremen 1862 – 1905, 1910 – 1921 as well as Dez.1924 – Sep.1936 only for Vegesack (75,445 entries)
 - [Denaturalization records](#) of Bremen Citizens 1552 – 1902 (9,652 entries)
 - [Important archive documents](#) for the history of emigration via Bremen



**Thank you very much for your
attention!**