

Germanized Slavic family names

Many Slavic family names have been in the past permanently changed into a German family name, especially if your ancestors are from the district of Lüneburg or the east part of the German Empire (east of the river Elbe).

What was the reason for?

Large parts of the later German Empire were settled for many hundreds of years by Slavic tribes. After the Germans conquered the land between the 9th and 11th century the survived Slavs were restricted in their rights. To make their burden easier many Slavic families adopted the German language, the culture and many changed also their family name. Wrobl become Robel or Sperling, Zahrodnik become Gärtner, Pincar become Keller (or Kellerman) and Dwórnik become Hofman (or Hoffmann).

If you have traced your ancestors back and have not been able to find the name any more than this is maybe your clue to search for a name change.

German family name	Slavic family name
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A

B

Bach, Bachmann	Rěčka
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Buck	Puzia
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Buchholz	Buk
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Büttner	Bětnar
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Buhr	Bur
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Buss	Puza
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C

D

Dehme	Demas
Deutschman(n), Dutschman(n)	Němc, Nemic

E

F

Fischer	Rybak
Fliege	Mucha(c)
Freitag	Piatek
Frost	Mroß, Mros(s), Mrosek
Fuchs	Liška
Fuhrman(n)	Pohonč, Wóznik

G

Gö(h)ring	Korink
Goldman(n)	Zlotoch
Grüner, Grünman(n)	Zielensky

H

Heinz	Hinc, Hinz
Herberger	Korčmar
Hof(f)man(n)	Dvornik, Dwórnik
Huhn	Kokos(s)ka, Kokoška

I and J

Jäger

Hajnik, Hajnk

K

Kater

Kocor

Kästner

Tyska

Kirschner

Wisnewski, Wišnjewski

Klein

Małki, Małušk

Kluge

Mudrak

Köhlig

Kolik

König, Könne(c)ke

Konieczki, Kral

Kohl

Kobs

Kokel

Kokla, Kokula

Koss

Koska, Kozka

Kowne(c)k

Kownacki

Krebs

Rak

Kretschmer

Korčmar

Kubi(c)k

Kupiec

L

Lehman(n)

Wičas

Liesl

Lis, Lys

M

Mäl(l)ing, Mähling

Malinka

Man(n)

Muskewicz

Matzek

Mazek

Motz

Madżelewski

Möller, Müller, Müllner,
Mildner

Mlynar, Młynk

N

Nadol

Nadolni, Nadolny

Neuman(n)

Nowak, Nowotka, Nowotny

Nitz

Niedźwedź

O

P

Pech

Smola, Smolski

Pick

Pycko, Pyko

Plewe

Plewka

R

Rath

Rataj

Reers

Rera

Richter

Šolta, Šoltka

Ried

Rydiewski

Robel	Ropel, Wróbl
Rock	Roga, Kursina
Röh	Rowa
Röse(c)ke	Różak
Rößler	Różnik
Russe(c)k	Ruchac
Rutz	Ruczka, Ruczko

S

Sadow, Sedlow, Sedlon	Sadlo, Sedlo
Samstag	Sobotka
Saur, Sauer	Žur
Schäfer	Wowčerk(a)
Schenk	Korčmar
Schmied(t)	Kowar(k), Kowalewski
Schmole	Smoła, Smoslki
Schol(t)ze	Šoltka, Šolta
Schur	Žur
Seeg	Zegac
Siegel	Sigala
Sperling	Wróbl

T

Töpfer

Hornčer

Treetz

Tredzik

U

V

W

Wagenknecht

Pohonč, Wóznik

Waldman(n)

Lěsak

Weiß, Weis(s)

Bělk, Bělic

Widow

Wittowski

Wirt

Korčmar

Wohn

Wonsiewski

Woite, Woito

Woydak, Woydek

Wolf(f), Wulf(f)

Wylk, Wjelk

Z

Ziehman(n)

Simanczik, Symank

Zink

Szianka

Zizow

Cieso

Zobel

Sobol