



Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America

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Ostfriesen Church Records and Translated Prefaces

Church records are a key source of genealogical information for our Ostfriesen ancestors. Churches recorded the births, marriages and deaths in their communities for generations, even if the person was not a member of the Church's denomination. Information that was recorded varied prior to the implementation of standards in the early 1800s. You see baptism dates rather than birth dates, burial dates instead of death dates, and the parents of couples being married may not have been recorded.

Many volunteers have compiled family books from church records for the Upstalsboom-Gesellschaft, the Ostfriesland genealogical society in Aurich, Germany. These books follow the standards of the Upstalsboom-Gesellschaft and are called an Ortssippenbuch or an OSB. Some researchers will independently compile a family book from a community's church records and publish them privately. These books are called an Ortsfambienbuch or an OFB.

Both OSBs and OFBs require extensive efforts to complete and the books are often in process for years. OSBs and OFBs were traditionally printed once and were difficult to obtain after they sold out, however some are now reprinted after an adequate number of orders have been received. The OGSA attempts to maintain copies of each book in its research collection located in the Minnesota Genealogical Society library and the collection is available at our conferences that are held every two years. Information about future conferences is provided in the Events section of our website at OGSA.us. Copies of the books are available through the OGSA and they may also be located in the LDS collection in Salt Lake City and selected libraries with large genealogical collections across the US.

In addition to family information, some of these books include a rich history of the area and church in their preface section. OGSA volunteers have translated several of these prefaces into English. Some were very short while others were more comprehensive. If you would like more historical information, you may want to obtain copies of the longer prefaces from near-by communities since these may include information applicable to the region and the times, rather than only the specific community.

The OGSA stocks most of the available books for members that would like to obtain copies. Please see our OGSA Order Form for a listing of the available community books and English translation prefaces and the number of pages for each item. We will notify you promptly if you order a book that is not in stock. You could also e-mail us at Memberships@ogsa.us to check the book availability of the OSBs.

Access to OSB/OFB information on-line or on a CD is very limited though several villages in the Harlingerland area are included in an online OFB. These records are on-line at <http://online-ofb.de/stedesdorf/index.php?lang=en>.

Please also see the Resources on CD section of our order form for additional information on these resources.

Ostfriesen Church Records and Translated Prefaces

It is important to note that not every village had a church and not every church has an Ortssippenbuch (OSB) or Ortsfamilienbuch (OFB). The table beginning on the following page shows the year that birth, marriage, and death records begin for churches in the villages of Ostfriesland. In some cases, the starting date for each type of record was not easily determined and gaps may occur in some of the records. Many of the original records were microfilmed by the LDS and may be requested for viewing at a Family History Center location. The OSB/OFB column shows if a family book exists for each church and a Yes in the English Preface column indicates a translated preface is available.

The list of communities, family books and translated prefaces follows.

Ostfriesen Church Record Availability

Town	Church Denomination	Geburt/Taufe (Birth)	Trauung (Marriage)	Beerdigung/Tod (Death)	OSB/OFB	English Preface
Amdorf	Lutheran	1718	1649	1649	OSB	Yes
Ardorf	Lutheran	1749	1749	1749	OFB	Yes
Arle	Lutheran	1720	1721	1720	OSB	
Asel	Lutheran	1631	1671	1707	OSB	
Aurich	Reformed	1771	1772	1771	OSB	
Aurich, Kirchengem	Lutheran	1620	1585	1616		
Aurich, St. Lutger	Roman Catholic	1849	1850	1850		
Aurich-Oldendorf	Lutheran	1700	1700	1700	OSB	Yes
Backemoor	Lutheran	1712	1712	1732	OSB	
Bagband	Lutheran	1696	1696	1696	OSB	Yes
Baltrum	Lutheran	1707	1707	1707	OSB	
Bangstede	Lutheran	1724	1724	1724	OSB	Yes
Barstede	Lutheran	1684	1684	1684	OSB	Yes
Bedekaspel	Reformed	1728	1728	1728	OSB	Yes
Berdum	Lutheran	1651	1651	1651	Soon	
Berumerfehn	Lutheran	1896	1896	1896		
Bingum	Lutheran	1760	1760	1760	OSB	Yes
Blaukirchen (to 1719, (with Forlitz)	Lutheran	1678	1678	1677	OSB	
Blersum	Lutheran	1675	1675	1678	Online OFB	
Blomberg	Lutheran	1870	1870	1870		
Böhmerwold	Reformed	1690	1690	1690	OSB	
Borkum	Reformed	1713	1733	1733		

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Town	Church Denomination	Geburt/Taufe (Birth)	Trauung (Marriage)	Beerdigung/Tod (Death)	OSB/ OFB	English Preface
Borßum	Reformed	1676	1676	1752	OSB	Yes
Breinermoor	Lutheran	1700	1729	1713	OSB	
Bunde	Reformed	1727	1727	1727		
Burhafe	Lutheran	1660	1650	1650	Online OFB	
Buttforde	Lutheran	1646	1647	1646	OSB	
Campen	Reformed	1732	1732	1732	OFB	Yes
Canhusen	Reformed	1740	1740	1740	OSB	Yes
Canum	Reformed	1729	1730	1729	OSB	Yes
Carolinensiel	Lutheran	1776	1704	1776	OFB	
Cirkwehrum	Reformed	1726	1725	1726	OFB	
Collinghorst	Lutheran	1701	1702	1701	OSB	Yes
Critzum	Reformed	1723	1724	1724	OSB	Yes
Detern	Lutheran	1644	1664	1645	OSB	
Ditzum	Reformed	1725	1725	1725		
Ditzumerverlaat	Reformed	1863	1861	1863	OSB	Yes
Dornum	Lutheran	1706	1706	1706	OSB	
Driever	Reformed	1767	1777	1770	OSB	Yes
Dunum	Lutheran	1670	1670	1670	OFB	
Dykhausen-Neustadt Gödens	Reformed	1611	1611	1611	OSB	
Eggelingen	Lutheran	1651	1652	1652	OSB	Yes
Eilsum	Reformed	1718	1718	1718	OSB	Yes
Emden, French Reformed	Reformed	1611	1768	1811	OSB	
Emden, Garnisongem.	Lutheran	1867	1876	1867		
Emden, Kirchengem.	Lutheran	1749	1749	1815		
Emden, Kirchengem.	Reformed	1623	1587	1771		
Emden, St. Michael	Reformed	1731	1746	1760		
Engerhafe	Lutheran	1666	1666	1666	OSB	
Esens	Lutheran	1629	1629	1629		
Esklum	Reformed	1682	1682	1723	OSB	Yes
Etzel	Lutheran	1652	1653	1652		
Filsum	Lutheran	1716	1731	1716	OSB	Yes

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Firrel	Lutheran	1899	1899	1899	OFB, Amt Uplengen	
Flachsmeer, (Steenfelde for Lutheran)	Reformed	1853	1879	1853		
Forlitz-Blaukirchen	Lutheran	1719	1720	1719	OSB	
Freepsum	Reformed	1728	1716	1728	OSB	Yes
Fulkum	Lutheran	1685	1686	1686		
Funnix	Lutheran	1674	1674	1674	OSB	
Gandersum	Reformed	1723	1723	1760	OFB	Yes
Greetsiel	Reformed	1694	1694	1695	OSB	
Grimersum	Reformed	1698	1715	1703	OFB	Yes
Groothusen	Reformed	1689	1689	1689		
Großefehn	Lutheran	1857	1857	1857	OFB	
GroßMidlum	Reformed	1701	1702	1724	OSB	Yes
Großwolde	Reformed	1728	1728	1728	OSB	Yes
Grotegaste	Reformed	1726	1725	1726	OSB	
Hage	Lutheran	1717	1706	1725	OFB	
Hamswehrum	Reformed	1731	1766	1731	OFB	
Hatshausen/Ayenwolde	Lutheran	1686	1686	1693		
Hatzum	Reformed	1702	1702	1702	OSB	
Hesel	Lutheran	1643	1644	1643	OSB	Yes
Hinte	Reformed	1697	1697	1697		
Hohenkirchen, Preface was from a brochure	Lutheran	1648	1647	1735		Yes
Hollen	Lutheran	1695	1700	1705	OFB, Amt Uplengen	
Holtgaste	Lutheran	1695	1696	1696	OSB	
Holtland	Lutheran	1629	1629	1629	OSB	
Holtrop	Lutheran	1634	1634	1634	OSB	
Horsten	Lutheran	1682	1682	1682	OSB	Yes
Ihlowerfehn	Methodist	1770	1770	1770		
Ihlowerfehn - 1780-1790, See Weene	Lutheran	1780	1780	1780	OSB	
Ihlowerfehn – 1790 – 1898, See Bangstede	Lutheran	1790	1790	1790	OSB	

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Ihrhove	Reformed	1723	1723	1723	OSB	Yes
Ihringsfehn-Boekzetelerfehn	Lutheran	1864	1864	1864		
Jarßum	Reformed	1786	1786	1786	OSB	
Jemgum	Reformed	1674	1674	1674	OSB	
Jennelt	Reformed	1715	1715	1748	OFB	
Juist	Lutheran	1704	1707	1732		
Kirchborgum	Reformed	1724	1724	1724	OSB	Yes
KleinMidlum	Reformed	1704	1713	1712		
Kritzum, see Critzum						
Landschaftspolder	Reformed	1766	1770	1770	OSB	Yes
Langeoog	Lutheran	1851	1853	1852		
Langholt	Lutheran	1898	1899	1899		
Larrelt	Reformed	1672	1671	1725	OSB	Yes
Leer, Große Kirche	Reformed	1633	1601	1724	OSB	
Leer, Lutherkirche	Lutheran	1675	1675	1675	OSB	
Leer, St. Michael	Roman Catholic	1731	1731	1731	OSB	
Leerhafe	Lutheran	1672	1672	1675	OSB	Yes
Leerort, Garnisongem.	Reformed	1654	1654	1656	OSB	
Leerort, Kirchengem.	Reformed	1744	1744	1744	OSB	Yes
Loga, Friedenskirche	Lutheran	1890	1890	1890		
Loga, Kirchengem.	Reformed	1728	1728	1728	OSB	Yes
Loga, Nettelburg	Reformed	1728	1728	1728		
Logabirum	Lutheran	1719	1731	1718	OSB	Yes
LogumerVorwerk, Nesserland	Reformed	1730	1730	1730	OSB	Yes
Loppersum	Reformed	1720	1711	1720	OSB	Yes
Loquard	Lutheran	1632	1671	1671	OFB	
Lütetsburg	Reformed	1688	1688	1818	Also see Hage	
Manslagt	Reformed	1695	1725	1725		
Marienchor	Reformed	1755	1755	1755	OSB	Yes
Marienhafe	Lutheran	1681	1681	1680	OSB	Yes

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Marienwehr - See Suurhusen					OSB	
Marx	Lutheran	1722	1722	1722		
Middels	Lutheran	1672	1704	1742	OSB	Yes
Midlum	Reformed	1704	1704	1704	OSB	Yes
Mitling-Mark	Reformed	1637	1639	1637	OSB	
Moordorf	Lutheran	1892	1892	1892	OSB	
Münkeboe	Lutheran	1897	1897	1897		
Neermoor	Reformed	1669	1669	1669	OFB	Yes
Nendorp	Reformed	1698	1729	1727	OSB	
Nesse	Lutheran	1614	1614	1614		
Neuburg	Lutheran	1648	1648	1648	OSB	Yes
Neustadtgödens	Lutheran	1695	1696	1695	OSB	
Neustadtgödens	Roman Catholic	1677	1677	1692		
Norden	Lutheran	1637	1687	1637		
Norden	Roman Catholic	1677	1682	1677		
Norderney	Lutheran	1688	1698	1688	OSB	Yes
Nortmoor	Lutheran	1671	1671	1671	OSB	Yes
Nüttermoor	Reformed	1663	1663	1663	OSB	Yes
Ochtelbur	Lutheran	1706	1706	1706	OSB	Yes
Ockenhausen	Lutheran	1898	1898	1898	OFB, Amt Uplengen	
Oldendorp	Reformed	1712	1712	1724	OSB	
Oldersum	Reformed	1652	1652	1781	OFB	
Osteel – See Großefehn	Lutheran	1712	1712	1712		
Petkum	Lutheran	1681	1682	1783	OSB	
Pewsum	Lutheran	1728	1729	1728	OFB	
Pilsum	Reformed	1715	1715	1715		
Plaggenburg	Lutheran	1895	1895	1895		
Pogum	Lutheran	1725	1725	1725	OFB	
Potshausen	Lutheran	1697	1697	1685	OSB	Yes
Reepsholt	Lutheran	1633	1633	1634	OSB	Yes
Remels	Lutheran	1678	1675	1678	OFB, Amt Uplengen	

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Resterhufe	Lutheran	1666	1669	1749	OSB	
Rhaude	Lutheran	1702	1701	1704, 1702-1830		
Rhauderfehn	Lutheran	1889	1889	1889		
Rhauderfehn St. Bonifatius	Roman Catholic	1831	1832	1831		
Riepe	Lutheran	1712	1712	1712	OFB	
Roggenstede	Lutheran	1634	1634	1716		
Rorichum	Reformed	1803	1803	1803	OFB	Yes
Rysum	Reformed	1712	1725	1713	OSB	
Siegelsum	Lutheran	1827	1827	1827	OSB	
Simonswolde	Reformed	1654	1654	1663	OFB	Yes
Spetzerfehn	Lutheran	1767	1767	1767	OFB	
Spiekeroog	Lutheran	1721	1719	1750	OSB	
St.Georgiwold	Reformed	1705	1705	1708		
Stapelmoor	Reformed	1708	1725	1725	OFB	
Stedesdorf	Lutheran	1629	1629	1629	Online OFB	
Steenfelde	Lutheran	1719	1719	1728	OSB	Yes
Strackholt	Lutheran	1726	1726	1726	OSB	Yes
Suurhusen / Marienwehr	Reformed	1699	1720	1706	OSB	
Tergast	Reformed	1661	1661	1769	OSB	Yes
Thunum	Lutheran	1672	1670	1670	OFB	
Timmel	Lutheran	1699	1699	1699	OSB	Yes
Twixlum	Reformed	1706	1706	1725	OSB	
Uphusen	Reformed	1713	1728	1749	OSB	Yes
Upleward	Reformed	1715	1725	1725	OFB	
Uttum	Reformed	1667	1732	1732	OFB	
Veenhusen	Reformed	1669	1682	1684	OSB	
Vellage / Halte	Reformed	1670	1693	1725	OFB	
Victorbur	Lutheran	1620	1694	1693	OSB	
Visquard	Reformed	1726	1726	1726	OFB	
Völlen	Lutheran	1683	1679	1677	OSB	
Warsingsfehn	Lutheran	1893	1893	1893		

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Weene (three volumes)	Lutheran	1671	1672	1686	OSB	Yes
Weener	Reformed	1675	1674	1675	OFB	
Weener	Roman Catholic	1843	1845	1843		
Weenermoor	Reformed	1737	1737	1737		
Werdum	Lutheran	1662	1662	1662	OSB	Yes
Westeraccum	Lutheran	1668	1668	1668	OSB	
Westerbur	Lutheran	1689	1689	1689	OSB	
Westerende-Kirchloog	Lutheran	1663	1663	1663	OSB	Yes
Westerholt	Lutheran	1686	1686	1687		
Westerhusen	Reformed	1698	1705	1706	OSB	
Westochtersum	Lutheran	1664	1667	1655		
Westrhaudefehn	Lutheran	1829	1829	1829, 1829-1852		
Wiegboldsbur	Lutheran	1700	1701	1700	OSB	
Wiesens	Lutheran	1642	1685	1642	OFB	
Wirdum	Reformed	1652	1653	1658	OSB	
Wittmund	Lutheran	1650	1650	1650	2015	
Wolthusen	Reformed	1646	1673	1750	OSB	
Woltzeten	Reformed	1780	1780	1780	OSB	Yes
Woquard	Lutheran	1683	1683	1683	OSB/OFB	
Wybelsum	Reformed	1706	1724	1728	OSB	
Wymeer	Reformed	1713	1713	1713	OFB	Yes