Fehmer Genealogy

Product and Offer Guide

What are your roots?

Do you know what your great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather was doing in 1785? Do you know his occupation or how many children he had? Maybe he was a merchant in Cologne or a peasant in Upper Bavaria. He might also have been a carpenter and married twice, or perhaps fought as a soldier during the Napoleonic Wars. Most people know their parents and grandparents, and some even have good information about their great-grandparents. But if you go back more than three generations, knowledge falls into oblivion. This is an unfortunate but natural process. But what if you could recover this knowledge? What if you could research what your ancestors were doing five generations, ten generations... or even fifteen generations ago?

In the German-speaking areas, the church has been recording births, marriages, and deaths since the Thirty Years' War (and sometimes even earlier). Therefore, this knowledge about your ancestors is not irrevocably lost but instead deeply buried in centuries-old records.

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Fehmer Genealogy offers you the opportunity to research this information and uncover knowledge about people you do not yet know but who have been essential to shaping who you are. We can investigate what your ancestors were doing over the centuries and the origin of your family name. You will be surprised by how much knowledge can be restored, from children out of wedlock to long-forgotten professions or marriages with more than ten children.

"Fehmer Genealogy offers thorough and comprehensive genealogy research. We practice our profession with great diligence to ensure the accuracy and quality of our work."

Herbert Fehmer, Co-Founder of Fehmer Genealogy

Fehmer Genealogy is a father-and-son business specializing in genealogy research for the (former) German-speaking areas, encompassing not only today's Germany, but also Austria, Switzerland, and regions where Germans have lived before the 20th century in Poland, the Czech Republic, France, or Romania. With decades of experience in the field of genealogy, we have been offering non-commercial services for several years. Our research is thorough and comprehensive, and due diligence is one of the core principles of our company. We only provide information when it is 100% verifiable, meaning we always provide the sources where we found the information. This also means that we sometimes need to inform you when ancestors cannot be found.
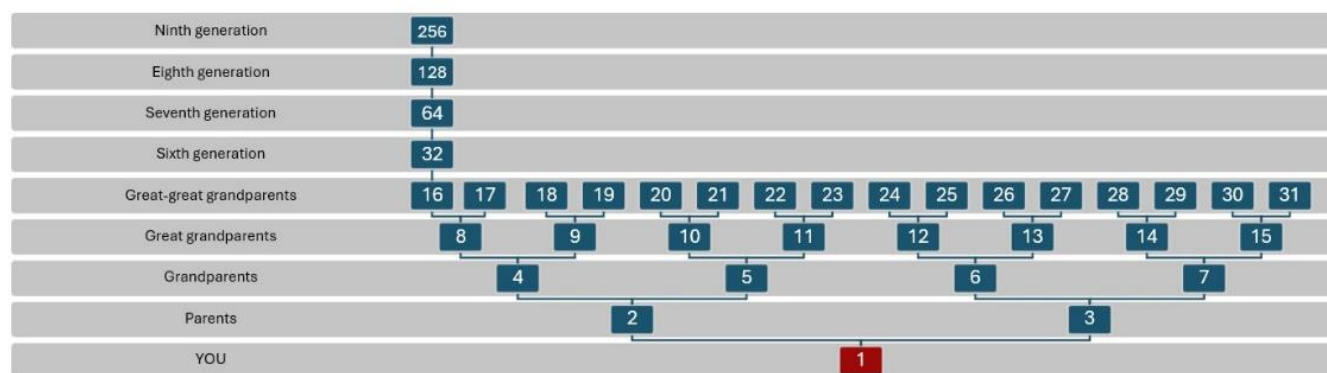
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How do we research?

Our research primarily relies on the study of church records. In the German-speaking area, church records were introduced in the 15th century and established nationwide in the 16th century. Although some were lost over the centuries (many during the Thirty Years' War), they are a marvelously comprehensive source for genealogical research. But what are church records precisely? The church recorded every birth, baptism, marriage, death, and burial, documenting the existence of every individual regardless of status, gender, or wealth. Until 1876, religious communities only recorded civil statuses. Based on these sources, it is possible to trace family roots back over centuries!

Recently, German churches began digitizing and uploading their records across the country. Thus, it is possible to conduct genealogy research online without visiting an archive. This way, we can offer you research on your ancestors for the entire German-speaking area, regardless of where they lived.

We start our research with any person you would like us to start our research with, whom we designate as No. 1 in the family tree. To navigate through the increasing number of ancestors, we use the Sosa method, a scientific approach that assigns to each ancestor a specific number, indicating their position in the family tree. This method helps us organize the vast amount of data and ancestors we encounter. As we move up each generation, the number of ancestors doubles. The info box below explains further how the Sosa method works:

Info: Pedigree Chart – The Sosa Method

- The number of a person's father is twice their own number. The number of a person's mother is twice their own number plus one.
- The number of a father's son is half of their own. The number of a mother's daughter is half of their own minus one.
- Except for number one, male persons always have an even and female an uneven number.

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Our offers

We offer four different packages (which you can see in the box below) and are more than happy to tailor our research according to your demands. Before going into detail, we want to draw your attention to what distinguishes Fehmer Genealogy from other providers. You do not pay us hourly; you only pay when we find your ancestors. Some companies charge you regardless of whether they can gather information. Fehmer Genealogy guarantees that you only pay once we have found your forefathers. Consequently, we would charge you for each researched ancestor individually. For each person, we will create an "Individual Detail Sheet" (you can find an example attached at the end of the document). This document contains all important biographical data of the respective person, including birth, marriage, and death. Additionally, we will add, if available, information on baptism, godparents, children, confirmation, occupation, burial, cause of death, and wedding witnesses. The sheet will also include extra information about the origin and meaning of family names, as well as additional information about the occupation. If the core data (birth, marriage, and death) can only be partially found, we offer further discounts.

Four packages: Basic, Standard, Premium, and Family name

Basic	**Standard**	**Premium**	**Family name**
$150 /ancestor	**$125** /ancestor	**$100** /ancestor	**$125** /ancestor
- Normal price for each researched ancestor - No minimum order amount	- Minimum 14 ancestors - Reference number: 2 to 15 - Second, third, and fourth generation - Price for 14 ancestors: $1750	- Minimum 30 ancestors - Reference number: 2 to 31 - Second, third, fourth, and fifth generaton - Price for 30 ancestors: $3000 - All additional ancestors also cost $100	- We research only the ancestors and their spouses with your family name. We investigate the origin of your family name to the beginning of existing records.

Our four packages are designed to cater to your specific interests and needs. Each package includes the same thorough research and commitment, but the scope varies. This flexibility allows you to choose the package that best suits your requirements, ensuring you get the most out of our services.

Not sure which package is right for you? Don't worry. We offer a free consultation where we introduce you to Fehmer Genealogy and provide deeper insights into our work. This is a valuable opportunity for you to better understand our services and make an informed decision.

If you have further questions about our work and our offer, do not hesitate to contact us at the following email address: FehmerGenealogy@outlook.de. We are looking forward to answering your questions and tailoring our offer to your needs and interests.

Below, you can see an "Individual Detail Sheet." The example concerns our ancestor Johann Heinrich Joseph Sundorf, who lived in Germany from 1790 until 1870. This document gives you an idea of what you can expect if you commission us to research your ancestors.

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Johann Heinrich Joseph Sundorf   Reference number: 64

Born on the/in (*geboren am/in*): **6. September 1790 in Darfeld**
Baptized on the/in (*getauft am/in*): **7. September 1790 in Darfeld, St. Nikolaus**
Godparents (*Taufpaten*): **J. Her. Sondorp / M. Bussman**
Religion (*Religion*): **Catholic**
Parents (*Eltern*): **Gerd Henrich Sundorf / Anna Margarethe Weghake**
Number of known siblings (*Anzahl bekannter Geschwister*): **2 Siblings, 4 Half siblings**
Confirmation on the/in (*Firmung*): **?**
Occupation/profession (*Beruf*): **Small farmer and Weaver (*Kötter und Weber*)**

Death on the/in (*verstorben am/in*): **17. March 1870 at 6 am in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11 (Germany)**
Cause (Todesursache): **Old age (*Altersschwäche*)**
Burial on the/in (Beerdigung am/in): **19.3.1870 in Billerbeck, St. Johannes the Baptist**

Spouse 1 (*Ehepartner 1*):

Maria Catharina Fehmer (1792–1830)	
Marriage date (*Heiratsdatum*): **18. April 1815** Location (*Ort*): **Billerbeck, St. Johannes the Baptist** Witnesses (Trauzeugen): **Johann Heinrich Wesseler / Maria Elisabeth Röttgering**	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.: **/** ☒ No

Children (*Kinder*):

1.	Child	Name: **Elisabeth Maria Catharina Fehmer** Born on the/in (*geboren am/in*): **Born on 31. December 1815 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11** Death on the/in (*verstorben am/in*): **4. September 1884**	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.: ☒ No
2.	Child	Name: **Georg Heinrich Fehmer** Born on the/in (*geboren am/in*): **14. October 1819 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11** Death on the/in (*verstorben am/in*): **11. June 1892**	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.: ☒ No
3.	Child	Name: **Anna Gertrud Fehmer** Born on the /in (*geboren am/in*): **25. April 1823 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11** Death on the/in (*verstorben am/in*): **5. April 1884**	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.: ☒ No
4.	Child	Name: **Franz Henrich Fehmer** Born on the/in (*geboren am/in*): **9. November 1827 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11** Death on the/in (*verstorben am/in*): **10. December 1889**	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.: ☒ No

Spouse 2 (*Ehepartner 2*):

Anna Maria Christina Alfers (1793–1873)

Marriage on the/in (*Heiratsdatum*): 14. September 1830 Location (*Ort*): Billerbeck, St. Johannes the Baptist Witnesses (*Trauzeugen*): Franz Hüsing / Franz Bußman	Individual Detail Sheet: ☒ Yes, Nr.: 65　　☐ No

Children (*Kinder*):

1.	Child	Name (Name): Maria Anna Fehmer Born on the/in (*geboren am/in*): 9. December 1831 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11 Death on the/in (verstorben am/in): 20. May 1849	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.:　　☒ No
2.	Child	Name (Name): Theodor Johann Bernhard Fehmer Born on/in (*geboren am/in*): 4. October 1834 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11 Death (verstorben am/in): 16. March 1903	Individual Detail Sheet: ☒ Yes, (Nr.): 32　　☐ No
3.	Child	Name (Name): Bernhard Heinrich Fehmer Born on/in (*geboren am/in*): 2. January 1837 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11 Death (verstorben am/in): 13. December 1903	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.:　　☒ No
4.	Child	Name (Name): Anna Maria Therese Fehmer Born on/in (*geboren am/in*): 9. May 1841 in Billerbeck, Bombeck 11 Death (verstorben am/in): after 1921	Individual Detail Sheet: ☐ Yes, Nr.:　　☒ No

Additional information (*Weitere Informationen*):

Uncommon in these times, Johann Heinrich Joseph Sundorf took his wife's name: Maria Catharina Fehmer. Accordingly, their four children had the family name Fehmer. Also unusual, Johann Heinrich Jopseh Sundorf kept the name after his wife's early death. His second wife, Anna Maria Christina Alfers, and their four children also received the family name "Fehmer" and not Sundorf or Alfers, which is the normal procedure. We do not know why the spouses took the name Fehmer. One possibility could be that Maria Catharina Fehmer's family had a farm, and the farm and the family that runs it should keep the traditional name.

Kötter: A "Kötter" (also spelled "Kötter" or "Köter") is a historical term used in German-speaking regions, particularly in rural areas of northern and central Germany, to describe a small farmer or cottager. Kötter typically owned a modest amount of land, often just enough for subsistence farming. Unlike larger landowners or full-time farmers, Kötter did not usually possess extensive agricultural holdings. They typically supplemented their income through additional work, such as day labor or artisanal crafts. The term is rooted in the feudal and agrarian societies of medieval and early modern Germany, where land ownership and social status were closely intertwined. Regions where the term was commonly used include Westphalia, Lower Saxony, and parts of Schleswig-Holstein.

The **family name "Sundorf"** is of German origin, combining "Sund," which could refer to a strait or a narrow body of water, and "dorf," meaning village. This name can be interpreted as "Village by the Strait" or "Sun Village," suggesting a settlement near a body of water or a place characterized by its sunny location. Though relatively rare, the surname is most commonly found in North Rhine-Westphalia. The combination of elements in "Sundorf" reflects typical naming conventions in German-speaking regions, where geographical features often influenced place and family names.

Existing documents (*Vorhandene Dokumente*):

☒ Birth record	☒ Baptismal record	☒ Marriage record 1
☒ Marriage record 2	☒ Death record	☐

Sources (*Quellen*):

Birth and Baptismal (Geburt und Taufe): https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/muenster/darfeld-st-nikolaus/KB006_1/?pg=6
Marriage 1 (Heirat): https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/muenster/billerbeck-st-johannes-der-taeufer/KB008_2/?pg=6
Marriage 2 (Heirat): https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/muenster/billerbeck-st-johannes-der-taeufer/KB010/?pg=26
Death (Tod): https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/muenster/billerbeck-st-johannes-der-taeufer/KB017/?pg=5