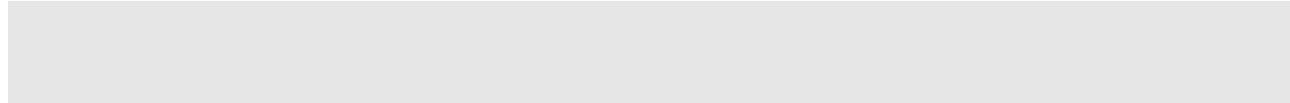


# phonetischen Namenkarte (pNK) / Phonetic variants of German surnames and village names

Name as found in present day \_\_\_\_\_ (Source(s): \_\_\_\_\_)

## “Master variant” diagram



### Listing of variants (use back of sheet for more):

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Goal:** De-evolve a surname or village name from the present to its original forms & variants

**Step-by-step**

- Review phonetic hints and samples below
- Create the “Master Variant Diagram”
- Write out the list of spelling variants

## Phonetic hints and samples

### Initial letters

- H may have dropped
- Y names may originally have been with J
- V names may have originally been with a W
- See consonant interchanges and vowel shifts for other ideas.

### Vowel shifts

Many German “short” vowels are interchangeably respelled. “Long” vowels include shifts such as:

- ei or ey or ai or ay
- e or ee or ä
- ü or y
- ie or i or ü
- äu or eu

**Notes:** Any umlauted (two dots) vowel can shift into just about any other vowel in English records! The 2<sup>nd</sup> letter in German vowel combinations is usually the one that “speaks” – e.g., ie = long e; ei = long i; eu = “oy”

### Consonant Interchanges

Letters than can interchange are:

- b or v or f
- d or t or th
- f or pf or ff
- k or c or g
- s or z

### Combinations / Syllables

( e.g., now = orig.)

- S or Sh = Sch
- -back or baugh = bach
- -man = mann
- -tz or -z or -ts
- -berk or berck = -berg, -burg
- -ly or -ley = -le

### Translations

Look up the name (or its syllables) to see if it’s a translation of a German word (e.g. English = German)

- Examples:  
Little = Klein;  
Baker = Bäcker,  
Shoemaker = Schuhmacher

Surname example: **Snyder**

- “Master Variant” diagram: **(Sn or Shn or Schn) (y or ei or i) (d or t or th) (-er or -ur)** • List of variants: Snider, Sniter, Snytur, Sneider, Sneiter, Sneither, Schnyder, Schnyter, Schnyther, Schneiter, Schneither, Shniter, Shneider, Shneiter

Village name example: **Zeifenbeck**

- “Master Variant” diagram: **(Z or S) (ei or ie or e or i or ü) (f or pf or ff) (en or in) (-beck or baugh or -bach)**
- List of variants: Ziefenbach, Zeifenbaugh, Sieffenbach, Sieffenbaugh, Siephenbeck, Züffenbach, Süphenbach, Seifenbeck