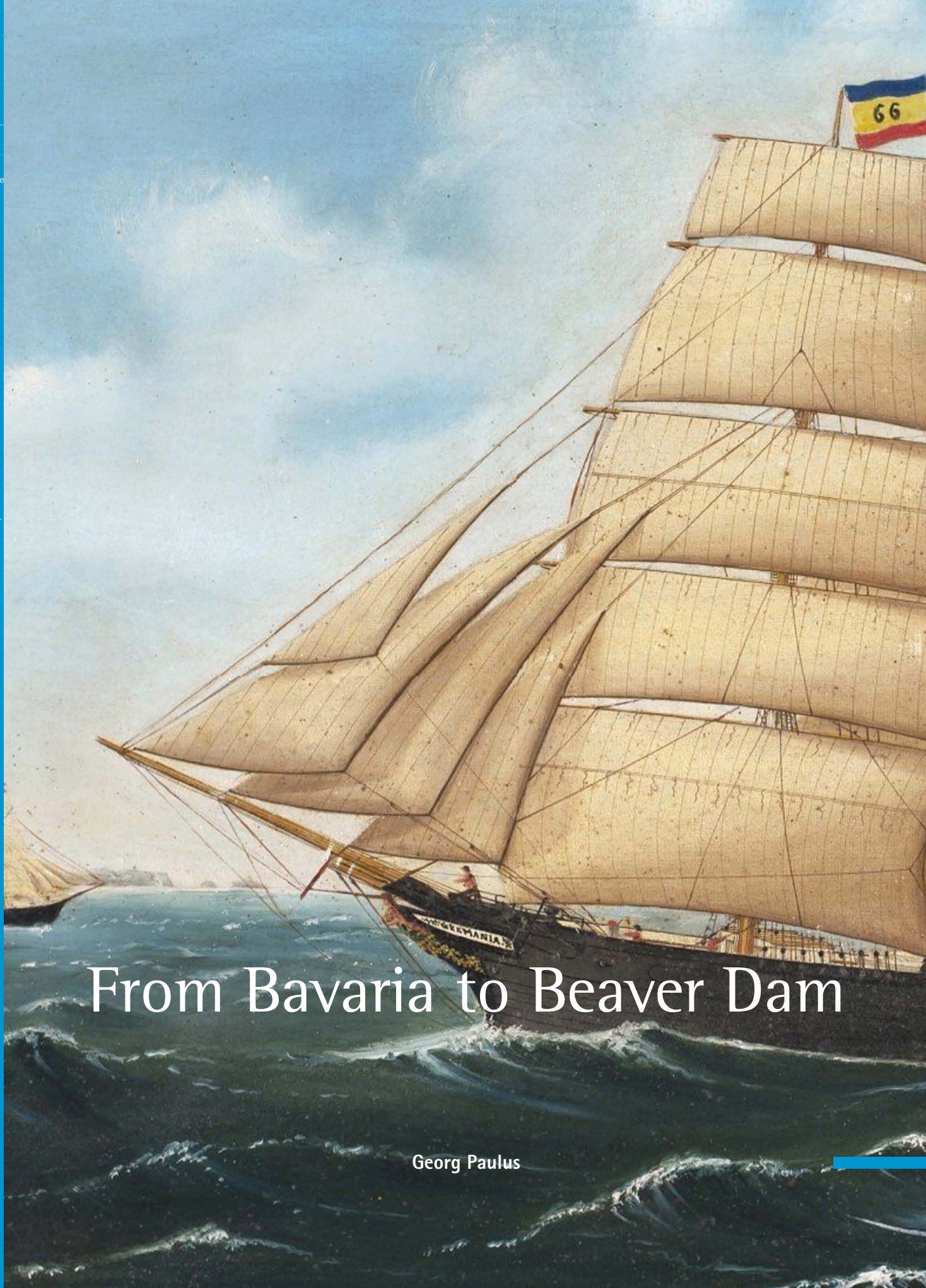

From Bavaria to Beaver Dam

Georg Paulus

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From Bavaria to Beaver Dam

Emigration from the former Hemau court district area and adjacent municipalities to Wisconsin, USA, between 1845 and 1861

Georg Paulus
in collaboration with
Patricia T. Pawl

Lohnart
VERLAG
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Introduction

This book is about more than 460 people who emigrated to North America between 1845 and 1861 from the former court district of Hemau and neighboring communities.[1] The majority of them became early settlers of the town of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and founders of its first Catholic parish.

They were part of an emigration movement that swept across Germany and reached its peak at that time. For 90 percent of German emigrants in those years, the United States of America was their destination. In the 19th century, they constituted one of the most important immigrant nationalities there, along with the Irish. Between 1846 and 1857, 1.1 million Germans immigrated to the United States, including approximately 140,000 from the Kingdom of Bavaria.[2] (For context: In 1850, the United States had 23 million inhabitants. Half a million people lived in New York City. Chicago had about 30,000 residents, and Milwaukee around 20,000.).[3]

This report originated from the desire to determine the origins of about a dozen immigrants who had previously been considered the first Bavarian settlers of Beaver Dam.[4] However, the evaluation of relevant documents (including ship passenger lists) soon revealed that they were part of a larger cohort of migrants who shared a common homeland and a common destination. Subsequent investigations initially identified the approximately 460 emigrants mentioned at the beginning, who are the focus of this study. In a further step, an attempt was made to investigate their social circumstances and to uncover the reasons that motivated them to emigrate.

Along with the results of this research, the travel preparations typical at the time, the conditions of travel to the seaports, the voyage on sailing ships, and the onward journey from the port of arrival to the destination in Wisconsin are also described. Finally, the role of certain emigrants in the establishment and development of the city of Beaver Dam and its St. Peter Catholic Parish is also discussed. In addition, emigrants who settled in other locations in Wisconsin during the same time period are addressed.

The detailed description of some typical emigrant careers in the chapter “Careers and Destinies” is followed by a section “Biographical Sketches” with biographical information on all the emigrants found or their families, in alphabetical order.

It should be noted that, despite the evaluation of all conceivable sources, the list of persons appearing here cannot claim to be exhaustive. For example, among the early inhabitants of Beaver Dam are family names that suggest Bavarian roots, but whose bearers could not be identified more precisely. Furthermore, the evident gaps in the oldest church records of Beaver Dam leave room for speculation.

---

1 At that time, the Hemau Landgericht (court district) encompassed the former Pflegamt of Hemau (the "Tangrintel" region) but extended as far west as Breitenbrunn and beyond the Schwarze Laber river to the east (cf. Jehle, Parsberg, pp. 513ff.). The municipalities bordering the Hemau Landgericht belonged to the court disctricts of Kelheim and Burglengenfeld as they existed at the time.

2 Cf. Raithel, Thomas: "Kommt bald nach ...". In: Brockhoff – Hamm – Henker, Good Bye Bayern, pp. 23–36, here p. 25, and Schottenloher, Bayern in der Fremde, p. 34.

3 US Federal Census 1850.

4 Cf. Anonymous, 100th Anniversary Jubilee, p. 14, and Historical Committee (ed.): Centennial History, p. 252.

Causes of Emigration

Like most historical developments, the emigration movement in the mid-19th century had not just one, but several causes that interacted and whose significance varied for each individual emigrant.
For the emigrants discussed here, economic and social reasons were the probable causes. Political circumstances played only an indirect role, namely to the extent that these affected economic and social conditions.

Crop Failures

The people who are the subject of this book came from the rural population. Most of them had lived directly or indirectly from agriculture before emigrating. Events that harmed agriculture also made life difficult for them. This was the case in the mid-1840s, when weather anomalies caused crop failures and plunged the subsistence farming population into economic hardship. The situation worsened due to the potato blight that began in 1845. The food shortage led to price increases and ultimately to the nationwide famine of 1846/47.[1]
The field cultivation of the potato, which originated in America, had become increasingly important in Bavaria since the second half of the 18th century. By 1830, it already accounted for slightly over 30 percent of the arable land in the Upper Palatinate.[2] The potato had become a staple food. For example, Dr. Georg Gruber wrote in 1860 in his medical report on the Hemau court district: *After bread, potatoes are one of the most excellent foods, especially for the poorer classes. They are grown here in a great variety of ways, but not always successfully, and are consumed almost daily by both townspeople and countrymen, either simply boiled or prepared as a side dish.*[3]
Actually, the potato was the great hope with which the rapidly growing population was to be fed, since it was possible to nourish three times more people with the same cultivated area than with grain.[4] Thus, all the more sobering were the fluctuating yields or crop losses that had to be accepted from 1845 onwards. The cause was potato blight (Phytophthora infestans), a fungal disease that, like the potato itself, originally came from America, and against which one was initially helpless. The potato farmers found themselves in dire economic straits in the face of the crop failures. The confluence of potato blight and successive poor grain harvests led to extremely high prices, from which the farmers could not profit due to their own crop losses. On the contrary, to keep their livestock alive and meet their own food needs, they often had to purchase grain, sometimes even going into debt to do so. The economic crisis in agriculture naturally also affected the trades linked to it. Orders for blacksmiths,

	Waizen.	Roggen.
$18^{34}/_{37}$ . . .	9 fl. 17 kr.	6 fl. 27 kr.
$18^{37}/_{40}$ . . .	13 „ 14 „	9 „ 7 „
$18^{40}/_{43}$ . . .	14 „ 25 „	9 „ 55 „
$18^{43}/_{46}$ . . .	18 „ 1 „	15 „ 6 „
$18^{46}/_{49}$ . . .	17 „ 38 „	11 „ 42 „
$18^{49}/_{52}$ . . .	15 „ 4 „	11 „ 25 „
$18^{52}/_{55}$ . . .	24 „ 29 „	19 „ 6 „
$18^{55}/_{58}$ . . .	18 „ 42 „	13 „ 36 „
$18^{58}/_{61}$ . . .	17 „ 46 „	12 „ 47 „
$18^{61}/_{64}$ . . .	18 „ 18 „	12 „ 9 „

Trends in grain prices in Regensburg, 1834–1864 (Hermann, Volkszählungen, p. X)

1 Cf. Raithel, Thomas: "Kommt bald nach ...". In: Brockhoff – Hamm – Henker, Good Bye Bayern, pp. 23–36, here p. 26
2 Häussler, Erdäpfelpfalz, p. 53.
3 Gruber – Paulus, Physikatsbericht, p. 261.
4 Cf. Rauh, Bevölkerungsentwicklung, p. 589.

wagon makers, tailors, etc., were postponed or cancelled. Wherever possible, farmers also dispensed with hired help. Economic historians have been able to document a correlation between grain price trends and emigration figures, thereby demonstrating the significance of agricultural crises for emigration.[5]

Restrictions on Traditional Forest Usage Rights

In addition to the fundamental threat posed by the exceptional weather and natural conditions, there were restrictions on long-established rights that were of vital importance to many farmers. Since the late 1830s, the Bavarian state had sought to curtail forest usage rights. These included the so-called litter (livestock bedding) and forest grazing rights which were often indispensable for livestock farming at that time. It is perhaps no coincidence that a large proportion of the emigrants discussed here came from villages where such forest usage rights had applied in the woodlands between Kelheim and Hemau.[6]

Population Growth and Marriage Restrictions

Rapid population growth in the preceding decades is considered one of the socioeconomic causes of the wave of emigration around 1850.[7] Between 1818 and 1852, the population of the Kingdom of Bavaria rose by 23 percent – from 3.7 million to around 4.6 million.[8] From 1834 to 1852, the excess of births over deaths in the Kingdom of Bavaria ranged between 5.4 and 7.0 per thousand. In the period from 1853 to 1855, this figure fell to 3.5 per thousand. Set against this was a net emigration rate of 4.82 per thousand of the population, resulting – for the first time in decades – in a population decline of 1.32 per thousand.[9]

Particularly in rural areas, Bavaria's economy and society were defined by agriculture and livestock farming. Around 1850, two-thirds of the population worked in agriculture. For the sons and daughters of farmers who were neither designated to take over a farmstead nor had the opportunity to marry into one, few alternatives existed prior to the country's industrialization. Even the option of finding work as a farmhand or maidservant was limited – especially given the previously mentioned economic crisis. Emigration was one of the available alternatives.

For unmarried individuals, it also offered a chance to escape the legal restrictions on marriage, which were particularly repressive in Bavaria.[10] Laws regarding "settlement and marriage," revised in 1825 and 1834, made it difficult for those wishing to marry to start a family unless they met certain minimum requirements, primarily of an economic nature. Decision-making authority lay with the respective political municipality.[11]

Coupled with a rising population, these tightened, state-mandated restrictions on marriage led to an increase in out-of-wedlock births. Emigration by propertyless individuals wishing to marry – often accompanied by their illegitimate children – was one of the practical consequences.

5 Cf. Albrecht, p. 188.
6 Cf. Albrecht, pp. 146f., and Paulus, Paintner Forst, pp. 32–36; and Paulus, "avena de silvis que dicitur Holtzhabern", Das Forsthaferverzeichnis des Forstmeisteramts Painten von 1717 , http://www.heimatforschung-regensburg.de/3184 (2021).
7 Cf. Raithel, Thomas: "Kommt bald nach ...". In: Brockhoff – Hamm – Henker, Good Bye Bayern, pp. 23–36, here p. 26.
8 Cf. https://www.hgisg-ekompendium.ieg-mainz.de/Dokumentation_Datensaetze/Multimedia/Staaten/Bayern.php (27 Nov. 2025).
9 Hermann, Volkszählungen, p. XI.
10 Cf. Matz, pp. 153ff.
11 Cf. Heydenreuter, Gesetze, as well as Heydenreuter, Ehebeschränkungen.

Individual Statements Regarding Reasons for Emigration

The government of the Upper Palatinate (Oberpfalz) kept detailed records of emigration. Up to the year 1852, the relevant registers list the name of every single applicant or, in the case of families, that of the head of the household. Furthermore, they contain details such as the emigrant's age, marital and employment status, place of origin, and assets. They also reveal which seaports the emigrants intended to use for their journey.[12] From 1853 onwards, the registers were kept only in summary form, without listing the names of those departing.[13]

A distinctive feature of the documents created up to 1852 is that they also record the reasons for emigration, apparently elicited on an individual basis, for each person. Even if the statements preserved in this way may occasionally have been responses to leading questions, or if the true reason for emigration might sometimes have been withheld, taken as a whole, they nonetheless present a coherent picture:

Among younger, mostly unmarried applicants, the most frequent notations refer to the *hope for better wages* and, above all, the *hope for easier opportunities to settle and marry*.

Farmers and smallholders who had sold their properties to move to America with their families expressed similar sentiments. One man, for instance, spoke of his expectation that his children would find easier opportunities in America to establish themselves in agriculture. One individual held the view *that a farmer's prospects in America were far greater than in Bavaria*. Frequently cited reasons included the *hope of improving one's livelihood* or, more generally, the *hope of bettering one's circumstances*. One person expressed the *hope of acquiring significant landholdings at a very low price*. For widows or widowers traveling as part of a family group, the emigration of the person to whom they had transferred their farm (and from whom they received retirement support) could also be a reason for leaving. Others spoke of *dissatisfaction with conditions in their homeland* and anticipated *higher daily wages* in America. A highly personal reason for the departure of one elderly couple appears to have been a documented *falling-out with the daughter* who remained behind.

While the notes regarding reasons for emigration were initially quite varied – including in their phrasing – a standard remark about *bettering one's circumstances* became the norm in administrative routine as the number of emigrants rose. Details regarding reasons for emigration found in the records are listed under the respective individuals in the biographies presented below.

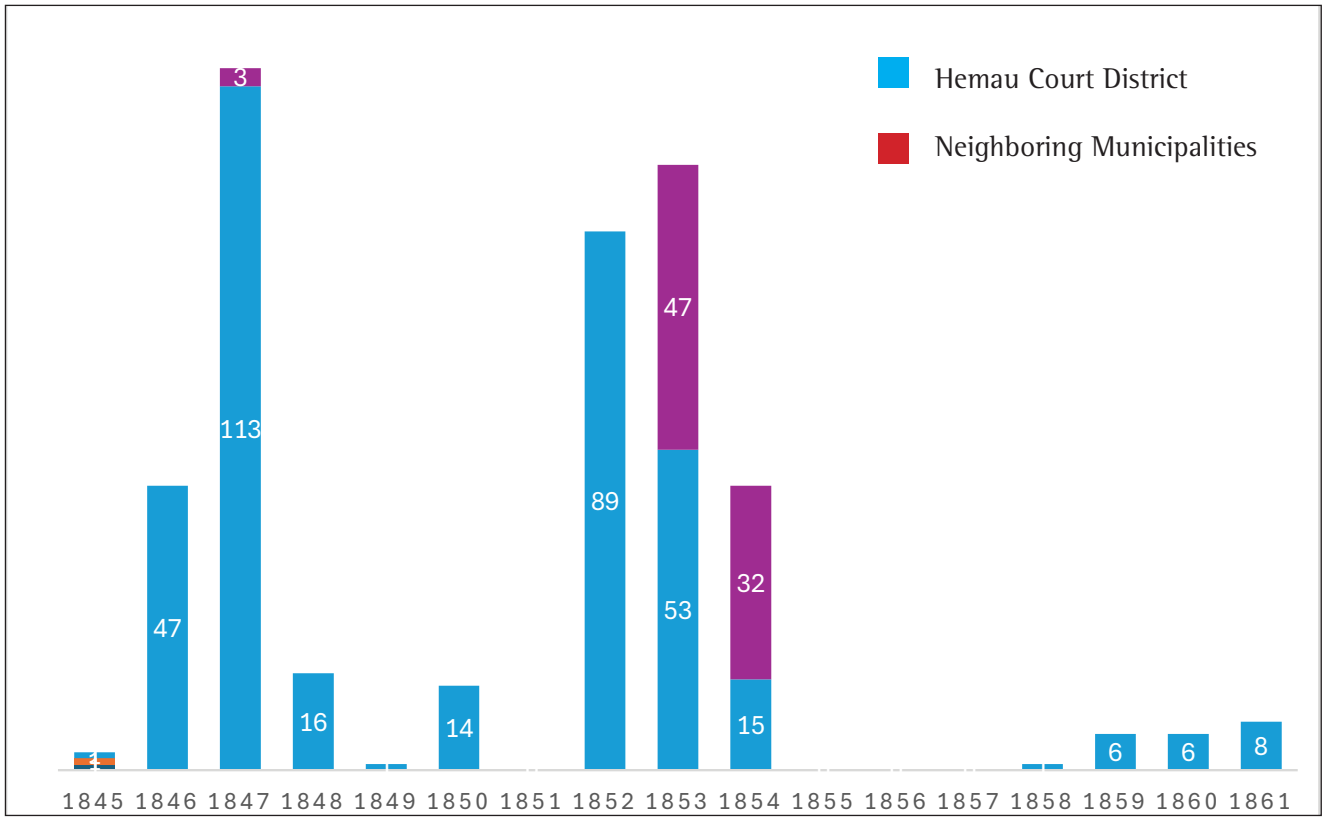
A contributing factor for emigration in general may well have been the prevailing Zeitgeist – a concept often difficult to pin down in historical research – which had evidently gripped the entire country and encouraged people to leave their ancestral homes and familiar surroundings to set out into the unknown.

---

12 Staatsarchiv Amberg (hereinafter: StAAm), RegInn 298.
13 StAAm, RegInn 299.

Emigration Figures

Between 1842 and 1861, 9,753 people emigrated from the Upper Palatinate to North America.[14] This corresponded to almost exactly two percent of the population at the time, which stood at around 480,000.[15]
The wave of emigration from the area under study began in 1845 (with one emigrant from Hemau) and reached an initial peak in 1847. Following a brief lull, a second strong wave occurred between 1852 and 1854. For the period from 1845 to 1861, about 370 individuals were identified as those who emigrated to North America from what was then the Hemau court district area.[16] This represented 2.4 percent of the population – a figure slightly above the average for the Upper Palatinate (the Hemau court district area had approximately 15,400 inhabitants at the time[17]). Accompanying them were about 90 people who resided in neighboring municipalities – predominantly those belonging to the Kelheim court district area – and who often had family ties to the emigrants from the Hemau court district area.



Emigration from the Hemau Regional Court District, 1845–1861, by Year of Departure (Chart 1)

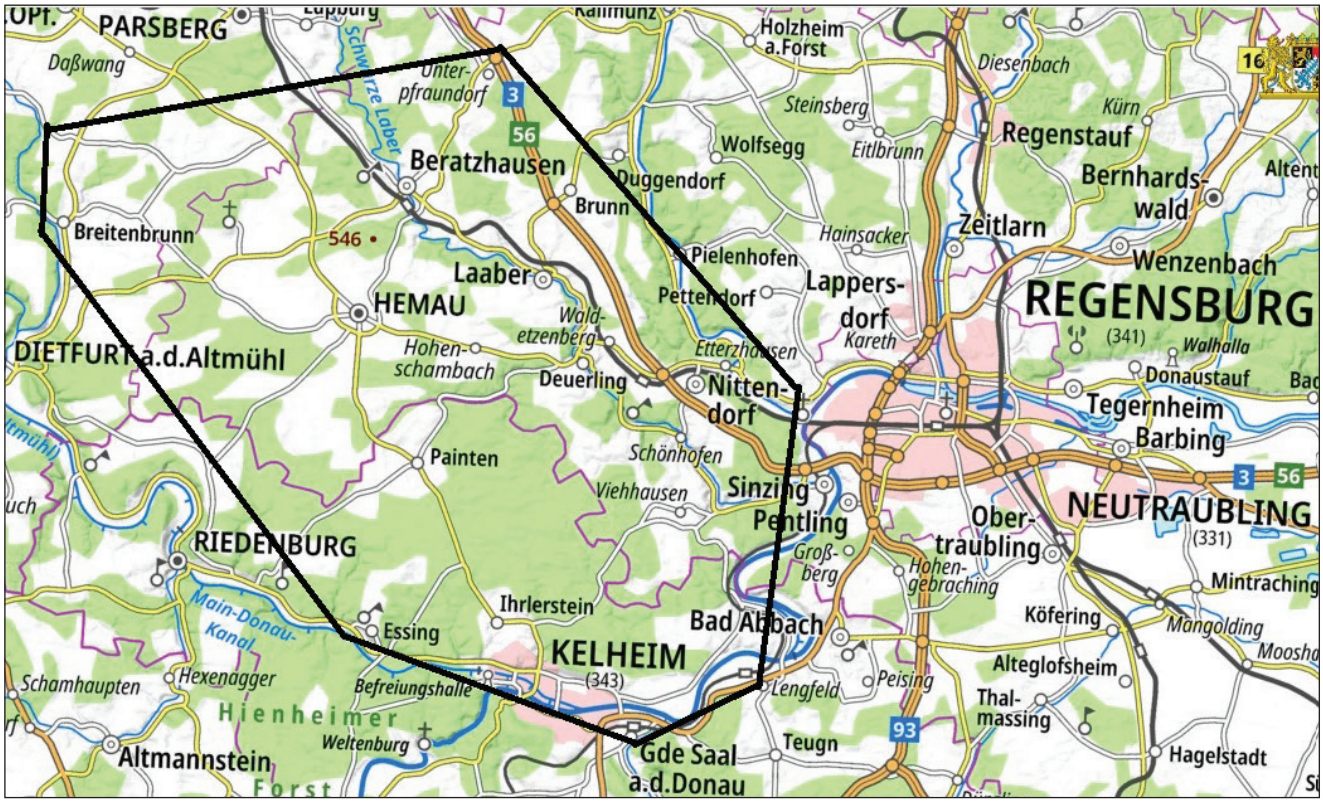
14 Cf. Albrecht, p. 124.
15 Calculated based on the statistical data in Hermann, Volkszählung, p. XI.
16 For the extent of the Landgericht (court district) in question, cf. Jehle, Parsberg, pp. 513ff.
17 Calculated based on the data for 1860 in Gruber – Paulus, Physikatsbericht, p. 257, and the statistics in Hermann, Volkszählung, p. XI.

Places of Origin

The individuals who emigrated during the study period of 1845 to 1861 came from twenty parishes of origin. The highest numbers of emigrants were recorded in the parishes of Painten, Beratzhausen, and Hohenschambach.
Specifically, these parishes are: Aichkirchen (11), Beratzhausen (62), Breitenbrunn (14), Deuerling (27), Eichlberg (1), Eilsbrunn (29), Essing (1), Frauenberg (22), Hemau (13), Hohenschambach (50), Jachenhausen (3), Kapfelberg (22), Kelheim (20), Kemnathen (1), Laaber (17), Nittendorf (40), Painten (70), Pfraundorf (37), Poikam (1), and Saal on Danube (24).

Places of Origin by Parish

Aichkirchen:	Aicha, Aichkirchen, Bügerl, Grafenstadl, Oberhöfen
Beratzhausen:	Ametshof, Beilnstein, Beratzhausen, Buxlohe, Grametshof, Hagetshof, Hinterkreith, Hinterthann, Hohenlohe, Mausheim, Mitterkreith, Neuhöfl, Schwarzenthonhausen
Breitenbrunn:	Breitenbrunn, Buch, Dürn, Langenried, Langenthonhausen, Leiterzhofen
Deuerling:	Deuerling, Haugenried, Heimberg, Hillohe, Irgertshofen, Kleinetzenberg, Loch, Pollenried, Steinerbrückl, Undorf
Eichlberg:	Rieb
Eilsbrunn:	Schneckenbach, Viehhausen
Essing:	Essing
Frauenberg:	Brunn, Edlhausen, Eglsee, Endlfeld, Frauenberg
Hemau:	Hemau, Hennhüll, Klingen, Langenkreith
Hohenschambach:	Eiersdorf, Haag, Hohenschambach, Klapfenberg, Kochenthal, Kollersried, Laufenthal, Pföring, Schacha, Thonhausen, Wangsaß, Wolflier, Wollmannsdorf
Jachenhausen:	Thonlohe
Kapfelberg:	Gundelshausen, Kapfelberg, Lohstadt, Reichenstetten
Kelheim:	Kelheim, Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein), Walddorf (Ihrlerstein)
Kemnathen:	Kemnathen
Laaber:	Bergstetten, Großetzenberg, Laaber
Nittendorf:	Etterzhausen, Nittendorf, Schönhofen
Painten:	Berg, Maierhofen, Mantlach, Netzstall, Painten, Pechlerhäusl (abandoned), Rothenbügl, Wieseneck
Praundorf:	Mitterbügl, Rauhbügl, Rechberg, Unterpfraundorf
Poikam:	Poikam
Saal a. d. D.:	Herrnsaal, Kelheimwinzer



Area of Origin of the Emigrants in Central Bavaria

Social Status of the Emigrants

About one-third of the emigrants discussed here traveled alone or accompanied by a future spouse, whom they usually married shortly after arriving in the New World. Some also brought their child born out of wedlock. Several young, unmarried women set out for a more promising future with their illegitimate children – without a fiancé or the children's father.

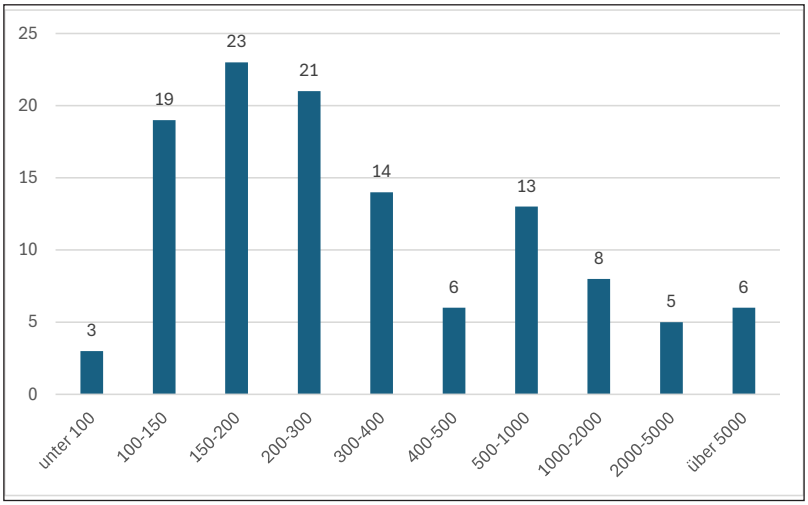
The remaining two-thirds of the emigrants traveled as family units. Among them were 58 married couples of varying ages, with or without children. Some of the children were already of marriageable age. Two widows also decided to start a new life in America with their children.

The travelers included four widowers, retired farmers of advanced age. Three of them accompanied the families of the heirs to their respective farm, heirs who had chosen to emigrate. Most of the emigrants came from an agricultural background. They had previously worked as farmhands or maids or had managed their own farms. We know that some sold their property before departing, setting out with cash assets ranging from 1,000 to 7,800 guilders. In contrast, domestic servants generally possessed assets only in the low three-figure range.

Since emigration permits required proof of a minimum level of assets, we have information regarding the financial circumstances of 118 applicants from the Hemau regional court district. The adjacent chart shows that the majority of those intending to emigrate possessed only the minimum amount[1] mandated at various times of 150 or 175 guilders, or slightly more.

Sons and daughters from somewhat more prosperous farms, as well as artisans who had usually sold a small property, could show assets of up to 1,700 guilders.

Only smallholders and farmers who had sold their farms, and who generally traveled with their children, possessed larger sums.[2] In all of these cases, their documented financial assets were calculated based on the proceeds of the sale minus the often-substantial debts encumbering the properties – an indication of one reason for emigration.



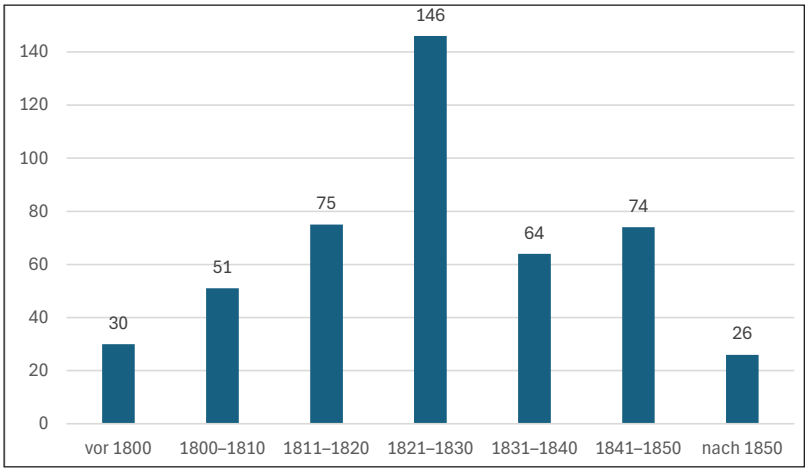
Assets of 118 Emigrants in Guilders (Chart 2)

1 See the section "Travel Preparations" below.

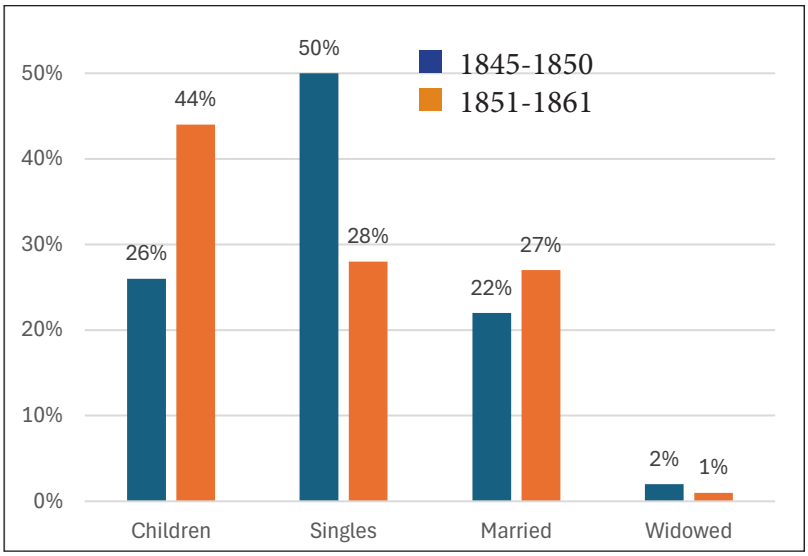
2 In the case of departing families, assets were attributed to the respective head of the family. Wives and children were included in this figure. Their numbers are not considered in the chart above.

As expected, most emigrants were relatively young at the time of their departure and had been born after 1820, as the adjacent graph (Chart 3) illustrates. The oldest among them was born in 1774, while the youngest children were born in the months prior to the crossing or en route to the seaport. One child was born on the day his parents arrived in New York.

As the next graph (Chart 4) shows, the first phase of emigration (1845–1850) consisted primarily of single individuals. In contrast, married couples with their children predominated in the second phase (1851–1861).



Birth Years of the Emigrants (Chart 3)



Marital Status of Emigrants in Percentages (Chart 4)

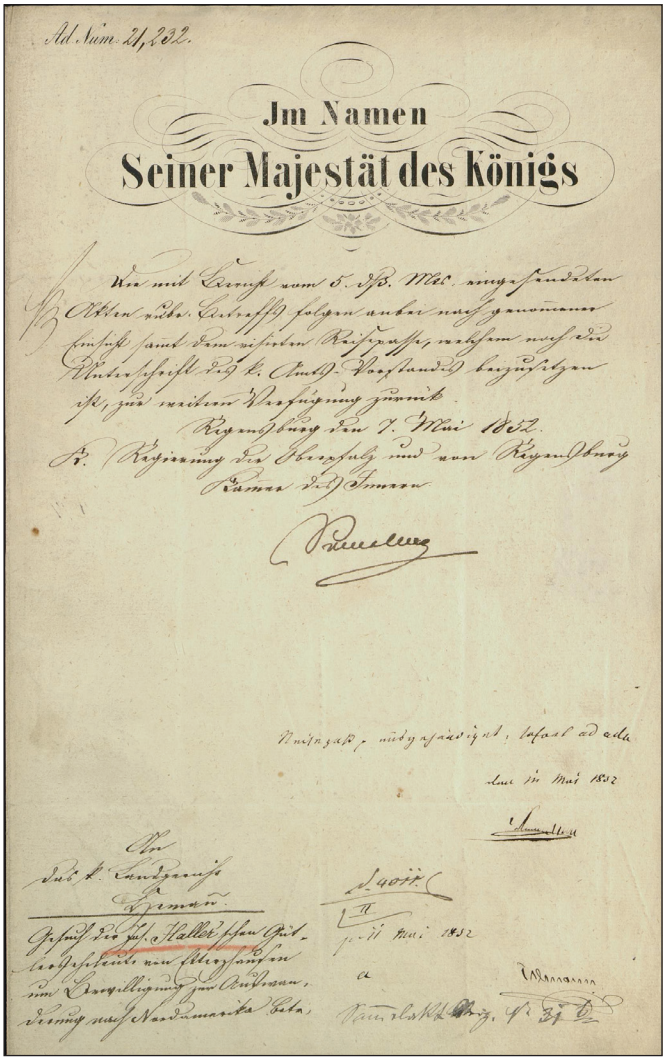
Travel Preparations

Emigration required authorization. The preconditions for obtaining such approval were tightened several times as the number of emigrants rose. Consequently, every instance of authorized emigration[1] began with various visits to emigration agents and to the authorities that ultimately resulted in an official file. For the individuals from the Hemau regional court district discussed in this book, twenty-one such emigration files have been preserved in the Amberg State Archives. They provide insight into the processes that preceded emigration.

The Emigration Application

One of the prerequisites for an emigration application to be granted was proof of a certain amount of liquid assets. In 1851, this requirement stood at 170 guilders for single individuals and 125 guilders per family member for families.[2] For farming families and other property owners, this meant that they generally had to sell off their holdings before they could appear before the district court to apply for permission to leave. This is significant given that approximately one-third of applications were rejected.[3] By mandating proof of minimum assets, the state sought to prevent emigrants from becoming destitute while en route to the seaport, returning to their home communities, and becoming a burden on the local poor relief system.

For men, the documents required at the time of application included proof of completed military service or, alternatively, a certificate of unfitness for service. Minors required the consent of their legal guardian.[4]


Ad Num. 21,232.

Im Namen
Seiner Majestät des Königs

"Petition of Joseph Haller and wife, smallholders from Etterzhausen, regarding authorization to emigrate to North America" (Page 1, StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1137)

1 Alongside legal emigration, there were also those who left illegally. At the time, Bavarian authorities estimated the share of this so-called „clandestine emigration" at 1 to 2 percent (cf. Albrecht, pp. 134ff.).
2 Cf. Albrecht, p. 115.
3 Cf. Albrecht, p. 151.
4 Cf. Albrecht, p. 115.

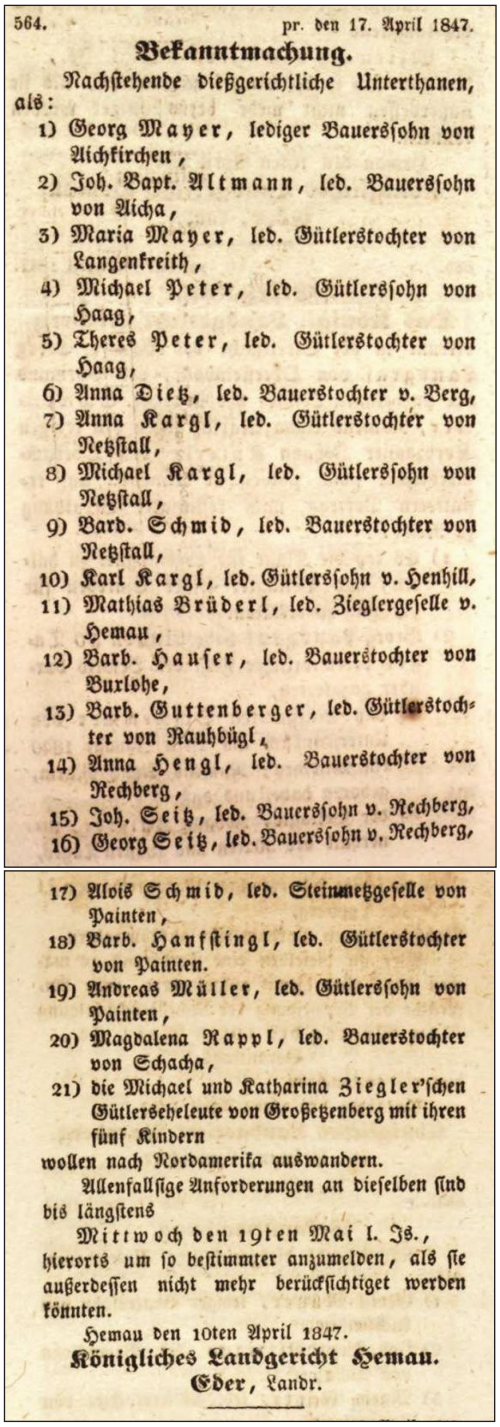
Furthermore, the applicant had to prove that he was not indebted to anyone. To this end, he had to place a corresponding advertisement in relevant newspapers at his own expense, requesting any potential creditors to come forward within a set deadline. Only after this deadline had passed could the application be processed further.

In addition to such "public notices" announcing the intention to emigrate of individuals or families, there were also mass advertisements like the one from April 17, 1847 – the record year for emigration – with 21 applicants (see illustration). In some cases, the applicant also offered a solvent guarantor who undertook to cover any existing debts. Finally, a certificate of good conduct from the home community was also required, as was a declaration certifying that the latter would not demand any bail from the emigrant in the event that he or she returned and became a burden on the public.

Ideally, the person wishing to emigrate obtained all the required documents before submitting their application to the regional court in Hemau.

Emigration Agents

But first, there was a trip to Regensburg, because among the documents to be submitted to the regional court with the emigration application was a preliminary contract with an agent of the shipping company with which the passage to North America was to be arranged. At that time, there were two such agents in Regensburg. As with emigration itself, the Bavarian state had also issued rules for the entrepreneurs who organized the journey overseas: "Since 1849, shipbrokers, agents, and dispatch offices who wanted to appoint an agent in Bavaria had to apply for a license for themselves from the Chamber of the Interior and name a principal agent residing in Bavaria. ... Across Bavaria, approximately 70 principal agents can be identified for the period from 1849 to 1898, often



564. pr. den 17. April 1847.

Bekanntmachung.

Nachstehende dießgerichtliche Unterthanen, als:

1) Georg Mayer, lediger Bauerssohn von Aichkirchen,
2) Joh. Bapt. Altmann, led. Bauerssohn von Aicha,
3) Maria Mayer, led. Gütlerstochter von Langenkreith,
4) Michael Peter, led. Gütlerssohn von Haag,
5) Theres Peter, led. Gütlerstochter von Haag,
6) Anna Dietz, led. Bauerstochter v. Berg,
7) Anna Kargl, led. Gütlerstochter von Netzstall,
8) Michael Kargl, led. Gütlerssohn von Netzstall,
9) Barb. Schmid, led. Bauerstochter von Netzstall,
10) Karl Kargl, led. Gütlerssohn v. Henhill,
11) Mathias Brüderl, led. Zieglergeselle v. Hemau,
12) Barb. Hauser, led. Bauerstochter von Burlohe,
13) Barb. Guttenberger, led. Gütlerstochter von Rauhbügl,
14) Anna Hengl, led. Bauerstochter von Rechberg,
15) Joh. Seitz, led. Bauerssohn v. Rechberg,
16) Georg Seitz, led. Bauerssohn v. Rechberg,
17) Alois Schmid, led. Steinmetzgeselle von Painten,
18) Barb. Hanfstingl, led. Gütlerstochter von Painten.
19) Andreas Müller, led. Gütlerssohn von Painten,
20) Magdalena Rappl, led. Bauerstochter von Schacha,
21) die Michael und Katharina Ziegler'schen Gütlerseheleute von Großetzenberg mit ihren fünf Kindern

wollen nach Nordamerika auswandern.

Allenfallsige Anforderungen an dieselben sind bis längstens

Mittwoch den 19ten Mai l. Js.,

hierorts um so bestimmter anzumelden, als sie außerdessen nicht mehr berücksichtiget werden könnten.

Hemau den 10ten April 1847.

Königliches Landgericht Hemau.

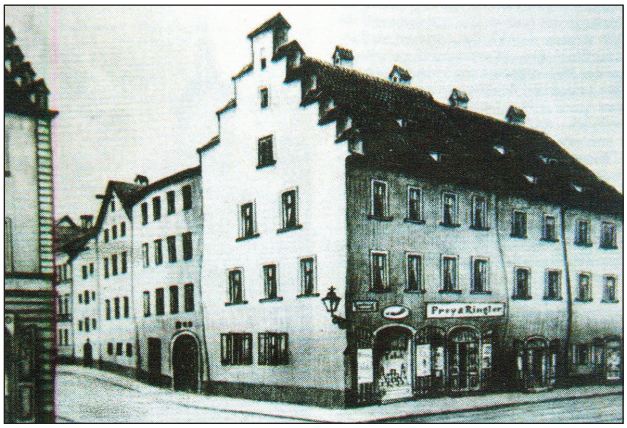
Eder, Landr.

"Public Notice" regarding the intention to emigrate of 21 applicants in the "Königlich-bayerisches Intelligenzblatt für die Oberpfalz und von Regensburg" dated April 17, 1847

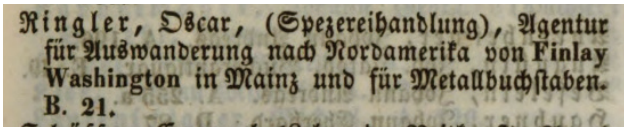
Jewish merchants who, in the early years, worked for only one shipowner, broker, or shipping firm at a time."[5] From 1847 onwards, Regensburg city directories list two emigration agents whose services were also documented as having been used by the individuals we studied. One of them was Oscar Ringler, located on Glockengasse. In 1847, he was listed as *Ringler, Oscar, (spice merchant), agent for emigration to North America representing Finlay Washington of Mainz, and for metal letters. B 21.* (1847).[6]

He was still listed in the Regensburg directory in 1862, specifically as *Ringler, Oskar (spice merchant), agent for the Life Insurance and Savings Bank in Stuttgart, the Württemberg Marine, River, and Land Transport Insurance Company of Heilbronn, and for metal letters, as well as for emigration to North America via Chrystie, Schlößmann & Co. in Le Havre and Lüdering & Co. in Bremen. B 20 (Ludwigstraße/Glockengasse).*[7]

The other agent was *Neumüller, J. W., (spice and general goods dealer), agent for the Life Insurance Company in Berlin and for emigration to North America via Bremen. F 68, Posthorngäßchen.*[8]



"Zum Goldenen Arm – Frey & Ringler" Department Store, Ludwigstraße, corner of Glockengasse, circa 1890 (https://regensburg-historisch.blogspot.com/p/blog-page.html)


Ringler, Oscar, (Spezereihandlung), Agentur für Auswanderung nach Nordamerika von Finlay Washington in Mainz und für Metallbuchstaben. B. 21.

Entry for emigration agent Oscar Ringler in the Regensburg directory, 1847

Both men – Ringler and Neumüller – were so-called *Spezereienhändler* (spice dealers) who had apparently discovered emigration as a new line of business. Through their spice trade, they may well have already possessed the necessary connections to the seaports.

As insurance agents, a role they also held, they probably sold the emigrants the corresponding travel insurance. Ringler and Neumüller likely also advised those intending to emigrate and planned their journey to their final destination in America with them. They may well have also offered one of the guidebooks for German emigrants bound for North America, or specifically for Wisconsin.[9]

Once the prospective emigrants had gathered all the necessary documents, they still had to undergo an official briefing regarding the dangers and risks of their undertaking and confirm that they remained *firmly resolved* to emigrate. After that, nothing stood in the way of the Royal Government of the Upper Palatinate granting permission to leave and issuing a passport.

5 Oelwein, Cornelia: Die Organisation der Auswanderung. In: Brockhoff – Hamm – Henker, Good Bye Bayern, pp. 43–46, here p. 45.
6 Regensburg Address Book 1847.
7 Regensburg Address Book 1862.
8 Regensburg Address Book 1847.
9 de Haas, Carl: Nordamerika. Wisconsin, Volume 2. Wisconsin. Winke für Auswanderer, Elberfeld and Iserlohn 1849, and Ziegler, Alexander: Der deutsche Auswanderer nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika. Ein Lehrbuch auf seinen Weg. Leipzig 1849.



The Passport

The passport shown here, issued to *Anna Maria Eckner*[10] on April 28, 1847, has survived in the records, an exception to the rule. The petitioner, a 36-year-old unmarried domestic servant from Etterzhausen, had failed to comply with the request to submit proof of her declared assets amounting to 150 guilders. Her file was consequently "filed away."

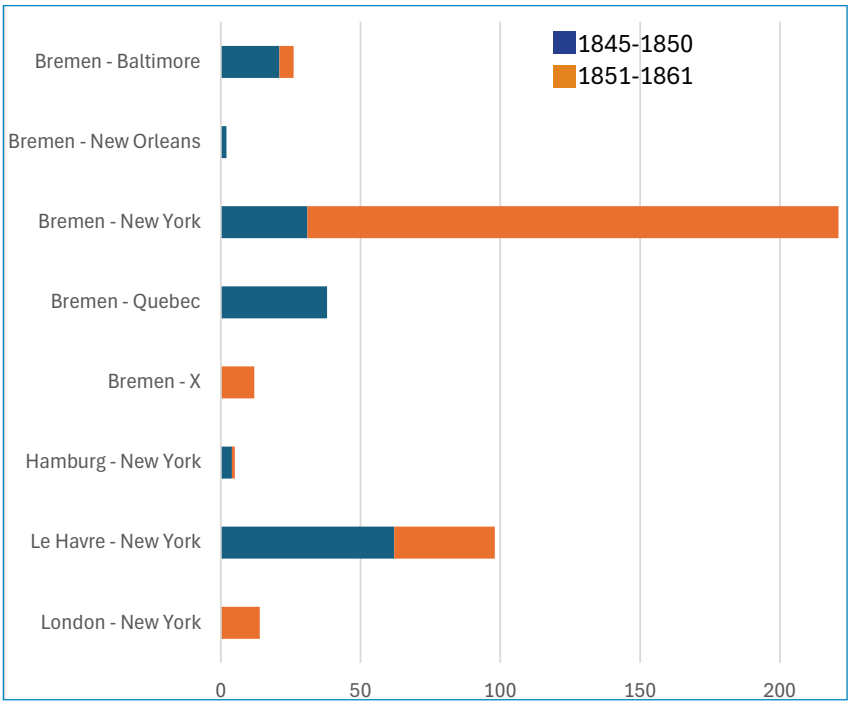
In the left-hand column, the document provides a physical description of the applicant.

In the main section, the regional court, pledging reciprocal assistance, requests *that all authorities of foreign states allow the unmarried Anna Maria Eckner (native of/resident in Etterzhausen), who is traveling via Bremen to North America for the purpose of emigration, to travel safely and without hindrance, and also to grant her any necessary protection and assistance.*[11]

10 Throughout the file, the surname is given as "Eckert." Only the passport bears the name "Eckner".
11 StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1131.

Journey to the Seaport

With passport in hand, one could now firmly book the journey in Regensburg and clarify final details with the emigration agent.
After packing one's belongings and bidding farewell to relatives and friends, the next step was to set out for the port of embarkation. For over 70 percent of our emigrants, the sea voyage across the Atlantic began in Bremen, or more precisely in Bremerhaven. Approximately one quarter set sail from Le Havre, France. This latter group also includes those listed with Mainz as their port of departure.[1] A small number chose Hamburg or even London as their point of departure for the crossing (see Chart 5).[2] Since there are unfortunately no records detailing exactly how or via which routes our subjects reached the seaports, we must rely on accounts from contemporaries who undertook similar journeys.



Departure and Destination Ports of 403 Emigrants 1845–1861 (Chart 5)

Routes to Bremen

Traveling from the Upper Palatinate to Bremen — often with children and heavy luggage — was an adventurous undertaking in the 1840s. A nationwide railway network was still under construction, meaning most emigrants had to rely on various modes of transport and change vehicles multiple times along the way.
The journey usually began with horse-drawn wagons and continued via a combination of boat and rail. From 1844, for instance, one could travel by train from Nuremberg to Bamberg.[3] There, travelers would switch back to a horse-drawn wagon. Only upon reaching Hannoversch Münden, a town in the Kingdom of Hanover, could one board a steamship and travel the remaining 150 miles along the Weser River to Bremen.

1 According to Albrecht (p. 159), Mainz was a stopover on the way to Le Havre.
2 The details regarding travel routes found in the extant emigration documents (StAAm, RegInn 298) are unreliable. Other sources (e.g., passenger lists, immigration documents) often reveal different routes taken.
3 Cf. https://www.historisches-lexikon-bayerns.de/Lexikon/Eisenbahn_(19._Jahrhundert)#Erste_staatliche_Strecken (03.04.2026).

Records from the Benedictine Father Petrus Lechner (1805–1874) of Scheyern, who set out for North America in May 1847 alongside several young clergymen, reveal that he initially traveled by rail from Munich via Augsburg to Nuremberg, and from there continued through Fürth, Erlangen, and Bamberg to Hof. From there, the journey continued on foot across the border into Saxony to Plauen and on to Thoßfell and Reichenbach, where the small group was able to board a train once more. Subsequent stops included Leipzig, Magdeburg, and Braunschweig before they arrived in Hanover. They covered the remaining 75 miles to Bremen entirely on foot, having first negotiated with a hired carter (*Lohnrößler*) in Nienburg who demanded an *exorbitant 20 thalers* and *loaded the travelers onto a straw-filled wagon like calves.*[4]

The travelers spent six days covering the total distance, over 300 miles by rail and around 100 miles on foot, from Nuremberg to Bremen. Those emigrating from the Hemau court district area via Bremen in 1847 might have set out for Nuremberg by horse-drawn wagon, taking a good week to reach Bremen. Including the cost of overnight stays, a family with several children had to anticipate expenses running into the hundreds for the journey to the port of departure.[5]

Many of our emigrants set out in larger groups. This made the cost of transport more affordable. Solo travelers, couples, and small families carried only a single chest containing their belongings. Only families with several children, often already adults, traveled with two chests or trunks.[6] Everything needed for the journey was carried in backpacks. In general, emigrants were advised to take as little as possible with them, since almost anything could be bought in America.

Over the years, the rapid expansion of the railway network simplified the journey to the port of embarkation. With the opening of the Hof–Leipzig line by the *Saxon-Bavarian Railway Company* on July 15, 1851, it became possible to travel by rail from Nuremberg all the way to Bremen,[7] though this did entail changing trains several times.

According to the timetable, the journey from Nuremberg to Bremen took just under 28 hours. A one-way ticket cost between 16½ and 22 guilders.[8] The route led from Nuremberg via Fürth, Bamberg, and Hof to Leipzig, and from there on via Braunschweig and Hanover to Bremen. Along the approximately 430-mile-long route, the train journey involved countless stops, including station transfers like the one in Leipzig. Including the two-



The Saxon-Bavarian Railway Station in Leipzig, built in 1844 (L. Rohbock – Joh. Poppel)

4 Sauer, P. Petrus Lechner.

5 Ibid.

6 We owe this insight to ship passenger lists containing the relevant details.

7 Rössler, Horst: Reise, Hafenstädte, Überfahrt. In: Brockhoff – Hamm – Henker, Good Bye Bayern, In: Brockhoff – Hamm – Henker, Good Bye Bayern, pp. 53–60, here p. 53; see also https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A4chsisch-Bayerische_Eisenbahn-Compagnie.

8 Post- und Eisenbahn-Reisekarte Deutschland, Holland, Belgien, die Schweiz, Italien bis Neapel, der größte Theil von Frankreich, Ungarn, Polen etc, , Nürnberg 1851. Note: At that time, a craftsman earned approx. 18 guilders per month!

day journey to reach Nuremberg, the trip from Hemau to Bremen took at least four days. Some did not even survive the journey to the seaport; for instance, the emigrant Rupert Rödl from Laaber died in Kulmbach in 1847 while on his way to Bremen.[9]

From Bremen to Bremerhaven

Although emigration records, passports, passage contracts, and ship passenger lists all cite "Bremen" as the port of departure, it is important to note that ocean-going vessels had long since ceased docking there. Due to the increasing silting up of the Weser River, a new seaport had been established in what is now Bremerhaven during the first half of the 19th century. Thus, upon arriving in Bremen, travelers were still nearly 45 miles away from the actual port of embarkation. They had to switch modes of transport once again to travel down the Weser to Bremerhaven. Those who could afford it took a river steamer, a transfer that lasted twelve hours.[10] Those who needed to conserve their travel funds took one of the "Weser barges" provided by the shipping companies, although even equipped with sails, these vessels took two to three days to cover the distance.[11]

Routes to Le Havre

For a long time, the port city of Le Havre on the Normandy coast was the most important port of embarkation, including for German emigrants bound for America. Even as Bremen increasingly eclipsed it in importance, Le Havre retained a certain significance, especially for less affluent travelers, because the Atlantic crossing from there was about two weeks shorter. As a rule, larger ships carrying more passengers also departed from there. This lowered the cost of the crossing, making the longer journey from the Upper Palatinate worthwhile, even though the distance was nearly twice that of the route to Bremen. To facilitate this, agents offered passage packages that included the journey starting from Mainz (see Chart 5).

Just as there were various routes to Bremen, there were also different ways to reach Le Havre. One traditional overland route led from the assembly point in Mainz via Paris to Le Havre by wagon. Traveling by water was more attractive. For decades, the Rhine – fed by the Main – served as the primary route for Bavarian emigrants seeking to reach North Sea ports. From Rotterdam or Amsterdam, most travelers first took a ship to Le Havre, where they then crossed the Atlantic.

Albrecht[12] provides another example involving a family that traveled from Roding in 1846: They journeyed by wagon via Regensburg, Neumarkt, Nuremberg, Fürth, Seuckendorf, Langenzenn, Neustadt an der Aisch, Mainbernheim, and Kitzingen to Würzburg. From there, they continued by water via Aschaffenburg, Hanau, Offenbach, Frankfurt, Cologne, and Nijmegen to Rotterdam. There, they boarded a steamship that reached Le Havre within three days. This journey from the Upper Palatinate to Le Havre likely took more than fourteen days. From 1850, an alternative existed in the form of a rail connection from Cologne via Paris to Le Havre, involving a change of stations in Paris.[13]

9 StAAm, RegInn 298.
10 Cf. Sauer, P. Petrus Lechner.
11 Cf. Krohn, pp. 171–172.
12 Cf. Albrecht, p. 157.
13 Cf. Krohn, pp. 171–172.

At the Port of Embarkation

Since the voyage times of the sailing ships used to cross the Atlantic in those days depended on wind and weather, their return dates could vary by several weeks and – due to the lack of communication options – could only be estimated. Consequently, emigration agents could provide their clients with only an approximate departure date. Travelers were required to arrive at the port by a specific deadline and then wait for their ship to arrive or depart. This waiting period could drag on for several weeks. Inns in the port cities had already begun specializing in accommodating these waiting travelers. The cost of lodging and meals during this time depleted their travel funds. We owe the precise dates on which some of our emigrants left their hometowns to the meticulous records kept by local clergy:

- Johann Helm, his fiancée Anna Maria Bayer, and their two-year-old daughter Therese left Deuerling on April 7, 1852, and boarded their ship in Bremerhaven on April 22.
- Mathias Bauer and his family set out from Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein) on February 22, 1853, and departed from Bremerhaven aboard the "Mary" on March 18.
- Georg Steil and his family left Kelheimwinzer on March 26, 1854, and boarded the "Sylphide" in Bremerhaven on April 18.

In these cases, therefore, the emigrants left their hometowns between 15 and 24 days before the departure of their respective ships.

Waiting for Departure

An account by an anonymous eyewitness from 1854 conveys an impression of the days spent waiting for the great voyage in Bremen or Bremerhaven:



Bremerhaven, Emigrants' House, circa1850 (built 1849/50)

... But let us now leave the emigrant inns and their teeming mix of South and North German costumes, dialects, manners, and currencies, and make our way by steamboat (provided one's funds are not too meager, certainly not by those snail-paced, suffocatingly and crushingly overcrowded floating dens of foul air on which shipowners have their passengers transported downstream for free) down the Weser to Bremerhaven, where the emigrant ship awaits those weary of Europe, or, if it is not yet ready to sail, where the large, fortress-like Emigrants' House, excellently appointed given the standards one is entitled to expect for the prices charged, provides temporary accommodation. Here, everything related to emigration crowds together.

Here, shipowners and brokers hurry back and forth, wallet and pencil in hand. Here, American emissaries seek to recruit souls for Methodism. Here, sailors use long hoses to fill the water casks of the vessels, ships that lie motionless against the quays with their black hulls, masts and yards, bowsprits, and rigging, yet are alive with ant-like, swarming activity.

Here, emigrants bring their belongings, their bulky, colorful chests, their bedding, and their utensils, aboard. Here, the commission appointed for this purpose, undoubtedly conscientious, yet neither infallible nor immune to deception, inspects the provisions supplied by the shipowner for the passengers and checks whether the salt meat has acquired an unpleasant taint from too many ocean crossings, whether the butter is fit to eat, and whether the proper quantities of everything required by law have been procured. Here, emboldened by overzealous farewell drinking in the town's taverns, where, incidentally, one can find, among other good things, very cheap "patriotic Madeira" (which, alas, tastes somewhat of syrup and potato schnapps) future citizens of the Yankee Republic bustle about, looking anything but homesick. Elsewhere, fathers of families carry the straw mattresses and blankets they purchased for the voyage, while wives and children trot along behind, clattering and clanking with tin mess kits, washbasins, drinking cups, long-necked and pot-bellied water flasks, the vessels made necessary by seasickness, and that cherished little rum keg with which they will console themselves against the miseries of the voyage or buy the favor of the perpetually thirsty cook. There, at last, they appear, sniffing out poor devils who deemed a passport superfluous or the King of Prussia's coat unflattering, yet occasionally hunting down more dangerous characters too; surrounded by helmeted, uniformed gendarmes with sabers at their sides; peering out from the stiff, high, dignified collars of their attire — our good old friend — the German police. ...[14]

14 Stolle (Ed.), Auswandererschiff.

The Crossing

Although steamships were already operating between Europe and North America in the 1840s, for a long time the business of transporting emigrants continued to rely on sailing ships. While steamships cut the duration of the crossing to about one-third, the voyage was also significantly more expensive. With one exception, all the emigrants discussed in this book whose ship passages are known traveled on sailing vessels. Most of these were so-called barques, ships with three main masts.

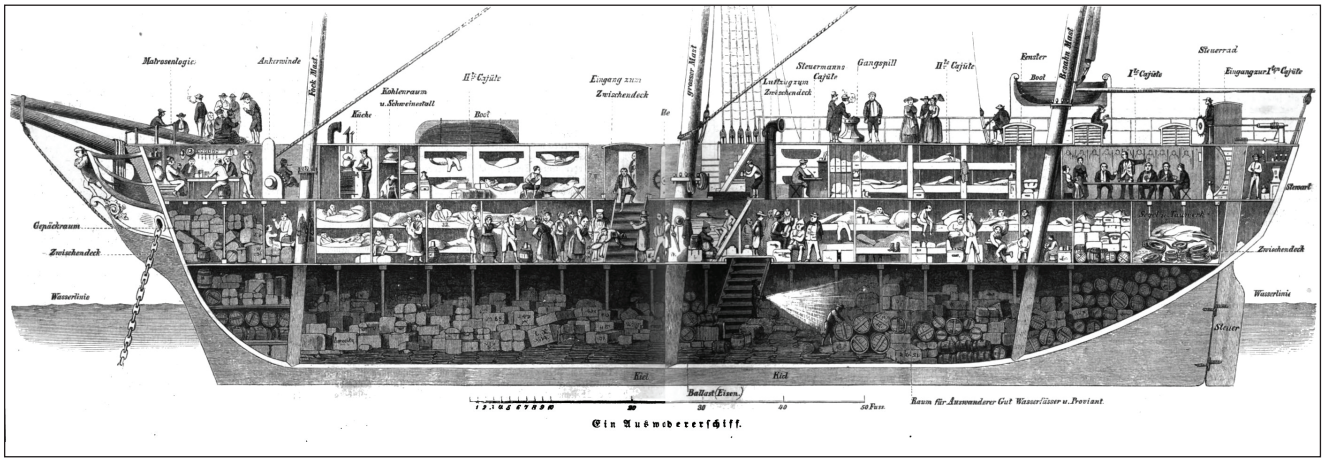
The Emigrant Ship

When our emigrants turned their backs on Europe, dedicated passenger shipping did not yet exist on the high seas. Shipping traffic with North America generally consisted of cargo vessels that transported goods to Europe, primarily cotton, but also other American exports such as tobacco. Because the volume of goods moving in the opposite direction was far less, emigrants served as a welcome form of "return cargo." And, in some respects, that is precisely how they were treated. Once the cargo of overseas goods had been unloaded, the hold was prepared to accommodate the passengers. This was done by installing a makeshift wooden deck between the main deck and the remaining lower hold, thereby creating what was known as the "Zwischendeck" (steerage or tween deck).



The barque "Germania," on which 110 steerage passengers traveled from Bremen to New York in the spring of 1852, including 60 emigrants discussed in this book

Little effort was spent on furnishing the steerage deck. Typically, sleeping berths were installed along both outer walls, each berth two meters wide and deep, arranged in two stacked rows. Four passengers were accommodated on each level of such a double-tiered berth; this provided each traveler with a sleeping and living space half a meter wide and two meters deep, where they could settle in with the straw mattress they were required to bring themselves.[1]
Depending on the vessel and how the ship's space was utilized, between 100 and 939 passengers were housed in this steerage area (see "Ships" pp. 31–35).
We owe the description of a typical emigrant ship to the anonymous contemporary and eyewitness from 1854 cited earlier:[2]



Emigrant Ship
(Stolle, Ferdinand, ed.: Ein Auswandererschiff. In: Die Gartenlaube, Illustriertes Familienblatt, 1854/38)

In essence, all ships of this type are alike. In terms of their hull structure, they are divided into three sections, connected by stairways, known as the deck, the tween deck, and the hold. On the deck, situated behind the bowsprit, which displays the ship's figurehead or nameplate and over which the jib-boom projects out to sea like a unicorn's horn, lies the sailors' quarters, known in German as the Logis. Behind this stands the massive windlass used to weigh the anchors that hang down on either side of the bow.
Further aft rises the foremast, complete with its yards, sails, rigging, and ratlines (rope-like ladder); close by, in the galley equipped with iron cauldrons and usually flanked by pens for pigs and poultry, the cook prepares meals, tea, and coffee for the crew and passengers. If the ship has a second cabin, it usually adjoins the galley. Behind that rises the mainmast; on most ships, the pumps used to clear seawater seeping into the lowest hold are located here. Next, one arrives at a second winch, which bears the name capstan. Next comes the main cabin, unless, as was the case on the "Guttenberg," additional space for cabin passengers was required. Built against the so-called mizzenmast, it is typically appointed with elegant furnishings, comfortable divans, and mahogany tables, and features small windows or skylights in its roof. It serves as a common area for wealthy passengers, the captain, and the first mate,

1 Cf. Krohn, pp. 229ff.
2 Stolle (Ed.), Auswandererschiff.

offering the benefit of a fine table (fine, of course, only relative to the circumstances) as well as a privilege, certainly not to be underestimated, of using the roof, which is enclosed by an iron railing, for promenades, separate from the rest of the ship's occupants.
Behind the main cabin, or, on other vessels, above it or alongside the steward's or purser's private quarters, stands the deckhouse; in front of this structure, the helmsman steers the vessel via the wheel while keeping his eyes on the compass, thus concluding the complex layout of the upper deck.

In Steerage

The description of conditions in the steerage left to us by the anonymous author of 1854 is striking:[3]
... And now, down the staircase, which, in our drawing, leads from between the mainmast and the second cabin into the vessel's actual belly, enclosed by its ribs. Down through the hatch which is topped by a structure resembling a sentry box into steerage, the space where more than nine-tenths of the annual tide of emigrants sails toward their longed-for new home in the West.
A foul-smelling haze, which cannot be fully dispelled even by skillfully placed wind sails and exhaust pipes, and which turns into a truly loathsome stench where such ventilation measures are lacking, wafts up to meet us. A jumble of murmuring, squeaking, singing, and quarreling voices can be heard. Finally, once our eyes have grown accustomed to the perpetual semi-darkness which turns into pitch-black Egyptian darkness whenever stormy weather necessitates closing the hatches, we behold a space before us measuring 60 to 80 feet in length, 20 to 26 feet in width, and about 8 feet in height; it is separated from the ship's storerooms at either end by wooden partitions, and, taken as a whole, can be likened to an attic floor moved down into a cellar—or, if it sounds more pleasant, a cellar fitted out like an attic. A heap of stacked trunks and crates occupies the center, dividing the space into two long, narrow aisles. Rising on either side to the right and to the left beneath the ship's ribs, are the passengers' bunks or sleeping quarters, fashioned from rough-hewn planks into two tiers; here, the passengers lie four to a section—an arrangement that allows each person a space no more than about six feet long and two feet wide, bearing no small resemblance to the packing of herrings, yet serving through its very discomfort as a fitting preparation for log-cabin life in the backwoods.
The simplicity of this floating, temporary home for the emigrant matches its tight quarters. These crude wooden enclosures, which ... look for all the world like massive chests of drawers with the drawers pulled out, are all that is provided for the steerage passenger. The bunks serve as bedroom, reception room, dining hall, dressing room, and, for those who require it, study, all rolled into one. Straw mattresses and blankets constitute the bedding.
The black ship's ribs and the deck beams form the ceiling, from which hang tin mess kits alongside vessels of indescribable purpose and content, washbasins as faithful neighbors to butter dishes, and finally hatboxes and well-greased pairs of boots possessing that phlegmatic forbearance peculiar to hatboxes and boots, alongside cured sausages and trouser legs, cut hams and fluttering coattails.
The crates and boxes down in the aisle in front of the berths serve as tables and chairs. Anyone who is a lover of music finds ample opportunity to satisfy that urge, provided he is willing to lend an ear to the concert of incessantly squalling infant throats and listen at night to the serenades performed for the passengers by rat choirs visiting from the ship's hold. Yet the art lover is best catered for, especially if his tastes lean toward the Dutch School.

3 Stolle (Ed.), Auswandererschiff.



In the Steerage of the Emigrant Ship "Samuel Hop," 1849
(Drawing by Leo von Elliot from the "Leipziger Illustrierte Zeitung," Nov. 10, 1849; Bundesarchiv, Bild 137-041316)

Within the plank frames of the various berths, he can admire the prototypes of Murillo's beggar boys; in the dim recesses of the sleeping quarters, precious hunting scenes staged by the fingers of solicitous mothers upon their little ones' heads; Brueghel-like groups of goblins creating a racket that matches their appearance; and colossal nudes whose coarse flesh calls to mind the lush brushwork of Master Rubens. In front of one berth sits an old peasant woman on her brightly flowered chest, spectacles perched on her nose, studying the works of the Magister Benjamin Schmolke[4] of blessed memory. Nearby, lying atop the bunk, several Jewish boys are playing dice on the crown of a hat amidst constant bickering, while in the bunk beneath them, four others are intently occupied with cards, the Devil's prayer book. From a fourth sleeping berth, suddenly reminded of his duty by the ship's rolling motion, a sturdy cobbler or tailor offers up his tribute to seasickness with such noise and in such wide arcs that the entire neighborhood, provided they are not occupied with similar libations, erupts in loud cheers of approval. From a fifth bunk, dangling above the furious, flushed face of a mother who is thrashing her offspring's backside for having spilled the family's midday meal, are a pair of gigantic feet on long, thin legs clad in thick-soled, hobnailed shoes belonging to a sly little peasant who, stretched out on his back, maintains a well-aimed bombardment of hardtack chunks from this vantage point. In

4 Benjamin Schmolck/Schmolke (1672–1737), German Lutheran writer of hymns.

a sixth sleeping berth, a lively sailor is making his heart's desire known to a buxom Swabian woman in the finest Low German—a marvel, yet true! As for a seventh—no, it is no longer safe here in the dark, and we have seen just enough to divine the nature of the specters dwelling here and the mischief they are up to.

The simplicity of the fare matches the simplicity of the accommodations in these migrant hostels that plow the seas. Peas, lentils, white beans, coarse pearl barley, rice soup, occasionally a herring, black hardtack, salted beef and pork, sometimes of questionable quality, though always plentiful, along with a black brew called "coffee," a greenish one called "tea," and some beer vinegar, constitute the culinary delights of the steerage deck. These might satisfy undemanding palates were it not for the fact that the worthy cooks of these hostels, who would surely wish for a hundred hands and ten heads, sometimes indulge in bizarre whims while preparing the food. Occasionally—we speak from personal experience—they mix oats intended for the chickens into the peas, or chewing tobacco meant for their own cheeks into the rice; not to mention other items sometimes found floating in the cooking cauldrons—things that might season a field, but certainly not human food.



In the Steerage of the Emigrant Ship by the artist Berthold Woltze, 1877

It is easier to recount these shortcomings with humor than to endure them. While they may not be eliminated entirely, they can certainly be mitigated. In any case, a capable captain will know how to ensure and, if necessary, enforce discipline and order in the steerage, seeing to it that the passengers do not abandon decency and personal hygiene to the point of losing their humanity, and that they keep themselves and their temporary quarters as clean as possible. Unfortunately, however, one frequently encounters the very opposite of these standards on German emigrant ships — though nowhere to the same extent as on English ones. The consequences are evident in horrifying examples. The foul air, generated by the vapors of stagnant water in the ship's hold, spilled and uncleared food scraps, and the exhalations of so many people crammed into confined spaces, breeds disease, particularly when stormy weather makes staying on deck unbearable; ship fever, a form of typhus, frequently wreaks horrific havoc in this context. Moreover, the pervasive filth, which can only be banished with the utmost strictness among such a motley crowd, infests the ships with vermin; given the cramped conditions, even the cleanliest of passengers cannot escape them.[5]

So much for the accounts of our anonymous traveler to America in 1854. When one considers that the voyage from Bremen to New York by sailing ship took — depending on wind and weather — six to nine weeks,[6] one can perhaps begin to imagine what our emigrants endured during that time alone.

Onboard Provisions

Regulations in port cities also governed the provisioning of emigrants during their crossing. On ships departing from Bremen or Hamburg, travelers were supplied by the ship's galley. From the outset, the shipping company was responsible for providing food, and the cost was included in the fare. On vessels sailing from Le Havre, however, steerage passengers had to prepare their own meals and bring along the necessary provisions for the entire voyage.[7] *Although this entailed substantial quantities given the six- to ten-week duration of the journey, this system of self-provisioning appears to have been somewhat popular among emigrants, as it offered individuals the opportunity to add a bit more variety to their diet.*[8]

However, to prevent emergencies on board, passengers were required to bring along the following minimum quantities of food. For each adult, these were: 140 pounds of potatoes, 40 pounds of ship's biscuit, 14 pounds of ham or smoked meat, 5 pounds of rice, 5 pounds of flour, 4 pounds of butter, 2 pounds of salt, and 2 liters of vinegar. Half of these quantities applied to children under the age of ten.[9]

Since these provisions were sensibly purchased in Le Havre, emigration represented a significant economic factor for the city's merchants.

5 Stolle (Ed..), Auswandererschiff.
6 Contemporary sources report extreme cases in which the voyage to New York took up to three months (cf. Krohn, pp. 235f.).
7 Cf. Krohn, pp. 172 and 242f.
8 Krohn, p. 243.
9 Ibid.

Cost of Crossing

In contrast to the expenses incurred traveling to the seaports and, above all, during the often weeks-long wait for embarkation, the cost of the Atlantic crossing was determined before departure from home. Payment fell due upon the conclusion of the passage agreement, even though—given the uncertain sailing schedules—it was not yet known exactly which ship one would ultimately sail on.



Passage-Accord.

Zur Ueberfahrt von Bremen nach New-York
auf dem am fünfzehnten Mai d. J.
abſegelnden Schiff Emma Capitain Edzar
oder mit einem andern gleichzeitig dahin abgehenden Schiffe, iſt von mir engagirt, für beigeſetzte Ueberfahrts-
Gebühr von fl. 80 — Achtzig Gulden

Anna Maria Eckert

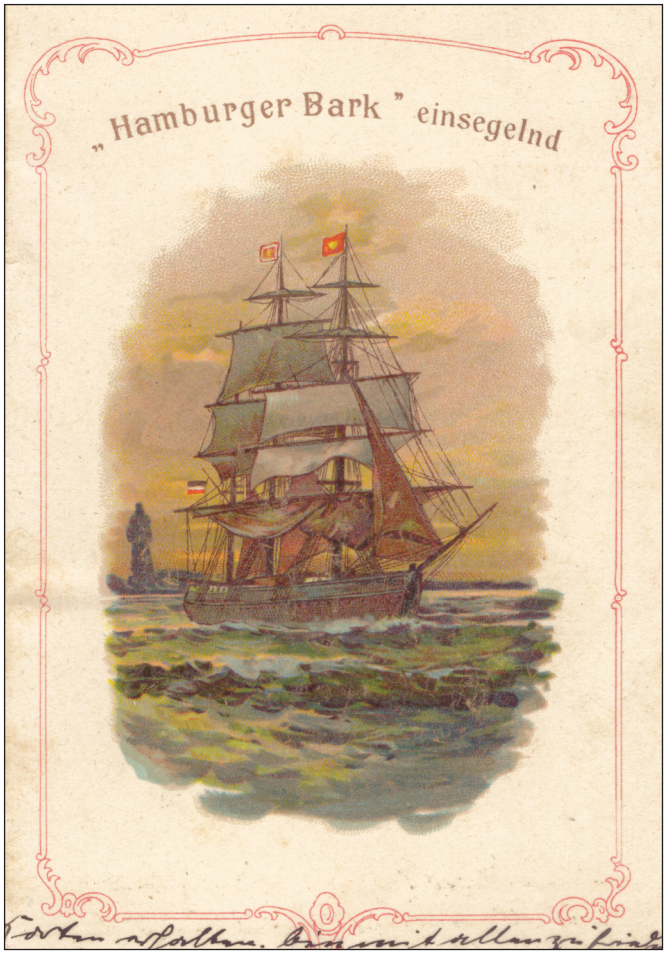
Passage agreement of the Regensburg emigration agent J. W. Neumüller, 1847.
The document has been preserved in the archive because the applicant, Anna Maria Eckert, decided not to emigrate.
(StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1151, excerpt)

Fares for the crossing to North America varied not only depending on the port of departure but also according to the season; naturally, they also changed over the course of the emigration period 1845 to 1861 which we are reviewing. Consequently, we do not have a comprehensive picture, but rather just a few examples.
In April 1847, Neumüller, an emigration agent from Regensburg, charged a solo traveler 80 guilders for the crossing from Bremen to New York. That same year, the shipping company Robert M. Sloman offered fares tiered by age group: individuals over the age of 12 paid 63 guilders; children aged 8 to 12, 47 ¼ guilders; children aged 4 to 8, 31 ½ guilders; children aged 2 to 4, 15 ¾ guilders; and children under 2 years old,

8 ¾ guilders.[10] Based on these rates, a married couple with two children between the ages of eight and twelve paid 220 ¼ guilders for the voyage to North America – an amount equivalent to the annual earnings of a mason or carpenter.[11]

Cash and Asset Transfer

Emigrants were advised to carry cash amounting to roughly double the cost of the journey to cover expenses incurred along the way and to be prepared for any contingencies. For safety reasons, those wishing to take substantial assets to the New World were recommended to obtain a bill of exchange that could be cashed at a bank in the port of arrival. This applied primarily to farmers who had sold their holdings.[12]



10 Albrecht, p. 160.
11 See https://www.blf-online.de/sites/default/files/blf_artikel_modelle/015-loehne.pdf.
12 At that time, 1 dollar was equivalent to 2.5 guilders (Albrecht, p. 113).

Ships (chronological order by date of voyage)

For the approximately 280 emigrants discussed here, we know the names of the ships on which they sailed to the New World. Information regarding them comes from sources such as passenger lists[1] and naturalization documents. In total, 25 voyages involving 24 different ships were identified. They departed from Europe via the following seaports: Bremen (15 departures), Le Havre (7), Hamburg (2), and London (1). Twenty-one of these voyages were bound for New York, while four ships arrived in Baltimore (see Chart 5 on p. 18).
Most of the vessels were three-masted barques. Two were brigs, smaller and slower two-masted ships. The number of passengers on the ships that carried our emigrants to North America ranged from 98 to 939. Below is an overview of identified ships along with key data.

1846

Ship name:	**François I.** (barque)
Shipping company:	Havre-Old-Line
Departure:	Le Havre
Arrival:	New York, July 20, 1846
Passengers:	198
Identified subjects:	28 (Koller, Liebl, Maier, Metz, Pirzer, Pritschet, Schneider)

Ship name:	**Washington** (Hamburg barque)
Departure:	Hamburg
Arrival:	New York, Oct. 2, 1846
Passengers:	144
Identified subjects:	4 (Fröhler, Landfried, Obermaier)

1847

Ship name:	**B. Bohlen** (barque)
Departure:	Bremen, Sept. 28, 1847
Duration of crossing:	41 days
Arrival:	Baltimore, Nov. 8, 1847
Passengers:	111
Identified subjects:	5 (Beer, Pilz, Urbanger, Winter)

1 The passenger lists concern ships that docked in Baltimore or New York. No corresponding documents have survived for those that called at Quebec.

Ship name: **Leander** (brigg)
Departure: Bremen, Oct. 17, 1847
Duration of crossing: 55 days
Arrival: Baltimore, Dec. 11, 1847
Passengers: 98
Identified subjects: 9 (Beer)



The U.S. Barque "George Hurlbut"

1850

Ship name: **Admiral**
Departure: Bremen, June 8, 1850
Duration of crossing: 37 days
Arrival: New York, July 15, 1850
Passengers: 267
Identified subjects: 11 (Fröhler, Schmiedmaier)

Ship name: **Seine**
Departure: Le Havre
Arrival: New York, Sept. 19, 1850
Passengers: 432
Identified subjects: 2 (Gradl)



The Barque "Germania"

1852

Ship name: **George Hurlbut** (barque)
Departure: Le Havre
Arrival: New York, June 6, 1852
Passengers: 600
Identified subjects: 1 (A. M. Frank)

Ship name: **Germania** (barque)
Departure: Bremen, April 22, 1852
Duration of crossing: 52 days
Arrival: New York, June 13, 1852
Passengers: 117
Identified subjects: 60 (including 42 bound for Beaver Dam, see passenger list on p. 36–38)

Ship name: **Helvetia**
Shipping company: Havre Whitlock Line
Departure: Le Havre
Arrival: New York, July 1, 1852
Passengers: 314
Identified subjects: 2 (Dreyer)

Ship name:	**Ocean** (brig)
Departure:	Bremen, June 17, 1852
Duration of crossing:	44 days
Arrival:	New York, July 31, 1852
Passengers:	101
Identified subjects:	9 (Fam. Joseph Haller)[2]

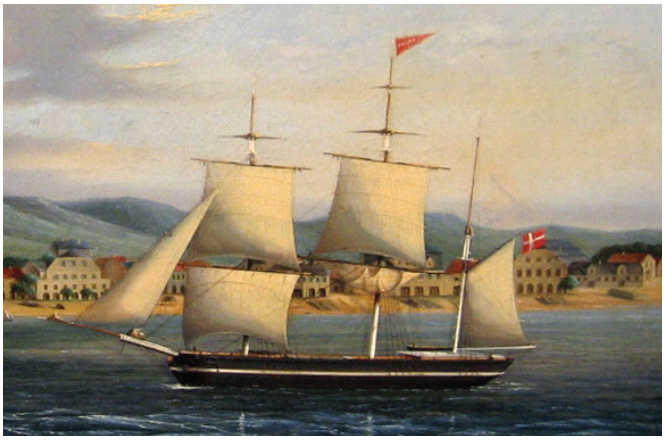
Ship name:	**Marianne**
Departure:	Bremen, June 20, 1852
Duration of crossing:	57 days
Arrival:	Baltimore, August 16, 1852
Passengers:	206
Identified subjects:	3 (Nigl, Prock)

Ship name:	**Lessing** (barque)
Departure:	Bremen, July 21, 1852
Duration of crossing:	48 days
Arrival:	New York, September 7, 1852
Passengers:	151
Identified subjects:	6 (Mathias Huber)

Ship name:	**Chesapeake**
Departure:	Bremen, August 6, 1852
Duration of crossing:	45 days
Arrival:	Baltimore, Sept. 20, 1852
Passengers:	286
Identified subjects:	2 (Math. Zweck, Leichtl)

1853

Ship name:	**Mary** (Danish barque)
Departure:	Bremen, March 18, 1853
Duration of crossing:	45 days
Arrival:	New York, May 2, 1853
Passengers:	104
Identified subjects:	60 (including 47 bound for Beaver Dam, see passenger list on pp. 38–39)



The Danish Barque "Mary," off Frederiksted, Saint Croix, Virgin Islands, Caribbean, in 1848.
(Jens Thielsen Locher, 1825–1869)

2 Passenger List: https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-5NDP-P?view=index&lang=en&groupId=.

Ship name:	**Friedrich Groß**
Departure:	Bremen, March 27, 1853
Duration of crossing:	60 days
Arrival:	New York, May 26, 1853
Passengers:	939
Identified subjects:	1 (Rost)

Ship name:	**Carolus Magnus**
Shipping company:	Havre Whitlock Line
Departure:	Le Havre
Arrival:	New York, June 13, 1853
Passengers:	800 (of whom 25 died during the crossing), 650 adults, 125 children, 25 infants
Identified subjects:	9 (Franz Rödl, Joh. Zweck)[3]

Ship name:	**F. J. Wichelhausen**
Departure 1:	Bremen, June 8, 1853
Duration of crossing:	62 days
Arrival:	New York, August 9, 1853
Passengers:	239
Identified subjects:	2 (Hallermaier, Wein)

Departure 2:	Bremen, November 7, 1853
Duration of crossing:	59 days
Arrical:	New York, January 5, 1854
Passengers:	274
Identified subjects:	3 (Paulus, Wimmer)

Ship name:	**Mercury**
Departure:	Le Havre
Arrival:	New York, September 27, 1853
Passengers:	535 (primarily from Hesse, Württemberg, and Baden; 119 Bavarians and 26 French nationals)
Identified subjects:	24 (Amann, Biersack, Hartl, Traubinger, Wagner, all bound for Beaver Dam)

1854

Ship name:	**Sylphide**
Departure:	Bremen, April 18, 1854
Duration of crossing:	34 days
Arrival:	New York, May 22, 1854
Passengers:	264 (including 65 from Bavaria)[4]
Identified subjects:	15 (Scherübl, Steil, all bound for Beaver Dam)

3 Passenger list: https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-5KSC-M5?wc=MX62-NWL%3A165774001%26cc%3D1849782&tc-c=1849782&lang=de&i=438.

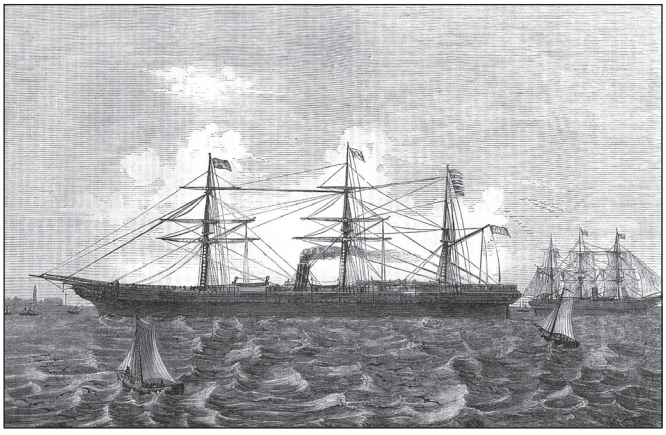
4 Cf. https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-R7SD-R2?view=index&action=view&cc=1849782&lang=de.

Ship name:	**Zurich**
Departure:	Le Havre
Arrival:	New York, September 12, 1854
Passengers:	376
Identified subjects:	4 (Köppl, Oswald)

Ship name:	**Florida**
Departure:	London
Arrival:	New York, September 15, 1854
Passengers:	401
Identified subjects:	15 (Hartl, Karl, Zweck, all bound for Beaver Dam)

1858

Ship name:	**Austria** (steam sailer, see p. 181)
Departure:	Hamburg/Southampton
Duration of crossing:	approx. 18 days
Arrival:	New York, July 17, 1858
Passengers:	approx. 420
Identified subjects:	1 (Susbauer, M. Josepha)



The sailing steamship "Austria," built in 1857, sank on September 13, 1858, off the coast of Newfoundland (Die Gartenlaube 1858/44)

1860

Ship name:	**Goethe** (barque)
Departure:	Bremen, August 28, 1860
Duration of crossing:	51 days
Arrival:	New York, October 18, 1860
Passengers:	211
Identified subjects:	5 (Winter)

1861

Ship name:	**Elise & Mathilde** (frigate)
Departure:	Bremen, April 29, 1861
Duration of crossing:	36 days
Arrival:	New York, June 4, 1861
Passengers:	290
Identified subjects:	8 (Gradl)

Passenger Lists and Emigrant Cohorts

While single individuals and young couples – with or without children – made up the majority of emigrants during the first wave of emigration around 1847, the second wave in the early 1850s saw larger family groups answering the call to North America. The positive experiences of those who had left earlier, and the reports they sent back home, encouraged those who had stayed behind to follow suit. The letters written by emigrants to relatives and friends in the Old World are legendary; they served, so to speak, as the "pull factor" for emigration. In addition to the causes of emigration described at the beginning of this book – the "push factors" – these letters contributed to the fact that, in the passenger lists from 1852 and 1853 examined for this study, we find larger cohorts of family groups and emigrants from neighboring villages who had evidently set out on the journey together. Two ships, or rather two crossings, deserve special attention here.

The "Germania"

When the "Germania" set sail from Bremen on April 22, 1852, under Captain J. Christoffers, she carried a total of 117 passengers. According to the passenger list, the 110 emigrants in steerage included 16 tradesmen of various professions and two musicians, while 92 of them – including children – came from agricultural backgrounds. Fifty-five passengers were male, and 62 were female. The average age of the passengers in steerage was 25 years.

The 1852 Cohort

Of the 110 steerage passengers on the "Germania," 60 could be identified as emigrants from the area under study (the Hemau court district and neighboring municipalities). The core of the group consisted of seven married couples with a total of 15 children. They came from Deuerling, Essing, Hohenschambach, Kapfelberg, Schwarzenthonhausen, Undorf, and Wolflier.

The cohort of 60 was composed of the following age groups:

0–14 years:	15
15–25 years:	14
26–35 years:	21
36–45 years:	8
> 45 years:	2

The oldest passenger was the 63-year-old widower and retired farmer Johann Michael Waldhier from Hohenschambach (see pp. 76–77, 184); the youngest child was his eleven-month-old granddaughter, Anna Maria Waldhier, who died during the crossing.

Most of the emigrants in this group had their passports issued between March 30 and April 2, 1852, and set out for Bremen a few days later. We know that Johann Helm left his hometown of Deuerling – together with his fiancée Anna Maria Bayer and their joint illegitimate daughter – on April 7,[1] this date being 15 days before the departure of the "Germania" from Bremerhaven. Assuming a journey to Bremen or Bremerhaven lasting about a week, they probably waited there for approximately another week to embark.

1 Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv Regensburg (hereinafter: BZAR), Deuerling 007_0112.

The Cohort of 60 on the Passenger List of the "Germania"[2]

Name	First Name	Born	Origin	Status
Achhammer	Karl	1811	Klapfenberg, Par. Hohenschamb.	single farmhand
Amberger	Georg	1814	Undorf, Par. Deuerling	married farmhand, with wife
Aukofer	Jakob	1827	Reichenstetten, Par. Kapfelberg	married carpenter, with A. M. Wechselberger
Bayer	A. Maria	1821	Brunn, Par. Frauenberg	single farmer's daughter, with Johann Helm and child
Bruckmaier	Gg. Michael	1827	Kochenthal, Par. Hohenschamb.	single farmer's son
Dietz	Therese	1823	Schacha, Par. Hohenschambach	single farmer's daughter
Dinauer	Gg. Michael	1817	Wollmannsdorf, Par. Hohensch.	single farmer's son
Ehrl	Jakob	1830	Pföring, Par. Hohenschambach	single farmer's son, with A. M. Englmaier
Eichinger	A. Maria	1822	Hillohe, Par. Deuerling	single farmer's daughter, with Mich. Jobst
Englmaier	A. Maria	1831	Laufenthal, Par. Hohenschamb.	single farmer's daughter, with Jakob Ehrl
Faltermaier	Michael	1823	Bergstetten, Par. Laaber	single day laborer's son
Ferstl	Joh. Georg	1808	Schwarzenthonh., Par. Hohensch.	married farmer, with wife and 4 children
Gineiger	Martin[3]	1826	Painten	single baker's son
Göschl	A. Maria	1837	Schönhofen, Par. Nittendorf	maidservant
Graf	Gg. Joseph	1811	Hohenschambach	married farmer, with wife and child
Hammer	Sebastian	1827	Nittendorf	single farmer's son
Hammer	A. Maria	1826	Nittendorf	single farmer's daughter
Helm	Johann	1824	Deuerling	single day laborer's son, with A. M. Bayer and child
Jobst	Joseph	1822	Pollenried, Par. Deuerling	single farmer's son, with M. A. Vieracker
Jobst	Michael	1828	Heimberg, Par. Deuerling	single cottager's son, with A. M. Eichinger
Kirner	Joh. Bapt.	1820	Eiersdorf, Par. Hohenschambach	single farmer's son
Kolb	Jakob	1821	Kapfelberg	marr. smallholder, with wife and 3 children
Landfried	Joh. Georg	1815	Hohenschambach	single farmer's son
Maier	M. Therese	1823	Kochenthal, Par. Hohenschamb.	single farmer's daughter
Müller	Egid	1808	Wolflier, Par. Hohenschambach	married farmer, with wife and 4 children
Müller	Gg. Michael	1802	Wolflier, Par. Hohenschambach	single farmer's son
Pilz	(Eva) Therese	1823	Eglsee, Par. Frauenberg	single farmer's daughter
Pilz	Joh. Martin	1828	Eglsee, Par. Frauenberg	single farmer's son
Robach	A. Maria[4]	1822	Neukelheim, Par. Kelheim	single day laborer's daughter
Schmaus	A. Maria	1833	Neukelheim, Par. Kelheim	single farmer's daughter
Schmaus	Rosina	1834	Neukelheim, Par. Kelheim	single farmer's daughter

2 Alphabetical order. Information regarding the travelers' place of origin and social status is largely absent from the passenger list and has been supplemented with details from other sources.

3 Mistakenly for „Michael"?

4 The compiler assumes that the person listed on the passenger manifest as "Anton Rabach" is in fact Anna M. Robach (see p. 164).

Schmid	Frz. Joseph	1814	Berg, Par. Painten	single farmer's son
Schuster	Isidor	1820	Essing	single day laborer's son, with wife
Vieracker	M. Anna	1824	Schönhofen, Par. Nittendorf	single daughter of hammer mill owner, with Mich. Jobst
Waldhier	Joh. Mich.	1789	Hohenschambach	widower, retired farmer
Waldhier	Katharina	1833	Hohenschambach	single farmer's daughter
Waldhier	Johann Ev.	1824	Hohenschambach	married farmer, with wife and 2 children
Wechselberger, A. M.		1828	Kapfelberg	single daughter of a cooper, with Jakob Aukofer

The arduous crossing while crammed into the steerage deck lasted a full 52 days. On June 13, 1852, the "Germania" arrived in the port of New York.[5] Of the 59 travelers from the study area who survived the Atlantic crossing, 42 were later traced to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

The "Mary"

Following the arrival of the "Germania," several more ships carrying scattered emigrants from the Hemau area arrived in America during the summer of 1852 (see pp.32–33). However, the following spring, a larger group from the study area set out on the journey.

On March 18, 1853, the Danish barque "Mary," commanded by Captain E. Freese, departed Bremerhaven for New York with 104 passengers. This time, there were 98 emigrants in steerage. Of the 81 Bavarians among the 98 in steerage, 64 stated Wisconsin as their destination. In turn, 60 of these individuals could be identified as emigrants from our study area, and 47 of them later settled in Beaver Dam.

The Cohort of 1853

The cohort of 60 was composed of the following age groups:

0 – 14 years: 20
15 – 25 years: 13
26 – 35 years: 13
36 – 45 years: 6
> 45 years: 8

Here, too, the oldest passenger was 63 years old. Among the youngest were several infants in their first year of life. Families played an even more significant role in this group than in the previous year. In addition to eight individuals who were (at the time) unmarried, the cohort consisted of ten married couples with their 31 children — some of whom were adults. The families' hometowns were Edlhausen, Heimberg, Herrnsaal, Hohenschambach, Mantlach, Nittendorf, Schönhofen, Undorf, Walddorf (Ihrlerstein), and Wangsaß.

Some of them had set off from their hometowns more than three weeks before embarking at Bremerhaven and consequently had to wait a long time for their ship. One of them, the carpenter Mathias Bauer, had set off

5 Cf https://www.public-juling.de/auswanderung/abfahrtsdaten/passagen.php?lang=de&ts=z&tv=New+York.

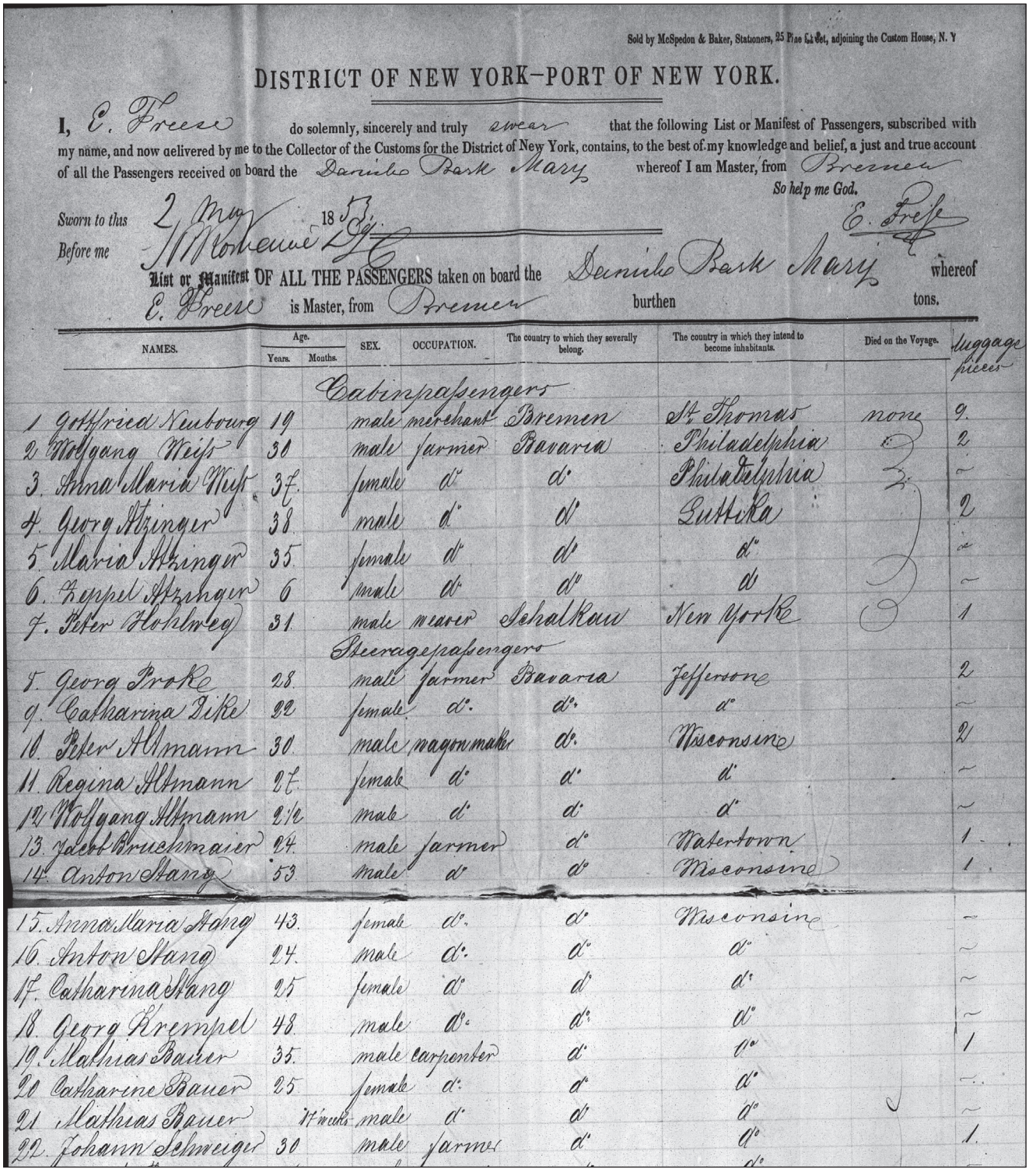
from Walddorf with his wife and two small children on February 22,[6] only to board the "Mary" in Bremerhaven 24 days later. This time, the winds were evidently more favorable, for the "Mary" arrived in New York after just 45 days, on May 2, 1853.[7] There were also no deaths at sea on this voyage.

The Cohort of 60 on the Passenger List of the "Mary"[8]

Name	First Name	Born	Origin	Status
Altmann	Joh. Peter	1822	Mantlach, Par. Painten	married wagon maker, with wife and child
Bauer	Mathias	1817	Walddorf, Par. Kelheim	married carpenter, with wife and 2 children
Bruckmaier	Jakob	1829	Kochenthal, Par. Hohenschamb.	single farmer's son
Dickl	Katharina	1831	Painten	single smallholder's daughter, with Georg Prock
Dietz	Gg. Joseph	1816	Schacha, Par. Hohenschambach	married farmer, with wife and child
Göschl	Joh. Georg	1806	Schönhofen, Par. Nittendorf	married smallholder, with wife and 4 children
Hammer	Joseph	1799	Nittendorf	married smallholder, with wife and 7 children
Immerfall	Joh. Georg	1808	Edlhausen, Par. Frauenberg	married smallholder, with wife and 4 children
Jobst	Joh. Simon	1799	Heimberg, Par. Deuerling	married cottager, with wife and 6 children
Kleindl	Peter	1822	Wangsaß, Par. Hohenschambach	married smallholder, with wife and 2 children
Krempl	Georg	1803	Herrnsaal, Par. Saal a. d. D.	single farmer's son
Maier	Johann Ev.	1818	Wangsaß, Par. Hohenschambach	single farmer's son, with Rosina Waldhier
Pollinger	Jakob	1816	Herrnsaal, Par. Saal a. d. D.r	single cooper
Prock	Georg	1824	Oberhöfen, Par. Aichkirchen	single farmer's son, with Kath. Dickl
Reitner	Vinzenz	1824	Haugenried, Par. Deuerling	single smallholder's son
Rosenmeier	Joh. Bapt.	1819	Nittendorf	married smallholder, with wife and 2 children
Stang	Anton	1800	Herrnsaal, Par. Saal a. d. D.	married smallholder, with wife and 2 children
Waldhier	Rosina	1826	Kochenthal, Par. Hohenschamb.	single farmer's daughter, with Joh. Ev. Maier
Zottl	Joh. Bapt.	1829	Großetzenberg, Par. Laaber	single farmer's son

Emigrants from a farming background also predominated on the "Mary." Of the 105 passengers, 87 fell into this category. The passenger list of the "Mary" also records the luggage carried by the emigrants. For individuals traveling alone or childless couples, this generally consisted of a single crate or chest; only families with children brought two.
The next page shows the beginning of the "Mary" passenger list.

6 BZAR_Kelheim 003_0127, BZAR Kelheim 011_0044
7 Cf. https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-5K9N-WP?wc=MX62-XWL%3A165773701%26cc%3D1849782&cc=1849782&lang=de&i=292.
8 Alphabetical order. Information regarding the place of origin and the status of the travelers is largely absent from the passenger list itself and has been supplemented with details from other sources.



Sold by McSpedon & Baker, Stationers, 25 Fine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, E. Freese do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the Danish Bark Mary, whereof I am Master, from Bremen

So help me God.

E. Freese

Sworn to this 2 May 1853

Before me Roberne

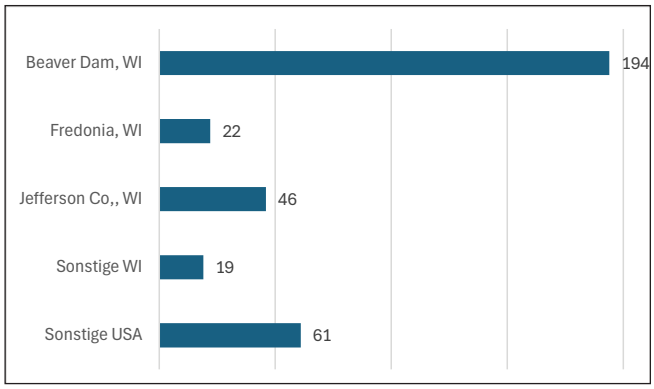
List or Manifest OF ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the Danish Bark Mary whereof E. Freese is Master, from Bremen burthen tons.

NAMES.	Age. Years.	Age. Months.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage.	luggage pieces
				Cabinpassengers				
1 Gottfried Neubourg	19		male	merchant	Bremen	St Thomas	none	9.
2. Wolfgang Weis	30		male	farmer	Bavaria	Philadelphia		2.
3. Anna Maria Weis	37.		female	d°	d°	Philadelphia		~
4. Georg Atzinger	38.		male	d°	d°	Buffalo		2
5. Maria Atzinger	35.		female	d°	d°	d°		~
6. Keppel Atzinger	6		male	d°	d°	d°		~
7. Peter Hohlweg	31.		male	weaver	Schalkau	New York		1
				Steeragepassengers				
8. Georg Proke	28.		male	farmer	Bavaria	Jefferson		2
9. Catharina Dike	22		female	d°.	d°.	d°		~
10. Peter Altmann	30.		male	wagonmaker	d°.	Wisconsin		2
11. Regina Altmann	27.		female	d°	d°	d°		~
12. Wolfgang Altmann	2 1/2		male	d°	d°	d°		~
13. Jakob Bruchmaier	24.		male	farmer	d°	Watertown		1
14. Anton Stang	53.		male	d°	d°	Wisconsin		1
15. Anna Maria Stang	43.		female	d°.	d°	Wisconsin		~
16. Anton Stang	24.		male	d°.	d°	d°		~
17. Catharina Stang	25		female	d°	d°	d°		~
18. Georg Krempel	48.		male	d°.	d°	d°		1
19. Mathias Bauer	35.		male	carpenter	d°	d°		~
20 Catharine Bauer	25		female	d°	d°	d°		~
21 Mathias Bauer		11 weeks	male	d°	d°	d°		~
22. Johann Schweiger	30		male	farmer	d°	d°		1.

Onward Journey to Wisconsin

As the documents analyzed so far have shown, most of our emigrants headed for Wisconsin. Of the 342 individuals whose destinations we were able to identify, 281 (82 %) – some after intermediate stops – went there. No fewer than 194 eventually settled in Beaver Dam. Others were bound for Fredonia[1] or locations in Jefferson County.[2] Sixty-one settled in other U.S. states.

If we assume a similar distribution for the 125 individuals whose whereabouts remain unknown, roughly 100 of them may also have settled in Wisconsin, bringing the total number of those who ultimately ended up in Beaver Dam to around 250 individuals.



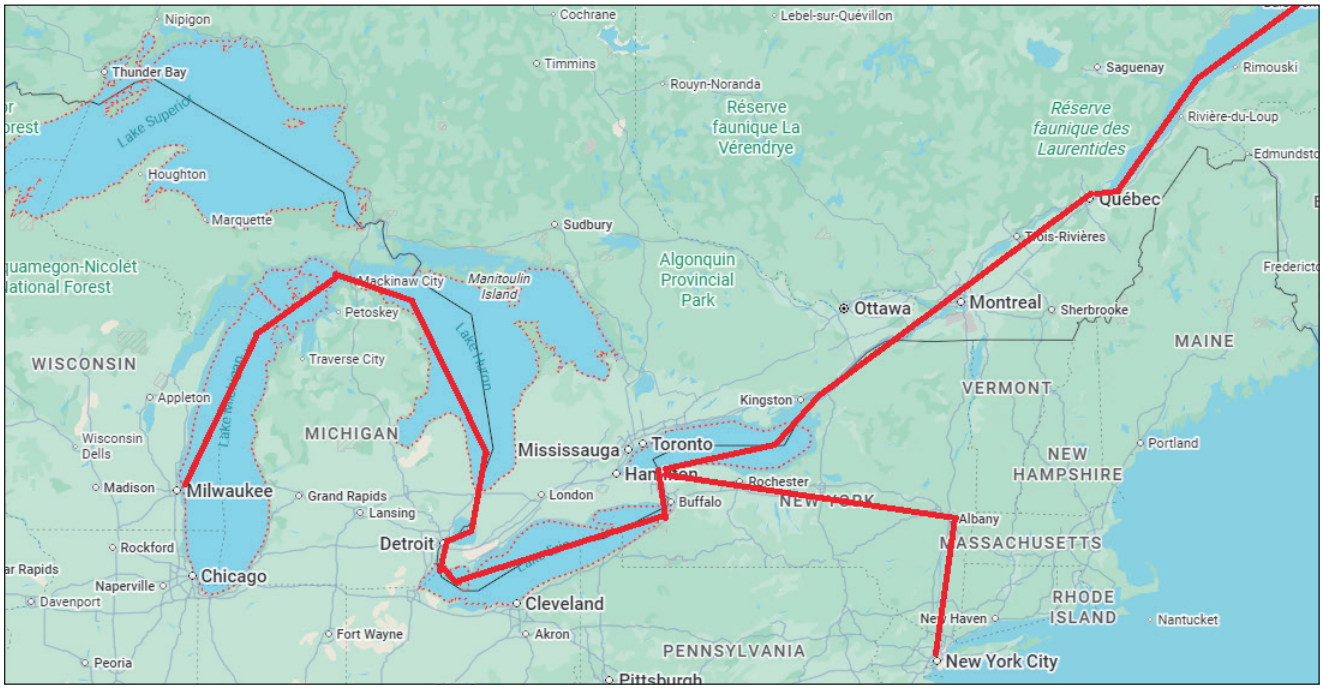
Known Destinations of 342 Emigrants (Chart 6)

After months of travel, the ocean crossing, and their arrival in Québec, Baltimore, or New York, our emigrants had indeed put the most arduous part of the journey behind them; however, a trek of almost 1,000 miles into the interior to Wisconsin still lay ahead. Once immigration formalities were completed, travelers stayed only briefly at their port of arrival. In New York, German-run inns offered suitable accommodation. Those who had arranged for a draft drawn on a New York bank using assets from back home, would cash it before setting out once more. It is reasonable to assume that the groups formed during the sea voyage remained together on the journey to their shared destination in Wisconsin. In doing so, they relied ideally on information and advice provided by relatives and friends who had emigrated earlier (from 1846 onwards) and had sent letters back home. Advice from emigration agents could also prove useful, such as the recommendation to depart from ports of embarkation *no earlier than late February and no later than early October.* This was due partly to the *greater risks associated with a winter voyage*, and partly to the fact that arriving outside this window meant reaching one's destination at a time of year *when river and canal navigation, as well as travel on inland lakes, were hampered by ice*.[3]

From Quebec to Wisconsin

In 1847, a large number of our subjects emigrated from Bremen to the USA via Quebec, Canada.[4] The ocean-going ships coming from Europe passed Newfoundland, crossed the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and then sailed about 400 miles up the river of the same name to Quebec. Although the sea voyage in steerage had now ended, the journey continued by ship. A steamer took them upstream to Kingston on Lake Ontario, about 340 miles from Quebec, where the St. Lawrence River begins. The next steamship carried the travelers to the other end of the lake, some 190 miles away. They crossed the roughly 25-miles-wide strip of land separating Lake Ontario from Lake Erie via a canal and finally reached Buffalo, where they set foot on U.S. soil for the first time. In Buffalo, the immigrants were officially registered before they could continue their journey. This next leg also took place

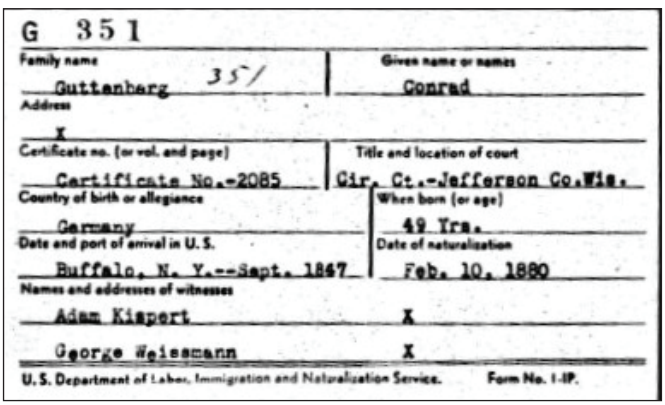
1 Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.
2 County bordering Dodge County – which includes Beaver Dam – to the south.
3 Cf. de Haas, "Nordamerika 2," p. 4.
4 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.



Routes from Quebec or New York to Wisconsin
(Map base: www.google.com/maps/)

on a steamboat, following a long route through Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Lake Huron into Lake Michigan, until finally landing in Milwaukee – already the largest city in Wisconsin at the time. However, one should not imagine that the journey across the lakes took place without stops. On the voyage of over 900 miles from Buffalo to Milwaukee, the steamer called at thirteen such intermediate stations.[5]

Upon arrival in Milwaukee, the travelers had covered another 1,500 miles on steamships since leaving the ocean-going sailing vessel in Quebec.



G 351

Family name: Guttenberg 35/ | Given name or names: Conrad

Address: X

Certificate no. (or vol. and page): Certificate No.-2085 | Title and location of court: Cir. Ct.-Jefferson Co.Wis.

Country of birth or allegiance: Germany | When born (or age): 49 Yrs.

Date and port of arrival in U. S.: Buffalo, N. Y.--Sept. 1847 | Date of naturalization: Feb. 10, 1880

Names and addresses of witnesses:
Adam Kispert X
George Weisemann X

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. I-IP.

Naturalization of Conrad Guttenberg(er) from Rechberg, with documentation of his entry via Buffalo in September 1847.

5 See de Haas, Nordamerika 2, p. 42.

From New York to Wisconsin

Various routes were available for the onward journey from New York, where the majority of our subjects arrived, to Wisconsin. The expansion of the railway network, which was progressing at the time, brought significant relief during the years around 1850. Yet, even then, it was not possible to travel entirely without the use of steamships and waterways. In this context, the city of Buffalo on Lake Erie played a crucial role as a stopover point. Even before Buffalo could be reached by rail, the Erie Canal had opened in 1825; stretching 363 miles, it connected the Hudson River with Lake Erie, thereby linking Albany – the capital of New York State – with Buffalo. The Erie Canal played a vital role in opening the interior of the country and contributed significantly to New York City's rise as the United States' most important port (particularly for immigrants).[6]

From 1843, the *Buffalo and Attica Railroad* offered a rail connection between Albany and Buffalo, a journey that took two days. By 1851, it was possible to reach Lake Erie from New York by rail, and by January 1853, one could even travel as far as Chicago.[7] However, despite the faster rail connections, many immigrants drawn to the West preferred the water route, primarily because it was considerably cheaper.

From New York to Buffalo by Water

For those who decided to reach Buffalo by water, the journey began in New York with a steamboat trip up the Hudson River to Albany – a distance of 140 miles – where they reached the Erie Canal.



The Erie Canal, opened in 1825
(Map from: Thomas Curtis Clarke, Water Ways from the Ocean to the Lakes, in: Scribner's Magazine 19 ,1896)

6 See https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eriekanal (April 11, 2026).
7 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railroads_connecting_New_York_City_and_Chicago (April 11, 2026).

Only tow-barges pulled primarily by mules operated on the Erie Canal,[8] which was 12 meters wide and 1.2 meters deep. On the calm waters, a single draft animal sufficed to pull a barge carrying migrants and their luggage. The mule drivers were usually orphan boys earning their livelihood there. Although the barges moved slowly, they traveled through the night; consequently, the entire canal journey, which also required passing through numerous locks, took between eight and twelve days. Stops were made at established stations where the mule and its handler were exchanged. At the end of the trip, travelers reached the Niagara River and the city of Buffalo.

From Buffalo to Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Buffalo was the transportation hub where all routes converged (see map on p. 42): barge travelers from the Erie Canal, rail passengers from Albany or New York, and steamships carrying travelers from Quebec. From there, those bound for Wisconsin continued to Milwaukee via various routes, depending on their travel budget and the state of transport infrastructure.

As late as 1849, Carl de Haas recommended in his guidebook[9] making the 900-miles journey across three of the Great Lakes (see pp. 41–42) to reach the destination. On May 21, 1852, the rail link between Detroit and Chicago opened,[10] allowing travelers to avoid the long steamship voyage across Lakes Huron and Michigan. The remaining distance from Chicago to Milwaukee was only about 90 miles, a stretch that could initially be covered by ship, and shortly thereafter by rail as well.

Milwaukee: The Final Leg and a Taste of the "West"

Traveling from New York to Milwaukee by water took between 13 and 19 days. However, if travelers covered significant portions of the journey by rail instead, the travel time was reduced to about a week.[11] Upon arriving in Milwaukee, travelers had not yet reached their final destination; but the months of hardship, tribulation, and restlessness, during which daily human existence was reduced to a struggle for mere survival, had come to an end. In Milwaukee, our immigrants encountered a city caught up in the same spirit of new beginnings that animated them. Milwaukee was a young, rapidly growing city. After French-Canadian and English-descended pioneers established the area's first trading posts starting in 1818, the city of Milwaukee was formed in 1846 through the merger of three settlements. The population surged from 1,700 in 1840 to 20,000 within a decade. By 1861, when the last of the individuals we are studying arrived, Milwaukee already had a population of over 45,000. Today, the city is home to approximately 570,000 people.[12] Then as now, the city was profoundly shaped by German immigrants; no other major U.S. city has a higher proportion of residents of German descent.[13]

8 Cf. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eriekanal.

9 Cf. de Haas, Nordamerika 2, p. 42.

10 Cf. https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/MDOT/Travel/Mobility/Rail/Michigan-Railroad-History.pdf?rev=39dfdb4445e-04a87916419fc13937dd2.

11 Cf. de Haas, Nordamerika 1, p. 36.

12 Cf. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee (April 13, 2026); US Federal Census 1840, 1850 and 2020.

13 Cf. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans_in_Milwaukee.



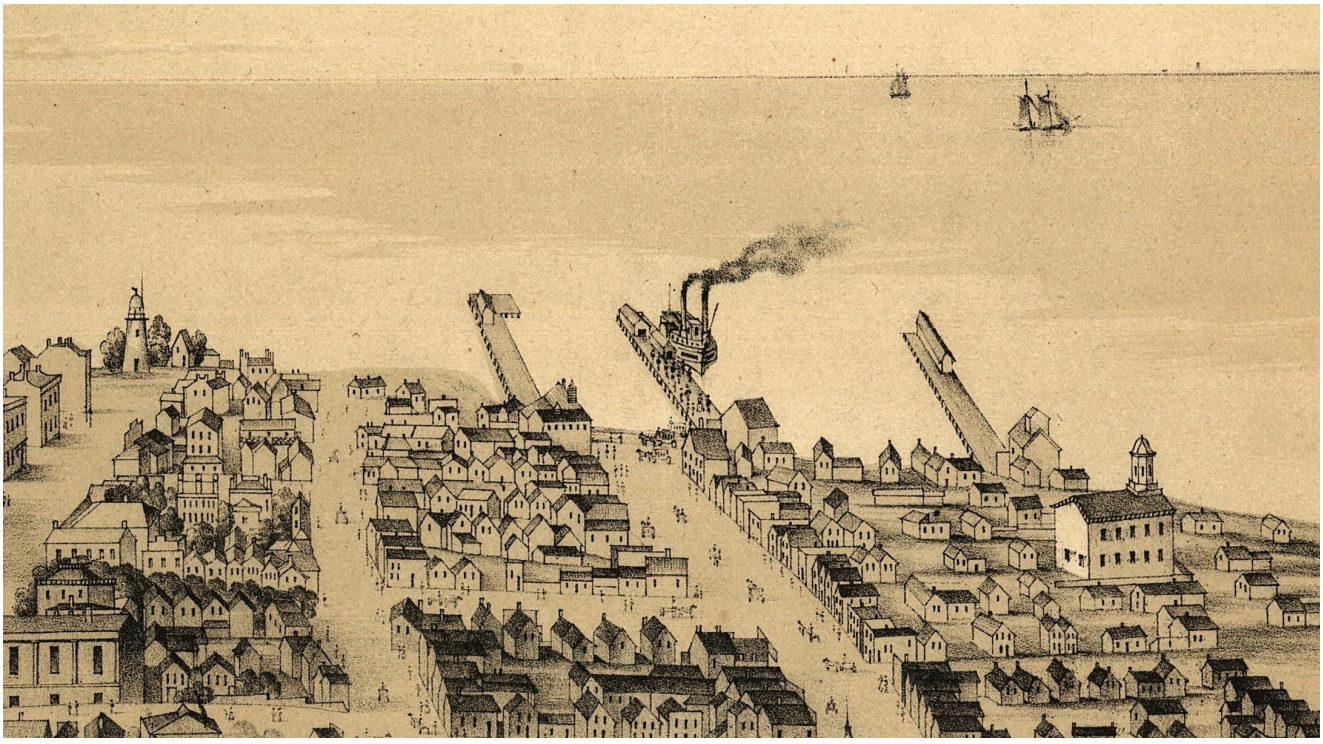
Milwaukee in 1854, view across the city to Lake Michigan
(Smith Brothers & Co., New York, 1854)

Shopping Trip in Milwaukee

In Milwaukee, one could begin to settle into one's new life. There, one could find German-speaking merchants from whom one could purchase items needed at one's new residence that one had not been able to bring from home. Here, too, recommendations from letters of previous immigrants or from relevant printed guides were of help to the immigrants. For the more financially well-off immigrants, Carl de Haas gave the following advice and shopping tips in his "Winken für Auswanderer" ("Tips for Emigrants"):[14] *Anyone with more than 600 dollars [1500 guilders][15] to spend would do best to buy a yoke (two) of strong oxen and a sturdy wagon in Milwaukee. … A yoke of oxen, purchased from the drivers, costs 40 to 60 dollars. … I also advise taking: window frames for the log cabin with the corresponding panes (these must be carefully packed in hay), the necessary axes (one for each adult male), a hay rake, two buckets (at ½ dollar each), some chairs (very nice ones, ½ dollar each), a table (we bought a large walnut one for 3 ½ dollars).*

De Haas further advised: *Since the immigrant must buy all or part of his necessities in the first year, he can stock up in Milwaukee on a quantity of rice and apple slices that are quite cheap and are easy to cook. If he still had room on his wagon, he would take along coffee beans, sugar, salt, and the like; by doing so, he could save 25, or even 50 percent on costs once he reached the interior.*

14 Cf. de Haas, Nordamerika 1, pp. 46–47.
15 At that time, 1 dollar was equivalent to 2.5 guilders (Albrecht, p. 113).



Detail from the above view showing the steamboat pier, Milwaukee, 1854

He advised against buying one of the *handsome and extremely convenient American cooking stoves*, as their weight of 250 pounds would place too great a strain on the wagon and risk breaking apart entirely *on the poor roads of the interior.*

After stocking up on provisions and the necessary equipment, our immigrants set out for the interior. Those with the necessary cash departed in their own fully loaded ox wagons, which might also accommodate some family members. The others probably covered the final leg of their journey – due to their luggage – using a hired wagon, probably traveling in groups once again.

Except for the very first arrivals known as the pioneers, most had a specific destination in mind – a place where a relative or acquaintance had already settled and where the newcomers were expected. For the majority, this was Beaver Dam, located 60 miles from Milwaukee; for others, it was Fredonia (ca. 30 miles), town of Farmington (ca. 40 miles), or Jefferson (ca. 50 miles).

Wisconsin

The first Europeans to settle between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi, even before the territory was named Wisconsin and became part of the United States of America, were the French. They lived primarily off the fur trade. From the 17th century through the mid-19th century, this trade was the defining factor of Wisconsin's economy. Native Americans, often referred to in history books simply as "Indians," supplied beaver pelts in exchange for hunting rifles and the corresponding ammunition. The most important market for these pelts was Europe, where beaver-fur hats enjoyed great popularity for centuries. The beaver pelt trade traditionally followed waterways across the Great Lakes and down the St. Lawrence River to Canadian ports, and from there on to Europe.[1] The city of Milwaukee also owes its origins to the establishment of a fur-trading post. The discovery of significant lead deposits brought the first major waves of immigrants to Wisconsin during the first half of the 19th century: miners who soon earned the nickname "Badgers." To this day, Wisconsin is known as the "Badger State." It owes its other nickname to its immigrant farmers: "America's Dairyland." Its official name derives from the Native American term for the Wisconsin River, a tributary of the Mississippi.

Initially, Wisconsin was part of the French colonial empire until it was ceded to the British in 1763. Subsequently, Great Britain ceded the territory to the United States in 1783, but the U.S. did not acquire practical control until 1815 at the conclusion of the War of 1812. In the decades prior to 1840, U.S. authorities displaced the indigenous population – Native Americans from various tribes – from their already sparsely populated lands. This process generally relied on treaties that disadvantaged the native inhabitants; agreements were frequently concluded with parties who lacked the necessary authority to negotiate or who failed to grasp the implications of the treaty terms.[2]

Subsequently, an increasing number of white settlers – as well as land speculators – arrived in Wisconsin. By 1836, the population had surpassed the 10,000 mark, thereby meeting one of the prerequisites for establishing a separate administration and government. With the realization of this plan, Wisconsin attained the status of an official "Territory" that same year.[3]

Over the next decade, the non-Native American population grew to more than 155,000, making it possible to contemplate the creation of an independent state with its own constitution. On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin was admitted to the United States of America as the 30th state. The influx of immigrants from the eastern U.S. states and Europe continued to rise, bringing the population to 305,000 by 1850. Of these, approximately 100,000 were foreign-born; 48,000 of that group listed English as their native language, with about half of them hailing from Ireland. The vast majority of those who did not speak English came from Germany. For example, nearly 40 percent of Milwaukee's residents at the time had been born in Germany. With them came beer gardens, shops with German signage and German goods, German food, and German customs to Wisconsin.[4]

By 1860, the young state's population had risen to 776,000. Our immigrants from Bavaria played a part in this population growth, which reflects the dynamics of migration and Wisconsin's rapid development. Wisconsin's continental climate is not unlike Bavaria's, featuring moderate precipitation, summers that are not overly hot, and winters with heavy snowfall, so our immigrants adapted well to it.

1 See Janik, p. 15ff.
2 See ibid., p. 26ff..
3 See ibid., p.30.
4 See ibid., p. 37f.



The State of Wisconsin with Its 72 Counties
(Outlined in red: Dodge County with Beaver Dam Lake)

Most immigrants during this period tended to settle in the southern part of Wisconsin, where the majority of the individuals featured in this book also arrived. Their primary destinations, the towns of Fredonia, Farmington, Jefferson, and Beaver Dam, all lie within a radius of 60 miles of Milwaukee. Between 1846 and 1848, some of our subjects settled in the first three of these locations; however, most subsequently gravitated toward Beaver Dam or its immediate vicinity. Thus, the town became the main destination for our migrants and the focal point of our study. Before turning to the development of Beaver Dam, we will briefly introduce the other destinations. By way of introduction. Before doing so, it is helpful to first address a few terms regarding Wisconsin's local administrative structure.

Wisconsin's current key figures

Area	169,649 km²
Population	5.9 million
Statehood	1848
Capital	Madison
Bavaria for comparison	
Area	70,541 km²
Population	13.2 million
Germany for comparison	
Area	357,684 km²
Population	83.5 million

County, Town, Village, City

The U.S. state of Wisconsin is divided into 72 counties with an average population of 82,000 – comparable to a Bavarian "Landkreis" (rural district).

The county serves as a link between local municipalities and the state. It performs tasks mandated by the state constitution or state laws. As an arm of state government, the county is responsible for district courts, elections, public safety and law enforcement, vital records, land use planning, and health and social services.

Dodge County, home to Beaver Dam and other destinations for our emigrants, currently has about 89,000 residents and covers an area of 907 square miles (for comparison: the "Landkreis" of Regensburg, where most of our subjects originated, has a population of 196,000 – excluding the independent city of Regensburg – and an area of 865 square miles).

The terms "Town," "Village," and "City" designate different local administrative units, which vary in meaning and significance depending on the state. The following definitions apply to the situation in Wisconsin.

"Towns" are administrative units that enable less densely populated areas to provide basic services in accordance with state law. They are responsible for conducting elections, assessing and collecting property taxes, fire protection, and emergency medical services, as well as maintaining local roads. A town is governed by a "Town Board." At annual "Town Meetings," all eligible voters can vote on local issues. Town Boards are required to implement the resolutions passed by voters at the annual meeting.

"Villages" and "cities" are the administrative units that enable populous areas to manage local affairs. Today, Wisconsin has 190 cities and 415 villages. Prior to 1871 (for villages) and 1892 (for cities), these municipalities were established by an act of the State of Wisconsin.[5]

Like towns, villages and cities provide basic services, but they can expand the scope of these services to include, for instance, public water and sewage systems, libraries, and fire departments. Under the state constitution, villages and cities possess the privilege of self-government to manage local affairs, a power not granted to

5 Today, the procedure for establishing a municipality is regulated by state law and begins with a petition from the residents.

counties and towns. Finally, villages and cities are permitted to annex adjacent areas, thereby expanding their boundaries. Cities differ from villages based on population size and density, which are defined by state criteria. Towns often share the same name as a neighboring city and are occasionally annexed, in whole or in part, by that city.[6]

Fredonia (Ozaukee County)[7]

In 1846, Fredonia became the destination for the large families of Koller, Liebl, and Pritschet, hailing from the parishes of Beratzhausen and Frauenberg,[8] who had traveled to America together aboard the "François I" via Le Havre and New York. The community is situated approximately 30 miles north of Milwaukee, on the Milwaukee River near Port Washington. The aforementioned immigrants were among the first white settlers to establish themselves in the area. Prior to their arrival, the area was inhabited by the Potawatomi people, who had ceded the territory to U.S. authorities by treaty in 1833 and subsequently migrated westward, with the exception of a few who chose to remain in their ancestral homeland.[9] The Koller, Liebl, and Pritschet families may have encountered some of them. Today, Fredonia is a village in Ozaukee County with a population of approximately 2,300. The Koller/Kohler families founded the settlement of "Little Kohler" nearby. Both communities are located within the borders of the town of Fredonia.

Town of Farmington (Jefferson County)

The Fleh, Niebler, and Weissmann families, who arrived in 1847 and 1848 from the parishes of Beratzhausen and Pfraundorf,[10] were drawn to Jefferson County, which neighbors Dodge County where Beaver Dam is located. They settled in a place officially established in 1848 as a town named Waitesville, though it was soon renamed Farmington. Early land surveys and allocations during the late 1830s and early 1840s prompted many settlers to locate in this area. The information contained in the resulting documents attracted settlers seeking good arable land and pasture. Additionally, there was an abundance of mature trees providing timber for houses and commercial buildings.[11] The town of Farmington is situated approximately 40 miles west of Milwaukee and just 30 miles south of Beaver Dam. Today, the town has a population of around 1,400.

City and Town of Jefferson (Jefferson County)

Just a short journey southwest of the town of Farmington lies Jefferson, the county seat of Jefferson County. The city is situated at the confluence of the Rock and Crawfish rivers and currently has a population of about 7,800. The city of Jefferson borders the town of Jefferson, two localities where immigrants settled after arriving in the country, primarily in 1847 via Bremen and Quebec. Among them were the Guttenberger, Schwaiger, and Seitz families from the parish of Pfraundorf. Jefferson was initially incorporated as a village in 1857 and was elevated to the status of a city in 1878.

6 See League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Citizen Guide, and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town (April 15, 2026).
7 Ozaukee County was formed in 1853 through a division of Washington County.
8 The families mentioned are introduced individually below.
9 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredonia,_Wisconsin (April 14, 2026).
10 The families mentioned are introduced individually below.
11 See https://www.townoffarmington.org/discover-farmington/historic-farmington/ (April 15, 2026).

Other known Destinations in Wisconsin

Some of the individuals we studied, whose whereabouts in Wisconsin are known, settled in the following locations in Dodge County: town of Calamus, Juneau, town of Lowell, Watertown, and town of Westford. Others settled in the neighboring county of Jefferson. None of these locations is more than twenty miles from Beaver Dam.



Southeastern Wisconsin including Beaver Dam and the Counties of Dodge, Jefferson, Ozaukee, and Washington: Where the Emigrants from the Study Area Settled

Beaver Dam

The town of Beaver Dam—which exerted a magnetic pull on our emigrants and was destined to become a new home for most of them (see the chart on p. 41)—got its name from the beavers which lived in and constructed dams across a spring-fed stream which flowed into the river that would subsequently be named the Beaver Dam River.

The Beginnings of Beaver Dam

The first white settlers to locate here were Thomas Mackie and his son-in-law, Joseph Goetschius. The chronicle of Beaver Dam records that in the autumn of 1840, they set out to scout a location for a settlement south of Fox Lake. They chose a site beside a bubbling spring and felled trees, sawing, hewing, and stacking logs in preparation for building cabins the following spring. In mid-March 1841, the two men returned to the site and began clearing the land to build a home and a homestead. Soon after, Jacob and Paul Brower and Abraham Ackermann, along with their families, joined Mackie to develop this part of the Wisconsin wilderness. These early settlers surveyed the land and laid out the plan for the settlement.

In 1842, settler David Drake acquired land along the banks of the Beaver Dam River. That summer, he began constructing a dam and a sawmill, both of which were completed in 1843. In February 1844, a gristmill was built adjacent to the sawmill. The dam, along with two others built further downstream after 1843, provided water power for mills and fostered Beaver Dam's early industrial development.[1]

By 1843, the community already had 79 settlers.[2] As late as 1848, Beaver Dam is said to have been *little more than a forest with a few scattered clearings connected by rutty wagon roads and footpaths through the trees and underbrush.*[3] The wave of migration that brought over a million Germans to North America between 1846 and 1857 played a significant role in populating the young state of Wisconsin and also brought many newcomers to Beaver Dam. Its population grew from 120 people in 1846 to 500 in 1850.

First Catholics in Beaver Dam

When the first of our Bavarian immigrants arrived in Beaver Dam around 1850, most of the area's residents were Baptists, Methodists, or Presbyterians – all Protestant denominations of various types. Our newcomers were the first Catholics in Beaver Dam, and living alongside people of other faiths was a new experience for them. Differences in denomination and the language barrier vis-à-vis their predominantly English-speaking neighbors contributed to the Catholics keeping to themselves. Unlike the Baptists and Methodists, they initially had neither a place of worship nor any local Catholic pastoral care. During those early years, to get married or have their children baptized, they had to travel to Fox Lake, Watertown, or Columbus, all located within a 20-miles radius. Written records from Beaver Dam's early days are – unsurprisingly – very scarce, if not to say nonexistent. Therefore, it is impossible to determine exactly when any of them arrived. We receive the first news of them from reports regarding the establishment of the first Catholic parish in Beaver Dam. These reports mention the names of immigrants "from Bavaria" who are considered the founders of this parish. The names

1 Cf. Western Historical Company, History, p., 432.
2 See https://www.ci.beaverdam.wi.gov/430/Our-History (April 18, 2026)
3 Historical Committee (ed.): Centennial History, p. 250.

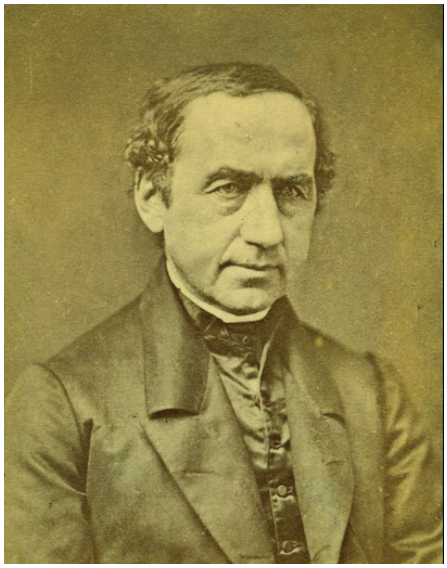
listed there also appear on ship passenger lists from 1852, 1853, and 1854: George Amman,[4] Michael Geniger, George Geschel, Jacob Graff, Joseph Hammer, Jacob Kolb, Agid Miller, Andrew Mirlach, George Steil, John Waldhier, Mike Waldhier, Mathew Zweck, and their family members.[5]

The Founding of St. Peter's Parish

Initially, Catholics in Beaver Dam were served by St. Mary's Church in Fox Lake located about ten miles away, though they were visited by a clergyman only sporadically. The first Catholic Mass in Beaver Dam is said to have been celebrated by a clergyman named Michael Haider at a private residence.[6]

This changed with the arrival of a Catholic priest named Martin Kundig, who began visiting Beaver Dam at irregular intervals starting in 1854 to conduct religious services and baptize newborns.

Kundig was a native of Switzerland, born on November 19, 1805, in the Canton of Schwyz. He received his education in Einsiedeln, Lucerne, Rome, and Bardstown (Kentucky), and was ordained on February 2, 1829, in the Diocese of Cincinnati (Ohio). After various stops in Michigan, he arrived in Wisconsin in 1842.[7] Traveling on horseback with "stuffed saddlebags" – the title of his biography published in 1942 – he ministered to the scattered Catholic settlers in the southeastern part of the state.[8] Over the years, he reportedly founded 22 parishes there, including St. Peter's in Beaver Dam in 1855.[9] He organized the purchase of a plot of land for the church and had the first Catholic house of worship built there. Father Kundig continued to serve Beaver Dam during his circuit rides until 1857. After that, the parish received its first resident priest, Matthias Gernbauer.



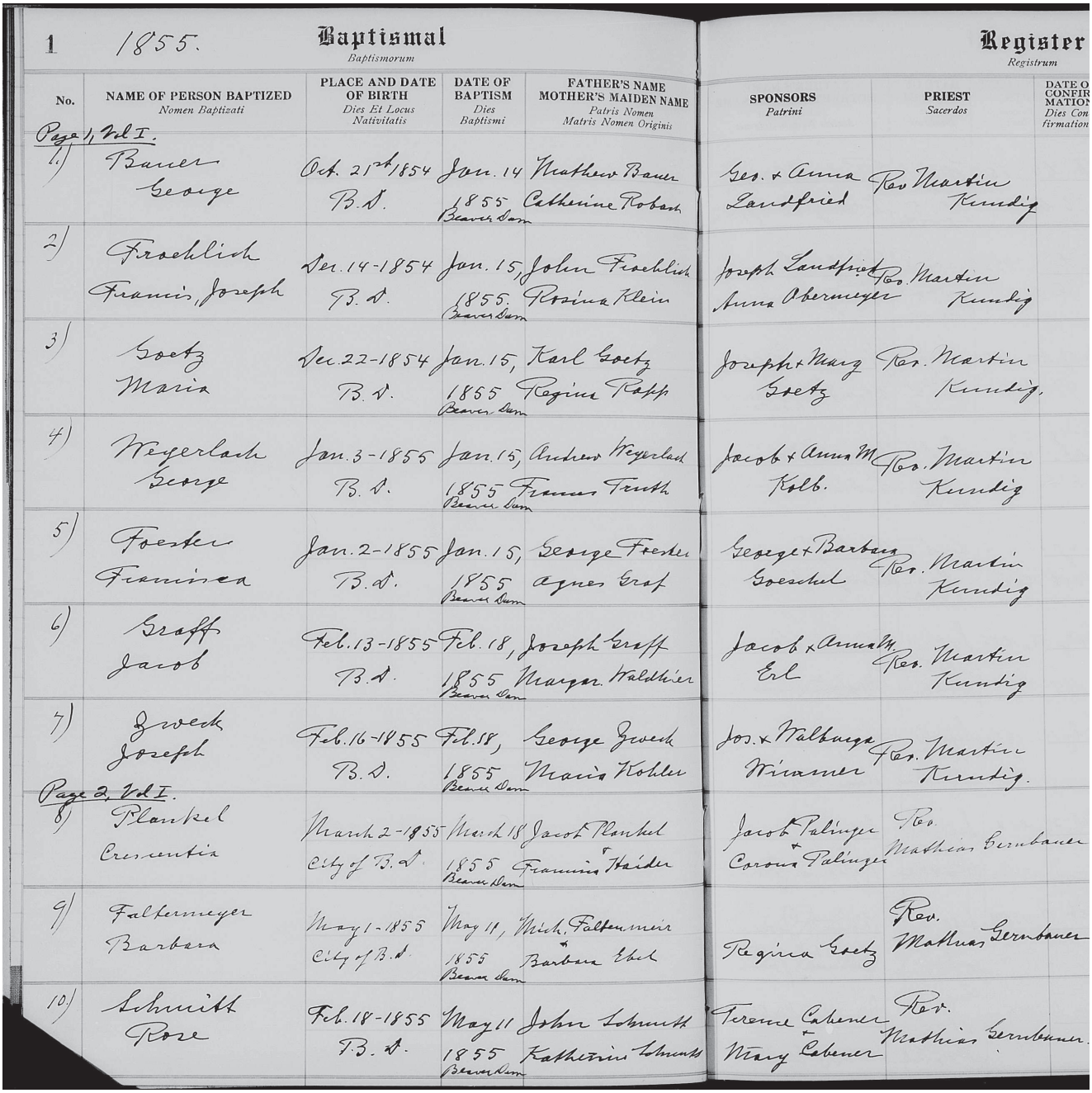
Father Martin Kundig (1805–1879), Founder of St. Peter's Catholic Parish in Beaver Dam

The First Catholic Baptisms in Beaver Dam

Since some of the founders' arrival dates recorded in the parish chronicle conflict with those found in passenger lists and other documents, this secondary source should be treated with caution. This makes the St. Peter's parish registers introduced by Father Kundig in 1855 all the more important as a primary source.

The first entry in these registers is dated January 14, 1855, and concerns the baptism of George Bauer, son of Matthew Bauer and his wife Catherine Robach. The godparents were Georg and Anna Landfried (see ill., p. 54).[10] The infant's parents hailed from Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein) and had arrived in New York in 1853 aboard

4 Event. Confusion with the father, Jakob Amann (ca. 1795–1861).
5 Historical Committee (ed.): "Centennial History," p. 252; also Anonymous, "100th Anniversary," p. 14.
6 Anonymous, "100th Anniversary," p. 14.
7 Cf. https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/kundig-martin (April 19, 2026).
8 Cf. Johnson, Saddlebags.
9 Cf. https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/kundig-martin (April 19, 2026).
10 Beaver Dam, St. Peter 1 parish register, image 29.



1 1855. **Baptismal** *Baptismorum* **Register** *Registrum*

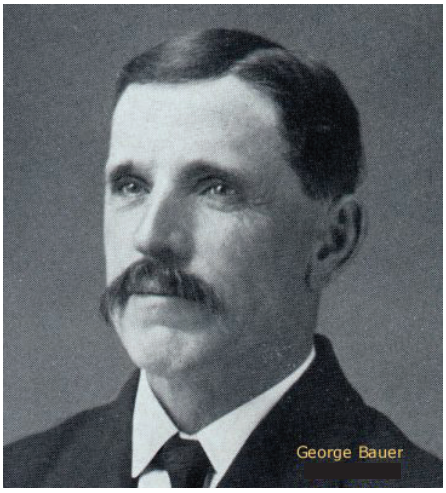
No.	NAME OF PERSON BAPTIZED *Nomen Baptizati*	PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH *Dies Et Locus Nativitatis*	DATE OF BAPTISM *Dies Baptismi*	FATHER'S NAME MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME *Patris Nomen Matris Nomen Originis*	SPONSORS *Patrini*	PRIEST *Sacerdos*	DATE O CONFIR MATIO *Dies Con firmation*
Page 1, Vol I.							
1/	Bauer George	Oct. 21st 1854 B. D.	Jan. 14 1855 Beaver Dam	Mathew Bauer Catherine Roban	Geo. & Anna Landfried	Rev. Martin Kundig	
2/	Froehlich Francis, Joseph	Dec. 14-1854 B. D.	Jan. 15, 1855. Beaver Dam	John Froehlich Rosina Klein	Joseph Landfried Anna Obermeyer	Rev. Martin Kundig	
3/	Goetz Maria	Dec. 22-1854 B. D.	Jan. 15, 1855 Beaver Dam	Karl Goetz Regina Rapp	Joseph & Mary Goetz	Rev. Martin Kundig.	
4/	Weyerlack George	Jan. 3-1855 B. D.	Jan. 15, 1855 Beaver Dam	Andrew Weyerlack Frances Frueth	Jacob & Anna M. Kolb.	Rev. Martin Kundig	
5/	Foester Francisca	Jan. 2-1855 B. D.	Jan. 15, 1855 Beaver Dam	George Foester agnes Graf	George & Barbara Goeschel	Rev. Martin Kundig	
6/	Graff Jacob	Feb. 13-1855 B. D.	Feb. 18, 1855 Beaver Dam	Joseph Graff Margar. Waldhier	Jacob & Amalia Erl	Rev. Martin Kundig	
7/	Zweck Joseph	Feb. 16-1855 B. D.	Feb. 18, 1855 Beaver Dam	George Zweck Maria Kohler	Jos. & Walburga Wimmer	Rev. Martin Kundig.	
Page 2, Vol I.							
8/	Plankel Crescentia	March 2-1855 City of B. D.	March 18 1855 Beaver Dam	Jacob & Franziska Haider	Jacob & Palinger Carona Palinger	Rev. Mathias Gernbauer	
9/	Faltermeyer Barbara	May 1-1855 City of B. D.	May 11, 1855 Beaver Dam	Mich. Faltermeier & Barbara Ebel	Regina Goetz	Rev. Mathias Gernbauer	
10/	Schmidt Rose	Feb. 18-1855 B. D.	May 11 1855 Beaver Dam	John Schmidt Katherina Schmidt	Terese Cabener & Mary Cabener	Rev. Mathias Gernbauer	

The first page of the oldest baptism register of St. Peter's Parish in Beaver Dam, 1855

the "Mary." Godfather Georg Landfried came from Hohenschambach and had arrived in 1852 aboard the "Germania."

As the baptismal register shows, Father Kundig visited Beaver Dam at highly irregular intervals of several weeks. This situation did not change initially, even after the parish was founded. The children he baptized there were often already several weeks old. George Bauer, baptized on January 14, 1855, had been born on October 21, 1854. It should be noted that in our immigrants' Bavarian homeland, it was customary whenever possible to have newborns baptized on the very day of their birth.

The second entry in the St. Peter's baptismal register concerns Francis Joseph Froehlich. He, too, was already a month old. His parents were John Froehlich and his wife Rosina Klein. Johann Fröhlich (Fröhler) came from Netzstall near Painten. The godparents this time were *Joseph Landfried*[11] and his wife *Anna Obermeyer*, who also hailed from Netzstall and Kollersried, respectively. Like the two godparents, the child's father had come to the USA in 1846 on the same ship, the "Washington."



George Bauer (1854–1922), whose baptism was the first to be recorded in the Catholic church register of Beaver Dam on January 14, 1855

On January 15, Pastor Kundig baptized three additional infants who had been born between December 22 and January 3.

In addition to the immigrant names Bauer, Froehlich, Landfried, Obermaier, and Robach – which already appear in the first two entries – numerous other migrants known to us from the Hemau region appear in the baptismal records of 1855, either as parents or godparents. Among them are Jakob Amann, Michael Dinauer, Michael Faltermaier, Georg Ferstl, Georg Goeschl (Göschl), Joseph Graf, Joseph Hammer, Sebastian Hammer, Maria Kohler, Michael Müller, Nikolaus Paulus, Joseph Rosenmeier, Joseph Wagner, Margarethe Waldhier, and Georg and Mathias Zweck. All these individuals, their families, and their emigration histories are described further below.

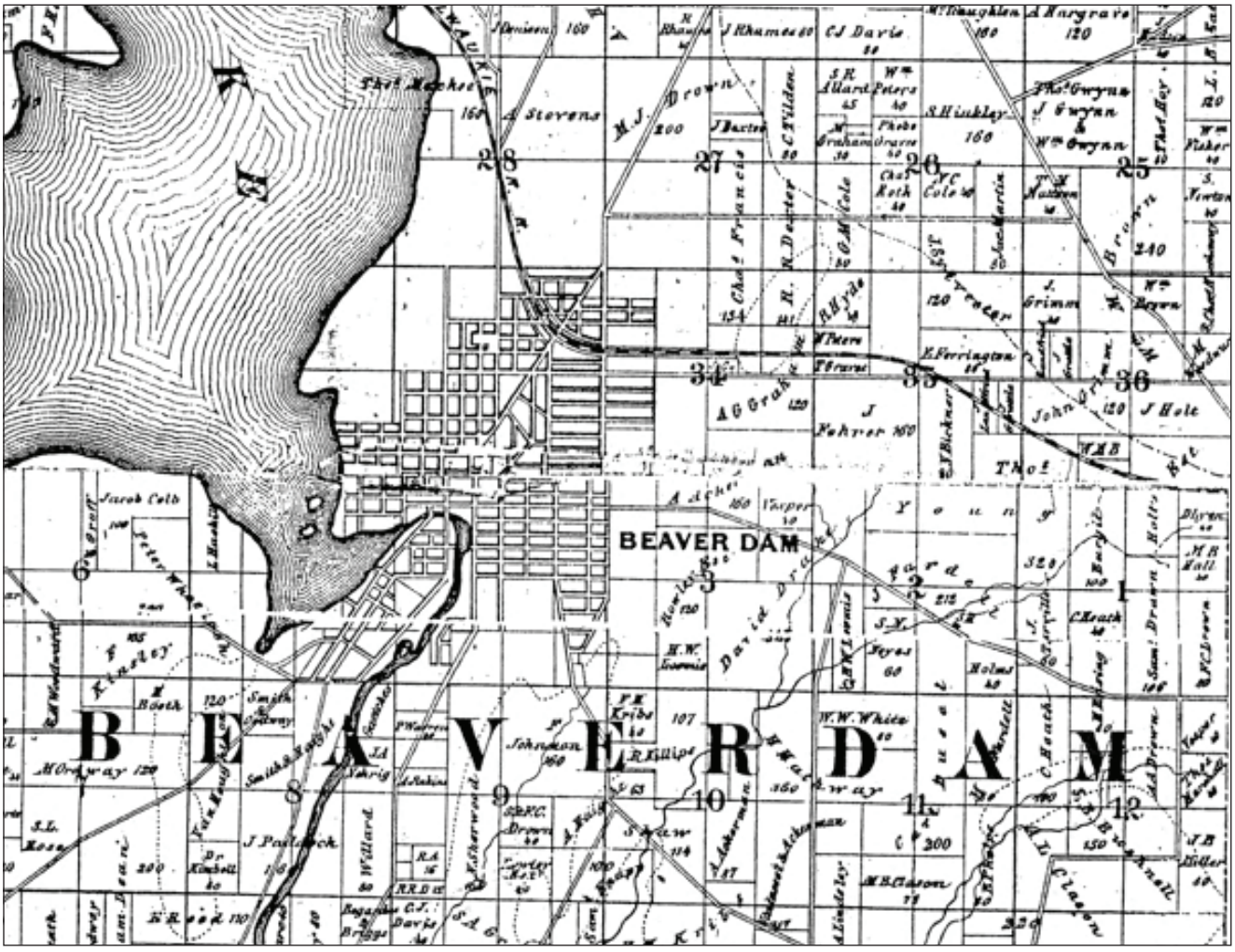
It is thus evident that, by the time St. Peter's parish was founded, far more of the subjects of our study who had emigrated since 1846 had already settled in Beaver Dam than the twelve families explicitly named in the parish chronicle. Although their specific dates of arrival in Beaver Dam are unknown, an analysis of the diverse available sources reveals that, by around 1855, at least 160 – and likely over 200 – of the emigrants discussed in this book had arrived in Beaver Dam or its immediate vicinity.[12]

11 (Franz) Joseph Landfried was a third cousin of Georg Landfried, the godfather named in the first baptismal entry.

12 The individual source references can be found in the "Biographical Sketches", pp. 88 et seq.

Beaver Dam in the 1850s

The railway connection to Milwaukee, which opened in April 1856, gave immigration a further boost. This made it possible to reach Beaver Dam by rail even from New York.[13] In the same year, Beaver Dam was incorporated by the state of Wisconsin as a city, which is roughly equivalent to receiving a city charter ("Stadterhebung") in Germany, and was granted local self-government. The city of Beaver Dam was de facto separated from the settlement area of the town of Beaver Dam, which now surrounded it (see section "County, Town, Village, City" on pp. 49–50). In 1860, Beaver Dam City had 2,765 inhabitants. By this time our Bavarian immigrants had already more or less established themselves in the city and its surrounding area.



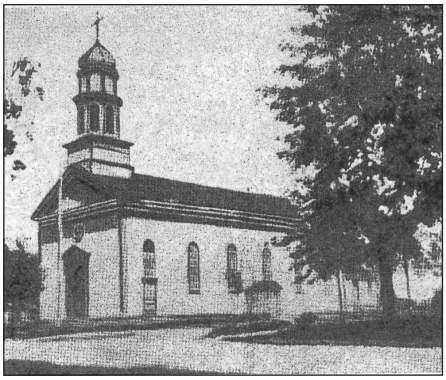
Beaver Dam "Town" and "City" from the 1859 Plat Map of Dodge County

13 Historical Committee (ed.): Centennial History, p. 53.

The Founding of St. Mary's Church (1861)

Population of Beaver Dam	
1846	120
1850	500
1860	2,765
1870	3,265
1880	3,410
1890	4,222
1900	5,128
2020	16,708

The fivefold increase in the population between 1850 and 1860 had also caused the number of Catholics in Beaver Dam to rise, such that St. Peter's Church had become too small after only five years, prompting plans for a new building. However, the parish was divided over the location of the new house of worship. The majority wanted to build it next to the existing church on Spring Street, while others favored a site on Madison Street, in the southwest part of the city.[14] The precise reasons for this disagreement were likely multifaceted and have not been recorded in detail. Yet the severity of the rift is evidenced by the fact that two new Catholic churches were ultimately built: an expanded St. Peter's Church next to the original one and a second, smaller church on Madison Street,[15] dedicated to Saint Sebastian. Both buildings, located less than one mile apart, were probably wooden structures.[16] They were completed in the same year, 1861.[17] Construction costs reportedly amounted to 4,000 dollars for St. Peter's and 2,000 dollars for St. Sebastian's.[18] The original St. Peter's Church, built in 1855 under Father Martin Kundig, was converted into a school. In 1862, the first three sisters from the order of the "School Sisters of Notre Dame" (SSND)[19] arrived in Beaver Dam[20] to teach the German-speaking Catholic children. (Their congregation had been founded as recently as 1833 in Neunburg vorm Wald in the Upper Palatinate). St. Sebastian's Church was built in 1861 without the consent and against the wishes of the archbishop, who had designated St. Peter's as the central place of worship for German-speaking Catholics. Although Archbishop Henni refused to recognize the church for years, Masses were celebrated there. It was not until 1867 that Father Fusseder, pastor of St. Peter's, succeeded in effecting a reconciliation both between the two congregations and with the Archbishop.[21] In December 1866, the "Roman Catholic Society of Beaver Dam" had transferred ownership of St. Sebastian's Church to the archdiocese.[22] On March 19, 1867, the church was formally consecrated and renamed "St. Mary's."[23] As a result of his efforts, by 1868, Father Fusseder became pastor of both St. Peter's and St. Mary's.



The second St. Peter's Church, built in 1861 in Beaver Dam

14 Cf. Western Historical Company, History, p. 459.
15 Cf. "The Dodge County Citizen," May 30, 1861.
16 Cf. Western Historical Company, History, p. 459, and "The Dodge County Citizen," May 30, 1861.
17 "The Dodge County Citizen," May 30, 1861, and "Whig of Seventy-Six" (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin), November 23, 1861.
18 Cf. Western Historical Company, History, p. 459.
19 „School Sisters of Notre Dame;" also known as the „Gerhardinger Sisters" after their founder, Karolina Gerhardinger.
20 Anonymous, "100th Anniversary," p. 16, and https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arme_Schulschwestern_von_Unserer_Lieben_Frau.
21 Cf. Western Historical Company, History, p. 459.
22 Cf. Johnson, "Early Catholic Church Property," Sheet No. 26.
23 "Beaver Dam Argus," May 23, 1867.

While sermons at St. Peter's had been given at alternate services in German and English, sermons at St. Mary's were delivered exclusively in German.[24]

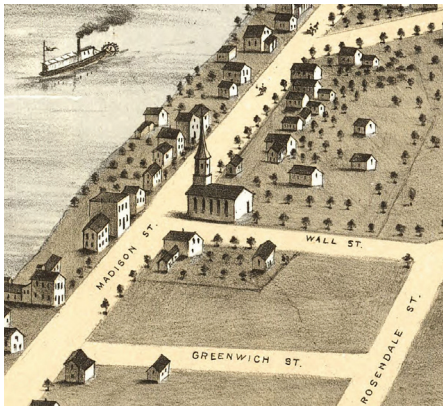
When St. Mary's fell victim to a fire in November 1903, the church was not rebuilt, partly because St. Peter's Church, newly constructed in 1900 (see pp. 60–64), was spacious enough to accommodate all of Beaver Dam's German-speaking Catholics.[25] However, the cemetery established at St. Mary's remains in existence to this day.



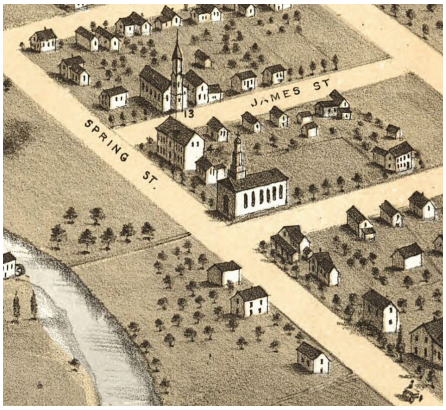
Bird's-eye view of Beaver Dam, 1867

24 "The Dodge County Citizen," January 31, 1867.

25 25 See "Beaver Dam Argus," November 13, 1903, and "The Dodge County Citizen," November 12, 1903.



St. Mary's Church on Madison Street, 1867



St. Peter's Church with school building on Spring Street, 1867

The Formation of Additional Catholic Parishes in Beaver Dam

In the mid-19th century, Ireland was even more heavily affected by emigration to North America than Germany. The critical role played by potato cultivation in Irish agriculture and in the diet of the local population meant that the outbreak of potato blight (see pp. 6–7) led to a devastating famine. As a result, nearly two million Irish people left the country between 1845 and 1855, with the vast majority emigrating to North America.[26] Unlike many emigrants from Bavaria, they were mostly destitute and could not afford to travel further west. Consequently, they remained in the cities along the East Coast of the United States, seeking to earn a living as manual laborers. Only over the course of years did some manage to save enough money to settle as farmers in the West. Wisconsin benefited from this as well. However, unlike our Bavarians, the Irish settlers had already lived in the USA for an average of seven years by the time they arrived here.[27] As Catholics, they found that St. Peter's Church in Beaver Dam suited their denomination, and records of their children's baptisms can accordingly be found in that parish's registers. Services at St. Peter's were subsequently held alternately with sermons in German and English.[28] Before long, however, the Irish community sought to establish its own place of worship. In 1863, St. Patrick's was finally consecrated as the third Catholic church in Beaver Dam.[29] A similar pattern unfolded following the influx of immigrants of Polish origin, who began arriving in the Beaver Dam area in 1857, with the largest numbers coming in the 1860s and 1870s. A separate parish was also established for them, and St. Michael's was consecrated as the fourth Catholic church in 1875.[30]

26 See https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Große_Hungersnot_in_Irland.
27 See Janik, p: 40.
28 Whig of Seventy-Six (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin), December 6, 1862.
29 Historical Committee (ed.): Centennial History, p. 258.
30 Ibid., p. 256f.

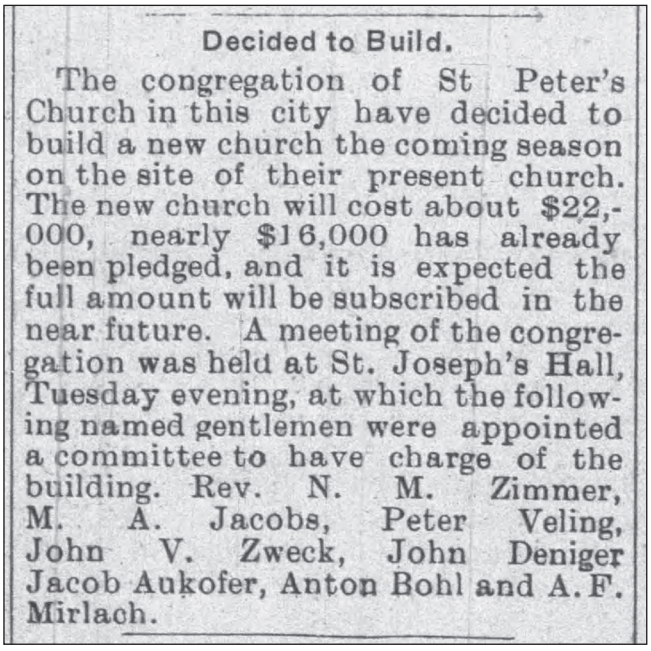
The Third St. Peter's Church in Beaver Dam

By the time the decision was made in 1899 to replace the second St. Peter's Church which had been consecrated in 1861 with a new larger building, Beaver Dam's population had doubled. Among the seven gentlemen entrusted with managing the construction project alongside Father Nicholas Zimmer were three bearing the surnames of immigrants who had arrived between 1852 and 1854: Aukofer, Mirlach, and Zweck. These families had also participated in the construction of the previous churches in 1855 and 1861.

The cost of the brick structure, originally estimated at 22,000 dollars, was exceeded only slightly. Added to this were the expenses for the interior furnishings and the stained-glass windows.[1] The new house of worship was completed the very next year. On December 18, 1900, it was consecrated by the Archbishop of Milwaukee, Frederick Xavier Katzer (1844–1903), during a Pontifical High Mass.[2]

Donors of the St. Peter's Stained Glass Windows

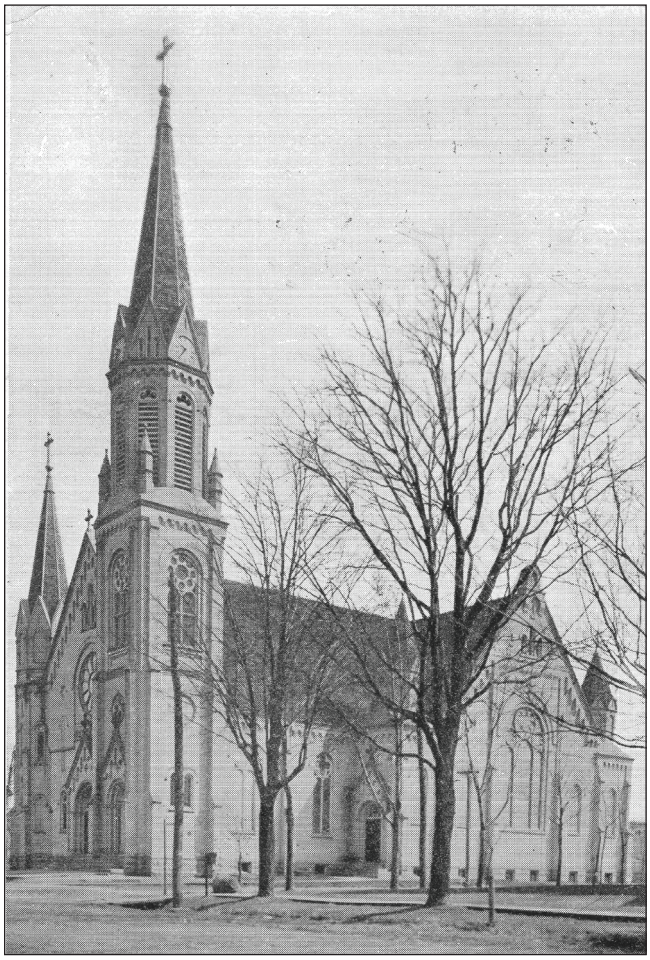
The new building was adorned with some 35 stained-glass windows of varying sizes. Their total cost of over 2,000 dollars was covered by donations from parishioners and local Catholic associations. It is known



Decided to Build.

The congregation of St Peter's Church in this city have decided to build a new church the coming season on the site of their present church. The new church will cost about $22,000, nearly $16,000 has already been pledged, and it is expected the full amount will be subscribed in the near future. A meeting of the congregation was held at St. Joseph's Hall, Tuesday evening, at which the following named gentlemen were appointed a committee to have charge of the building. Rev. N. M. Zimmer, M. A. Jacobs, Peter Veling, John V. Zweck, John Deniger Jacob Aukofer, Anton Bohl and A. F. Mirlach.

Announcement of the new St. Peter's Church building In the "Beaver Dam Argus" of November 23, 1899



St. Peter's Church, built in 1900, 511 S. Spring Street (Postcard, mailed in 1907)

1 Anonymous, 100th Anniversary, p. 16, and https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arme_Schulschreinn_von_ Unserer_Lieben_Frau.
2 History Book Committee (ed.): Beaver Dam, 1991, p. 121.

that two of the windows were commissioned in Munich. Their donors, the "St. Mary's Women's Society" and the "St. Rose Young Women's Society," spent 375 dollars on them alone.[3]
The other windows were manufactured in Wisconsin. Fred Leu's "Wisconsin Art Glass Company" in Oshkosh is cited as the supplier in one instance, while the "Mirror & Art Works Co." in Milwaukee is named in another.[4] The names of some of our immigrant families are also found among the donors of individual windows, immortalized in the glass.

The Joseph Hammer Family Window

The window pictured here depicts Saint Catherine of Alexandria – one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers – with a palm branch and a martyrdom wheel. At its lower edge, it bears the German inscription "Gewidmet von der Familie Joseph Hammer" (Dedicated by the Joseph Hammer Family). The donor was born in 1837 in Nittendorf (in the Hemau court district) and arrived in Beaver Dam at the age of 15 with his parents and six siblings. The cost of this window, installed in 1900, amounted to 80 dollars.





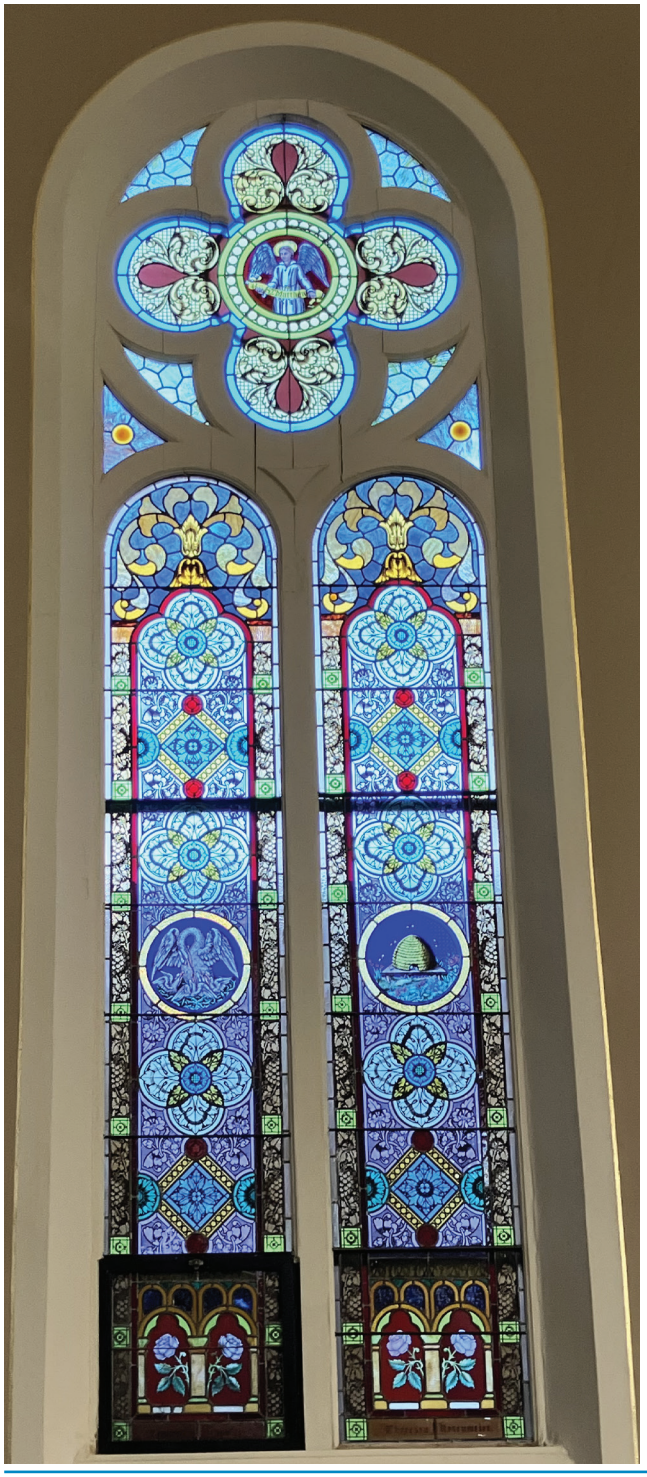
3 The photographs on pages 61 to 65 were taken by Patricia T. Pawl; information regarding the individual windows and their descriptions is drawn from a list compiled by the St. Peter parish congregation during a renovation project.
4 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus," July 19, 1900, p. 5, and "Dodge County Citizen" (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin), December 20, 1900, p. 3.



The Jacob Roedl Family Window

The window shown here depicts Saint Anne with her daughter Mary, the future Mother of God. The inscription "Gewidmet von der Familie Jacob Roedl" (Dedicated by the Jacob Roedl Family) refers to the donor, Jacob Roedl (1862–1925). He was born in Beaver Dam on April 15, 1862, the son of Franz Rödl (1821–1897) who had immigrated in 1853 from Schneckenbach in the Hemau court district and his wife Therese, née Hartl (1817–1888). This window also cost 80 dollars.





The Theresia Rosenmeier Window

The window donated by Theresia Rosenmeier features a depiction of the Evangelist Matthew as a winged angel in the upper circular panel. The left of the lower circular panels shows a pelican feeding its young – symbols of how God "nourishes" His people. To the right, a beehive is depicted, symbolizing eloquence and the gift of speech.

At the bottom edge, the window bears the inscription "Gewidmet von Theresia Rosenmeier" (Dedicated by Theresia Rosenmeier). It may be a legacy from Theresia Rosenmeier (1823–1900), née Hammer, who died on February 7, 1900 – the year the church was built – having arrived in Beaver Dam in 1853 with her husband, Johann Baptist Rosenmeier (1819–1907) from Nittendorf. However, the donor could also be her daughter of the same name (1858–1907), who died unmarried at the age of 49 in 1907 and was buried at St. Peter's.[5] Evidence supporting the latter theory is the fact that her sister Katharina (1849–1907) – married to Joseph Peter (Peters), a native of Painten – also commissioned a window.

The cost of the window was set at 45 dollars.



5 Cf. www.findagrave.com.



The Aukofer Family Window

The Aukofer family window (pictured left) depicts Saint Rose of Lima (1586–1617), considered the first saint of the Americas. She is shown holding a cross, a sign of the penance she imposed upon herself, and wearing a crown of flowers, symbolizing her holiness and purity.

The inscription identifying the donor – "Gewidmet von der Familie Aukofer" (Dedicated by the Aukofer family) – is obscured by a modern confessional.

Jakob Aukofer (1827–1901) was born in Reichenstetten in the parish of Kapfelberg and arrived in Beaver Dam in 1852 together with his future wife, Anna Maria Wechselberger (1828–1903).[6]

Jakob Aukofer was one of seven men entrusted by the parish congregation with overseeing the construction of the new St. Peter's Church. He passed away in the year following the church's consecration on October 15, 1901, on his 74th birthday.

The Aukofer family also provided the 80 dollars for this window.

The Zweck Family Window

The window depicting three cherubim (pictured right) bears the inscription "Gewidmet von der Familie J. V. Zweck" (Dedicated by the J. V. Zweck family). John V. Zweck (1866–1937) was born in Beaver Dam; he was the son of Mathias Zweck (1825–1910), who had emigrated in 1852 from Viehhausen in the parish of Eilsbrunn. Like Jakob Aukofer, John V. Zweck was involved in overseeing the construction of the new St. Peter's Church.

The window cost 45 dollars.

6 Cf. pp. 80f.



The Catholic Church in Beaver Dam Today

As we have seen, Beaver Dam's first Catholic church traces its origins to our Bavarian immigrants. Soon after, Irish and then Polish immigrants established their own Catholic places of worship.

Over the years, other non-Catholic religious communities joined the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists who were already living here; consequently, at least ten different Christian denominations with their own houses of worship are represented in Beaver Dam today.

However, the Catholic Church remains the largest of the Christian denominations represented here in terms of numbers. This holds true for Dodge County as well as for the entire Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Nevertheless, declining membership numbers and the concurrent priest shortage in recent decades have led to restructuring here, too, resulting in the 2003 merger of Beaver Dam's traditional Catholic parishes – St. Peter, St. Patrick, and St. Michael.

The German language had disappeared from the liturgy at St. Peter's long before this. Although the exact date is unknown, it is assumed that the final switch to English-language sermons took place in 1917 – as was the case elsewhere. With the U.S. entry into the war at that time, the German language had fallen into disrepute and been driven out of public life.[7]

The three united parishes have St. Katharine Drexel (1858–1955) as their joint patron saint.[8] Since 2003, St. Peter's Church on Spring Street has borne her name.

Currently, around 1,300 Catholic families belong to St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Beaver Dam. They live in the city and the surrounding area.

Today, 14.4 percent of Dodge County residents are Catholic. A similar percentage applies to Beaver Dam and its vicinity. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the figure is approximately 22 percent.[9]



St. Katharine Drexel Church, formerly St. Peter's Church (Photo: P. T. Pawl, 2026)

7 Cf. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsche_Sprache_in_den_Vereinigten_Staaten.

8 Katharine Maria Drexel was an American religious sister who was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

9 „Milwaukee Journal Sentinel", April 21, 2025, and https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dmilw.html.

Settlement

Let us return to the beginnings of our Bavarian immigrants in Wisconsin. Most of them came to America with the intention of acquiring land and supporting themselves, or rather their families, from the produce of their own homestead. Even those of more modest means assumed they could afford a plot of land here and build a home on it.

The right to acquire land technically required U.S. citizenship; however, this regulation was interpreted very liberally. A declaration of intent to naturalize sufficed for the time being, pending the completion of the five-year waiting period.[1]

The immigrants from the Hemau region came from widely varying backgrounds. Among them were farmers who had sold their holdings and arrived in America with substantial starting capital. At the other end of the economic spectrum were the nearly destitute, who could barely afford the cost of the journey. In between were artisans and the relatively well-off sons and daughters of farmers with larger holdings, who arrived with up to a thousand guilders (see p. 12).

Regarding the financial requirements for settling as a farmer, Carl de Haas wrote in 1849:

Immigrants from our genuine German farming class: They possess enough capital to purchase a farm. Accustomed to hard work and exertion, they are willing, industrious, and undemanding; their sole aim is to practice agriculture and livestock farming in a manner comparable to their previous circumstances. They are usually the happiest and most contented people in America once they have acquired a well-situated, healthy plot of land, and they have the best prospects of securing a happy future for their children. For example, to settle a German farmer in Wisconsin, a sum of 400–700 dollars [1,000–1,750 guilders], including travel expenses, will be required. This becomes evident from the following estimate, which I have deliberately not set too low:

Travel expenses from Leipzig to New York:	*100 dollars*
Travel to Wisconsin and living expenses until a farm is acquired:	*80 dollars*
160 acres of Congress land at 1 ¼ dollars:	*200 dollars*
Clearing, fencing, log cabin, household and farming implements:	*100 dollars*
Provisions for the first year (flour, meat, potatoes):	*100 dollars*
A yoke of oxen:	*65 dollars*
A cow with calf:	*25 dollars*
Total:	*670 dollars*

These estimates which, as noted, are somewhat high, will usually turn out lower in reality; however, one cannot exercise too much caution in such calculations. Yet, when purchasing land from second or third-hand owners, or land that has already been cleared, costs increase and exceed that estimate.[2]

Among the immigrants who possessed the necessary capital and settled as farmers in Beaver Dam and its vicinity were the Ferstls from Schwarzenthonhausen, the Hammers and Rosenmeiers from Nittendorf, the Grafs, Landfrieds, and Waldhiers from Hohenschambach, and the Müllers from Woflier.[3]

1 Cf. de Haas, Nordamerika 2, p. 126; cf. the next chapter, „Naturalization."
2 Ibid., pp. 124–125.
3 Cf. emigrant biographies below.

In his book, DE HAAS offers newcomers detailed advice – based on his own observations and experience as a settler in the town of Calumet – regarding their initial period as settlers in Wisconsin. Here is a brief excerpt: *The first tasks an immigrant must undertake when purchasing uncultivated land are as follows: The site where the house and barns are to stand is cleared, and the timber is used for firewood. Next, a suitably located, fertile plot of land is selected, cleared, and turned over using a breaking plow made specifically for this purpose; if the land is prairie, two yokes of oxen usually suffice; in the "openings" [wooded groves], three yokes are used, and in dense forests, usually even more. Neighbors typically help one another with this breaking process, each bringing his own oxen. One can also always rent oxen (except during harvest time) ...*[4]

One of the duties of new settlers was to fence in their acquired property: *Once the immigrant has cleared and broken a piece of land, using iron wedges (such a wedge costs one dollar), he splits suitable felled logs into pieces 12 feet long and roughly 4–6 inches thick, though without great precision. These pieces, known as rails, are used to fence in the house, farmyard, and arable land. ... To fence in 80 acres, one needs 6,000–7,000 rails ...*[5]

Regarding immigrants who arrived in America with little money, DE HAAS writes: *Immigrants without means. These people must, upon landing in the coastal cities, immediately contact the German society established there for the protection of immigrants and endeavor to find work as soon as possible. Through work on the railroads, unloading ships, etc., one can earn 1 dollar a day. They might also try to lease farms or perhaps engage in vegetable farming or the like near the city. A farmhand receives 10 to 15 dollars a month plus room and board; a maid receives 4 to 6 dollars a month plus board; a gardener 15 to 30 dollars, etc.*[6]

Some of our immigrants, having spent most or all their assets on travel expenses, stayed on the East Coast or sought their fortune in cities like Pittsburgh or Chicago. After spending a few years there and saving some money, some joined their compatriots in Beaver Dam, as we shall see below.

4 DE HAAS, Nordamerika 1, p. 73.
5 Ibid., pp. 73–74.
6 DE HAAS, Nordamerika 2, p. 126.

Naturalization

The acquisition of U.S. citizenship was governed by a law dated January 29, 1795.[1] In this process, the immigrants' prior life in Europe and the documents brought from their homeland played virtually no role. Carl de Haas wrote on this subject: *Regarding the papers to be taken along from Germany, I note that one must present one's passport at the points of departure before leaving Europe. From that moment on, any paper one has brought along is superfluous. Not even a birth certificate is required in America, even though age (21 years) is a factor for voting rights, sales transactions, or claim rights, etc. However, one's word suffices and is accepted in lieu of an oath.*[2]

The Legal Situation

The law in force since 1795 stipulated that one had to have lived in the country for at least five years prior to naturalization. Adult male immigrants could apply for citizenship as early as two years after arriving in the U.S. The naturalization documents of Johann Waldhier from Hohenschambach – whose application was accepted the year after his arrival – demonstrate that the authorities were "flexible" in this regard (see illustration p. 69). Once the five years had been spent in the country without any legal infractions, naturalization would finally take place.

A law passed in 1855 further stipulated that the wives of U.S. citizens were automatically considered citizens, regardless of their origin or nationality. For this reason, no naturalization documents exist for these women. The same applied to the children of fathers who had successfully become naturalized citizens. Provided they were not older than 21, they too automatically became U.S. citizens.[3]

The Application

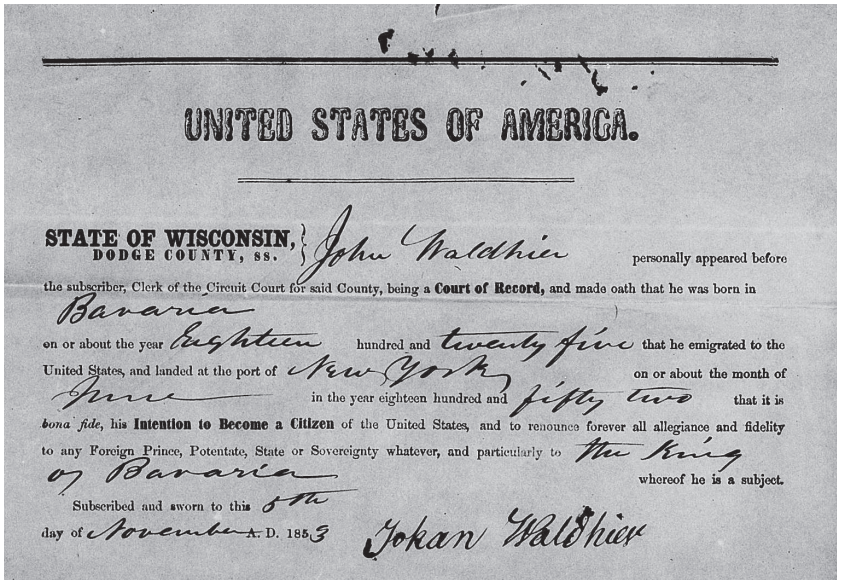
The naturalization application recorded the applicant's place of origin, year of birth, date of arrival in the U.S., and port of arrival. In it, the applicant stated his intention to become a citizen of the United States and declared by his signature that he would "renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the King of Bavaria whereof he is a subject."

The Certificate of Naturalization

After the five-year period as an immigrant had elapsed, the naturalization was formally recorded. In this document, too, the new citizen declared "that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility in the kingdom whence he came, or elsewhere." Under oath, two character witnesses, citizens of the United States, declared "that they are well acquainted with the above named petitioner, and that, to their knowledge and belief, he has resided within the limits, and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for five years last past, and for one year last past within the State of Wisconsin; that during the same period, he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same."

1 Act of January 29, 1795 (1 Stat. 414), see Bolger, Background History.
2 de Haas, Nordamerika 2, pp. 1–2.
3 See Bolger, Background History.

Upon acquiring citizenship, the applicant reaffirmed under oath: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I hereby renounce any title of nobility or order of nobility to which I have a claim or might have a claim in the future, and that I absolutely and entirely renounce all allegiance and loyalty to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, particularly to the King of Bavaria."
With this, the immigrant, his wife, and all his children under the age of 21 became full citizens of the United States of America.



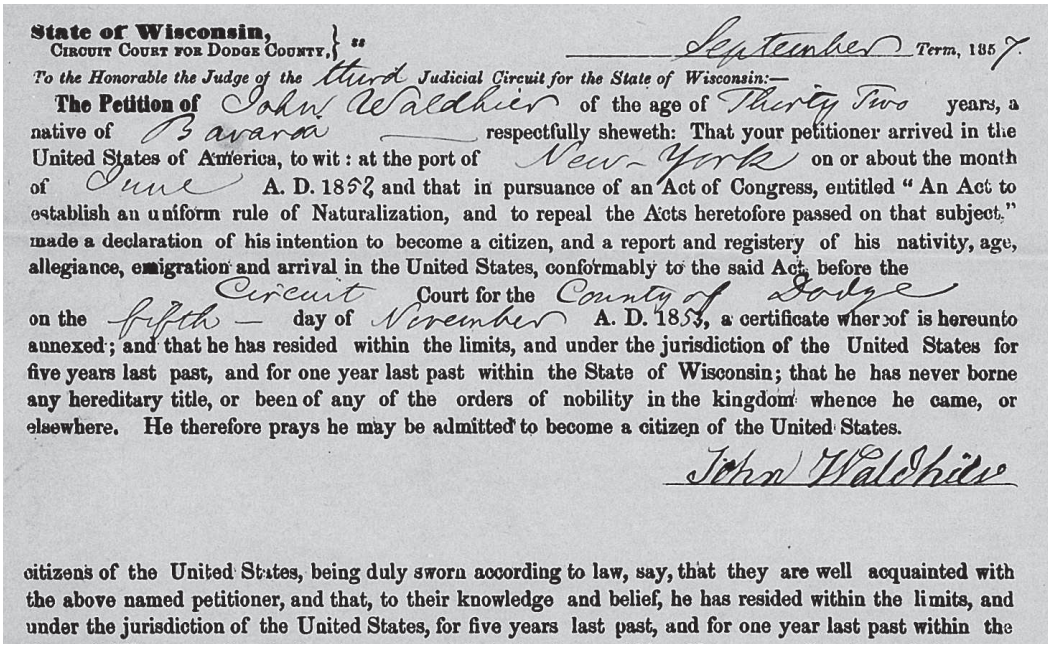
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, } John Waldhier personally appeared before
DODGE COUNTY, ss. }

the subscriber, Clerk of the Circuit Court for said County, being a **Court of Record**, and made oath that he was born in Bavaria on or about the year Eighteen hundred and twenty five that he emigrated to the United States, and landed at the port of New York on or about the month of June in the year eighteen hundred and fifty two that it is *bona fide*, his **Intention to Become a Citizen** of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the King of Bavaria whereof he is a subject.

Subscribed and sworn to this 5th day of November A. D. 1853 Johan Waldhier

Application for Naturalization of Johann Waldhier from Hohenschambach, November 5, 1853 (excerpt)



State of Wisconsin, } "
Circuit Court for Dodge County, } September Term, 1857.

To the Honorable the Judge of the Third *Judicial Circuit for the State of Wisconsin:—*

The Petition of John Waldhier of the age of Thirty Two years, a native of Bavaria respectfully sheweth: That your petitioner arrived in the United States of America, to wit: at the port of New-York on or about the month of June A. D. 1852 and that in pursuance of an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization, and to repeal the Acts heretofore passed on that subject," made a declaration of his intention to become a citizen, and a report and registery of his nativity, age, allegiance, emigration and arrival in the United States, conformably to the said Act, before the Circuit Court for the County of Dodge on the fifth day of November A. D. 1853, a certificate whereof is hereunto annexed; and that he has resided within the limits, and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the State of Wisconsin; that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility in the kingdom whence he came, or elsewhere. He therefore prays he may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States.

John Waldhier

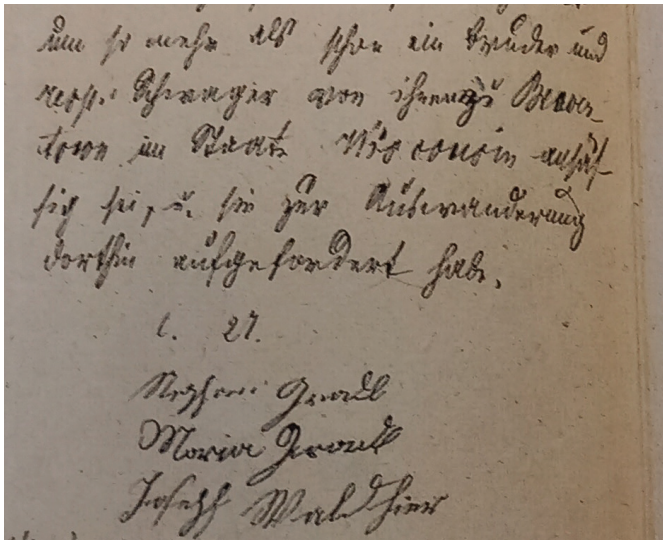
citizens of the United States, being duly sworn according to law, say, that they are well acquainted with the above named petitioner, and that, to their knowledge and belief, he has resided within the limits, and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for five years last past, and for one year last past within the

Naturalization of Johann Waldhier, October 2, 1857 (excerpt)

Contacts with the Old Homeland

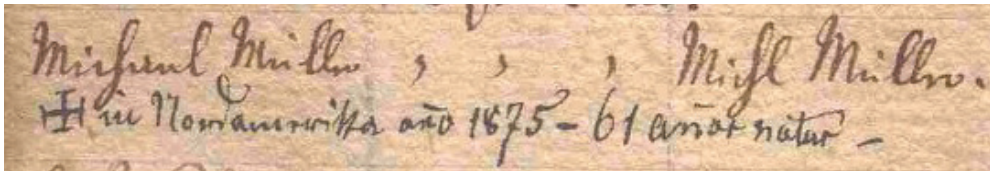
The letters sent by emigrants to their relatives back in Bavaria have already been mentioned (see p. 36). They served as important tools for encouraging other family members to emigrate, offering advice on preparing for and carrying out their travel plans, and informing them how and where to locate their relatives in North America.

Occasionally, these letters also played a role in the processing of emigration applications. One such instance occurred around 1860, when Stephan Gradl from Maierhofen applied for permission to emigrate with his wife and six children. His application noted his intention to join his brother, who had emigrated ten years earlier and was then living in *Beaver Town, state Wisconsin* (Town of Beaver Dam) (see illus.).[1]



Emigration application of Stephan Gradl from Maierhofen, 1860 (Excerpt, StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1117)

Correspondence between the emigrants and their home communities was maintained for many years. In this way, for example, news of the death of Michael Müller, a farmhand who had emigrated from Painten in 1847, was entered into the records of his home parish after he passed away in America at the age of 61, twenty-eight years after his departure.[2]

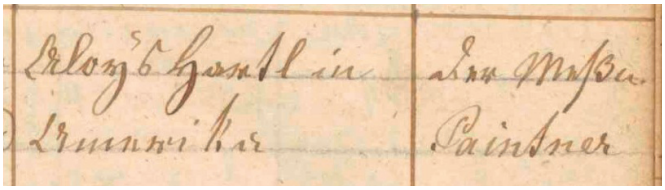


Baptismal entry for Michael Müller dated June 25, 1814 in Painten with the addendum "† in Nortdamerika anno 1875" (BZAR, Painten 003_0124)

Godparenting Across the Ocean

Alois Hartl, a carpenter who emigrated from Schneckenbach to Wisconsin with his wife and five children in 1853, appears as a godfather in the registers of his home parish of Eilsbrunn even five years after his departure. He is listed as a godfather for three children of a fellow carpenter, Georg Wolfseher. In one instance, the entry specifies *Aloys Hartl, jetzt in N. Amerika*, and in another, *Aloys Hartl in Amerika* (see illustration).[3] Hartl had already served as godfather at the baptisms of the Wolfseher children in the years prior to his emigration and continued this tradition from Beaver Dam. He was represented in this role by the sacristan.

1 StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1117.
2 BZAR, Painten 003_0124.
3 We are indebted to Helmut Weltmaier (Munich) for drawing our attention to these baptismal entries.



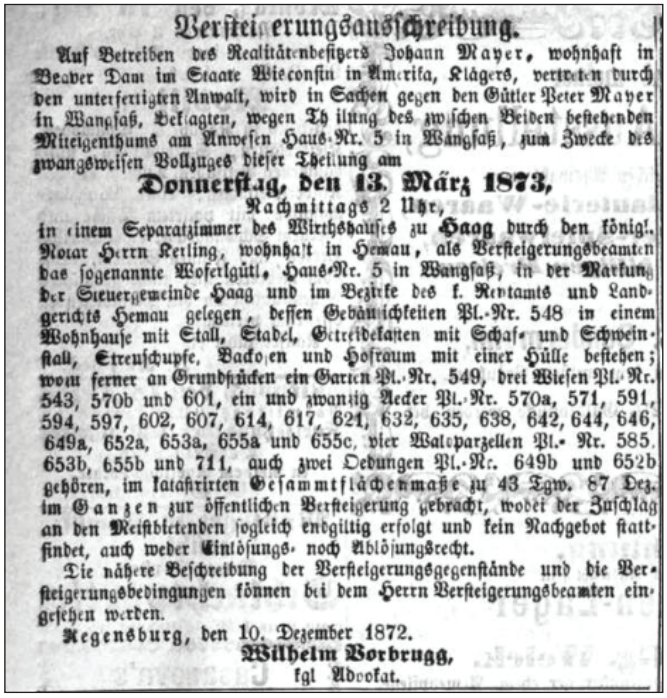
"Aloys Hartl in Amerika" as godfather in Eilsbrunn, on October 6, 1858 Proxy: "der Meßner Paintner"

Seeking a Bride Back Home

Jakob Kolb, who was born in Kapfelberg in 1821 and who emigrated to America in 1852 with his wife and three children aboard the "Germania," settled in Beaver Dam. When his wife, Anna Maria, née Kobler (1821–1866), passed away at the age of 45, Kolb traveled back to his homeland to look for a new bride. He found her in Franziska Schwank (born 1835), the daughter of the gelder Joseph Schwank from Neukelheim. He traveled with her to New York via Bremen on the paddle steamer "Western Metropolis."[4] On this modern ship first launched in 1863, the crossing took just 17 days. The wedding was celebrated in Beaver Dam shortly after their return, on July 4, 1867[5] – American Independence Day – even though the "Western Metropolis" passenger list already listed the couple under the surname Kolb.

Inheritance Matters

Inheritance issues also kept emigrants connected to their homeland, as seen in the case of Johann Evangelist Maier (1818–1897), who had arrived in America on the "Mary" in 1853 and settled in Beaver Dam. He was a co-heir to the family estate at Wangsaß No. 5 (Hohenschambach parish), which continued to be farmed by his two brothers who had remained unmarried. When one of the two died in 1868, Johann claimed his share of the inheritance from Wisconsin. Since the remaining brother, Peter Maier, apparently could not buy him out, the farmstead in Wangsaß was sold at auction in 1873.[6]



Versteigerungsausschreibung.

Auf Betreiben des Realitätenbesitzers Johann Mayer, wohnhaft in Beaver Dam im Staate Wisconsin in Amerika, Klägers, vertreten durch den unterfertigten Anwalt, wird in Sachen gegen den Gütler Peter Mayer in Wangsaß, Beklagten, wegen Theilung des zwischen Beiden bestehenden Miteigenthums am Anwesen Haus-Nr. 5 in Wangsaß, zum Zwecke des zwangsweisen Vollzuges dieser Theilung am

Donnerstag, den 13. März 1873,

Nachmittags 2 Uhr,

in einem Separatzimmer des Wirthshauses zu **Haag** durch den königl. Notar Herrn Kerling, wohnhaft in Hemau, als Versteigerungsbeamten das sogenannte Woferlgütl, Haus-Nr. 5 in Wangsaß, in der Markung der Steuergemeinde Haag und im Bezirke des k. Rentamts und Landgerichts Hemau gelegen, dessen Gebäulichkeiten Pl.-Nr. 548 in einem Wohnhause mit Stall, Stadel, Getreidekasten mit Schaf- und Schweinstall, Streuschupfe, Backofen und Hofraum mit einer Hülle bestehen; wozu ferner an Grundstücken ein Garten Pl.-Nr. 549, drei Wiesen Pl.-Nr. 543, 570b und 601, ein und zwanzig Aecker Pl.-Nr. 570a, 571, 591, 594, 597, 602, 607, 614, 617, 621, 632, 635, 638, 642, 644, 646, 649a, 652a, 653a, 655a und 655c, vier Waldparzellen Pl.-Nr. 585, 653b, 655b und 711, auch zwei Oedungen Pl.-Nr. 649b und 652b gehören, im katastrirten Gesammtflächenmaße zu 43 Tgw. 87 Dez. im Ganzen zur öffentlichen Versteigerung gebracht, wobei der Zuschlag an den Meistbietenden sogleich endgiltig erfolgt und kein Nachgebot stattfindet, auch weder Einlösungs- noch Ablösungsrecht.

Die nähere Beschreibung der Versteigerungsgegenstände und die Versteigerungsbedingungen können bei dem Herrn Versteigerungsbeamten eingesehen werden.

Regensburg, den 10. Dezember 1872.

Wilhelm Vorbrugg,
kgl Advokat.

Auction Notice for Property No. 5 in Wangsaß (Regensburger Tagblatt, December 16, 1872)

4 Cf. p. 35 and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Metropolis_(1863_ship).
5 Cf. Howard–Geschel, pp. 7–8.
6 StAAm, Hemau Kataster 209 and "Regensburger Tagblatt" of 16 Dec., 1872.

Careers and Destinies

The emigrants who turned their backs on our region between 1846 and 1861 came from diverse social and economic backgrounds. They belonged to various age groups and had differing reasons for emigrating.[1] They also had varied experiences and career paths in their adopted home of America. For many farmers, expectations of more profitable farming and better prospects for their children were fulfilled. Domestic servants realized their dreams of marriage, settling down, and establishing their own farms. A small number failed, fell into poverty, or even returned to their homeland. In this chapter, we will explore some typical biographies before presenting brief profiles of all the featured emigrants (and their families) from the study area in the next chapter.

Scouts and Pioneers

Johann Fröhler and Joseph Landfried from Netzstall

A common feature of the emigration process was the role of individuals who traveled ahead to scout conditions in the foreign land. The experiences they gathered helped the relatives, neighbors, or friends who followed later to organize their journeys and made settling in the New World easier for them.

Such scouts included Johann Fröhler[2] (* 1809) and Joseph Landfried[3] (1806–1883), unmarried farmers' sons from the village of Netzstall near Painten, where they had grown up as neighbors. They were among the early emigrants from the Hemau court district. When they left the country in 1846, they were 37 and 40 years old and had most recently worked as farmhands. Their parents' farms in Netzstall (house numbers 6 and 7) had by then been handed over to a brother in each case.

Landfried possessed 400 guilders and hoped that America would offer a *better opportunity to settle down and marry.* The veracity of his statement is supported by the fact that he traveled with Anna Maria Obermaier (1811–1884), an unmarried domestic servant from Kollersried with whom he had an illegitimate child: two-and-a-half-year-old Lukas (1843–1917). Anna Maria could present 55 guilders, and the records state: *The aforementioned Landfried is covering her travel expenses.* The marriage restrictions in force in Bavaria were evidently a reason for the emigration of the couple, who were no longer young, and their child. Like Johann Fröhler, they saw no future for themselves in Bavaria. The latter possessed assets of 228 guilders upon his departure and cited the *hope of higher wages* as his reason for emigrating.[4]

The three had evidently planned their emigration together, as their passports were all issued on the same day, July 24, 1846. In late summer, they set out with little Lukas for Hamburg, where they embarked on the Hamburg barque "Washington" alongside 140 other German emigrants. They arrived in New York on October 2, 1846.

It is known that Joseph Landfried initially moved to Chicago with his wife and child. At the time, the city was experiencing unimaginable growth: between 1840 and 1850, its population rose from 4,470 to nearly 30,000.

1 Cf. pp. 6–7 ("Causes of Emigration") and pp. 12–13 ("Social Status of the Emigrants").

2 The "Fröhlich" family first appears in the Hemau administrative district ("Pflegamt") in 1652; the name was initially recorded inconsistently — appearing as "Fröhlich" (with or without an "h") and, up until the 19th century, as "Fröllich," "Frehlich," "Freller," "Frela," "Frele," and "Fröller" — before the spelling "Fröhler" finally became established there. After arriving in America, the family evidently preferred the older form of the name, "Froehlich." Johann Fröhlich is likely identical to the "Johan Feller" listed on the passenger manifest of the "Washington."

3 Landfried was baptized "Franz Joseph" but consistently referred to himself simply as "Joseph Landfried."

4 StAAm, RegInn 298.

In the following decade, it climbed to 112,000. There was work for all newcomers here, and even unskilled laborers earned many times what they would have made at the wage rates prevailing in Bavaria at the time. For this reason, Chicago was a popular first stop for less affluent immigrants. As a farmer's son from Bavaria, one could earn enough start-up capital here in just a few years to establish one's own farm in Wisconsin by taking advantage of its low land prices (see the chapter "Settlement," pp. 66–67).

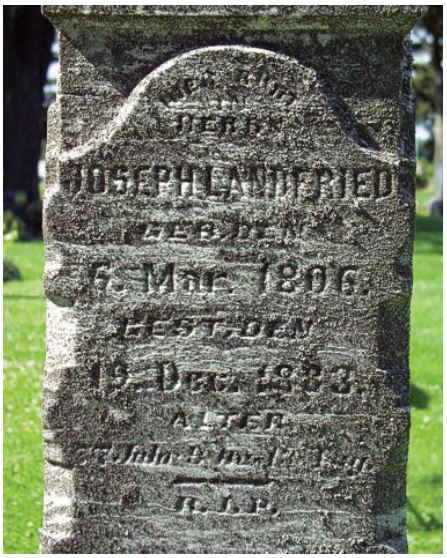
As previously noted, there are no historical records from Beaver Dam's early days that reveal the exact arrival dates of the first Bavarian or Catholic immigrants. Joseph Landfried is believed to have arrived in Beaver Dam with his wife and three children no later than 1853.[5] From 1854/55 onwards, Johann Fröhler also appears in the registers of St. Peter's parish.

Landfried and Fröhler were among the pioneers who were the first to make their way from their Upper Palatinate homeland to Beaver Dam, where they joined forces with the groups arriving in 1852/53 (see pp. 36–39). Landfried became a naturalized citizen on December 1, 1859, at the age of 53. In the 1870 census, he is listed as a farmer in the town of Beaver Dam with real estate valued at 2,000 and personal assets of 600 dollars.[6]

The role of Landfried and Fröhler as scouts is evident from the subsequent arrival of relatives: in 1848, Johann Fröhler's unmarried sister Anna Maria (* 1807) had followed him to America. In 1850, their older brother, the day laborer Joseph Fröhler (1803–1866) from Painten, emigrated with his wife and two children and settled on a farm in the town of Lowell, near Beaver Dam.

In 1852, Johann Georg Landfried (1815 – ca. 1855) also came from Hohenschambach to Beaver Dam, where he joined his third cousin, Joseph Landfried, and his family. Johann Georg settled in the town of Westford.

Johann Fröhler and Joseph Landfried, who had arrived in the country as farmhands with only a few hundred guilders in their pockets, had both succeeded in establishing their own farms in Wisconsin and died as respected citizens of their new home, Beaver Dam. When Joseph Landfried passed away on December 19, 1883, at the age of 77, his four surviving children were married and living in Beaver Dam – three of them to sons and daughters of immigrants from the previously mentioned cohorts of 1852/53 (Hartl, Rödl, Schweiger). His obituary states: *He was classed among the old settlers, having resided here over thirty years. He was an honorable, upright old gentleman, respected by all who knew him. He was buried from St. Peters's Catholic church, of which he was a consistent member.*[7]



Gravestone of Joseph Landfried (1806–1883) at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam

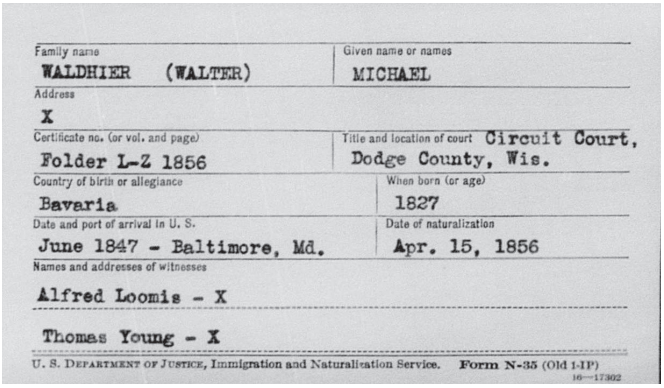
5 Obituary dated December 27, 1883.
6 US Federal Census 1870.
7 Obituary in the „Beaver Dam Argus" of December 27, 1883.

Michael Waldhier from Hohenschambach

Michael Waldhier (1827–1889) from Hohenschambach must also be counted among the scouts from the Tangrintel region. He, too, came from a farm that his brother was slated to take over. When Waldhier arrived in Baltimore in June 1847, he was only 19 years old; technically, he should not have been allowed to emigrate without his parents. Above all, however, he should have completed his military service in the Bavarian Army. At that time, every able-bodied Bavarian man between the ages of 19 and 23 was subject to compulsory military service.

Michael Waldhier likely left his homeland to escape military service. The fact that no record of his departure can be found in relevant Bavarian sources also points to a so-called "clandestine," or illegal, emigration. He had presumably already received his share of the inheritance from the family farm, which his brother took over in 1847/48.

Unfortunately, it is not known where he spent his first years in America, but he reappears – now married – in the early church records of St. Peter's in Beaver Dam: On August 26, 1855, he and his wife had a daughter named Johanna baptized there. The following year, he obtained U.S. citizenship. Michael Waldhier's experiences as a scout and his letters to Hohenschambach encouraged his relatives back home to follow in his footsteps. Five years after his emigration, three of his siblings, along with their families, and his father traveled to Wisconsin (see pp. 76–79 and 184–185). They all arrived in New York in 1852 on the "Germania" and later became co-founders of St. Peter's parish in Beaver Dam.



Family name: WALDHIER (WALTER) | Given name or names: MICHAEL
Address: X
Certificate no. (or vol. and page): Folder L-Z 1856 | Title and location of court: Circuit Court, Dodge County, Wis.
Country of birth or allegiance: Bavaria | When born (or age): 1827
Date and port of arrival in U. S.: June 1847 - Baltimore, Md. | Date of naturalization: Apr. 15, 1856
Names and addresses of witnesses:
Alfred Loomis - X
Thomas Young - X
U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form N-35 (Old 1-IP)

Index card with details regarding Michael Waldhier's naturalization

Peasants Become Farmers

The Müller Family from Wolflier

Immigrant farming families who had previously sold their properties in their homeland enjoyed an easier start than the farmhands and day laborers. With the proceeds – even after deducting all debts and travel expenses – they usually possessed substantial funds. Given the low land prices in Wisconsin (see pp. 66–67), this allowed them to acquire significant tracts of land immediately upon arrival. The Müller family from the hamlet of Wolflier serves as one such example.

Aegid Müller (1808–1893) had been married for 16 years and was farming the property at Wolflier No. 1 with his wife, Maria Theresia, née Ferstl (1809–1887), when in March 1852 he submitted his application to emigrate. On April 1, 1852, he sold his farm comprising 75 "Tagwerk" (approx. 64 acres) of land for 7,800 guilders[8] and; just a few days later, set out for Bremen with his wife and four children, aged two to thirteen.[9]

8 8 Cf. StAAm, Hemau Kataster 291 and 293.

9 Five of the nine children born to Maria Theresia Müller (née Ferstl) were stillborn or lived for only a few days.

On April 22, together with 54 other emigrants from the immediate vicinity (see passenger list on p. 37), they boarded the emigrant ship "Germania," bound for New York.

On June 13, they disembarked and set out for the West. Upon arriving in Wisconsin, they purchased a team of oxen, which they used to cover the final leg of the journey from Milwaukee to Beaver Dam. According to family tradition, they arrived there on June 24, 1852, and initially found shelter in a log cabin shared with several other families. The settlement was still heavily wooded at the time, and the Millers had their first encounters with some of the indigenous people still living in the area.

After a three-month period of getting settled, they were able to leave the temporary housing and initially settled in Watertown, about 20 miles south of Beaver Dam. However, after just three years, they returned to the Beaver Dam area and, on October 16, 1855, purchased a farm in the neighboring township of Calamus,[10] where they spent the rest of their lives.

In the 1860 census, *Agie Miller* is listed as a farmer with real estate valued at 3,400 dollars and personal assets of 1,500 dollars. The family name had been Anglicized from Müller to Miller, a minor change, given that it had frequently been spelled that way in the old church records of Hohenschambach.



Aegid (1808–1893) und M. Theresia Miller, née Ferstl (1809–1887)

When Aegid Miller and his wife Therese, née Ferstl, died in Calamus in 1893 and 1887, respectively, they were buried in Beaver Dam.

The Brother, Georg Michael Müller

Aegid's 49-year-old unmarried brother, Georg Michael Müller (1802–1874), had also set out for America along with Aegid and his family. Until then, he had worked as a day laborer and arrived with the intention of staying with his younger brother Aegid's family and helping out on his brother's future farm. According to family tradition,[11] however, he changed his plans while in steerage during the 52-day crossing, after meeting and befriending Maria Theresia Dietz (1823–1892), a 29-year-old farmer's daughter from Schacha who was traveling alone. While still aboard the "Germania," the two reportedly decided to marry upon arrival and strike out on their own. After deducting travel expenses from the 885 guilders they had possessed collectively before their departure,[12] enough money remained for them to purchase a plot of land west of Beaver Dam. Shortly after their arrival on July 13, 1852, they acquired a 40-acre tract in the town of Westford, on which they established a farm of their own, and where, over the course of the years, five children were born to them.

10 Personal communication from Phyllis Tratar; cf. https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Miller-37901.

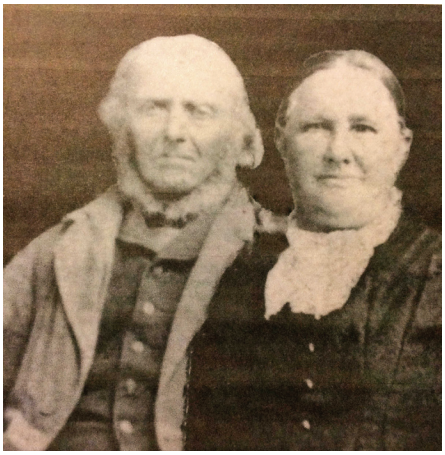
11 Personal communication from Phyllis Tratar (née Miller), Beaver Dam.

12 Georg Michael Dietz possessed 450 gulden, Maria Theresia Dietz 435 gulden (StAAm, RegInn 298).



Michael Miller with two of his children

It was likely letters sent home by Therese Dietz that prompted her siblings to follow her to the New World within a year. In the spring of 1853, the passenger list of the "Mary" includes her brother Georg Joseph Dietz (1816–1885) with his wife and a one-year-old son (see p. 97), as well as her sister Elisabeth (1818–1907) with her husband Peter Kleindl (1822–1902) and their two children, aged two years and nine months respectively (see pp. 130–131). The entire Dietz sibling group settled in and around Beaver Dam.



Michael and Therese Miller, née Dletz, before1874

Land Speculators

The Waldhier Family from Hohenschambach

Michael Waldhier, the scout who had arrived in America in 1847 at the age of 19, has already been mentioned. In 1852, his family followed him to Wisconsin. His brother, Johann Evangelist Waldhier (1824–1859), married since 1848 to Katharina Maier (1827–1909) and owner of the family farm, sold his "Bodenbauerhof" (Hohenschambach No. 18)[13] on March 13, 1852, for 5,700 guilders,[14] leaving him with 4,500 guilders after the settlement of debts.[15] A few days later, he filed an application with the Hemau district court to emigrate to North America.

When he set out for Bremen with his wife and two children in early April, five other close relatives accompanied him. The entire group consisted of the following individuals:

- Johann Ev. Waldhier with his wife Katharina Maier and their children Johann Bapt. (one year nine months old) and Anna Maria (ten months old),
- His sister, Anna Margarethe Waldhier (1818–1892) married since 1839 to Georg Joseph Graf (1811–1884), a farmer from Hohenschambach No. 21, and their daughter Magdalena (eleven years old),
- His father, Johann Michael Waldhier (* 1789), a widowed retired farmer, accompanied by his eighteen-year-old daughter Katharina Waldhier.

13 Cf. Boehm et al., Hausnamen.
14 StAAm, Hemau Kataster 260.
15 StAAm, RegInn 298.

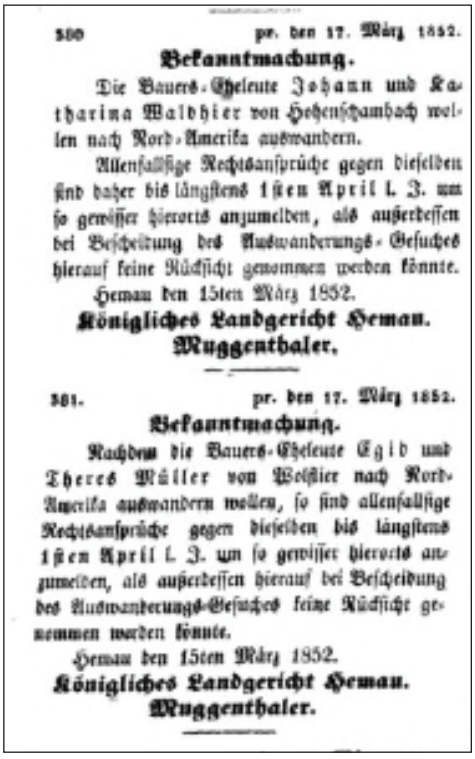
The traveling retiree is representative of several similar cases where elderly people – Johann Michael Waldhier was 63 – went to America with the family of their farm successor. They essentially moved with the guarantors of their retirement and spent their twilight years as "boarders"[16] with their children and grandchildren.

The accompanying married couple, Georg Joseph and Anna Margarethe Graf, née Waldhier, had sold their property, the "Thalhof" in Hohenschambach No. 21.[17] (This family is given its own section further down in the chapter "Biographical Sketches").

At the latest in Bremen, the nine-member family group met the other emigrants from the neighboring villages – including the Müller family from Wolflier – unless they had already traveled there together, for which, however, there is no concrete evidence. As part of the often-cited first cohort of 60 subjects, they set sail on the "Germania" on April 22, 1852. During the 52 days in steerage, the Waldhiers' ten-month-old daughter, Anna Maria, died. Her body was committed to the Atlantic Ocean.

After arriving in New York, the family immediately made their way to Beaver Dam, where they were reunited at the end of June with their brother, Michael Waldhier, who had emigrated five years earlier.

The Waldhier and Graf families had considerable funds after selling their ancestral properties: Johann Ev. Waldhier had 4,500 guilders, his father Johann Michael Waldhier 1,200 guilders, and Georg Joseph Graf 6,000 guilders.



500 pr. den 17. März 1852.

Bekanntmachung.

Die Bauers-Eheleute Johann und Katharina Waldhier von Hohenschambach wollen nach Nord-Amerika auswandern.

Allenfallsige Rechtsansprüche gegen dieselben sind daher bis längstens 1sten April l. J. um so gewisser hierorts anzumelden, als außerdessen bei Bescheidung des Auswanderungs-Gesuches hierauf keine Rücksicht genommen werden könnte.

Heman den 15ten März 1852.

Königliches Landgericht Heman.
Muggenthaler.

501. pr. den 17. März 1852.

Bekanntmachung.

Nachdem die Bauers-Eheleute Egid und Theres Müller von Wolflier nach Nord-Amerika auswandern wollen, so sind allenfallsige Rechtsansprüche gegen dieselben bis längstens 1sten April l. J. um so gewisser hierorts anzumelden, als außerdessen hierauf bei Bescheidung des Auswanderungs-Gesuches keine Rücksicht genommen werden könnte.

Heman den 15ten März 1852.

Königliches Landgericht Heman.
Muggenthaler.

Excerpt from the "Intelligenzblatt" of March 17, 1852, announcing the emigration of the Waldhier family of Hohenschambach and the Müller family of Wolflier

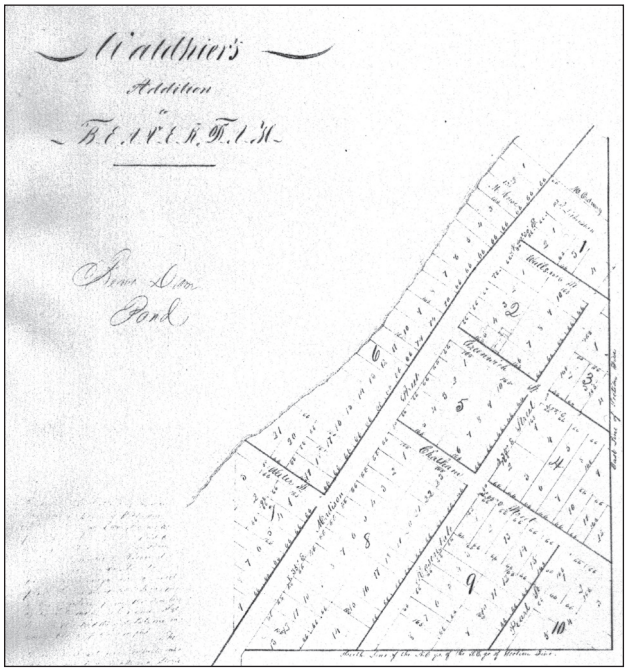
Johann Waldhier used his financial resources to purchase the already established farm of James Connor. The 40-acre area was located on the southwestern edge of Beaver Dam and bordered Beaver Dam Lake to the west. In retrospect, it was what could be described as a "zone for future development." The timing could not have been more favorable, because Beaver Dam experienced a population increase in the 1850s that was unique in its history, namely from 500 to about 2,770 inhabitants.[18] This period also saw Beaver Dam's connection to the railway network and the incorporation of the settlement when it was granted a City Charter.[19] It was likely in anticipation of these developments, both of which took place in 1856, that Waldhier hired a surveyor to plat his property, or divide it into lots, and then applied to register the plat with Dodge County as an addition to the settlement of Beaver Dam which was then still part of the Town of Beaver Dam. The plat was recorded by the Register of Deeds of Dodge County on March 26, 1855, and the land was added to the settlement as "Waldhier's Addition"

16 Johann Michael Waldhier was listed as a "boarder" in the household of his widowed daughter-in-law, Anna Margarethe, in Beaver Dam in the 1860 census.

17 Cf. Boehm et al., Hausnamen.

18 See the box on Beaver Dam's population growth on p. 57.

19 Cf. pp. 49–50 and 56–57.



Copy of plat from 1855 showing Johann Waldhier's plan for subdividing his property which went down in city history as "Waldhier's Addition"
(Engineering Department, City of Beaver Dam)

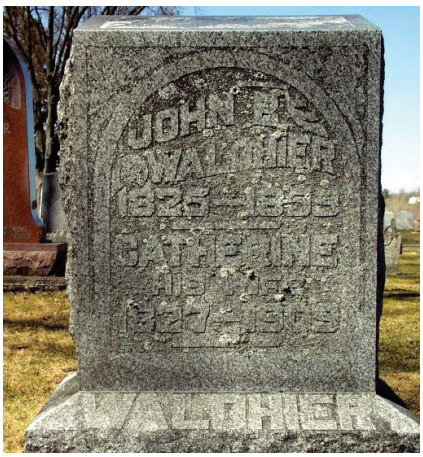
(see illus.).[20] Waldhier was then able to resell the property in individual lots to families and business owners wishing to settle in Beaver Dam.

His wife's obituary reveals that the family's log cabin was located by the lake and that they kept oxen as draft animals. Waldhier is also said to have operated a sand pit.

John Waldhier became a naturalized citizen on October 2, 1857 (see p. 69). The previous year, when Beaver Dam's first city council was elected on June 4, 1856, Waldhier had already been chosen as one of the council members ("aldermen") representing the city's 1st Ward.[21]

However, his American success story was short-lived; just two years later, on August 17, 1859, he passed away at the age of only 34. He left behind his widow, Katharina; their son, Johann Baptist, born in Hohenschambach in 1850; and three daughters born in Beaver Dam. His father also survived him.

Katharina apparently never remarried. In the 1860 census records, she appears in Beaver Dam as a widow living with her four children aged four to ten and her 71-year-old father-in-law. Her real estate holdings were valued at 3,000 dollars, and her cash assets at 500 dollars. This placed her among the city's more well-to-do citizens. The properties of her neighbors – including a brewer, a carpenter, and a gunsmith – were listed with values predominantly in the low three-figure range.[22]

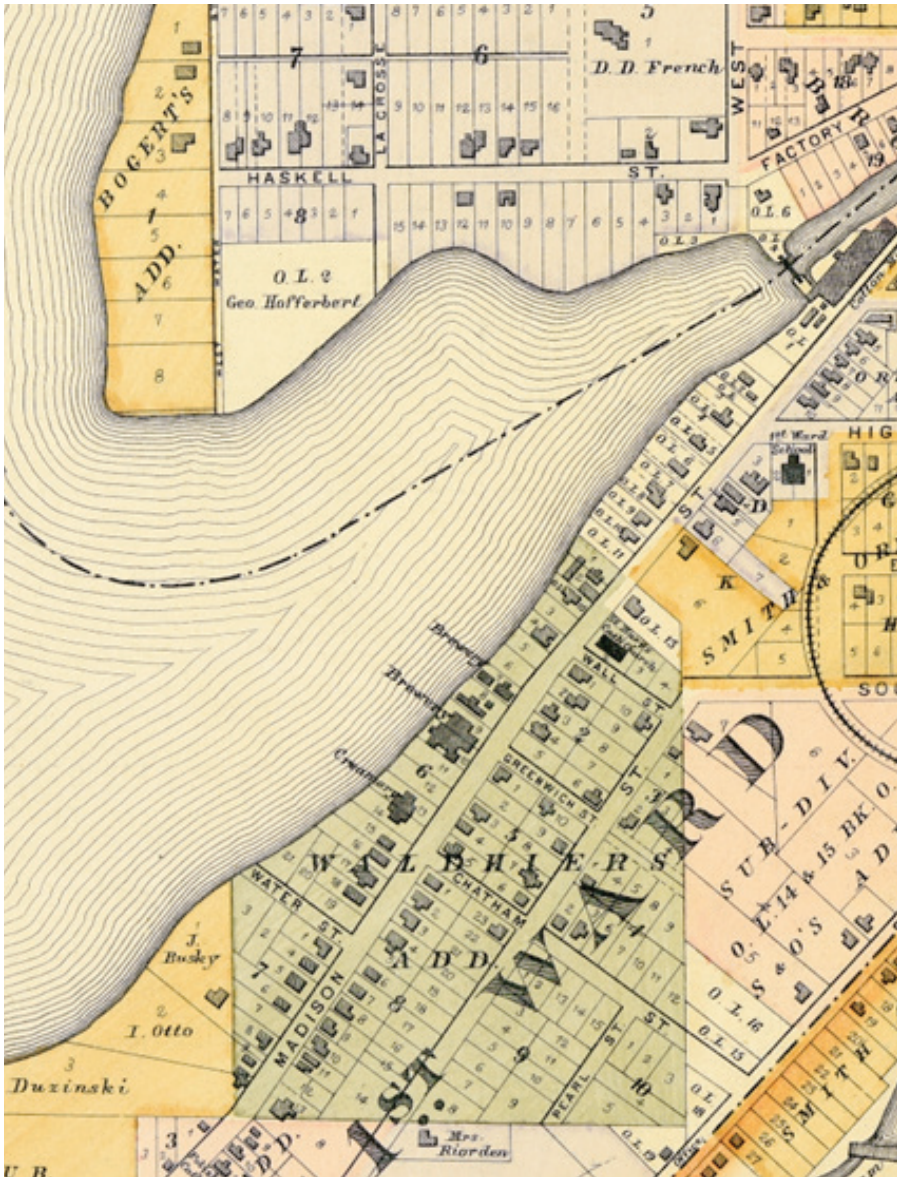


Gravestone of John Waldhier (1824–1859) and Catherine Waldhier, née Maier, (1827–1909), at St. Peter's in Beaver Dam.

Katharina Waldhier, née Maier, outlived her husband by 50 years. She spent the last three of those years with her daughter Kate in Milwaukee. When she passed away there in her 82nd year on October 4, 1909, her body was transported to Beaver Dam and buried in St. Peter's Cemetery beside her husband.

Another daughter, Mary, was living in Minneapolis in the neighboring state of Minnesota. The third, Anna, had died in Beaver Dam in 1878. Only the son, Johann Bapt. Waldhier, remained in Beaver Dam, where he died in 1932 at the age of 81. Michael Waldhier (1827–1889), the pioneer

20 Personal communication from Mr. Todd Janssen, Director of Engineering, City of Beaver Dam.
21 Cf. Historical Committee (ed.), Centennial History, p. 36.
22 US Federal Census 1860.



"Waldhier's Addition" (green) on the plat map of Beaver Dam City, 1890 (detail)

who had drawn the entire family to Wisconsin, had also moved to Minnesota, where he lived with his wife and three children in the city of Hastings.[23]

With "Waldhier's Addition," the Waldhier family from Hohenschambach secured a place in the history of the city of Beaver Dam.

Beaver Dam's St. Mary's Catholic Church was also built in 1861 on a plot of land that had previously belonged to the Waldhier family (see pp. 57–58).[24]

23 US Federal Census 1860.

24 See Johnson, Early Catholic Church Property, Sheet No. 26.

Unmarried Couples Marry and Become Settlers

Jakob Aukofer from Reichenstetten and Anna Maria Wechselberger from Kapfelberg

Typical emigrants from Bavaria during that era included young people who, due to strict legal restrictions on marriage and settlement,[25] had no prospect of being allowed to marry, let alone acquiring land of their own. It often took many years for a couple to acquire the necessary means to get permission to marry and settle down, which resulted in a high rate of children born out of wedlock (If a marriage license was then obtained, it generally also legitimized the couple's children born up to that point). The large number of unmarried individuals with illegitimate children among the emigrants should be viewed in this context. Sometimes these couples already appear on passenger lists – even though they are not yet married – under a shared last name.[26] One of their first steps in the New World usually led them to the altar, and often they went on to have remarkable careers in America.

The case of Jakob Aukofer serves as an example. He, too, arrived in America in 1852 aboard the "Germania." Traveling with him was his fiancée, Anna Maria Wechselberger.[27]

Jakob Aukofer was born on October 15, 1827, the second of eight children born to the farmer Sebastian Aukofer (1791–1844) and his wife Katharina Rummel (1801–1873), at House No. 6 in the village of Reichenstetten, in the parish of Kapfelberg. He had six brothers and one sister. Following the early death of his father, the widow appears to have continued running the farm with the help of her growing sons – the eldest of whom was 18. The son Sebastian (1835–1874) was designated as the heir to the farm, destined to carry on the baptismal name of his father and grandfather.

Jakob Aukofer, who was 17 years old when his father died, became a carpenter. At the age of 23, he had a child before marriage with the 22-year-old Anna Maria Wechselberger (1828-1903) from Kapfelberg, the daughter of a cooper. The child, Joseph, born in August 1851, lived for only 13 days. Soon after the infant's death, hoping for a more promising future and the ability to marry, Jakob Aukofer and Anna Maria Wechselberger resolved to set out for America with others from the area willing to emigrate.

Presumably equipped with Jakob's payout from his share of the family farm, the couple arrived in New York on June 13, 1852,[28] and, like most of their fellow passengers, traveled on to Wisconsin. Their plan was evidently to settle in Beaver Dam. Immediately after their arrival, they realized the American promise of "easier opportunities for marriage." Since Beaver Dam did not yet have its own Catholic church, they had to walk to Watertown, located about twenty miles away, where a Catholic parish had existed since 1843.[29]

Jakob Aukofer and Anna Maria Wechselberger settled in Beaver Dam where Jakob first worked as a carpenter. Later they established their own farm in the town of Beaver Dam, which they expanded repeatedly over the years. The 1873 plat book records them as owning 220 acres of land. Their marriage produced eleven children,[30] some of whom forged ties with the descendants of immigrants from the Hemau district. Among those

25 Cf. pp. 7–8.

26 Examples of unmarried couples who traveled on passenger lists under a shared last name: p. 71 (Kolb), p. 91 (Amberger), p. 97f. (Dietz), p. 182 (Urbanger), p. 191 (Zweck).

27 Also spelled "Wexelberger."

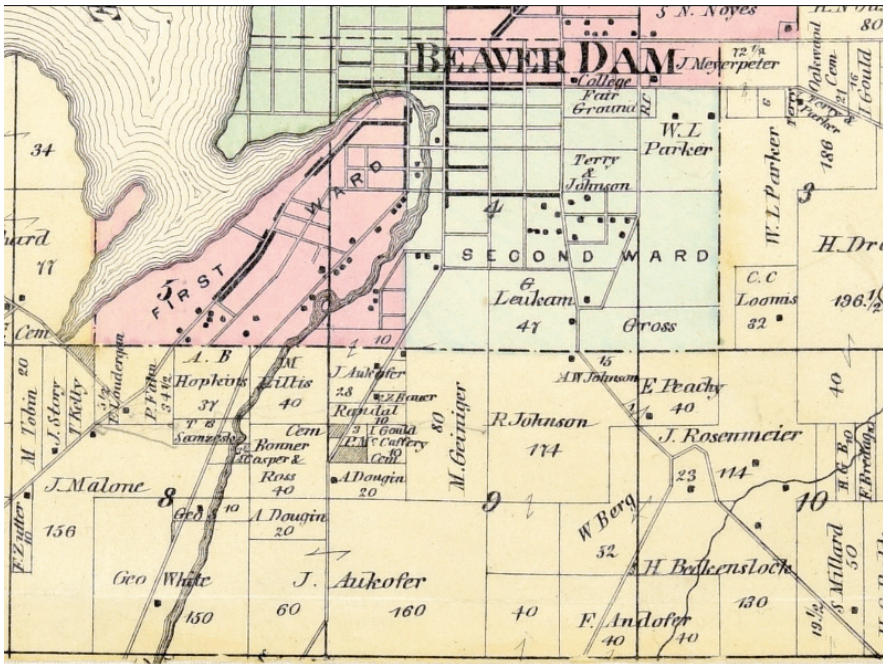
28 Cf. p. 36.

29 Cf. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Bernard%27s_Church_Complex (9 June 2026).

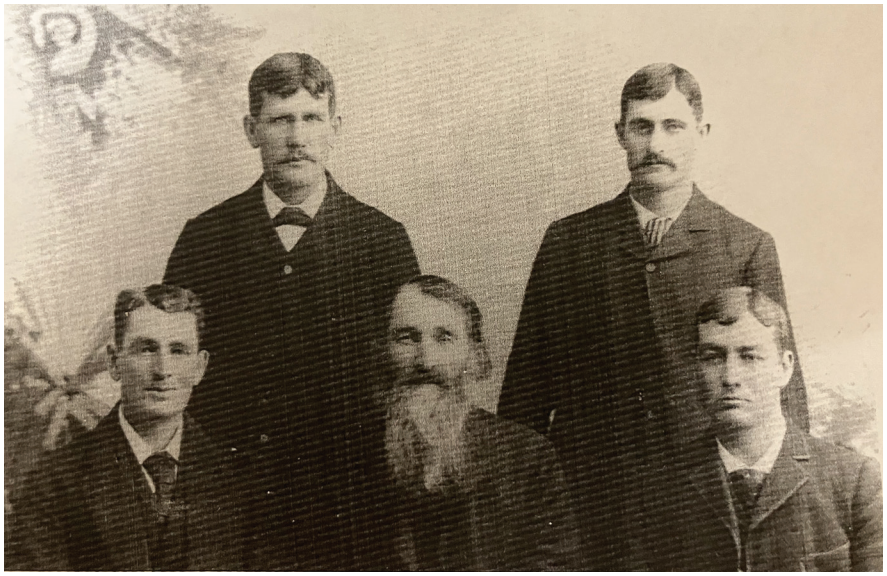
30 Cf. obituary on www.findagrave.com.

who soon became related by marriage to the Aukofers were the Beer, Hammer, Karl, and Stang families, who will be discussed further below.

Jakob Aukofer had risen from the son of a smallholder to become a prominent farmer and a respected member of the civic community of Beaver Dam. In his younger years, he was a co-founder of Beaver Dam's first Catholic parish and helped build the St. Peter's churches of 1855 and 1861. At the age of 72, he was appointed to the committee of notables tasked with constructing the parish church that still stands today.[31] One of the stained-glass windows in the house of worship – consecrated in 1900 – still bears witness to his bond with St. Peter's parish.[32]



Jacob Aukofer's farm in the town of Beaver Dam, Sections 8 & 9, with 220 acres (Atlas of Dodge County, 1873)



Jacob Aukofer, surrounded by two sons and two sons-in-law; Back, from left: Anton Bohl (1855–1941) and Albert Hammer (1863–1917); Front, from left: John Aukofer (1855–1914), Jacob Aukofer (1827–1901), and Joe Aukofer (1867–1911) (Photo in the private collection of the Bohl family, Beaver Dam)

31 Cf. p. 60.
32 Cf. p. 64.



Jakob Aukofer died in 1901, one year after the completion of St. Peter's Church, on his 74th birthday. His widow also reached the age of 74 and followed him on May 22, 1903. Both found their final resting place in the St. Peter's cemetery.

Grave of Jacob (1827–1901) and Anna Maria Aukofer, née Wechselberger (1828–1903), at St. Peter's cemetery of Beaver Dam



Clandestine Departure

One challenge in researching emigration is the phenomenon of so-called clandestine emigration. This term refers to individuals whose applications for emigration were rejected, or who, anticipating a negative decision, never applied at all yet still left the country "secretly." These individuals failed to meet one or more of the officially required conditions for an emigration permit. Excessive debt, insufficient assets, the lack of a certificate of good conduct, or unfulfilled military service obligations could constitute such an obstacle.[33]

Since these emigrants left no traces in the relevant official records, any assessment of the scale of unauthorized emigration must rely on estimates. Authorities at the time faced the same situation, estimating the proportion to be between one and two percent.[34]

Due to the absence of records in emigration files, traces of illegal emigrants generally do not appear until the ship passenger lists. Unauthorized departure from the homeland apparently played no role regarding immigration to America. Since the illegality of the emigration was not documented elsewhere, one must ultimately rely on circumstantial evidence suggesting such a scenario.

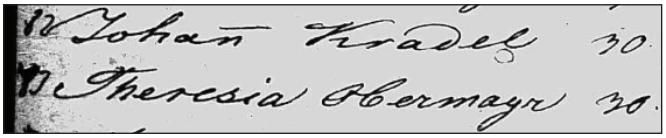
We saw an example of this in the case of 19-year-old Michael Waldhier from Hohenschambach, who presumably fled to avoid his military service obligation (see p. 74).

33 34 See p. 14f.

34 See Albrecht, p. 134ff.

Johann Gradl and Therese Obermaier from Kollersried

We must also assume that Johann Gradl (1820–1899) emigrated secretly. In 1850, he set out for America via Le Havre with his partner, Theresia Obermaier (1819–1908). Bavarian exit documents were not required in Le Havre. Furthermore, the fact that the surname always spelled "Gradl" back home appears as "Kradel" on the ship's passenger list may well stem from the fact that Gradl could not produce any official documents. While there were many other Bavarians among the 432 passengers on the "Seine," there were none with whom Gradl and his fiancée had any discernible connection. All these signs point to the conclusion that the couple had emigrated secretly.



Johann Kradel (Gradl) and Theresia Obermayr on the passenger list of the "Seine," 1850

Johann Gradl was born on August 24, 1820, in Dietkirchen in the court district of Kastl. In 1842, he moved with his parents to Kollersried. There, following the dissolution and breakup of the local "Hofmark" (manorial estate), they had purchased its manor house, House No. 3, along with outbuildings and several plots of land for 1,882 guilders. Just two years later, they exchanged the property for House No. 28 in Kollersried[35]

The transfer of the family estate to his younger brother Joseph (* 1827) was probably the reason for Johann Gradl's emigration. However, the decisive factor in the resolution to go to America was likely the letters from Anna Maria (1811–1884), sister of Theresia Obermaier, who had emigrated four years earlier with her future husband, Franz Joseph Landfried (1806–1883), and who was now living in Chicago with him and their three children (see pp. 72–73).

Johann Gradl and Theresia Obermaier also headed there after arriving in New York on September 19, 1850. They married in Chicago and spent their first few years there alongside their Landfried relatives, until, from 1854 onwards, the entire group is found in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. There, the Gradl couple had four daughters and two sons.

By this time, both the Gradls and the Landfrieds had acquired their own farms. The 1860 census lists them as neighbors in the town of Beaver Dam, each owning real estate valued at 800 dollars.[36]

Eleven years after Johann Gradl's presumably clandestine emigration, his younger brother Stephan Gradl (1821–1903) also decided to leave Bavaria to join his American relatives (see p. 109)). He arrived in Beaver Dam in 1861 with his wife and six children; there, the Gradl brothers, Johann and Stephan, and the Obermaier sisters from Kollersried were reunited.

Johann Gradl died at the age of 78 on April 10, 1899. His widow lived to be 88 and followed him in death on February 14, 1908. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

35 Cf. Ostermeier, Chronik, p. 259.

36 Cf. US Federal Census 1860; the surname is listed there as "Grattle."

The Undecided, the Unsuccessful and Returnees

The emigration records also mention individuals who, although they went through the bureaucratic steps of emigration preparation, for various reasons apparently remained in their Bavarian homeland. One is reported to have died on his journey to Bremen.[37] In addition, there were emigrants who did leave, but whose plans for the New World did not materialize, and others who – falling into hardship – returned to Bavaria.

Anna Maria Eckert (* ca. 1810), the unmarried maid from Etterzhausen who did not collect her passport, was mentioned above (see p. 17). A similar case is that of the bricklayer Franz Joseph Bösl (* 1824) from Painten, who submitted an emigration application in 1847,[38] but ultimately remained in the country. It is possible that the remarriage of his 54-year-old, recently widowed father, Ferdinand Bösl, had been the reason for him to consider a future in America. Instead, in 1851, Joseph Bösl married Therese Treffer, the daughter of a carpenter, in Painten.

Johann Georg Eckl (* 1823), the son of a smallholder from Nittendorf, went through the emigration process and received his passport on February 11, 1853. He must have been overcome by homesickness while still in Nuremberg, and he returned to Nittendorf, where he married four years later.[39]

Martin Rappl (* 1811) from Grafenstadl, who came to the United States in 1846 from Bremen via New Orleans with his wife Katharina Friedl (* 1808), was dogged by misfortune.[40] The two had been married for eleven years and had since had eight children, none of whom lived longer than a few weeks. In 1846, they sold their property at Grafenstadl No. 6 and decided to make a new start across the Atlantic. With cash assets of 1,600 guilders, they set off for America. Rappl's further fate is recounted in the emigration records: *According to news already received, all his cash was stolen, a few days after his arrival, whereupon he became a day laborer in Columbia, Pennsylvania.*[41] His sister, Anna Maria Rappl (* 1818), was not deterred and emigrated to America in 1852 together with her husband, Michael Graf (* 1819) from Kollersried, and their daughter (see p. 111).

The Remigrant Anna Rost

The range of experiences of our emigrants also includes return migration after setbacks or due to disappointed expectations. As an example, let us describe the case of a young woman who tried to escape her precarious circumstances in her homeland. Her return to Bavaria was just one episode within a bumpy life story.

On February 9, 1853, Anna Rost (* 1829),[42] the daughter of a basket maker from Loch, appeared before the Hemau district court to apply for permission to emigrate to North America.[43] Anna was only 23, but she had already given birth to two illegitimate children in 1850 and 1852. The children did not survive, and her relationship with their fathers was not lasting. Meanwhile, she had chosen a new partner with whom she wanted to emigrate to America. Before the District Court, she stated that she was traveling with Vinzenz Reitner, the son of a smallholder from Haugenried, in order to settle there with him and marry him. Her 67-year-old father, the

37 See p. 106, Joseph Glockner.
38 Cf. „Intelligenzblatt," April 23, 1847.
39 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1132.
40 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
41 Ibid.
42 The entry dated 2 April 1829 in the Deuerling parish baptismal register lists the name as "Anna Maria," though the second given name was omitted in later documents.
43 StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1148.

cottager Georg Rost (1785–1855), had come with her to express his consent to the emigration of his daughter, who was still a minor. Also present was Anna's brother, the basket maker Paul Rost (1816–1866), who, as the owner of the family estate, stated for the record that he would hand over 175 guilders to his sister before her departure.[44] Furthermore, he declared that he would stand surety for any debts or other legal obligations she might have.

However, Anna Rost's emigration was delayed when it emerged, prior to her departure, that she did indeed have debts that first needed to be settled. The amount in question was 24 guilders. One of the two creditors, Anna's brother-in-law Jakob Heinrich, who was owed nine guilders, had made contact from prison in order to collect his money.

Because the processing of the debt payments and the issuance of receipts dragged on for several weeks, Anna Rost missed the scheduled departure date of her ship. The plan to set out with the group of emigrants who boarded the "Mary" in Bremen on March 18 (see pp. 38–40) fell through, as the final receipt confirming the settlement of the debts was dated that very day.

Her prospective travel companion and, according to Anna, her future husband Vinzenz Reitner apparently lacked the patience to wait until she had sorted out her finances. He set sail on March 18. According to the passenger list of the "Mary," he gave Wisconsin as his destination and traveled without any luggage! After settling her affairs, Anna Rost set out alone for Bremen, where, on March 27, she began the Atlantic crossing aboard the "Friedrich Groß." On the ship, she was evidently alone among 188 other passengers.

Although the "Friedrich Groß" had departed just nine days after the "Mary," it arrived in New York twenty-four days later than the earlier vessel. By the time she arrived on May 26, Anna Rost had spent sixty days in steerage. Presumably, she had originally intended to travel on to Wisconsin, just as her "travel companion" Vinzenz Reitner, who had gone ahead of her, had done. However, her journey ended in the city of Albany on the Hudson River, where the Erie Canal – the route to the West – began. She had likely run out of money to fund the rest of the trip and remained in Albany, where she met Georg Stadler, a gardener of the same age from the Straubing area, whom she married on July 16, 1854. Their son, also named Georg, had already been born on June 5, 1854.

Ten years later, the American Civil War (1861–1865) brought the marriage to an end: the father of the family was killed on May 12, 1864, eighteen days before the birth of a third son, Johann. Georg Stadler (1829–1864) was killed in action at the Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia and was buried in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery.

The loss of her husband prompted Anna to turn her back on America and return to her Bavarian homeland after thirteen years. She apparently expected to find shelter, at least temporarily, with the family of her brother Paul Rost, the owner of the family estate in Loch. Her parents had passed away in 1855 and 1860. Anna's goal was to re-establish her right of residence in the community. In early 1866, she set out across the ocean with her three sons: Georg (eleven), Joseph (seven), and Johann (two). Yet, dogged by misfortune, upon her arrival in Loch in April 1866, she found only her grieving sister-in-law and the latter's eight-month-old baby boy, Georg (1865–1870) – the only one of her nine children to survive. Her brother, Paul Rost, had died just a few days earlier at the age of 49 from a pulmonary ailment (presumably tuberculosis).

44 At that time, 175 guilders was the minimum amount of assets officially required for the granting of an emigration permit.

Anna initially found shelter with her brother's widow, Anna Maria, née Zweck (* 1821). From there, she pursued efforts to obtain a residency permit for Loch, or, more broadly, the municipality of Nittendorf. Documents preserved in the Amberg State Archives regarding the legal domicile ("Heimat") of Anna Stadler, née Rost, span the period from August 1866 to June 1867 and offer revealing insight into the socio-political and societal conditions of the Kingdom of Bavaria at the time.[45]

The municipality of Nittendorf resisted readmitting the basket maker's daughter and her three children after her return from America. Yet Anna was not entirely destitute; by her own account, she received a lifelong pension from the U.S. government as a war widow, amounting to eight dollars (twenty guilders) per month.[46] She also earned some money through occasional work as a day laborer.

Initially, officials doubted her claims regarding her marriage and pension, fearing that Anna Rost and her children might become a financial burden on the municipality of Nittendorf. Anna dispelled these doubts on September 11, 1866, when, summoned to appear before the Hemau district court, she was able to present her marriage certificate from the Catholic parish office in Albany as well as documentation confirming her pension entitlement. On this occasion, Anna stated that she was not seeking to establish a formal right of domicile ("Heimatanspruch") in Loch or the municipality of Nittendorf but merely wished to secure a right of residence. Furthermore, she placed on record that she *might be willing to return to North America.*

While Anna and her three children were tolerated for the time being, their living conditions deteriorated once more when, on January 29, 1867, the widow and sister-in-law married the 54-year-old widower and retired farmer Michael Schwaiger. This evidently prompted Anna to look for new accommodation for herself and her boys, which she eventually found in the hamlet of Steinerbrückl in the neighboring municipality of Deuerling. The situation escalated over the course of the year as the Nittendorf municipal administration intensified its arguments against tolerating Anna Stadler's presence and informed the regional court that Anna's son Georg, now twelve years old, had committed several thefts. Shortly thereafter, they leveled further accusations, claiming she had become involved with a certain day laborer *of ill repute* named Georg Eigenthaler, who was constantly present at her home, *even at night.* Anna admitted to her son's thefts but, to no avail, denied the allegation of an illicit relationship with Georg Eigenthaler.

The file concludes with a document dated June 18, 1867, recording that Anna Stadler had once again been summoned to Hemau and informed that, *should she through an immoral lifestyle — endanger public peace, safety, or morality in the municipalities of Nittendorf and Deuerling — her expulsion from Nittendorf or even her banishment from the territory would be ruthlessly enforced.*

She was also informed *that Georg Eigenthaler was permanently forbidden from staying in her home, whether by day or night, on grounds of public morality.*

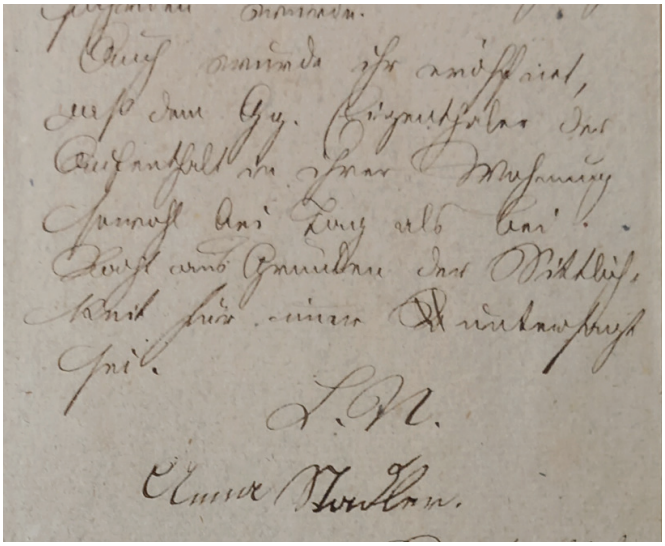
The Nittendorf municipal administration was instructed to notify *the unmarried day laborer of ill repute, Georg Eichenthaler, that, on grounds of morality, his further access to and presence in the apartment of the widow A. Stadler, currently in Steinerbrückl, is permanently prohibited under penalty of the punishments envisaged in Art. 148 of the Penal Code. It was further stated: Proof of notification must be submitted, and report given here, should the subject contravene this ban on residence.*

45 StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1148.

46 The amount roughly corresponded to the monthly wage of a craftsman in Bavaria (cf. https://www.blf-online.de/sites/default/files/blf_arti- kel_dateien/015-loehne.pdf).

The entire procedure likely stirred memories for Anna Stadler as to why, fourteen years earlier as a young woman whose lifestyle did not conform to societal ideals, she had left her homeland and set out for a country about which the emigrant Michael Schmaus wrote to his relatives in Nittendorf as late as 1913: *This is a good land; one is not plagued by police and gendarmes.*[47]

The records are silent regarding the subsequent fate of Anna Stadler, née Rost. There is some evidence suggesting that she did indeed return to America. She had stated on several occasions that she intended to do so, wishing only to wait for the semi-annual payment of her pension to finance the crossing. Unfortunately, despite various indications, no documentary evidence of her return to the USA could be found; however, her son Joseph Stadler (* 1858) later reappears in his birthplace, Albany. In the 1900 census, he is listed there as an engineer, with a wife and two children aged fourteen and nineteen.[48]



End of the document regarding the threat of deportation and expulsion from the country, dated 18 June 1867, bearing the signature of Anna Stadler, née Rost (StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1148)

47 47 See Hock, Auswanderung, p. 3.

48 See https://www.ancestry.de/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4114476_00807?ssrc=pt&treeid=53587540&personid=140025241240&usePUB=true&tpId=18211754.

Biographical Sketches of Emigrants (and Their Families)

The following chapter, the most extensive in this book, presents biographical sketches of all the individuals studied in this work. It covers those persons and families who left the former court district of Hemau and several adjacent municipalities between 1845 and 1861 to emigrate to North America.

For the sake of completeness, the chapter also includes those individuals who went through the application process but ultimately remained in the country, as well as those emigrants who were already featured in earlier sections of the book.

The varying levels of detail in these short biographies reflect the respective availability of sources. In the interest of clarity, the entries are arranged in alphabetical order. Appropriate cross-references highlight the numerous and often complex interconnections – primarily kinship ties – among the emigrants.

Genealogical symbols used: ∗ = born, ⚭ = married, † = died, ▭ = buried.

Other abbreviations: Par. = Parish, CD = Court District, Co. = County.

Achhammer, Georg Michael[1]

Biographical data:	∗ 1817 Wangsaß, † 1875 Chicago, IL
Place of origin:	Wangsaß No. 7, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets:	400 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL

Achhammer traveled accompanied by Barbara Hanfstingl (1821–1888), a maid from Painten (see p. 118). On May 29, 1847, they received their emigration permit and traveled via Le Havre to New York.[2] After their arrival in the USA, they married and settled in Chicago. In 1860, the couple is found there with three children. Michael Achhammer is listed as a laborer with real estate valued at 600 dollars. By 1870, the family had moved within Chicago; Achhammer then worked as a gardener, owned real estate valued at 6,000 dollars, and possessed cash assets of 200 dollars. The Achhammer family lived in the immediate vicinity of Martin Hanfstingl's family.[3]

Achhammer, Karl

Biographical data:	∗ 1811 Klapfenberg, † 1878 Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Klapfenberg, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmhand / Unmarried son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI

1 Spelling variants: „Achamer", „Achheimer" etc.; The first given name was omitted in later documents.
2 StAAm, RegInn 298.
3 Cf. US Federal Census 1860.

Karl Achhammer was 42 years old when he emigrated to North America on the "Germania" in 1852. In 1860, he and his wife Catherine (ca. 1814–1886) operated a farm valued at 100 dollars in the town of Calamus and possessed assets of 100 dollars. He died in Calamus on January 29, 1878. Catherine died in the city of Beaver Dam on September 7, 1886. Both were buried in St. Mary's.



Gravestone of Karl Achhammer (Achamer) at St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam (Photo: R. D. Mittelstadt)

Altmann, Johann Baptist

Biographical data:	* 1816 Aicha, † 1877 Town of Fredonia, Ozaukee Co., WI
Place of origin:	Aicha No. 5, Par. Aichkirchen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	?
Residence in USA:	Town of Fredonia, Ozaukee Co., WI

In the 1860 census, Joh. Bapt. Altmann is listed, along with his wife and six children, as the owner of a farm valued at 700 dollars.

Altmann, Johann Peter

Biographical data:	* 1822 Mantlach, Par. Painten, CD Hemau, † 1869 Town of Lowell, Dodge Co., WI[4]
Place of origin:	Hohenschambach No. 23, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Wagon maker / Married
Wife:	Wasner, Regina, * 1825 Hohenschambach, † 1880 Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Wolfgang (1850–1876)
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mary"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

In 1853, Johann Peter Altmann, a farmer's son and trained wagon maker from Mantlach near Painten, set out for North America with his wife Regina Wasner from Hohenschambach, daughter of a master wagon maker, and their two-and-a-half-year-old son Wolfgang. According to the passenger list of the "Mary," the family traveled with two pieces of luggage, something otherwise seen only with larger families. Altmann may have been carrying specialized tools for his trade as a wagon maker.

On July 28, 1855, the couple had another son named John baptized in Beaver Dam. The godparents were Aegid Müller, originally from Wolflier, and his wife Theresia (see p. 74–75).

4 Cf. „Dodge County Citizen", Beaver Dam, Oct. 7, 1869, p. 3.

Amann, Jakob

Biographical data:	* 1795 Kapfelberg, † 1861 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI
Place of origin:	Kelheimwinzer No. 18, Par. Saal, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Söldner") / Married
Wife:	Wirth, Magdalena, * 1808 Kelheimwinzer, † 1865
Children:	Georg (1839–1908), Katharina (1841–1925), Jakob (1842–1922), Franz (1844–1904), Franziska (1847–1914), Kreszenz (1852–1934)
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mercury"
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI

From 1835 onwards, Jakob Amann and his second wife, Magdalena Wirth, farmed a smallholding ("Sölde") at Kelheimwinzer No. 18, where eight children were born to them. In 1853, they gave up their property and emigrated to North America with six children between one and fourteen years old. According to the passenger list, they were accompanied by two adults, Maria (29) and Joseph Amann (38), who were likely relatives. They chose the seaport of Le Havre to embark on the Atlantic crossing, as the journey was cheaper from there than from Bremen. They probably traveled there as a group with the Biersack and Hartl families from Schneckenbach, with whom they also shared the ship. In Le Havre, they boarded the "Mercury," as part of a total of 535 steerage passengers, including 119 from Bavaria. They arrived in New York on September 27, 1853, and from there made their way to Beaver Dam, where they farmed in the town of Westford. Jakob died on October 28, 1861, and Magdalena on October 14, 1865. Both were buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Amberger, Georg

Biographical data:	* ca. 1814
Place of origin:	Undorf, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmhand / Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Assets:	200 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

After completing his six-year military service in 1848, Georg Amberger worked as a farmhand in Undorf. The place and exact date of his birth are unknown. Provided with 200 guilders by his parents, he emigrated in 1852 together with his future wife, Barbara Böhm from Steinerbrückl (see p. 95).[5]

Georg Amberger and Barbara Böhm had been a couple for a long time. In January 1849, a son, Sebastian, was born to them, though he lived for only a few days. Their second child, Jakob (born August 19, 1851), is mentioned in the emigration application but does not appear on the passenger list of the "Germania," making it doubtful whether he accompanied his parents to America.

Although the couple was not yet married at this time, Barbara Böhm appears on the aforementioned passenger list as Mrs. Amberger. Nothing could be ascertained about the family's whereabouts in America.

5 Cf.StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1123.

Aukofer, Jakob

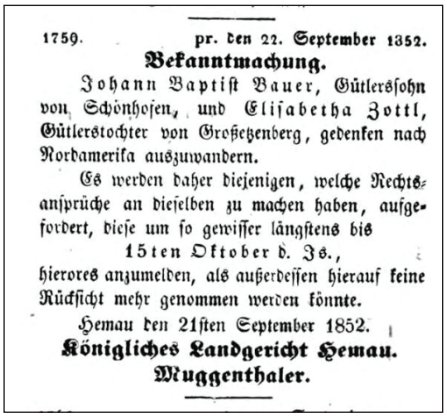
Biographical data: * 1827 Reichenstetten, † 1901 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Reichenstetten, Par. Kapfelberg, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

See pp. 80–82 for the biographical sketch on Jakob Aukofer and his wife A. M. Wechselberger (1828-1903). Jacob Aukofer died on October 15, 1901. His wife Anna Maria died on May 22, 1903. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Bauer, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1816 Schönhofen
Place of origin: Schönhofen No. 5, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1852/53 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Bapt. Bauer was the son of Georg Bauer and Katharina, née Weichsner, who farmed a smallholding ("Sölde") in Schönhofen. He traveled together with A. Elisabeth Zottl (* 1808), (see p. 190).



1759. pr. den 22. September 1852.

Bekanntmachung.

Johann Baptist Bauer, Gütlerssohn von Schönhofen, und Elisabetha Zottl, Gütlerstochter von Großetzenberg, gedenken nach Nordamerika auszuwandern.

Es werden daher diejenigen, welche Rechtsansprüche an dieselben zu machen haben, aufgefordert, diese um so gewisser längstens bis

15ten Oktober d. Js.,

hierores anzumelden, als außerdessen hierauf keine Rücksicht mehr genommen werden könnte.

Hemau den 21sten September 1852.

Königliches Landgericht Hemau.

Muggenthaler.

Announcement of the emigration of Joh. Bapt. Bauer and Elisabeth Zottl. September 10, 1852.

Bauer, Mathias

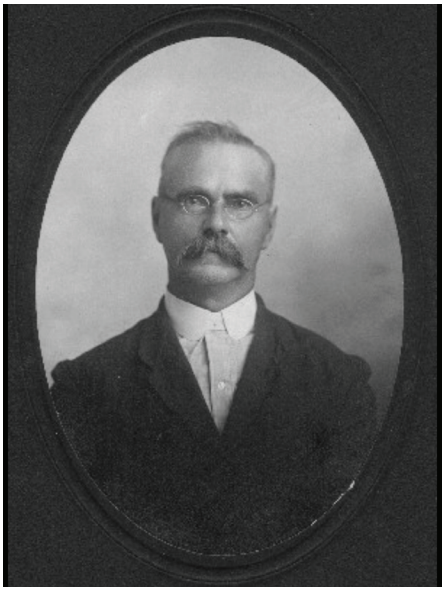
Biographical data: * 1817 Walddorf, † 1879 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Walddorf (Ihrlerstein), Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Married
Wife: Robach, Katharina, * 1826 Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein), † 1901 Town of Trenton, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Joseph (1847–1900), Mathias (1852–1913)
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI (1853–1861); Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI (1861–ca.1871); Town of Beaver Dam, WI (from ca. 1871)

Mathias Bauer, son of a mason, was a carpenter and homeowner in Walddorf, who emigrated in 1853 together with his wife, Katharina Robach, daughter of a colonist from Neukelheim No. 17, and their two young children. The marriage record dated April 14, 1850, contains the following note: *NB: Emigrat-*

ed to America on February 22, 1853.[6] A note was also added later to the children's baptismal records: *Emigrated to America with his parents on February 22, 1853.* Before their departure, the couple had four children, three of whom were born out of wedlock. Two of them died; one, Johann Baptist, passed away at the age of three from measles, six months before his parents emigrated. The sons who accompanied their parents to America were Joseph (1847–1900) and – as a four-month-old infant – Mathias (1852–1913).

On October 21, 1854, another son, George, was born to the couple in Beaver Dam (see portrait on p. 55). He is the subject of the first baptismal entry, dated January 14, 1855, in the parish register of St. Peter's in Beaver Dam. The baptism was performed by Father Martin Kundig; the godparents were Georg and Anna Landfried (see pp. 53–54).[7]

In 1860, the family is listed as farmers in the town of Beaver Dam, with real estate valued at 480 dollars. By that time, three additional children had been born to the Bauer couple, so the family appears in the 1860 census with four sons and two daughters, ranging in age from six months to 13 years. In 1861, Mathias purchased a farm in the town of Calamus. About 1871, he moved back to the town of Beaver Dam on a 77-acre farm. According to her obituary, Katharina Bauer, née Robach, gave birth to a total of 15 children, 11 of whom reached adulthood.[8]



Mathias „Matthew" Bauer Jr. (1852–1913) came to Beaver Dam with his parents in 1853

Mathias Bauer who had been an American citizen since 1855, died at the age of 62 on September 21, 1879. His widow spent the last 20 years of her life with her son George in the town of Trenton, Dodge County, Wisconsin. She passed away there on February 9, 1901, at the age of 74, and was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery beside her husband.

Bayer, Anna Maria[9]

Biographical data:	* 1821 Brunn
Place of origin:	Brunn, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Gütler")
Child:	Bayer, Maria Katharina (* 1850)
Assets:	300 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL

A. M. Bayer traveled with Johann Helm (see pp. 122–123), the father of her illegitimate child.

6 5 BZAR, Kelheim 011_0044.
7 Matrikel Beaver Dam, St. Peter, St. Peter 1_Dig. 29.
8 „Beaver Dam Argus", February 14, 1901
9 Spelling variants: Beier, Beyer.

Beer, Franz

Biographical data: * 1805 Endlfeld, † 1888 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Endlfeld, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 600 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / "B. Bohlen"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Pittsburgh, PA (1847–1855); Beaver Dam, WI (from 1855)

Franz Beer came to America accompanied by his future wife, Anna Maria Pilz (1813–1892) (see p. 157). They initially lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they married. In 1855, they settled in Beaver Dam, where Franz was a day laborer. The couple had four children – three daughters and one son – all of whom married and lived in Beaver Dam. Philomena (1859–1940), one of their daughters, married John Aukofer (1855–1914). Franz Beer died as "Frank Beers" on November 1, 1888, in Beaver Dam and was buried at St. Peter's Church.[10]

Beer, Klemens

Biographical data: * 1778 Frauenberg
Place of origin: Frauenberg No. 1, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer, village spokesman ("Ortsvorstand") / Married
Wife: Kölbler, Therese, * 1792 Mausheim, Par. Frauenberg
Children: Joh. Klemens (* 1807), Anna Maria (* 1822), Maria Anna (* 1825), Joh. Georg (1826–1899), Barbara (* 1827), Katharina (* 1829), Jakob (* 1833)
Assets: 2300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / "Leander"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Pittsburgh, PA

Klemens Beer was a smallholder, a temporary village spokesman ("Ortsvorstand") of Frauenberg, and the father of 21 children from two marriages: 13 from his first marriage to Margarethe Hofmeister (ca. 1778–1820) and 8 more from his marriage to Therese Kölbler (* 1792). Eleven of his children died young, most of them as infants. In 1837, his son Johann Baptist (* 1810) married Anna Goß from Schaggenhofen and probably took over the family estate at the same time.

When Klemens Beer submitted his emigration application in 1847, he was 68 years old and his wife 55. Three of his children were married. The other seven accompanied him to America, including the 40-year-old unmarried Johann Klemens (* 1807), five other children of marriageable age, and the youngest, Jakob, at 14. The reason for emigration, recorded at the District Court of Hemau, was: *hope for an improvement in their living conditions*. Presumably, those wishing to emigrate had pooled their inheritance shares of their parents' estates, so that they could boast a combined fortune of 2,600 guilders.

On October 17, 1847, they set sail from Bremen. After 55 days with 89 other passengers in steerage of the brig "Leander," they reached the port of Baltimore on December 11. Why they undertook the arduous journey

10 Cf. „The Daily", (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin), November 2, 1888.

during the winter months remains a mystery, especially since they still had to travel on to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, located about 240 miles away, where they eventually settled. One of the sons, Johann Georg (1826–1899), later ended up in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin (see below).

Beer, Johann Georg

Biographical data:	* 1826 Frauenberg, † 1899 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Frauenberg No. 1, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets:	(see Klemens Beer)
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / "Leander"
Crossing:	Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA:	Pittsburgh, PA (1847–1858); Beaver Dam, WI (from 1858)

Georg Beer,[11] a son of Klemens Beer (see p. 93), arrived in Pittsburgh at the age of 21 with his parents and six siblings; there, he married Maria Anna Krissinger (1830–1916) in 1853. In 1858, he moved on to Beaver Dam, nearly 600 miles away, to join fellow countrymen living there and established himself as a respected carpenter and joiner. The marriage produced nine children, most of whom settled in Beaver Dam.[12] A newspaper notice from January 10, 1895, mentions a trip Georg Beer took to Pittsburgh to visit relatives – presumably siblings – *whom he has not seen for forty years.*[13]

Biersack, Michael

Biographical data:	* 1814 Kareth, Par. Regensburg-Sallern, † 1873 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Schneckenbach, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife:	Hartl, Franziska, * 1825 Reichenstetten, † 1889 Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Rosina (* 1848), Franziska (1853–1907)
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mercury"
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

The Biersacks belong to a family group made up of four Hartl siblings who emigrated to Beaver Dam with their respective families in 1853 and 1854 (see Hartl pp. 119–122, and Rödl pp. 166–167).

Michael Biersack, the son of a winegrower from Kareth, settled in Schneckenbach (Eilsbrunn parish) in 1849 as a farmer ("Gütler") with his wife, Franziska Hartl. Of the four daughters born to them there, two died in infancy. The couple and their two surviving daughters set out for Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, via Le Havre in 1853. There, Biersack founded a brewery on Madison Avenue – reportedly in that same year[14] – which, however, changed hands as early as 1856. In 1860, we find *Mike Biersack* as a butcher. His assets at that time (200 dollars in real

11 The first given name was omitted in later documents.

12 Cf. „Beaver Dam Argus", April 27, 1899.

13 Cf.l. „Dodge County Citizen" (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin), January 10, 1895.

14 Cf. https://www.taverntrove.com/louis-ziegler-brewing-company-of-beaver-dam-wisconsin-usa-br-308.html (June 20, 2026) and Historical Committee (ed.): Centennial History, pp. 27 a. 95.

estate and fifty dollars in cash assets) do not suggest a successful outcome for his brewing business. Soon after, the family turned to farming. By 1870, as farmers in the city of Beaver Dam, they once again held real estate valued at 2,000 dollars.[15] Six more children were born to the couple in Beaver Dam. Michael Biersack lived to be only 58; dying of typhoid fever on May 10, 1873; his wife died at age 63 on March 12, 1889. Both were laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Böhm, Barbara

Biographical data: 1827, Steinerbrückl
Place of origin: Steinerbrückl, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a cottager
Assets: 125 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Barbara Böhm raveled with her future husband, Georg Amberger (see p. 90). She received the 125 guilders intended to cover her travel expenses from her parents.[16] Nothing is known about the family's subsequent life in America.

Böller, Johann

Biographical data: * 1819 Dürn, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Place of origin: Langenthonhausen, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried
Assets: 225 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Böller (also Beller, Peller, etc.) is one of those individuals whose emigration is recorded in the files of his local authorities,[17] but whose subsequent whereabouts could not be ascertained.

Bösl, (Franz) Joseph

Biographical data: * 1824 Painten
Place of origin: Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Mason / Unmarried

Joseph Bösl is listed here for the sake of completeness, because even though he submitted an application to emigrate, he ultimately remained in his home region (see p. 84).

15 US Federal Census 1860 and 1870
16 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1123.
17 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Bohrer, Joseph Lorenz

Biographical data: * 1801 Beratzhausen
Place of origin: Beratzhausen No. 118, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Master cabinet maker / Married
Wife: Ramberger, Kreszenz, * 1824 Seelach, Par. Beratzhausen
Child: Georg Michael (* 1846)
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Joseph Lorenz Bohrer, a master cabinet maker in Beratzhausen, had already been widowed twice when he married for the third time in 1845. His two previous marriages, spanning a total of 20 years, had remained childless. A son, Georg Michael, was born of the third marriage on November 5, 1846; he came to America with his parents as an infant.

The family was accompanied by the child's mother's 63-year-old stepfather, the widowed master baker Joseph Paulus (see p. 154).



282. pr. den 1. März 1847

Bekanntmachung.

Der Schreinermeiſter Joſeph Bohrer in Beratzhauſen und deſſen Ehefrau, dann der verwittibte Bäckermeiſter Joſeph Paulus von da, wollen miteinander nach Nordamerika auswandern.

Allenfallſige Forderungen an die genannten Individuen ſind daher ſpäteſtens bis zum Samſtag den 27ſten k. Mts. März, um ſo gewiſſer bei dem unterfertigten Königl. Landgerichte anzumelden, als eine verſpätete Anmeldung nicht mehr berückſichtiget werden könnte.

Sign. am 23ſten Februar 1847.

Königliches Landgericht Hemau.

Eder, Landr.

Announcement of the emigration of the married couple Bohrer from Beratzhausen, together with the widower Joseph Paulus, dated March 1, 1847.

Bruckmaier, Georg Michael

Biographical data: * 1827 Kochenthal
Place of origin: Kochenthal No. 9, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Georg Michael Bruckmaier was the brother of Jakob Bruckmaier (see below), who emigrated a year after him and settled in Watertown, Wisconsin. It may be assumed that Georg Michael also went to Wisconsin

Bruckmaier, Jakob

Biographical data: * 1829 Kochenthal
Place of origin: Kochenthal No. 9, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York

Residence in USA: Watertown, WI
Jakob was a brother of Georg Michael Bruckmaier.

Brüderl, Mathias

Biographical data: * 1808 Hemau
Place of origin: Hemau No. 94, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Brickmaker / Unmarried son of a blacksmith
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Dickl, Katharina

Biographical data: * 1831 Painten, † 1874 Cashton, Monroe Co., WI
Place of origin: Painten No. 19, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Gütler")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI; Town of Jefferson, Monroe Co., WI
Katharina Dickl was the daughter of the farmer ("Gütler") Sebastian Dickl (* 1794) in Painten and his wife Therese, née Waldhier (* 1803). She traveled with her future husband, Georg Prock (1824–1896) from Oberhöfen, (see p. 161).

Dietz, Georg Joseph

Biographical data: * 1816 Schacha, † 1885 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Schacha No. 12, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Married son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Wife: Lautenschlager, Barbara, * 1826 Undorf, Par. Deuerling, † 1897 Beaver Dam, WI
Child: Joseph (* 1852 Undorf)
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI
Georg Joseph Dietz from Schacha was a brother of Maria Theresia Dietz (see p. 98), who had emigrated the year before him. Another sister, Elisabeth, who was married to Peter Kleindl (see pp. 130–131), came to America on the same ship. Georg Joseph Dietz traveled with his wife Barbara, née Lautenschlager, from Undorf to Beaver Dam with their son Joseph, born out of wedlock in 1852. On the passenger list, the couple and their child appear under the shared last name "Dietz," although they were presumably not yet married (see p. 80). The family settled on a farm in the town of Westford. In 1877, before (Georg) Joseph's death on June 4, 1885, the couple moved into the city of Beaver Dam. Barbara died at her home in the city on August 8, 1897. Both were buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dietz, Maria Anna

Biographical data: * 1825 Berg
Place of origin: Berg, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?
Departed with Georg and Maria Maier[18] (see pp. 138–139)

Dietz, Maria Theresia

Biographical data: * 1823 Schacha, † 1892 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Schacha No. 12, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 435 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Maria Theresia Dietz was a sister of Georg Joseph Dietz (see p. 97) and of Elisabeth Dietz, married name Kleindl (see pp. 130–131), (all of whom emigrated in 1853). Theresia Dietz traveled to Beaver Dam as an unmarried woman in 1852. According to family tradition, she struck up a relationship aboard the "Germania" with the likewise unmarried 49-year-old Georg Michael Müller (1802–1874) from Wolflier, whom she married shortly thereafter (see pp. 75–76).). The couple settled in the town of Westford. Maria Theresia moved into the city sometime after her husband's death on February 16, 1874. She died at the home of her daughter in Beaver Dam on October 18, 1892. She is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery beside her husband.

Dinauer, Georg Michael

Biographical data: * 1817 Wollmannsdorf, † 1855 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Wollmannsdorf, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets: 600 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Michael Dinauer came to America in 1852 with his fiancée Theresa Pilz (see p. 158); the couple married there. One of the early baptisms recorded in St. Peter's Parish was that of their son Joseph Dinauer, * August 18, 1855, in Beaver Dam.[19] After Michael's early death in 1855/56, his widow married a Joseph Maier (see p. 138).

18 StAAm, RegInn 298, u. Intelligenzblatt, April 17, 1847.
19 Church records, Beaver Dam, St. Peter 1, image 31.

Dinauer, J.

Biographical data: * ca. 1825 Kleinetzenberg
Place of origin: Kleinetzenberg, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

J. Dinauer's origins and subsequent whereabouts could not be determined.

Dirigl, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1810 Ametshof
Place of origin: Ametshof, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 250 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1848 / ?
Crossing: Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Georg Dirigl was the son of the farming couple Johann Georg Dirigl and Maria Barbara, née Pritschet, from the isolated farmstead of Ametshof near Beratzhausen.

Dreyer, Simon

Biographical data: * 1824 Schönhofen
Place of origin: Schönhofen No. 50, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Cooper / Unmarried
Assets: 170 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Helvetia"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Reserve Township, Allegheny Co., PA

Simon Dreyer had just completed his six-year military service obligation when he applied for emigration permission together with his fiancée, Therese Mittermaier, the daughter of a blacksmith from Schönhofen (see p. 146). He had received the necessary 170 guilders for this from his father. He stated for the record that his reason for emigrating was the hope of *building a happy life for himself in North America.*[20]

In 1860, we find Simon Dreyer as a cooper in Reserve Township near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with his wife and three sons, aged between one and seven years, as well as real estate holdings valued at 500 dollars and financial assets valued at 75 dollars.[21]

20 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1130.
21 US Federal Census 1860.

Eckert, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1810/11 Etterzhausen[22]
Place of origin: Etterzhausen, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Domestic servant / Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / did not emigrate

Anna Maria Eckert is listed here for the sake of completeness, although she abandoned her plan to emigrate (see p. 17).[23]

Eckl, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1823 Nittendorf
Place of origin: Nittendorf No. 2, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / did not emigrate

Johann Georg Eckl applied for emigration. This was approved, and his passport was handed to him on February 11, 1853. Shortly thereafter, a note was made in the records stating that his father had reported *that his son had returned home from Nuremberg and therefore had not emigrated.*[24] In 1857, Eckl married Cäcilia Gschrei from Nittendorf.[25]

Eckmeder, Michael

Biographical data: * 1814 Rohrbach, † 1873 Oxford, Warren Co., New Jersey
Place of origin: Beilnstein No. 9, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Day laborer and homeowner / Married
Wife: Leopold, Maria Anna, * 1824 Beilnstein
Assets: 250 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Green, Sussex Co., NJ (1850); Oxford, Warren Co., NJ (1873)

The couple, married since April 1845, had lost their three-week-old child shortly before applying to emigrate. Eckmeder cited *dissatisfaction with conditions in his homeland and the hope of higher daily wages* as his reasons for emigrating. The court clerk from Hemau felt compelled to add: *He is an idle and dissolute character.* Eckmeder settled in New Jersey with his wife. We last find him in 1870 working as a laborer, owning real estate valued at 500 dollars and possessing 150 dollars in cash assets.

22 Her birth as the illegitimate daughter of Katharina Karl could not be found in the Nittendorf/Deuerling baptismal register.
23 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1131.
24 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1132.
25 BZAR, Nittendorf 008_0012.

Ehrl, Jakob

Biographical data: * 1830 Pföring
Place of origin: Pföring No. 1, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets: 700 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Jakob Ehrl emigrated in 1852 with his fiancée, Anna Maria Englmaier (see p. 102), the daughter of a farmer ("Gütler") from Laufenthal, to Beaver Dam, where they soon married. On February 18, 1855, they served as godparents at the baptism of Jacob Graf, a son of Joseph Graf and Margarethe Waldhier (see pp. 110–111).

Ehrl, Maria Katharina

Biographical data: * 1813 Langenkreith
Place of origin: Langenkreith No. 23, Par. Hemau, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

M. Katharina was a daughter of the farmer ("Halbbauer") Michael Ehrl and Anna Maria, née Maier, of Langenkreith.

Eichenseer, Martin

Biographical data: * 1780[26]
Place of origin: Hemau, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Day laborer, previously a herdsman in Schacha and Eitlbrunn / Married
Wife: Rötzer, Margarethe (2nd wife), * 1795 "Haug, Par. Finsterbach"
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

The former herdsman Martin Eichenseer was 67 years old and had been married to Margarethe Rötzer, his second wife, for 20 years. Noteworthy is the reason for emigration he cited to the regional court: namely, *a falling-out with his daughter.* No information could be obtained regarding the couple's whereabouts in America.

26 According to the marriage record dated May 22, 1827 (Hohenschambach), Martin Eichenseer was born on November 14, 1780, in "Eitlbrunn near Regenstauf"; according to the marriage record dated August 16, 1801 (Eitlbrunn), he was from Greinhof, in the parish of Burglengenfeld. However, there is no corresponding baptismal record to be found in either Eitlbrunn or Burglengenfeld.

Englmaier, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1831 Laufenthal
Place of origin: Laufenthal No. 4, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Anna Maria Englmaier emigrated to Beaver Dam with her future husband, Jakob Ehrl from Pföring (see p. 101).

Eichinger, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1822 Hillohe, † 1885 Chicago, IL
Place of origin: Hillohe, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Anna Maria Eichinger traveled in the company of her future husband, Michael Jobst from Heimberg (see p. 127), both emigration permits are dated the same day (April 2, 1852). The couple lived in Chicago, IL.

Endl, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1819 Mitterbügl, † 1900 Jefferson, WI
Place of origin: Mitterbügl, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 0 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: Jefferson, WI

Johann Georg Endl traveled together with his employer, Barbara Guttenberger (* 1791), a widowed innkeeper from Rechberg, and her children (see p. 112). Barbara Guttenberger also covered Endl's travel expenses. On August 1, 1848, in Jefferson, Endl married Anna Margarethe Fleh (see p. 103) from Unterpfraundorf.

Faltermaier, Michael

Biographical data: * 1823 Bergstetten
Place of origin: Bergstetten No. 28, Par. Laaber, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a day laborer
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"

Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Michael Faltermaier appears in Beaver Dam in May 1855 with his wife Barbara Eberl (baptism of daughter Barbara on May 11, 1855).

Ferstl, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1808 Hardt, Par. Beratzhausen, † 1867 Town of Westford, Dodge Co.,WI
Place of origin: Schwarzenthonhausen No. 9, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Graf, Maria Agnes, * 1821 Hohenschambach No. 21, † 1901 St. Benedict, Kossuth Co., IA
Children: Kreszentia (1846–1938), Franz Xaver (1848–1910), Therese (* 1850), Barbara (1851–1946)
Assets: 1,000 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI



378. pr. den 17. März 1852.

Bekanntmachung.

Nachdem die Gütlers-Eheleute Georg und Agnes Förstl von Schwarzenthonhausen nach Nord-Amerika auswandern wollen, so werden jene, welche Rechtsansprüche an dieselben haben, aufgefordert, diese längstens bis 1sten April l. J. um so gewisser hierorts anzumelden, als außerdessen bei Bescheidung des Auswanderungs-Gesuches hierauf keine Rücksicht genommen werden könnte.

Hemau, den 15ten März 1852.

Königliches Landgericht Hemau.
Muggenthaler.

Announcement of the emigration of the Ferstl family from Schwarzenthonhausen, March 15, 1852

The Ferstl couple, farmers ("Gütler") from Schwarzenthonhausen, emigrated in 1852 with four children aged between six months and five years and settled in the town of Westford. Sometime after Johann Georg's death († April 15, 1867), his widow moved to Iowa, to be near her daughter.

Fleh, Georg Michael[27]

Biographical data: * 1797 Hinterthann, † 1867 Jefferson, WI
Place of origin: Hinterthann, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Mason / Married
Wife: Rappl, Anna Margarethe, * 1788 Klapfenberg, Par. Hohenschambach
Children: Anna Margarethe (1826–1895), Barbara (* 1828)
Emigration / Ship: 1847[28] / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI

In 1846, Georg Michael Fleh's sister Anna Maria (b. 1803), who was married to Andreas Liebl, had already moved to Wisconsin (see p. 137). Fleh's daughter Anna Margarethe married Joh. Georg Endl in Jefferson in 1848 (see p. 102).

27 Spelling variants: Flöh, Flöhe, Floh.
28 Cf. Intelligenzblatt, May 26, 1847.

Forster, Johann Georg Michael

Biographical data: * 1824 Neuhöfl
Place of origin: Neuhöfl No. 3, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 250 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: ?

Joh. Gg. Michael Forster was the son of the farming couple Georg Forster and Anna, née Rauch, from Neuhöfl.

Frank, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1823 Aichkirchen, † 1910 Town of Jefferson, Jefferson Co., WI
Place of origin: Aichkirchen No. 20, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "George Hurlbut"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York[29]
Residence in USA: Town of Jefferson, Jefferson Co., WI

Anna Maria Frank traveled accompanied by her future husband, Peter Achhammer (1814–1892). Later in 1852, the couple married in Cincinnati, Ohio, and soon thereafter moved to Wisconsin, where they purchased a farm in the town of Jefferson in Jefferson County.

Fröhler, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1807 Netzstall
Place of origin: Netzstall No. 7, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1848 / ?
Crossing: Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Sister of Johann Fröhler, who emigrated in 1846 (see pp. 72–73), and Joseph Fröhler, who left Bavaria in 1850 (see p. 105).

Fröhler, Johann

Biographical data: * 1809 Netzstall
Place of origin: Netzstall No. 7, Par. Painten, CD Hemau

29 Contrary to the information in the emigration records (StAAm, RegInn 298) listing "Bremen" as the port of departure, A. M. Frank traveled via Le Havre. Such discrepancies have been noted on several occasions.

Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets: 228 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "Washington"
Crossing: Hamburg – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

One of the "scouts and pioneers" (see pp. 72–73), brother of Anna Maria Fröhler (emigrated 1848) and Joseph Fröhler (emigrated 1850) (see below).

On January 15, 1855, a son was baptized in Beaver Dam named Francis Joseph (* Dec. 14, 1854, in Beaver Dam) to John Froehlich and his wife Rosina Kleindl.[30]

Fröhler, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1803 Netzstall, † 1866 Town of Lowell, Dodge Co., WI
Place of origin: Painten No. 61, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Cottager and day laborer / Married
Wife: Weigert, Anna Maria, * 1809 Painten, CD Hemau, † 1880 Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Wolfgang (* 1836), Anna Maria (* 1840)
Emigration / Ship: 1850 / "Admiral"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Lowell, Dodge Co., WI

In 1850, Joseph Fröhler followed his siblings Johann and Anna Maria, who had emigrated in 1846 and 1848, respectively. They were the children of the farmer ("Halbbauer") Joseph Fröhler (1767–1835) of Netzstall and his wife Anna Maria Barbara Dinauer (1776–1816). In 1828, Michael (1799–1871), the eldest of the Fröhler brothers, had taken over the family estate, Netzstall No. 7.

Joseph Fröhler had been married to Anna Maria Weigert since 1834 and had settled in Painten as a day laborer. Of the five children born of the marriage, three died young, most recently Maria Katharina, who passed away on October 17, 1849, at the age of ten from an *intestinal inflammation.* The two surviving children came to America with their parents.

According to the passenger list of the "Admiral," Fröhler had named Ohio as his destination.[31] Nevertheless, in 1860, we find the family in the town of Lowell, Dodge County, Wisconsin, on the border with Beaver Dam. According to the 1860 census, he owned a farm there valued at 800 dollars. His cash assets were listed as 200 dollars.

After Joseph Fröhler's death († 1866), his widow lived in the household of her son Wolfgang in Lowell. In 1870, the farm was valued at 2,400 dollars, and Wolfgang's financial assets at 300 dollars.[32] The Fröhler family grave was located in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

30 The origins of Rosina Kleindl (listed as "Rosina Klein" in the 1855 baptismal record) could not be determined due to a lack of sources. She may be the same person as the daughter of carpenter Joseph Kleindl, who was born on April 24, 1822, in Painten.

31 The passenger list for the "Admiral" lists him as "Johan Fröller." However, the first names of his wife and children, who were traveling with him, as well as their ages, indicate that it must be "Joseph Fröller."

32 US Federal Census 1870.

Gineiger, Michael[33]

Biographical data: * 1826 Altenlohe, Par. Hemau, † 1895 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Painten No. 88, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a baker
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Michael Gineiger was born in 1826 in Altenlohe, Hemau parish, as the illegitimate child of the farmer's son Michael Gineiger (* 1804) from Klingen No. 7 and the farmer's daughter Barbara Ehrl (* 1804) from Altenlohe. Michael was legitimized upon his parents' marriage in Painten in 1831. The father is documented as a baker ("Rothbäck," House No. 88) in Painten from 1831 to 1832/35.[34] Nothing is known about the family's whereabouts after 1835. In 1852, Michael Gineiger traveled to New York on the "Germania."[35] He was naturalized in Dodge County, Wisconsin, in 1855. In 1859, he married Maria Caspers (1825–1876) in Beaver Dam. The 1860 census lists him as a day laborer there. After Maria's death on April 14, 1876, and Michael's death on August 2, 1895, both spouses found their final resting place in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.[36]

Glockner, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1794 Judenberg, Par. Duggendorf, CD Burglengenfeld, † 1875 Avon, Lorain Co., OH
Place of origin: Laaber No. 76, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Halbbauer") / Married
Wife: Richter, Therese, * 1803 Bruckdorf, Par. Sinzing, CD Stadtamhof, † 1881 Avon, OH
Children: Anna Maria (* 1835), Georg (* 1840)[37]
Assets: 1,500 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Avon, Lorain Co., OH

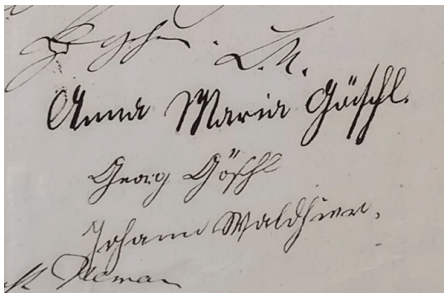
The Glockner couple (also spelled "Klockner") had been married since 1835. Of the four children born to them, two survived and emigrated with their parents in 1847. They cited the *hope of improving their economic circumstances* as the reason for selling their property in Laaber and emigrating to America. Their application was approved on June 7, 1847.

Rupert Rödl, a 73-year-old widower, also set out with the family of four. His reason for leaving was *the emigration of his provider.* Accordingly, Joseph Glockner covered his travel expenses. However, Rödl never reached the seaport of Bremen; he died in Kulmbach while en route.[38] The Glockner family went to Ohio, where they settled as farmers in Avon, Lorain County. In 1850, their property was valued at 1,500 dollars.[39]

33 Spelling variant in Beaver Dam: "Geniger" etc.
34 BZAR, Painten 12, p. 70.
35 On passenger list of the "Germania" as „Martin Gineiger".
36 cf. www.findagrave.com.
37 US Federal Census 1850; The children are not mentioned in the emigration files StAAm, RegInn 298.
38 StAAm, RegInn 298.
39 US Federal Census 1850.

Göschl, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1837 Schönhofen
Place of origin: Schönhofen No. 50, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 0 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI



Signatures of Anna Maria Göschl, her father Georg Göschl, and her employer Johann Waldhier on the emigration application dated March 15, 1852

Anna Maria Göschl was only 14 years old (* September 23, 1837) when she applied for permission to emigrate. She was the eldest daughter of the farmers ("Gütler") Johann Georg Göschl (1806–1891) and Barbara Graf (1803–1885) of Schönhofen.
For two years, she had been working as a maid for the farming couple Johann Ev. Waldhier and Katharina Maier in Hohenschambach (see pp. 76–79), with whom she intended to emigrate to Wisconsin. When she appeared before the Hemau district court on March 15, 1852, both her father and her employer were present. The former declared his consent to his daughter's emigration, and Waldhier confirmed that he would cover his maid's travel expenses.[40]
However, Anna Maria Göschl traveled not only with her employer's family but also in the company of two aunts, two uncles, and six cousins. They all traveled to New York on the "Germania" and from there – very likely together – to Beaver Dam. A year later, Anna Maria Göschl's parents and siblings followed them, so the family was reunited in Beaver Dam.

Göschl, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1806 Schönhofen, † 1891 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Schönhofen No. 50, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Graf, Barbara, * 1803 Hohenschambach No. 21, CD Hemau, † 1885 Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Barbara (1839–1922), Franziska (1842–1919), Georg (1844–1918), Joseph (1846–1927)
Assets: 1,068 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Johann Georg Göschl (later "Geschel," "Gashel," etc.) had sold his property in Nittendorf. From the proceeds of 1,250 guilders, he was left with 1,068 in hand after deducting his debts.[41]
When he and his wife Barbara Graf set out for Wisconsin in 1853 with four children aged seven, eight, nine, and thirteen, they knew they would meet relatives there who had emigrated earlier. Their eldest daughter Anna Maria

40 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1134.
41 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1144.

(see p. 107), as well as a brother and a sister of Barbara Graf and their families, were awaiting them at their destination of Beaver Dam (see Georg Joseph Graf p. 110).
Upon arrival, the Göschl family settled in the town of Westford, a few miles northwest of Beaver Dam on the opposite shore of the lake. On March 31, 1855, Georg Göschl applied for American citizenship. One of his guarantors was Johann Waldhier (see pp. 76–79). He was naturalized on October 2, 1858.
Their four children, all born in Schönhofen, grew up here and married into immigrant families known to us:

- Barbara Göschl (1839–1922) married Georg Michael Peter (1837–1921) of the town of Calamus, who was born in Painten, in 1867.
- Franziska "Frances" (1842–1919) married Joseph Hammer (1837–1909), her cousin born in Nittendorf, the son of her aunt and godmother. The couple lived in the town of Beaver Dam.
- Georg (1844–1918), of the city of Beaver Dam, married Maria Therese Gradl, née Schmid (1849–1919), born in Maierhofen and only 17 years old at the time of their marriage in 1866.
- Joseph (1846–1927) married Anna Kolb (1849–1940) in 1867; she was born in Kapfelberg and was the daughter of Jakob Joseph Kolb (1821–1900) of Beaver Dam.

With the exception of Joseph Göschl, who settled with his wife in Mason City, Iowa, all the Göschl children remained in Beaver Dam or the immediate vicinity. A family chronicle published in 1962 details their Göschl descendants and the numerous family ties they formed with immigrants from their homeland.[42]
Like many other farmers in the Beaver Dam area, the Göschl family moved to the city in their old age, where distances were shorter and the standard of living higher. Barbara Göschl, née Graf, died there on June 20, 1885, at the age of 82.
Georg Göschl's obituary reports that he spent the last 14 years of his life in the city of Beaver Dam. When he died in the town of Beaver Dam at the home of his daughter Frances Hammer at the age of 84 on August 28, 1891, he was the oldest member of St. Peter's Parish. *The St. Joseph's Benevolent Society, of which he was a distinguished member, attended the funeral as a group.*[43]



Georg (1806–1891) and Barbara Göschl, née Graf (1803–1885)

42 Howard Gashel, Daisy: Descendants of Georg and Barbara Geschel of Bavaria, Germany, and Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Neenah 1962.
43 „Beaver Dam Argus", Sept. 3, 1891, p. 3.

Gradl, Johann

Biographical data: * 1820 Dietkirchen, CD Kastl, † 1899 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Kollersried, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Married son of a farmer
Wife: Obermaier, Maria Theresia, * 1819 Kollersried, † 1908 Beaver Dam, WI
Emigration / Ship: 1850 / "Seine"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI
See section "Clandestine Departure", pp. 82–83.

Gradl, Stephan

Biographical data: * 1821 Dietkirchen, CD Kastl, † 1903 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Maierhofen No. 6, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Schramml Anna Maria, * 1818 Maierhofen, † 1892 Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Anna Maria (* c.1841) Joseph (* 1848), M. Theresia (1849–1919), Engelbert (* 1856), Walburga (1859–1940), Franziska (* 1860)
Assets: 1,500 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1861 / "Elise & Mathilde"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

The third of the Gradl brothers, Stephan Gradl, had been married in Maierhofen since 1855. With his wife, the charcoal burner's daughter Anna Maria Schramml (1819–1892), widow Schmid, he had four children, one of whom died young. Together with his wife, three children, and three stepchildren, he followed his older brother Johann to Beaver Dam in the summer of 1861. He had previously sold his property in Maierhofen. Of the 2,125 guilders he received, 1,500 guilders remained after settling debts. In addition to the character reference from his home community, the consent of the guardian of his three stepchildren was also obtained.[44] The family of eight, with six children between the ages of one and nineteen, appears on the passenger list of the "Elise & Mathilde," a frigate that departed Bremen on April 19, 1861, with 290 passengers and sailed to New York, arriving after just 36 days. From June 1861 onwards, the Gradl brothers – Johann and Stephan – and the Obermaier sisters from Kollersried were reunited in Beaver Dam.

In the 1870 census, Stephan Gradl appears as a day laborer owning real estate valued at 400 dollars, residing in the 2nd Ward of the city of Beaver Dam.

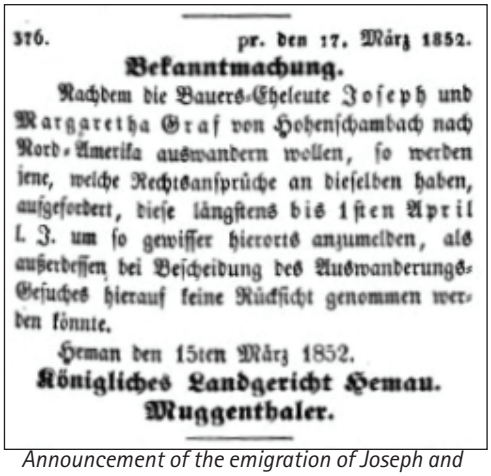
When he passed away on July 11, 1902, in his 82nd year, he left behind 33 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His obituary remembers him as a steadfast member of the St. Peter parish congregation and an upright, industrious man and citizen of the city. His wife had predeceased him in 1892.[45]

44 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1117.
45 „Beaver Dam Argus", July 23, 1903, p. 3.

Graf, Georg Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1811 Hohenschambach, † 1884 Town of Westford, Dodge Co.,WI
Place of origin:	Hohenschambach No. 21, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Married
Wife:	Waldhier, A. Margarethe, * 1818 Hohenschambach No. 18, † 1892 Westford, WI
Child:	Magdalena (* 1841)
Assets:	6,000 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI

Georg Joseph Graf[46] was the brother of Anna Maria Graf, married name Hammer (see p. 116), and Barbara Graf, married name Göschl (see pp. 107–108). The three siblings and their families traveled together on the "Germania." Joseph Graf had been married since 1839 and was the owner of the "Thalhof" farm in Hohenschambach.[47] His wife, Anna Margarethe Waldhier, was a sister of Johann Ev. Waldhier, who was also on board with his family, as well as the daughter of 63-year-old Johann Michael Waldhier (see pp. 76–79). The Graf couple had endured the tragedy of child mortality, which was common at the time. Five of their six children had died in infancy; the youngest, Joseph, passed away on March 5, 1852 – just days before his parents applied to emigrate and only a week after his birth. Only their firstborn, eleven-year-old Magdalena, accompanied her parents to Wisconsin. Her baptismal record bears the notation *Nordamerika*. After selling his farm to a broker named Feuchtwanger,[48] Graf was able to show assets of 6,000 guilders prior to his departure.[49]



376. pr. den 17. März 1852.

Bekanntmachung.

Nachdem die Bauers-Eheleute Joseph und Margaretha Graf von Hohenschambach nach Nord-Amerika auswandern wollen, so werden jene, welche Rechtsansprüche an dieselben haben, aufgefordert, diese längstens bis 1sten April l. J. um so gewisser hierorts anzumelden, als außerdessen bei Bescheidung des Auswanderungs-Gesuches hierauf keine Rücksicht genommen werden könnte.

Hemau den 15ten März 1852.

Königliches Landgericht Hemau.

Muggenthaler.

Announcement of the emigration of Joseph and Margaretha Graf, dated March 25, 1852

According to family tradition, the three-member family's first home in Beaver Dam was a log cabin located on the grounds of what is now Swan Park. Later, Joseph Graf owned a large farm in the town of Westford on the west shore of Beaver Dam Lake, a property valued at 3,750 dollars according to 1870 census records. It was also there that the three sons – Jacob (1855–1922), Michael (1856–1920), and Joseph (1859–1906) – were born.[50] Jakob Ehrl from Pföring – also a fellow passenger on the "Germania" – served as godfather at the baptism of Jacob, who was born on February 13, 1855.

Joseph and Margarethe Graf, née Waldhier, died in 1884 and 1892, respectively, on their farm in the town of Westford. They were laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

46 The first given name was usually omitted later on

47 Cf. Boehm et al., Hausnamen.

48 Cf. Schäfer, 1000 Jahre, p. 304.

49 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

50 www.findagrave.com.





Born in Westford and baptized in Beaver Dam brothers (from left): Jacob Graf (1855–1922) and Michael Graf (1856–1920)

Graf, Michael

Biographical data:	* 1819 Kollersried
Place of origin:	Kollersried, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Day laborer / Married
Wife:	Rappl, Anna Maria, * 1818 Grafenstadl, Par. Aichkirchen
Child:	Maria Anna (* 1850)
Assets:	600 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

No discernible kinship to the Graf mentioned above. Whereabouts unknown

Guttenberger, Anna Barbara

Biographical data:	* 1819 Rauhbügl (“Traubenbügl”)
Place of origin:	Rauhbügl No. 1, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets:	400 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA:	Wisconsin?

Anna Barbara Guttenberger was a niece of Barbara Guttenberger, née Hotter (see below). Presumably, she emigrated together with the latter and her children.

Guttenberger, Barbara, geb. Hotter[51]

Biographical data:	* 1791 Oberpfraundorf
Place of origin:	Rechberg No. 4, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Innkeeper / Widow
Husband:	Guttenberger, Konrad, * 1774 Rechberg, †1843 Rechberg
Children:	Maria Anna (* 1821), Gg. Michael (* 1826), Franziska (* 1828), Joh. Konrad (1831–1881)
Assets:	6,400 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA:	Jefferson Co., WI

Barbara Hotter was the second wife of the Rechberg innkeeper Konrad Guttenberger, who died on March 29, 1843, at the age of 68 from a pulmonary abscess. His widow continued to run the inn and farm with the help of her children, some of whom were adults, and a farmhand for four years, before deciding at age 55 to emigrate to Wisconsin with her four children – sixteen, eighteen, twenty, and twenty-six years old. She sold her inherited inn property in Rechberg, giving her cash assets of 6,400 guilders. She cited the *hope of acquiring significant landholdings* as her reason for emigrating. Her application was granted on June 25, 1847.[52]

The journey took them first to Quebec, Canada, and then via the long water route to Wisconsin (see pp. 41–42). In addition to the four children mentioned, Barbara Guttenberger was accompanied by the farmhand Johann Georg Endl (see p. 102) and presumably her 27-year-old niece Anna Barbara Guttenberger (see p. 111), who had received her exit permit two weeks before her aunt. They first set foot on U.S. soil in Buffalo on Lake Erie, where they underwent immigration processing before continuing their journey by ship across the Great Lakes. Upon arriving in Wisconsin, the group traveled to Jefferson County, south of Dodge County.

Little information could be gathered regarding the lives of the individual family members in America. Only in the case of the youngest son, Konrad, born in Rechberg on March 1, 1831, is it known that at the age of 20 he married Anna Maria Weissmann (1830–1891), who had emigrated to America in 1848 with her parents and siblings from Hohenlohe near Beratzhausen (see p. 187), and that, like them, he settled as a farmer in the town of Farmington, Jefferson County. His property was valued at 1,500 dollars in 1870, and his liquid assets at 110 dollars.

Konrad Guttenberger was naturalized in 1880, 33 years after his arrival in the United States (see p. 42), one year before his untimely death. He died in the town of Farmington on September 12, 1881, at the age of 50. His widow survived him by ten years. The couple left behind ten children.[53]

51 Spelling variants found in USA: Gittenberg, Gooddenberger, Guttenberg.
52 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
53 www.findagrave.com.

Hafenbauer, Georg

Biographical data:	* 1835 Thonlohe
Place of origin:	Thonlohe No. 6, Par. Jachenhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer ("Gütler")
Assets:	200 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Barton, Washington Co., WI



The "Hafenbauerngütl," Thonlohe No. 6, family home of the Hafenbauer siblings (Sauer, "800 Jahre Thonlohe", p. 23)

Georg Hafenbauer was one of four (surviving) children of the smallholder Joseph Hafenbauer (* 1782) and his wife Katharina, née Paulus (* 1792).[54] In 1845, the parental farm "Hafenbauerngütl" passed to the older sister, Anna Maria Hafenbauer (* 1817), who married Peter Mirbeth that same year.[55] Her three siblings were nine, eighteen and nineteen years old at the time and decided in the spring of 1852 to emigrate to North America. Permission to do so was granted to them on April 21, 1852. Each of the three siblings possessed 200 guilders (presumably their inheritance).[56] Georg Hafenbauer was only 17 years old when he left his homeland with his two older sisters. In 1858, he married the German immigrant Mary Thullen in Washington County, Wisconsin. He was naturalized on April 9, 1860.[57] In the 1860 and 1870 censuses, he appears as a blacksmith living with his wife and children in the town of Barton, Washington County, Wisconsin.

Hafenbauer, Maria Anna

Biographical data:	* 1825 Thonlohe, † 1910 Town of Waterloo, Jefferson Co., WI
Place of origin:	Thonlohe No. 6, Par. Jachenhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Gütler")
Assets:	200 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Waterloo, Jefferson Co., WI

Sister of Georg and Therese Hafenbauer. On July 11, 1853, in Milwaukee, M. Anna married John *Mueller* (1824–1888), an immigrant from Bavaria. From 1860 onwards, the couple is recorded as farmers in the town of Waterloo, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, with real estate valued at 900 dollars and cash assets of 154 dollars.

54 Im Register zu den Matrikeln der Pfarrei Jachenhausen finden sich keine Sterbeeinträge zu den Eltern.
55 Cf. Sauer, 800 Jahre Thonlohe, Sp 23.
56 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
57 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

Eleven children were born of the marriage.[58] Anna Hafenbauer outlived her husband by 22 years and died in 1910 at the age of 85 in the town of Waterloo.

Hafenbauer, Therese

Biographical data:	* 1827 Thonlohe
Place of origin:	Thonlohe No. 6, Par. Jachenhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Gütler")
Assets:	200 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Wisconsin?

Sister of Georg and Maria Anna Hafenbauer (see p. 113).

Haller, Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1816
Place of origin:	Etterzhausen, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife:	Bierschneider, Franziska, widow of Baldauf, * 1804 Etterzhausen, CD Hemau
(Step)Children:	Anna Schmid (* 1829), Franziska (* 1834), Therese (* 1835), Katharina (* 1839), Kreszenz (* 1842), Joseph (* 1843), Johann Bapt. (* 1846)
Assets:	1,300 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Ocean"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Washington Township, Van Wert Co., OH

When the mason Joseph Baldauf of Etterzhausen died on July 12, 1846, at the age of only 41, he left behind his widow Franziska, née Bierschneider, who was the same age, and their six children; the youngest was a mere twelve weeks old. On February 9, 1847, she married Joseph Haller from Nittendorf.

Five years later, the Haller couple applied for permission to emigrate to North America with the six children and Anna Schmid, a 22-year-old from a premarital relationship of Franziska Bierschneider who was also part of the family. They stated that they had sold their property in Etterzhausen for 1,400 guilders and, after settling debts, still held 1,300 guilders. Furthermore, Franz Hueber, an innkeeper in Etterzhausen, pledged to stand as surety, assuming primary liability, for any potential debts or other legal obligations incurred by Joseph Haller and his family.[59]

On June 17, 1852, the family of nine, along with 92 other passengers, departed Bremen for New York, arriving there after 44 days. According to the passenger list of the "Ocean," their destination was Cleveland, Ohio. Accordingly, Joseph Haller and his wife Frances appear in the 1870 census as farmers in Washington Township, Van Wert County, Ohio. Their property was valued at 1,000 dollars.

58 www.ancestry.com and US Federal Census 1860.

59 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1137, see illustration p. 14.

Hallermaier, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1808 Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein), † 1888 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Neukelheim No. 89, Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Öchsler")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "F. J. Wichelhausen"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI

Joseph Hallermaier traveled with his future wife, Anna Katharina Wein (see p. 186). His father, Franz Joseph Hallermaier (1776–1850, originally from Neulohe near Painten, and his wife Walburga Kleindl (1784–1847) were among the early settlers of Neukelheim.[60] As "Öchsler" (farmers relying on oxen for draft power), they farmed the property at No. 89. After the parental homestead was handed over to his younger brother Georg (* 1810), Joseph Hallermaier emigrated to the USA via Bremen in 1853 with his fiancée, Anna Katharina Wein (1821–1902), a native of Heimberg and the daughter of a farmer ("Söldner").

The barque "F. J. Wichelhausen," on which they departed Bremen on June 8, 1853, carried 239 passengers. Joseph Hallermaier and Anna Katharina Wein each had *one box* as their luggage. After 62 days in steerage, they arrived in New York on August 6; their son Anton (1853–1918) was born there the following day, August 7. According to Anna Katharina's obituary, the couple married in Columbus, WI in 1853.

Joseph Hallermaier's name first appears in the records of Beaver Dam on June 3, 1855, when he served as a godfather at the baptism of Joseph Blank (parents: Michael and Anna Blank).[61]

Hallermaier was naturalized on August 5, 1860, with fellow immigrants Mathias Bauer (see p. 91–92) and Jakob Pollinger (see p. 159–160)) serving as witnesses.

Joseph Hallermaier and his wife owned a farm in the town of Beaver Dam, where he died on February 22, 1888, at the age of 79. His widow lived to be 81 and passed away on September 15, 1902. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Hammer, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1826 Nittendorf
Place of origin: Nittendorf No. 5, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Anna Maria Hammer travelled with her brother Sebastian (see p. 117–118) and his fiancée Katharina Waldhier (see p. 184), whose relatives were also on board the "Germania." The following year, the Hammer family, including parents and siblings, joined them in Beaver Dam.

60 Cf. Hafner, Geschichte von Ihrlerstein.
61 Church records Beaver Dam, St. Peter 1, Image 32.

Hammer, Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1799 Nittendorf, † 1861 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Nittendorf No. 5, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Famer ("Halbbauer") / Married
Wife:	Graf, Anna Maria, * 1800 Hohenschambach No. 21,† 1870 Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	M. Katharina (* 1824), Anna Maria (* 1834), Barbara (1835–1927), Joseph (1837–1909), Franz (1839–1911), Franziska (1841–1927), Mathias (1842–1887)
Assets:	3,000 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mary"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI

Joseph Hammer and his family stand out due to their numerous kinship connections with other immigrant families in Beaver Dam. Many of these relationships already existed in their old homeland, others were established in Wisconsin. His daughter Anna Maria (see p. 115), his son Sebastian Hammer (see p. 117), and his brother-in-law Georg Joseph Graf with his family (see p. 110) had emigrated ahead of him in 1852.

At the beginning of 1853, Joseph Hammer sold his farm in Nittendorf for 4,125 guilders,[62] of which 3,000 remained after settling his debts. When he submitted his emigration application on January 20, Joseph Biersack, a farmer in Hohenschambach, was also present and was willing to act as guarantor for any further obligations Hammer might have after his departure.

On March 18, 1853, Joseph Hammer and his wife, along with seven of their children, boarded the "Mary" in Bremerhaven, where they spent 45 days in steerage with 51 other known emigrants before arriving in New York on May 2. Traveling with the Hammer family were, among others, their daughter Maria Theresia (1823–1900), who had been married to Johann Baptist Rosenmeier since 1848, and her family (see p. 167–168), as well as the Göschl family (see p. 107–108), to whom they were related by marriage. Joseph Hammer and Anna Maria Graf had 18 children between 1823 and 1842, of whom ten survived. All of them, like their parents, arrived in Beaver Dam in 1852/53.

In 1860 we find Joseph Hammer as a farmer in the town of Westford, on the opposite side of Beaver Dam Lake from the city of Beaver Dam, where his son Sebastian had also settled, as well as the neighboring families of Georg Joseph Graf (see p. 110), Johann Georg Göschl (see p. 107–108), and Johann Georg Ferstl (see p. 103).[63] Joseph Hammer died on April 7, 1861. His widow, Anna Maria, née Graf, followed him on August 30, 1870. Both were laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

In 1866, the Joseph's son Joseph Hammer Jr. (1837-1909) and his wife Frances Geschel (1842-1919) purchased the Hammer farm. In 1868, Joseph Jr. and Frances sold the farm in the town of Westford and purchased a farm in the town of Beaver Dam.



Gravestone of Joseph Hammer (1799–1861) at St. Peter's Cemetery, Beaver Dam (with the incorrect birth year "1802")

62 StAAm, Kataster Regensburg 526 (In his application for emigration, Hammer declared 4,000 guilders, cf. StAAm, LG ä, O, Hemau 1135).
63 US Federal Census 1860.

Hammer, Sebastian ("Wastel")[64]

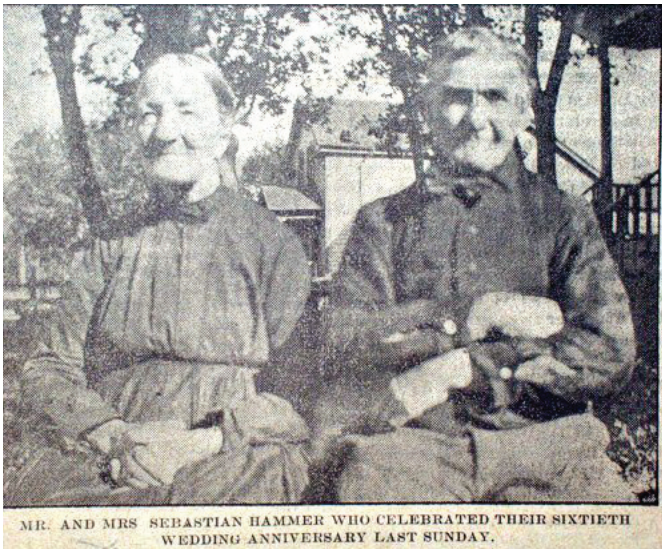
Biographical data:	* 1827 Nittendorf, † 1914 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Nittendorf No. 5, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Assets:	300 Gilden
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Sebastian Hammer was part of the "vanguard" of a whole series of relatives who followed his example a year after his emigration (see p. 116). On March 17, 1852, he and his sister Anna Maria (see p. 115) jointly submitted their application to emigrate to North America at the Hemau district court. They stated that they had each received 300 guilders from their parents for this purpose. Sebastian was able to prove that he had *fulfilled his military service obligations and had already received his discharge certificate on October 31, 1849.* Peter Rappl, a merchant from Hohenschambach, had accompanied them to act as guarantor for any outstanding debts the two applicants might have.

On April 2, the two prospective emigrants appeared before the district court again to *present their passage contract, which had been approved by the Bavarian Consul General in Bremen.* A standard procedure and part of the official steps to be taken to obtain the passport, which they received on April 8. The father, Joseph Hammer, had also been summoned for that same day to place on record his consent to the emigration of his two children.[65]

On April 22, 1852, they embarked on the "Germania." Also on board was Sebastian's future wife, Katharina Waldhier from Hohenschambach, along with her immediate family (see pp. 76–79).

They probably arrived in Beaver Dam at the end of June. In October, Sebastian Hammer and Katharina Waldhier walked to Watertown (about 20 miles south of Beaver Dam), where they were married on November 1, 1852.[66] They initially settled the town of Westford, where they appear in the 1860 census with a farm valued at 500 dollars. Later (before 1873), they purchased a farm in the town of Beaver Dam. In 1887, they moved to the city of Beaver Dam, where they last lived at 203 East South Street.[67]


MR. AND MRS SEBASTIAN HAMMER WHO CELEBRATED THEIR SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LAST SUNDAY.

Sebastian Hammer (1827–1914) and Katharina, née Waldhier, (1833–1916) ("Beaver Dam Argus," Oct. 25., 1912)

64 Cf. Obituary for John Waldhier

65 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1136; It is not clear why the father's consent was sought, especially since both applicants were over 25 and therefore of legal age.

66 Cf. Wisconsin, USA, Marriage Index, Jefferson County.

67 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", Oct. 25, 1912.

In 1912, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Their nine children, some of whom had married into immigrant families known to us (Biersack, Rödl), were able to attend the celebration.[68] Two years later, on August 30, 1914, Sebastian Hammer died at the age of 87. The local newspaper honored him in an obituary: *... Mr. Hammer was one of the oldest residents of this vicinity and one of the last remaining in the ranks of the sturdy German pioneers, who settled the wilderness hereabouts and have lived to see their efforts crowned by glorious success and the large and almost impenetratable [sic] forests give way to the bounteous fields of today ...*[69]
His widow died on January 12, 1916, at the age of 82. Both were buried in the St. Peter's cemetery in Beaver Dam.



Gravestone for Sebastian and Katharina Hammer, née Waldhier, at St. Peter's Cemetery, Beaver Dam

Hanfstingl, Anna Barbara

Biographical data:	1821 Gänsbügl, Par. Eichlberg, CD Hemau, † 1888 Chicago, IL[70]
Place of origin:	Painten No. 11, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets:	150 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL

Barbara Hanfstingl was a daughter of the farm couple ("Gütler") Jakob Hanfstingl and Barbara, née Betz, in Gänsbügl, who moved to Painten No. 11 with four children after 1821.[71] At the age of 25, the daughter A. Barbara emigrated to North America, *hoping for better employment prospects*. She had gotten together with the farmhand Georg Michael Achhammer (*departed with Mich. Achammer*), a native of Wangsaß (see p. 88). On May 29, they received their exit permit and traveled via Le Havre to New York.[72] After arriving in the USA, they married and settled in Chicago.

68 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", Oct. 25, 1912.
69 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", Sept. 3, 1914, p. 5
70 Cf. www.findagrave.com.
71 BZAR, Painten 12, p. 53.
72 Cf. StAAm RegInn 298.

Hanfstingl, Martin[73]

Biographical data: * 1817 Gänsbügl, Par. Eichlberg, CD Hemau, † 1880 Chicago, IL
Place of origin: Painten No. 11, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: ? / ?
Crossing: ? / ?
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Martin Hanfstingl was a brother of Barbara Hanfstingl (see p. 118), who emigrated in 1847. No archival records regarding his emigration from Bavaria or his immigration to the USA could be found. In 1860, he appears in census records as a gardener in Chicago with his (second) wife, M. Josepha Susbauer (see p. 181), a native of Painten, and a three-year-old daughter named Therese (from his first marriage), who was born in Chicago. His marriage to M. Josepha Susbauer took place on August 7, 1859, in Chicago.[74]

In 1880, Martin Hanfstingl is mentioned there for the last time, with real estate holdings valued at 5,000 dollars. He died on July 24, 1880.



The hand-colored photograph is presumably a portrait of Martin Hanfstingl. It was found in 2008 in a keepsake chest belonging to the Thurnes family, his descendants, and attributed to him.

Hartl, Alois

Biographical data: * 1809 Reichenstetten, Par. Kapfelberg, † 1875 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Schneckenbach, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Married
Wife: Forchhammer, Barbara, * 1813 Undorf No. 9, Par. Deuerling, † 1907 Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Georg (1843–1908), Alois (* 1844), Peter (1846–1917), Franziska (1849–1904), Therese (1850–1920)
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mercury"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI

In 1853 and 1854, 28 members of the Hartl family emigrated to Beaver Dam. The group consisted of four siblings, their respective spouses, and a total of 20 children.

As background: Joseph Hartl (1780–1845), a farmer ("Viertelbauer") at Reichensteten No. 7, and his wife Therese Wagner (1780–1839) had eight children; four of them emigrated to America as adults.

73 Spelling variants in USA: "Hanfstengel", "Hamstengel", "Haufstengel".
74 Cf. www. ancestry.com.

A fifth child, their son Joseph (* 1812), married his half-cousin Walburga Wagner (* 1829) in 1845 and took over the family farm at Reichensteten No. 7 just a few months before his father's death.
Three of the siblings had settled in the neighboring village of Schneckenbach between 1843 and 1849. A fourth went to Pechlerhäusl near Painten:

1. Alois Hartl (1809–1875), carpenter, six children, emigrated in 1853.
2. Therese Hartl (1817–1888), married name Rödl (see pp. 166–167): (note in the baptismal register: *to America*),[75] five children, emigrated in 1853.
3. Johann Baptist Hartl (1819–1897), resin picker (see below), seven children, emigrated in 1854.
4. Franziska Hartl (1825–1889), married name Biersack, two children (see pp. 94–95), emigrated in 1853.

Alois Hartl, his wife, and their five children arrived in New York on September 27, 1853, aboard the "Mercury," having sailed from Le Havre. Also on the same ship was his sister Franziska (married name Biersack) with her family. His sister Therese (married name Rödl) had emigrated three months before him. A year later, they were followed by brother Johann Baptist Hartl with his wife and children (see below).
In the 1860 census, we find the brothers Alois and Johann Baptist Hartl listed as farmers and neighbors in the town of Beaver Dam (see ill. p. 121). Alois died at his home in the town of Beaver Dam in December 1875. His wife Barbara moved into the city of Beaver Dam a few years before her death. She died at the home of her daughter Theresa Schweiger on April 4, 1907.
We learned earlier (see pp. 70–71) about Alois Hartl acting as a godparent in his home parish of Eilsbrunn even after he had already been living in America for years. Further evidence that the Hartls maintained contact with their home region is the fact that in 1870, their nephew Johann Baptist Kastenmaier (* 1850 Viehhausen), a son of Walburga Hartl, followed them to Beaver Dam.[76]

Hartl, Johann Baptist

Biographical data:	* 1819 Reichenstetten, Par. Kapfelberg, † 1897 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Pechlerhäusl No. 1 (abandoned),[77] Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Cottager and resin tapper ("Pechler") / Married
Wife:	Ilnseher, Franziska, * 1815 Haugenried, Par. Eilsbrunn, † 1892 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Johann Bapt. (1840–1901), Anna Maria (* 1844), Joseph (* 1845), Jakob (1851–1905), Franz (* ca. 1852), Therese (* ca. 1852), Georg (* ca. 1854)[78]
Emigration / Ship:	1854 / "Florida"
Crossing:	London – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Beaver Dam, WI

As a resin tapper in the Painten Forest, Johann Baptist Hartl belonged, along with domestic servants, to the lowest income bracket, a fact reflected in a note accompanying his marriage entry dated January 5, 1847, which

75 BZAR, Kapfelberg 5_0037.
76 Cf. www.findagrafe.com.
77 Vgl. Paulus, Abgegangene Orte. S. 407.
78 The first three children were born out of wedlock in Haugenried and baptized in Deuerling. The baptisms of children 4 through 7 are not recorded in either Painten or Deuerling. Their dates of birth are taken from the passenger list of the "Florida" and from U.S. sources.

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in *The Town of Beaver Dam* **in the County of** *Do*
of *Wisconsin* **enumerated by me, on the** *10th* **day of** *July* **1860.** *Rosvell*
Post Office *Beaver Dam (Wis)* .

	Dwelling-houses—numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description. Age.	Sex.	Color, white, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned. Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the
18	157	157	Jacob Bolinger	44	M		Farmer	200	100	Germany	
19			Catherine (Wife)	44	F					"	
20			Catherine	1	F					Wis	
21	158	158	Frank Hazlebeck	33	M		Farmer		100	Germany	
22			Laura	38	F					"	
23			Lana	1/12	F					Wis	
24	159	159	Hollis Hartel	50	M		Farmer	1140	100	Germany	
25			Mary (Wife)	45	F					"	
26			Walter	20	M		Works at home			"	
27			George	16	M		do			"	
28			Hollis	15	M		do			"	
29			Peter	13	M					"	
30			Frances	11	F					"	
31			Eliza	9	F					"	
32			Joseph	7	M					Wis	
33			Frank "	2	M					"	
34	160	160	John Hartle	40	M		Farmer		100	Germany	
35			Mary (Wife)	40	F					"	
36			John "	19	M		Works at home			"	
37			Joseph "	12	M					"	
38			Jacob "	11	M					"	
39			Frank	5	M					Wisconsin	
40			George "	3	M					"	

Excerpt from the 1860 census for the town of Beaver Dam, listing the families of Jakob Pollinger (Jacob Bolinger), Alois (Hollis) Hartl, and Johann Baptist (John) Hartl.

states: *Did not hold a solemn wedding celebration.*[79] In 1854, he and his wife and seven children followed his three siblings (see p. 120) to Beaver Dam, where he eventually acquired his own farm in the town of Beaver Dam.[80] He had chosen the rather uncommon travel route via London as the port of departure for the overseas journey, as the crossing was cheapest from there.[81] Traveling alongside his family of nine were Jakob Karl from Schneckenbach (see p. 129) and Georg Zweck from Viehhausen (see p. 191) with their respective families.
Frances died on July 18, 1892, and Johann Baptist died on December 11, 1897 – both at their home in the town of Beaver Dam. They were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Hauser, Anna Maria Barbara

Biographical data:	* 1826 Buxlohe, † 1897 Milwaukee, WI (at her daughter's home)
Place of origin:	Buxlohe No. 3, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets:	300 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA:	Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI; Milwaukee, WI

Anna was the daughter of the farmer Johann Hauser (* 1794) and his wife Anna Rosina, née Paulus (* 1796). In 1851, she married Joh. Georg Seitz (1818–1891) in Jefferson, WI (see p. 177).

Hecker, Joseph

Biographical data:	* ca. 1818
Place of origin:	Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Master blacksmith and homeowner / Married
Wife:	Riepl, Elisabeth, * 1819 Langenkreith, Par. Hemau, ⚭ 1844 Beratzhausen
Children:	Joseph (* 1845), Maria Anna (* 1846)
Assets:	700 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	?

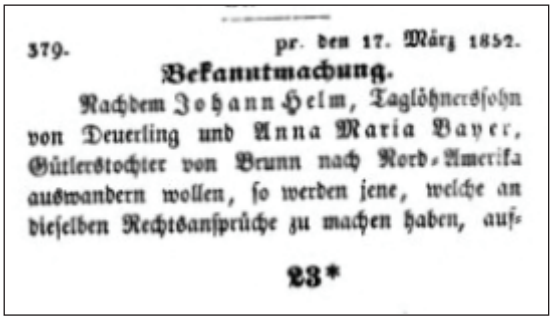
Helm, Johann

Biographical data:	* 1824 Deuerling
Place of origin:	Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Day laborer / Unmarried
Assets:	90 guilders [!]
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"

79 BZAR, Painten 10_0082.
80 Cf. US Federal Census 1860.
81 Cf. Albrecht, p. 160.

Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Johann Helm was born in Deuerling as the illegitimate child of farm laborer Joseph Helm and Regina Wolfinger, the daughter of a basket maker. In 1852, he joined a group of emigrants traveling to America on the "Germania" together with his partner Anna Maria Bayer (see p. 92) and their one-year-old illegitimate daughter, Therese Bayer. The fact that Johann Helm was granted an emigration permit despite having only 90 guilders to his name may be explained by the fact that his fiancée had over 300 guilders, and the amounts were combined. According to the passenger list, he had listed Wisconsin as his intended destination. By 1860, however, we find him living in Chicago (City of Chicago, 7th Ward, Cook County, Illinois) with his wife and three children ranging in age from two months to nine years and working as a homeowner and gardener.[82]


379. pr. den 17. März 1852.

Bekanntmachung.

Nachdem Johann Helm, Taglöhnerssohn von Deuerling und Anna Maria Bayer, Gütlerstochter von Brunn nach Nord-Amerika auswandern wollen, so werden jene, welche an dieselben Rechtsansprüche zu machen haben, auf-

23*

Announcement of the emigration of Johann Helm and Anna Maria Bayer (Beginning)

Hengl, Anna

Biographical data: * 1825 Rechberg
Place of origin: Rechberg No. 15, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 250 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: ?

In 1846/47, three children of the smallholder couple Georg Hengl and Katharina, née Vieracker, emigrated from Rechberg to America. Siblings Anna (22) and Johann Adam (17) followed in 1847, after their sister Maria Katharina (see p. 124) had traveled ahead in 1846. No information could be found regarding the whereabouts of these three young people, who had entered North America via Quebec and Baltimore, respectively.

Hengl, Johann Adam

Biographical data: * 1829 Rechberg
Place of origin: Rechberg No. 15, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 800 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Adam Hengl emigrated at the age of 17 together with his sister Anna.

82 Cf. US Federal Census 1860.

Hengl, Maria Katharina

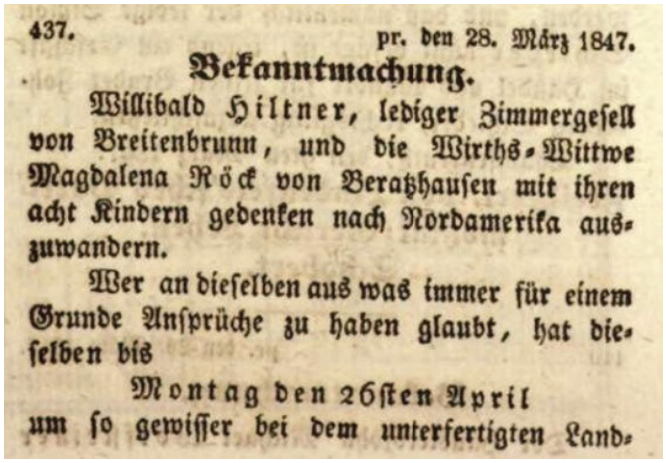
Biographical data: * 1823 Rechberg
Place of origin: Rechberg No. 15, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Gütler")
Assets: 250 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: ?

Maria Katharina Hengl was the first person from Rechberg to emigrate to North America. In 1847, her two siblings (see p. 123) followed suit, as did the Guttenberger, Niebler, Schwaiger, and Seitz families from Rechberg.

Hiltner, Willibald

Biographical data: * 1809 Breitenbrunn, † 1875
Place of origin: Breitenbrunn No. 34, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Emigrated together with the innkeeper's widow Magdalena Röck, née Mittermaier, from Beratzhausen and her eight children (see p. 165). From the announcement of his emigration jointly with M. Röck, it can be inferred that the two emigrated with the intention of getting married in North America. Hiltner's date of death, "March 1, 1875" (with no location specified), is noted in his baptismal entry in Breitenbrunn.[83]


437. pr. den 28. März 1847.

Bekanntmachung.

Willibald Hiltner, lediger Zimmergesell von Breitenbrunn, und die Wirths-Wittwe Magdalena Röck von Beratzhausen mit ihren acht Kindern gedenken nach Nordamerika auszuwandern.

Wer an dieselben aus was immer für einem Grunde Ansprüche zu haben glaubt, hat dieselben bis

Montag den 26sten April

um so gewisser bei dem unterfertigten Land-

Announcement of the emigration of Willibald Hiltner and the widow Magdalena Röck with her children (Beginning)

Huber, Mathias

Biographical data: * 1802 Schönhofen, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Place of origin: Breitenbrunn No. 48, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Merchant / Married
Wife: Haunschild, Anna Maria, * 1818 Schamhaupten, CD Riedenburg, ⚭ 1842 Breitenbrunn
Children: Magdalena (* 1837), Thomas (* 1845), Anna Maria (* 1848), Karl (* 1852),
Assets: 810 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Lessing"

83 Diözesanarchiv Eichstätt (hereinafter: DAEI), Breitenbrunn 7-01_013.

Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Mathias Huber was initially an ironworks inspector (*Eisenhammerinspektor*) in Schönhofen, where he had been married to Anna Maria Rosenmeier († 1842) since 1837. In 1842, he married a second time in Breitenbrunn, to Anna Maria Haunschild, the daughter of a shopkeeper, with whom he ran a general store there. In July 1852, he traveled to New York with his wife and four children on the "Lessing."

Huber, Zacharias

Biographical data: * ca. 1824
Place of origin: Leiterzhofen, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Day laborer / Unmarried
Assets: 180 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Hutter, Maria Franziska

Biographical data: * 1822 Breitenbrunn
Place of origin: Breitenbrunn No. 6, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a currier
Assets: 50 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: ?

Maria Franziska was the daughter of Anselm Hutter, a currier in Breitenbrunn, and his wife Anna Maria Schneeberger. She departed in 1846, *hoping for a better chance to marry her lover, Ferdinand Glossner from Velburg, Court District of Parsberg, who possessed assets of 750 guilders.*[84] Her whereabouts in North America are unknown.

Immervoll, Johann Georg[85]

Biographical data: * 1808 Weichseldorf No. 29, Par. Duggendorf, CD Burglengenfeld
Place of origin: Undorf No. 12, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Maier, Anna Maria, * 1806 Irgertshofen No. 2, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Children: Barbara (* 1831), Georg Adam (* 1834), Joseph (1836–1916), Andreas (* 1844)
Assets: 3000 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"

84 StAAm, RegInn 298.
85 Spelling variants in USA: "Immerfall" and "Immerfull". In Bavarian church records also as "Nimmervoll".

Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Joh. Georg Immervoll, a farmer's son from Weichseldorf in the Court District of Burglengenfeld, married Anna Maria Maier, the daughter of a farmer ("Halbbauer") from Irgertshofen, on August 3, 1834, in Frauenberg; they already had a son born out of wedlock (Georg Adam, * May 26, 1834). In addition, the bride brought into the marriage a three-year-old daughter (Barbara) from a previous relationship out of wedlock. The couple initially settled in Edlhausen, Parish of Frauenberg, where Immervoll had purchased a small farm ("Sölde"), and later moved to Undorf, House No. 13.

After eight years of marriage, they decided to emigrate. To this end, they sold their property in Undorf for 2,600 guilders and submitted their application to leave on January 29, 1853. They were able to demonstrate cash assets of 2,000 guilders, and Immervoll's brother-in-law, Andreas Rappl, a farmer from Irgertshofen, guaranteed payment for any debts that might still arise.[86] Immervoll was issued his passport on February 14, 1853; he then traveled to New York with his wife and four children aboard the "Mary" and, like many other fellow passengers, made his way to Beaver Dam. He obtained American citizenship on November 29, 1859, with Georg Steil (see pp. 179–180) and Joseph Graf (see p. 110) serving as witnesses.

In the 1870 census, we find the Immervoll couple listed as residing in the First Ward of the City of Beaver Dam and owning a farm valued at 725 dollars.

Jobst, Johann Simon

Biographical data: * 1799 Laubhof, Par. Altmühlmünster, † 1872 Chicago, IL
Place of origin: Heimberg No. 7, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Cottager ("Häusler") / Married
Wife: Susbauer, Anna Maria, * 1808 Heimberg, † 1871 Chicago, IL
Children: Katharina (* 1833), Joseph (1836–1887), Simon (* 1839), Maria (1843–1890), Johann (* 1846), Franz (* 1850)
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Soon after his birth, Joh. Simon Jobst moved to Irgertshofen No. 3, where his parents, Jakob Jobst and Katharina, née Rödl, were farmers ("Söldner"). The Jobst family is one of those examples, as we have seen several times before, where individual adult children emigrated ahead of their parents and younger siblings to scout out conditions in America and subsequently persuaded the rest of their relatives to follow suit. In 1852, the siblings Therese (* 1826) and Michael Jobst (* 1828), both born out of wedlock, had emigrated, the latter accompanied by his future wife (see p. 127). They were followed the next year by their father and mother and their remaining six children, aged two to nineteen.

Contrary to the destination of Wisconsin recorded on the passenger list of the "Mary," we later find the family in Chicago. It was there in 1887, that Joh. Simon's son, Joseph Jobst, father of a family, died while working as a gardener.[87]

86 StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1139.
87 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

Jobst, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1822 Pollenried
Place of origin: Pollenried No. 4, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Assets: 1,700 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

When Joseph Jobst (*vulgo Lauferer*) submitted his application to emigrate in March 1852, he was able to present not only his military discharge papers from August 1845 but also parental assets amounting to 1,700 guilders. Following the public announcement of his intention to emigrate, Dr. Wilhelm Muck, a physician from Etterzhausen, came forward; Jobst had owed him 5 guilders and 39 kreuzers in medical fees for four years. Only after a receipt dated April 2, 1852, confirming payment was presented could the passport be issued. Joseph Jobst traveled with his partner, Maria Anna Vieracker (* 1824) (see p. 183); her father, Anton Vieracker, a hammer mill owner from Schönhofen, also stood surety for any other potential debts Joseph Jobst might have.[88]
In 1847, Joseph Jobst's cousin, Joh. Georg Maier (* 1817) from Aichkirchen, had emigrated to America (see p. 141).

Jobst, Michael

Biographical data: * 1828 Heimberg, † 1888 Chicago, IL
Place of origin: Heimberg No. 7, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a cottager ("Häusler")
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Michael Jobst, the son born out of wedlock to Joh. Simon Jobst and his wife Anna Maria, née Susbauer, traveled accompanied by his future wife, Anna Maria Eichinger (1822–1885) from Hillohe (see p. 102). In 1880, we find him working as a laborer in Chicago.

Jobst, Therese

Biographical data: * 1826 Heimberg
Place of origin: Heimberg, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

88 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1138.

Therese Jobst received her emigration permit at the same time as her brother Michael (see p. 127). However, her name does not appear on the passenger list of the "Germania" on which the latter departed.

Johann, Joseph

Biographical data: * ca. 1822
Place of origin: Dürn, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Kargl, Johann Michael

Biographical data: * 1821 Netzstall, † 1891 Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI
Place of origin: Netzstall No. 5, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: Town if Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI[89]

Johann Michael was a son of the farming couple Andreas Kargl and his wife Therese, née Engl. He emigrated to Wisconsin together with his 18-year-old sister Maria Anna Kargl (see p. 129). In Jefferson, he married Anna Margarethe Seitz (1825–1915), daughter of Lorenz Joseph Seitz (see p. 178), who had emigrated from Rechberg in 1847.

Kargl, Karl

Biographical data: * 1820 Hennhüll
Place of origin: Hennhüll, Par. Hemau, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Karl Kargl traveled together with his future wife, Barbara Schmid from Netzstall (see p. 172).

89 Obituary in the *Jefferson Banner* for Mrs. Margarette Kargl, née Seitz, widow of Lenz († February 11, 1915).

Kargl, Maria Anna

Biographical data: * 1829 Netzstall
Place of origin: Netzstall No. 5, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: Wisconsin?

M. Anna Kargl emigrated at the age of 18 together with her 26-year-old brother, Johann Michael (see p. 128).

Karl, Jakob

Biographical data: * 1823 Schneckenbach, † 1903 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Schneckenbach, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Söldner") / Married
Wife: Hofer, Anna, * 1829 Schneckenbach, † 1912 Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Franz Xaver (* 1849), Maria Anna (* 1851)
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / "Florida"
Crossing: London – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Jakob Karl's family was the fourth to leave behind their possessions in the small village of Schneckenbach in 1853/54 in order to build a new life in distant Beaver Dam. The other families were the Biersack, Hartl (Alois), and Rödl families (see respective entries).

Jakob Karl, his wife Anna Maria, née Hofer, whom he had married in 1846, and their two young children traveled via London to New York in 1854 with the families of Johann Bapt. Hartl (see pp. 120–122) and Georg Zweck (see p. 191). The destination of the 15-person travel group was Beaver Dam, where they probably arrived in late September. Jakob Karl and his family subsequently settled in the town of Calamus west of Beaver Dam where they established a farm. In 1872, his daughter Maria Anna (* 1851) married and moved to Beaver Dam; her parents followed her some years later. Their final place of residence was 120 La Crosse Street, Ward 4. Jakob Karl died there on December 28, 1903, at the age of 80.[90] His widow lived to be 84, passing away in Beaver Dam on May 9, 1913, at the home of her daughter Elizabeth Kolb. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Kirner, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1820 Eiersdorf
Place of origin: Eiersdorf No. 4, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Assets: 550 (?) guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"

90 Cf. „Beaver Dam Argus", Jan. 1, 1903, p. 5.

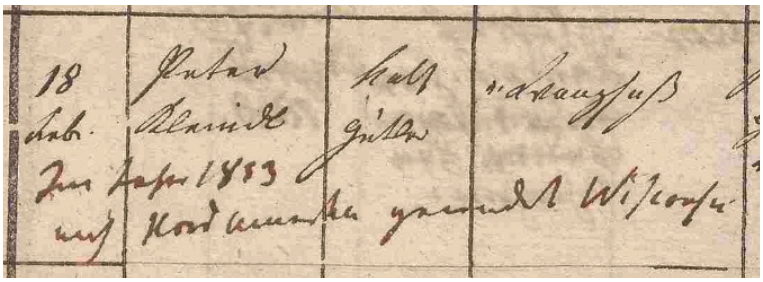
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Watertown, Jefferson Co., WI

Johann Bapt. Kirner was the son of the smallholder Johann Kirner of Eiersdorf and his wife Elisabeth, née Fischer. In the 1870 census, he appears as a 50-year-old widowed farmer with seven children between the ages of two and sixteen, all born in Wisconsin. He owned a substantial farm in the town of Watertown, Jefferson County, valued at 5,000 dollars. His cash assets were listed as 1,000 dollars.

Kleindl, Peter

Biographical data: * 1822 Wangsaß, † 1902 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Wangsaß No. 6, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Dietz, Elisabeth, * 1818 Schacha No. 12, † 1907 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI
Children: Michael (1850–1941), Peter (* 1852)
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI

The smallholder Peter Kleindl from Wangsaß and his family also traveled to America, following in the footsteps of relatives who had emigrated earlier and accompanied by similar minded travelling companions. Peter Kleindl had been married since 1849 to Elisabeth Dietz, a sister of Maria Therese Dietz (* 1823) who emigrated in 1852, and of Georg Joseph Dietz (1816–1885), who appears on the passenger list of the "Mary" (along with his wife and child) immediately before the Kleindls. The marriage entry dated February 18, 1849, in the Hohenschambach parish register bears a subsequently added note: *Emigrated to North America (Wisconsin) in 1853.*



Note in the 1849 marriage entry for Peter Kleindl in Hohenschambach: "Im Jahre 1853 nach Nordamerika gewandert Wisconsin" ("Emigrated to North America, Wisconsin, in 1853")

After arriving in Wisconsin, they settled on a farm in the town of Westford, near Beaver Dam, where the Göschl and Hammer families who had traveled with them also settled, as did the family of Georg Joseph Graf, who had emigrated the previous year.

In the 1860 census, Kleindl appears as *Peter Clandall*,[91] with real estate valued at 1,500 dollars and cash assets of 225 dollars. The marriage produced nine children. The couple moved into the city of Beaver Dam approximately two years before Peter's death. Peter Kleindl passed away at the age of 80 on April 26, 1902. His widow, Elisabeth. née Dietz, lived to be 88 and died on January 27, 1907, at the home of her son Frank. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

91 Spelling variant: "Klindel", "Klundel".



Gravestone for Peter Kleindl and his wife Elisabeth, née Dietz, at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam (with an incorrect date of birth: February 2, 1821, instead of February 19, 1822)



Michael "Mike Klindel" (1850–1941), the eldest son of Peter Kleindl, was born on November 30, 1850, in Wangsaß and moved to Wisconsin at the age of two. He died on March 30, 1941, in Elmore, Faribault County, Minnesota.

Kobler, Maria Anna[92]

Biographical data: * 1832 Gundelshausen, † 1901 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Gundelshausen No. 6, Par. Kapfelberg, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a weaver
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / "Florida"
Crossing: London – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Anna Kobler was a daughter of the weaver Joseph Kobler and his wife Anna Maria, née Amann, in Gundelshausen.[93] She was a sister of Anna Maria Kobler (1821–1866), who had emigrated to Beaver Dam in 1852 with her husband Jakob Kolb (see pp. 134–135), and a niece of Jakob Amann, her mother's brother, who had also come to Beaver Dam in 1853 with his wife and children (see p. 90).

Anna Kobler traveled together with her future husband, Georg Zweck from Viehhausen, with whom she settled on farms in the town of Westford and town of Beaver Dam before retiring in the City. (see p. 191).

92 The first given name was omitted in later documents.
93 On www.findagrave.com, the place of birth is incorrectly given as „Rudelzhausen".

Köppl, Margarethe

Biographical data: * 1829 Etterzhausen, † 1870 Chicago, IL
Place of origin: Etterzhausen, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a tailor
Children: Anna (* 1850), Maria (* 1853)
Assets: 320 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / "Zurich"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Margarethe Köppl emigrated with two illegitimate daughters, one and a half and four years old, respectively, and their father, Joseph Oswald (1826–1898) from Gutmaning in the Court District of Cham, whom she married in America. On June 30, 1854, she submitted her application for emigration authorization, stating that she possessed a total of 320 guilders. Of this amount, 100 guilders were her own savings, and she was to receive another 100 from her father. The remaining 120 guilders came from the parental estate of her partner, Joseph Oswald, and had been paid out to her as maintenance for her two illegitimate children.

Her father, Alois Köppl, also appeared at the court hearing to place on record his consent to his daughter's emigration and to stand surety for any potential debts she might incur. In addition, the consent of the children's guardian was obtained. Margarethe's partner and the father of her children, Joseph Oswald, had already paid for the crossing from Le Havre to New York through the agent Oscar Ringler in Regensburg (see pp. 15–16).[94] On September 12, 1854, the four of them arrived in New York aboard the American ship "Zurich." On the list containing the names of the 376 passengers, one-and-a-half-year-old Maria Anna (* January 26, 1853) appears with her age listed as 11 months. Since children under the age of one generally traveled free of charge, her parents might have cheated in this instance (an observation frequently made in such records). Margarethe Köppl and Joseph Oswald probably married soon after their arrival in America. In 1870, we find them in the town of Lake (now part of Chicago, Illinois). Joseph Oswald worked there as a boarding house and saloon keeper.[95] In addition to the two children born in Bavaria, six more were born in America.[96]

Margarethe died December 4, 1870. Joseph Oswald September 13, 1898. Both are buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Chicago.

Köppl, (Maria) Anna

Biographical data: * 1821 Etterzhausen
Place of origin: Etterzhausen, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a tailor
Assets: 176 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1858 / did not emigrate

Anna Köppl was one of those undecided individuals who planned to emigrate and went through the procedure to obtain the necessary permit, only to change their minds and remain in the country.

94 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1142.
95 Cf. US Federal Census 1870.
96 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

Just under four years after her sister Margarethe (see p. 132), who was eight years her junior, had emigrated to Chicago, Anna submitted her own application. In it, she stated: *I intend to emigrate to North America with my beloved, the shoemaker Anton Greß*[97] *from Straubing, in order to settle there and get married.* Anna Köppl declared that she possessed 176 guilders. Of this amount, 100 guilders represented her share of the parental estate ("Elterngut"), which her brother Joseph, who had taken over the family property, was to pay out to her. The remaining 76 guilders were her own savings, for which she submitted a certificate from the Regensburg Savings Bank. The documents she presented also included a passage contract concluded with the trading firm Neumüller in Regensburg on April 15, 1858. The case file was ultimately closed by the regional court on December 3, 1858, *with the notation that Anna Köppl did not intend to emigrate at that time.*[98]
Fittingly, the parish registers of Nittendorf record the marriage on May 10, 1859, between the 37-year-old Anna Köppl, daughter of a tailor, and Anton Kreß from Straubing, who had by then advanced to the rank of master shoemaker.

Kohler / Koller, Martin

Biographical data:	* ca. 1792, † 1862 Town of Fredonia, Ozaukee Co., WI
Place of origin:	Grametshof, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Married
Wife:	Wagner, Therese, * ca. 1800 Waltersheim, CD Burglengenfeld, † 1873 Fredonia
Children:	Regina (* 1824), Joseph (* 1825), Georg (* 1826), Johann (* 1827), Elisabeth (* 1832), Therese (1833–1914), Magdalena (1836–1874), Franziska (1839–1908), Martin (1841–1915)
Assets:	6,000 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1846 / "François I."
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Fredonia, Ozaukee Co., WI

Martin Koller, a farmer at Grametshof, an isolated farmstead near Beratzhausen, was one of the first substantial farmers in the Hemau court district to decide to emigrate.
Until 1833, he had lived in Waltersheim in the parish of Schmidmühlen, where his first children were also born. He had been established at Grametshof since 1834. When he sold the farm in 1846 to set out for North America with his wife and nine children, some of whom were already adults, he was 54 years old. He cited as his reason for emigrating *the expectation that his many children would find better opportunities in America to settle and establish themselves in farming.* The court clerk noted the following regarding his character: *An upstanding, capable farmer whose emigration encouraged many others to emigrate as well.*
The family traveled via Le Havre. Twenty-eight of the 198 passengers in the steerage of the "François I." were emigrants known to us, including the farmers Andreas Liebl from Hinterthann (see p. 137), Gg. Anton Pritschet from Brunn (see p. 160–161), and Peter Peter from Painten (see p. 155–157), along with their respective families. After arriving in New York on July 20, 1846, they continued traveling on – probably as a group – to Wisconsin, where most of them settled in Fredonia, about 30 miles north of Milwaukee.

97 Spelling variant: "Kreß".
98 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1143.

Martin and Therese Kohler/Koller soon established their own settlement nearby in the town of Fredonia; it initially bore the name "Kohler" but was later renamed "Little Kohler" to avoid confusion with a town of the same name in Sheboygan County.[99]
The family evidently maintained contact with fellow countrymen in Beaver Dam, as their daughter Therese Koller, born in 1833, died there on October 8, 1914, under her married name, Frenzel, and was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.



Grave marker for Martin Koller (1790/92–1862) in St. Mary's Cemetery of Little Kohler in the town of Fredonia, Wisconsin (partial view)

Kolb, Jakob

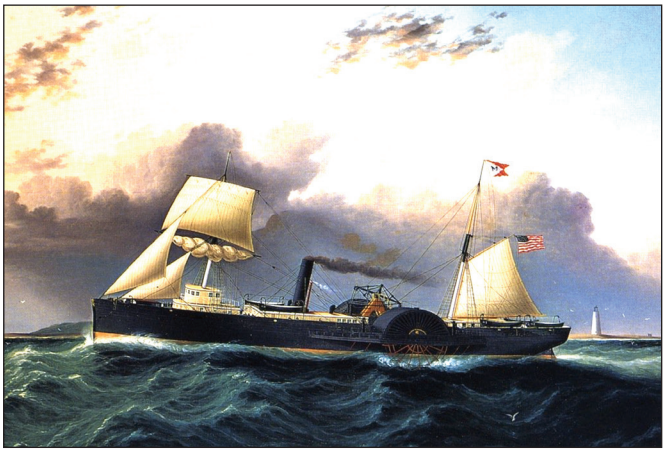
Biographical data:	* 1821 Kapfelberg, † 1900 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Kapfelberg No. 43, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife:	Kobler, Anna Maria, * 1821 Gundelshausen, Par. Kapfelberg, † 1866 Town of Beaver Dam
Children:	Anna Maria (* 1843), Maria Anna (1849–1940), Jakob (1851–1888)
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Beaver Dam, WI (until 1875), Beaver Dam, WI

Jakob Kolb was the son of Joseph Kolb, a small-scale farmer ("1/16-Bauer") and day laborer from Kapfelberg from his third marriage to Therese Redlbeck. When his father died of consumption (tuberculosis?) at the age of 53 in 1829, eight-year-old Jakob was sent to work as a herding boy for a farmer in the area. In 1846, Jakob took over his parents' farmstead at Kapfelberg No. 43 and married Anna Maria Kobler, daughter of the smallholder and weaver Joseph Kobler of Gundelshausen, who brought with her a three-year-old daughter from a previous out-of-wedlock relationship. Just six years later, Kolb sold his one-sixteenth farm and, accompanied by his wife and three children (aged one, two, and nine), set off for America as part of a group of compatriots traveling on the "Germania."
From New York, where they arrived on June 13, 1852, they continued on to Beaver Dam; according to family tradition, they reached the town on June 24, 1852.[100] By 1860, they were established as farmers in the town of Beaver Dam, holding real estate valued at 1,200 dollars and 100 dollars in cash assets. Ten years later, their property was valued at 7,000 dollars. Three more children, Andrew, Joseph, and Rosina, were born to the

99 Cf. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Kohler,_Wisconsin (February 2, 2026).
100 Cf. Howard-Gashel, p. 7.

couple. Jakob Kolb had become a naturalized citizen on October 2, 1857. At the age of 40, he was recruited for military service and took part in the American Civil War (1861–1865).

When his wife, Maria Kobler, died in 1866 at the age of 45 after twenty years of marriage, their youngest child, Rosina, was seven years old. Kolb decided to visit his Bavarian homeland to look for a new wife. On February 7, shortly after the wedding of his daughter Maria Anna Kolb (1849-1940), who married Joseph Göschl in Beaver Dam on January 21, 1867,[101] he set off for Europe. During his three-month stay in his homeland, he found his future second wife in 32-year-old Franziska Schwank (1835–1911), the daughter of Joseph Schwank, a gelder of Neukelheim No. 43 (now Ihrlerstein) and his wife Therese, née Susbauer. On May 25, the two began their return journey to America from Bremen. They traveled on the "Western Metropolis,"[102] a modern steam-and-sail vessel launched in 1863 that accommodated 939 passengers, making the crossing to New York in just 17 days; they arrived there on June 11 and reached Beaver Dam on June 20, 1867.[103]



The sailing paddle steamer "Western Metropolis" (built in 1863), on which Jakob Kolb and Franziska Schwank traveled from Bremen to New York in 1867.

Their wedding took place in Beaver Dam on July 4, 1867,[104] America's Independence Day, even though the "Western Metropolis" passenger list had already recorded the couple under the surname Kolb.

A newspaper report from August 27 of the following year, reproduced here verbatim, tells of a tragic accident in the Kolb household: *Fatal Accident.— On Tuesday morning [August 25] a boy about fourteen years old, son of Jacob Kolb, who resides on the west side of Beaver Lake, just opposite the city, went down to the water to shoot some ducks. But for some reason or other the gun failed to go off.— He returned to the house with it still loaded, and in some careless handling of it, trying to find out what was the matter, it went off and lodged the whole charge of duck shot in the back of his little sister's head, killing her instantly. The girl [Rosina] was about nine years old.*[105]

Jakob Kolb lived to the age of 79 and died in Beaver Dam on December 26, 1900. His second wife passed away in Beaver Dam on August 22, 1911, at the age of 76. Both are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

101 Cf. Howard-Gashel, p. 7.
102 Cf. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Metropolis_(1863_ship).
103 Cf. Howard-Gashel, p. 7–8.
104 Cf. ibid.
105 "Dodge County Citizen", August 27, 1868, p. 3.

Krempl, Georg

Biographical data: * 1803 Herrnsaal
Place of origin: Herrnsaal No. 1, Par. Saal, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Georg Krempl was the unmarried son of the farming couple Thomas Krempl and Anna Maria, née Heiss, of Herrnsaal. When his sister Anna Maria (1808-1864), wife of Anton Stang (1800-1880) (see pp. 178–179), emigrated with her family in 1853, he moved with them to Beaver Dam. There, all trace of him is lost.

Landfried, Franz Joseph

Biographical data: * 1806 Netzstall, † 1883 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Netzstall, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "Washington"
Crossing: Hamburg – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL; Town of Beaver Dam, WI

(Franz) Joseph Landfried, the son of a farmer from Netzstall near Painten, arrived in 1846 with his fiancée Anna Maria Obermaier (1811-1884) (see p. 151) and their son Lukas (1843–1917), born out of wedlock. The couple first lived in Chicago IL before moving to the town of Beaver Dam (see chapter "Scouts and Pioneers," pp. 72–73). The 1870 census lists them there as the owner of a farm valued at 2,000 dollars and holding 600 dollars in monetary assets.

Landfried, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1815 Hohenschambach, † ca. 1855 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI
Place of origin: Hohenschambach No. 27, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets: 1,000 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI

Johann Georg Landfried was the son of the farming couple Johann Sebastian Landfried and Elisabeth, née Peter, of Hohenschambach. He traveled to New York on the "Germania" in 1852 and continued from there to Wisconsin. In 1855, he appears as a godfather in the first baptismal register of St. Peter's Parish in Beaver Dam (see pp. 53–54 and 73).

Leichtl, Maria Anna

Biographical data: * 1828 Viehhausen, † 1920 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Viehhausen No. 13, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a blacksmith
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Chesapeake"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Pittsburgh, PA (18 months); Beaver Dam, WI

Maria Anna Leichtl was the daughter of Paul Leichtl, a blacksmith in Viehhausen, and his wife Therese, née Brunner. In 1852, she traveled with her future husband Mathias Zweck (1825–1910) on the "Chesapeake" from Bremen to Baltimore (see pp. 192–193).

Liebl, Andreas

Biographical data: * 1795 Judenberg, Par. Duggendorf, CD Burglengenfeld, † 1871 Fredonia, Ozaukee Co., WI
Place of origin: Hinterthann No. 2, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Söldner") / Married
Wife: Fleh, Anna Maria, * 1803 Hinterthann No. 2, † 1855(?) Town of Farmington, Washington Co., WI
Children: Anna Maria (1829–1907), Johann (1832–1919), Joseph (1834–1923), Michael (1840–1909)
Assets: 1,600 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "François I."
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Farmington, Washington Co., WI

Andreas Liebl was one of those early emigrant farmers from the parish of Beratzhausen who went to Wisconsin together with Martin Kohler (see pp. 133–134) and settled on a farm in the town of Farmington in Washington County adjacent to the town of Fredonia in Ozaukee County. He cited the *expectation that his children would find better opportunities to settle and farm in America* as the reason for giving up his farm at the age of 50 and turning his back on Europe with his wife and four children, between six and seventeen years of age.[106]

The family joined the group of emigrants led by Martin Kohler, traveling via Le Havre. The exact date they left Hinterthann is recorded in the Beratzhausen parish registers; the four baptismal entries contain the identical note: *Emigrated to North America with his/her parents on May 14, 1846.* A year later, Andreas Liebl's sister and brother-in-law, Georg Michael Fleh, neighbors from Hinterthann, followed their relatives to Wisconsin with their own family (see p. 103).

106 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Liebl, Johann

Biographical data: n.a.
Place of origin: Hagetshof, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Mason / Married
Assets: 167 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Märkl, Johann Martin

Biographical data: * 1808 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 101, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship: 1847[107] / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Joh. Martin Märkl was a son of the Painten citizen Martin Märkl (vulgo "Schneindergirgl"), and his wife Katharina, née Prock, of Painten.

Maier, (Franz) Joseph

Biographical data: * 1821 Aichkirchen, † 1888 Town of Oak Grove, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Aichkirchen No. 7, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 750 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1848 / ?
Crossing: Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI; Town of Oak Grove, Dodge Co., WI

(Franz) Joseph Maier was a son of the farming couple Joseph Maier and M. Katharina, née Altmann, of Aichkirchen. He is presumably identical to the second husband of the widow Theresa Dinauer, née Pilz (1823–1903) (see p. 158), whom he married in Beaver Dam in 1856. The couple lived in the town of Beaver Dam for about ten years and then moved to the city of Beaver Dam. According to his obituary, Maier died in 1888 in the Dodge County "Poor House" located at that time in the town of Oak Grove near Juneau, WI.[108]

Maier, Georg Joseph

Biographical data: * 1814 Kochenthal
Place of origin: Kochenthal No. 10, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Unmarried

107 Cf. Intelligenzblatt.
108 Cf. www.findagrave.com.

Assets: 165 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "François I."
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

(Georg) Joseph Maier was the son of Georg Maier, a farmer ("Halbbauer") in Kochenthal, and his wife Therese, née Merl. In 1852, his sister M. Theresia Maier (* 1823) followed him to America (see p. 142). According to emigration records, he traveled together with Maria Anna Dietz (* 1825) (see p. 98), his presumed future wife.

Maier, Johann Evangelist

Biographical data: * 1818 Wangsaß, † 1897 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Wangsaß No. 5, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI



Wangsaß, early 19th century
(Geoportal Bayern, www.geoportal.bayern.de)

The idea of emigration had taken hold of the hamlet of Wangsaß in a particular way. Of the eight farmsteads existing there, no fewer than five were affected by the wave of emigration. In 1847, Georg Michael Achhammer (House No. 7) and Joh. Georg Schmid (No. 8) left their home. In 1852, Georg Weigert (No. 3) followed them, and in 1853, Johann Ev. Maier (No. 5) and Peter Kleindl with his wife and children (No. 6) did the same.

Johann Evangelist Maier was born on November 19, 1818, in Wangsaß, the youngest of five children of the farmer ("Halbbauer") Andreas Maier (1773–1819) and his wife Anna Katharina, née Fanderl, (1784–1831). His parents, originally from Anger (Laaber parish) and Kollersried, respectively, had farmed the so-called "Woferlgütl" there since 1812, working a plot of just under 44 "Tagwerk" of land.[109]

Johann was only eleven months old when his father died at the age of 46. The parish priest of Hohenschambach recorded the cause of death as *improper treatment of intestinal inflammation*. To continue running the farm and providing for her four young children (a fifth had died), the widow needed to remarry as soon as possible. On April 23, 1820, she married 30-year-old Jakob Hinterhager from Großetzenberg (Laaber parish). However, Johann's mother lived to be only 47, dying on September 28, 1831, of intestinal gangrene. Since

109 Cf. StAAm, Kataster Hemau 207; One Bavarian Tagwerk (literally an area that could be plowed in one day) measured 3,408 m^2. 1 Tagwerk = 0.84 Acre.

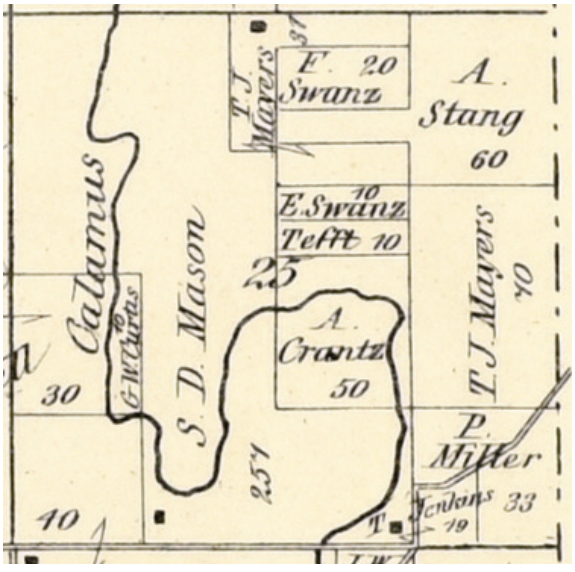
the marriage to Jakob Hinterhager had produced only one child, who lived for just three days, Hinterhager was required to hand over the "Woferlgütl" to his four stepchildren, in accordance with the stipulations of the marriage contract dated April 7, 1820.[110]

These stepchildren, Barbara, Joseph, Peter, and Johann Maier, were between 12 and 18 years old when they were left full orphans and were likely assigned a joint guardian. They presumably continued to farm the land with their stepfather for several more years.

While Barbara, the eldest of them, would probably marry and leave home soon, the three brothers remained unmarried on the farm and advanced in years. When Joseph was 38 and Peter 36, and still single, the youngest brother, Johann Ev. Maier (then 34), decided to emigrate.

He had gotten together with Rosina Waldhier (1826–1900), the youngest daughter of the farmer ("Gütler") Johann Isidor Waldhier of Kochenthal No. 6. They intended to marry in America, a plan that in their home area had seemingly been thwarted by the groom's precarious domestic circumstances and, in all probability, by strict marriage restrictions (see p. 7).

When they set out for Bremen in March 1853, they were not alone. They traveled with their neighbor from Wangsaß, Peter Kleindl (1822–1902), and his family (see pp. 130–131). They appear on the passenger list of the "Mary" alongside 58 other like-minded individuals from their home region during the crossing to New York (see pp. 37–38), where they arrived on May 2. Like most of their fellow passengers, they continued immediately to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where the newcomers met countrymen who had settled there in previous years.



The farm of Johann and Rosina Maier (Mayers) in the town of Calamus, 1873 (Atlas of Dodge County 1873)

After they reached their destination, Johann Maier and Rosina Waldhier were married on May 21, 1853. Since Beaver Dam had neither a Catholic church nor a resident priest at the time, the ceremony was performed by Father Michael Haider from Jefferson, who visited the town at irregular intervals to conduct baptisms and weddings. The witnesses at the wedding were John and Michael Waldhier! (see pp. 184–185).[111]

The newlyweds settled near Beaver Dam, purchasing a farm in the town of Calamus. By 1873, they owned 71 acres of land.[112] Their six children – three boys and three girls – were born in the town of Calamus between 1855 and 1866.

Johann Maier had applied for American citizenship as early as November 5, 1853, and was naturalized on October 5, 1860.

Back home in Wangsaß, Johann Maier's brothers Joseph (1814–1868) and Peter (1816–1883) lived on the inherited family farm, one-third of which belonged to Johann. After Joseph died in 1868 at the age of 53, Johann wanted to be paid out for his share of the "Woferlgütl" farm. Since his

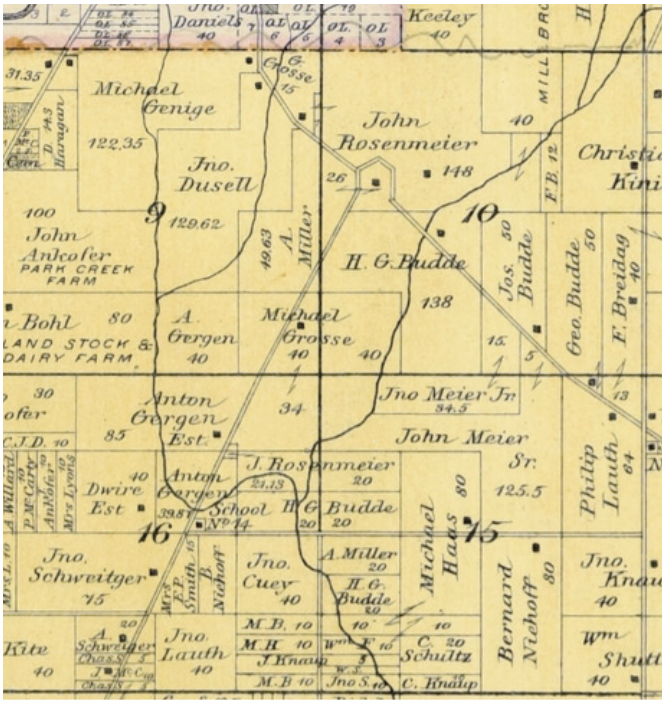
110 Cf. StAAm, Kataster Hemau 207, p. 93.
111 Jefferson County Vital Records Register, JM-9 Marriage Johann Mair Jefferson Vol 1, p. 42-2.
112 Cf. Atlas of Dodge County 1873.

co-owner, his brother Peter, was apparently unable to do so, the property was put up for forced sale at the behest of *Johann Maier, property owner residing in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, America* (see p. 71).[113] The auction of the farm scheduled for March 13, 1873, at the inn in Haag, brought in 4,825 guilders,[114] half of which (965 dollars) was due to Johann Maier. His brother Peter Maier had to leave the farm and died ten years later at the age of 67 in neighboring Haag (Parish of Hohenschambach).

Soon after receiving his share of the auction proceeds, Johann Maier sold his farm in the town of Calamus and purchased a larger 180 acre farm in the town of Beaver Dam for 9,000 dollars.

Anticipating their retirement, which they, like many other local farmers, intended to spend in the city of Beaver Dam, Johann and Rosina Maier bought a four-acre city property in 1887 for 1,250 dollars. About 1893, they moved there after selling their farm to their son Joseph (1864–1926).

Johann Maier died on October 8, 1897, in his 79th year, at his home at 165 Davis Street. His widow Rosina, née Waldhier, lived to be 73 and passed away on April 21, 1900. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.



The Maier (Meier) family's landholdings in town of Beaver Dam, 1890, after a portion had been sold to their son John (Plat Book of Dodge County, 1890)

Maier, Johann Georg

Biographical data:	* 1817 Aichkirchen
Place of origin:	Aichkirchen No. 1, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets:	700 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Johann Georg Maier was the son of the farming couple Sebastian Maier and Walburga, née Altmann, from Aichkirchen. In 1852, his cousin Joseph Jobst (* 1822) from Pollenried emigrated to America (see p. 127).

113 Cf. „Regensburger Tagblatt", December 16, 1872.
114 Cf. StAAm, Kataster Hemau 209, p.95/2.

Maier, Johann Kaspar

Biographical data: * 1822 Beratzhausen
Place of origin: Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Mason / Married
Wife: Stuis, Katharina, * 1809 Laufenthal, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Assets: 350 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1848 / ?
Crossing: Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Joh. Kaspar Maier was the son of the mason Georg Maier and his wife Thekla, née Köstler, of Beratzhausen. The Maier couple had been married since 1843 but were childless at the time of their emigration.[115]

Maier, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1813 Aichkirchen
Place of origin: Aichkirchen No. 1, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Child: NN, illegitimate
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Maria Maier was presumably the sister of Johann Georg Maier (* 1817), with whom she emigrated (see p. 141). Her unnamed illegitimate child also traveled with her.[116]

Maier, Maria Theresia

Biographical data: * 1823 Kochenthal
Place of origin: Kochenthal No. 10, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

M. Theresia Maier was a sister of Georg Joseph Maier (* 1814), who emigrated in 1846 (see pp. 138–139).

Maier, Walburga

Biographical data: * 1819 Langenkreith
Place of origin: Langenkreith No. 5, Par. Hemau, CD Hemau

115 Cf. BZAR, Beratzhausen 009 (1843–1848).
116 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Child: NN (* ca. 1845), illegitimate
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1848 / ?
Crossing: Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Walburga Maier was the daughter of the farming couple Michael Maier and Anna Maria Therese, née Paulus. She traveled to America in 1848 with an illegitimate child.

Maushammer, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1802 Laaber, CD Hemau, † before 1877
Place of origin: Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Weaver / Married
Wife: Winkler, Barbara, * 1794 Laaber (midwife), † 1877 St. Mary's, Elk Co., PA
Assets: 600 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: St. Mary's, Elk Co., PA[117]

At the time of their emigration, Joseph Maushammer and his wife were 45 and 53 years old, respectively, and had been married for 20 years. The marriage was apparently childless. The couple had initially settled in Wischenhofen (Parish of Duggendorf), a good hour's walk from Frauenberg, and had moved to Frauenberg between 1830 and 1833; there, Barbara Maushammer worked as a midwife from 1829 until her emigration. Joseph Maushammer worked as a weaver. When they decided to go to America in 1847, they cited the *hope of improving their livelihood* as the reason. Their exit permit is dated August 17, 1847.[118] Three days earlier, the baptismal register of the Frauenberg parish recorded the last delivery assisted by Barbara Maushammer.

The couple traveled via Bremen and Baltimore to Pennsylvania, where we find them in St. Mary's, a settlement founded in 1842 and originally inhabited primarily by Catholic immigrants from Bavaria. In the 1870 census, Joseph Maushammer is recorded as a 67-year-old laborer with his wife Barbara and real estate valued at 300 dollars. Barbara Maushammer, née Winkler, died in St. Mary's in 1877 at the age of 83. Her husband had predeceased her sometime between 1870 and 1877.

Metz, Johann Michael

Biographical data: * 1806 Hinterthann
Place of origin: Hinterthann No. 4, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "François I."
Crossing: Le Havre – New York

117 „The Elk County Advocate", August 23, 1877, and www.findagrave.com.
118 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Residence in USA: ?

Johann Michael Metz was the son of Georg Metz, a farmer ("Halbbauer") in Hinterthann, and his wife Margarethe, née Engl. As an unmarried, 40-year-old farmhand, he set out together with his sister – the ten years younger, unmarried domestic servant Walburga Metz (see below) – both in the hope of better earnings.[119] On May 14, 1846, they left for Le Havre, together with 26 like-minded individuals from Hinterthann and the immediate vicinity who, like them, traveled to New York on the "François I."

Metz, Maria Katharina

Biographical data: * 1812 Kollersried
Place of origin: Kollersried, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a cottager ("Häusler")
Assets: 100 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1850 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Maria Katharina Metz was the daughter of the cottager Michael Metz of Kollersried and his wife Anna Maria, née Peller. Their total landholdings amounted to a mere two "Tagwerk" (approx. 1.7 acres). The parental property had been transferred to her sister Anna Maria and her husband in 1824.[120] Maria Katharina emigrated in 1850 at the age of 37, reportedly with only100 guilders in cash, *hoping to improve her prospects.*[121]

Metz, Walburga

Biographical data: * 1816 Hinterthann
Place of origin: Hinterthann No. 4, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets: 400 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "François I."
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Walburga Metz was the sister of Johann Michael Metz (see p. 143). Her baptismal entry dated May 22, 1816, in the Beratzhausen parish register contains a subsequently added note: *Departed for North America with her brother on May 14, 1846.* Both possessed a substantial cash sum of 400 guilders.

119 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
120 Cf. Ostermeier, Kollersried, p. 244f.
121 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Mirlach, Andreas

Biographical data:	* 1805 Affecking No. 13, CD Kelheim, † 1884 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Kelheim No. 238, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Fisherman's assistant / Married
Wife:	Fruth, Franziska, * 1817 Kelheimwinzer, Par. Saal, † 1910 Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Andreas (1845–1924), Joseph (1849–1913), Sebastian (1851–1856)
Emigration / Ship:	1854 / ?
Crossing:	?
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

Andreas Mirlach came from a long-established dynasty of Danube fishermen, a lineage stretching back at least four generations in Neustadt/Danube, Eining, and Affecking, places where his great-great-grandfathers had practiced their trade. Andreas was the second of eight children born in Affecking to the fisherman Andreas Mirlach Sr. and his wife Therese, née Gabler. While the family property and the associated fishing rights passed to his brother Joseph (1817–1854), Andreas found work as a fisherman's helper ("Fischerknecht") in Kelheim; where, in 1843, he married Franziska Fruth, the daughter of the cottager Ferdinand Fruth from Kelheimwinzer. The couple settled at house no. 238 in the so-called "Fischerdörfl" (Fishermen's Village) district of Kelheim. It was there that the three children with whom they would later emigrate to America were born.

Andreas Mirlach's father died in 1852 at the age of 78, and in September 1854, he lost his brother Joseph. According to family tradition, Andreas Mirlach emigrated to Wisconsin with his wife and children in 1854, heading straight to Beaver Dam.

Two more children were born to the couple in Beaver Dam;[122] however, it was also there that their son Sebastian, born back in Kelheim, died at the age of only five († July 20, 1856).

Mirlach became an American citizen as early as June 2, 1856, and the 1870 census lists him as a gardener with his wife and five children, as well as real estate valued at 800 dollars, in the 2nd Ward of Beaver Dam.



Andreas (Andrew) Mirlach (1845–1924), born in 1845 in the "Fischerdörfl" of Kelheim before arriving in Beaver Dam at the age of nine with his parents


1867. 1898.

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Newspaper advertisement for the Mirlach jewelry store in the "Beaver Dam Argus" of October 6, 1898

122 Cf. US Federal Census 1870.

The sons born in Kelheim of the gardener and former fisherman's helper became successful businessmen and respected citizens of Beaver Dam. The obituary published on April 17, 1924, for his son Andreas (Andrew), who had arrived in Wisconsin at the age of nine, provides a vivid account of this: after completing his schooling, he worked for several consecutive years at Beaver Dam's two woolen mills before deciding, in 1862, to begin an apprenticeship as a jeweler. His younger brother Joseph (1849–1913) followed suit; he too worked at a local woolen mill and began an apprenticeship with a jeweler in 1865.[123]
In 1867, Andrew Mirlach opened his own jewelry store in Beaver Dam; his brother later joined him as a partner, and the business operated under the name "A. F. Mirlach Brothers" until 1935.
In 1869, Andrew married Franziska Hartl, born in Schneckenbach in 1849, who had arrived in Wisconsin in 1853 with her parents, Alois and Barbara Hartl (see pp. 119–120), and with whom he had six children.
Beyond his role as a businessman, Andrew Mirlach was always involved in the city's civic life, serving as an active member and one-time captain of the "Germania Hose Company" (a volunteer fire department in Beaver Dam), as a member of the city council, and as a co-founder of the "Beaver Dam Agricultural Society," among other roles. His son, Franklin Joseph Mirlach (1872–1927), also held municipal offices; he served as the city's mayor from 1911 – with a two-year hiatus – until his final term ended in 1926. The Mirlach family burial plot is located at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.



Franklin Joseph Mirlach (1872–1927), Mayor of Beaver Dam

Mittermaier, Maria Therese

Biographical data:	* 1829 Schönhofen
Place of origin:	Schönhofen No. 45, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a blacksmith
Assets:	170 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Helvetia"
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Reserve Township, Allegheny Co., PA

M. Therese Mittermaier was the daughter of the blacksmith Kaspar Mittermaier of Schönhofen and his wife, Therese, née Poschenrieder. She emigrated with her future husband, Simon Dreyer (* 1824) (see p. 99).[124]

123 Cf. „Beaver Dam Argus", April 17, 1924, and www.findagrave.com.
124 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O Hemau 1130.

Mittl, Johann Baptist

Biographical data:	* 1823 Konstein, Par. Wellheim, † 1903 Chicago, IL
Place of origin:	Rothenbügl, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Glass engraver / Married
Wife:	Wallner, Franziska, * 1829 Rothenbügl, † 1902 Chicago, IL
Children:	Mechthild (Mathilda) (1847–1915), Wilhelm (1851–1894), Anna (1854–1921), Franziska (1857–1927)
Assets:	2,200 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1859 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL



Johann Baptist Mittl (1823–1903) and Franziska, née Wallner, (1829–1902) in Chicago

Johann Baptist Mittl is an exceptional figure among the subjects of this study. Born in 1823 in Konstein (Parish of Wellheim) as the son of a needle merchant of the same name and his wife, the glassmaker's daughter Rosina Silbermann (* 1787), he trained there as a glass cutter (glass engraver) and worked in this capacity at the Rothenbügl glassworks near Painten. He was likely able to enter the largely closed glassmakers' guild, within which the knowledge and skills required for glass production and finishing were typically passed down from father to son and thus remained within the family, thanks to his mother's descent from a glassmaking family established in both Konstein and Rothenbügl.

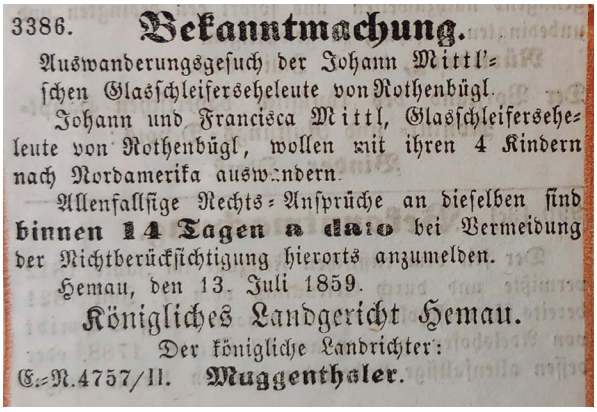
In 1849, Mittl married Franziska Wallner. She was the daughter of the glassmaker Georg Wallner (* 1786) of Rothenbügl, who himself hailed from an extensive glassmaking dynasty in Bohemia. When the couple settled in Rothenbügl, the local glassworks was owned by Mittl's second cousin Peter Silbermann (1814–1888), who also managed the operation.[125]

Various documents from the history of the Rothenbügl glassworks suggest that Johann Mittl was held in high regard there. During the 1858 negotiations regarding the village residency of the new glassworks owners, Pestalozza and Brand, he was one of the spokesmen for the glassmakers working there and also served as a municipal representative.[126] It was likely disagreements between him and the new owners, or rather, the plant managers, that – against the backdrop of a glass industry in crisis – prompted Johann Mittl to emigrate.

125 Cf. Paulus: Aufstieg und Niedergang der Glasmacherfamilie Silbermann. In: BBLF 88 (2025), pp. 150–159.
126 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 2995, Ansässigmachung Pestalozza, and StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1445, Ansässigmachung des Joseph Brand.

On July 13, 1859, the Mittl couple submitted their application to the district court to emigrate to North America with their four children. They had sold their property in Rothenbügl and, from the sale price of 3,075 guilders – after deducting debts – still had 2,200 in hand. In early August, they were granted permission to emigrate and issued a passport.[127] Shortly thereafter, the family of six must have departed.

Their destination was Chicago, Illinois, where Johann Mittl and Franziska Wallner evidently achieved prosperity. In 1870, we find *John Mittel* there as a *glass carver*, owning real estate valued at 10,000 dollars. Ten years later, he appears as the proprietor of a crockery store.[128]



3386. **Bekanntmachung.**

Auswanderungsgesuch der Johann Mittl'schen Glasschleifersehelente von Rothenbügl.

Johann und Francisca Mittl, Glasschleifersehelente von Rothenbügl, wollen mit ihren 4 Kindern nach Nordamerika auswandern.

Allenfallsige Rechts-Ansprüche an dieselben sind **binnen 14 Tagen a dato** bei Vermeidung der Nichtberücksichtigung hierorts anzumelden.

Hemau, den 13. Juli 1859.

Königliches Landgericht Hemau.

Der königliche Landrichter:

E.-N. 4757/II. **Muggenthaler.**

Announcement of the emigration of the married couple Johann and Franziska Mittl from Rothenbügl with their four children in the "Münchener Zeitung" dated July 16, 1859

Müller, Aegid

Biographical data:	* 1808 Wolflier, † 1893 Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Wolflier No. 1, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Married
Assets:	7,800 guilders
Wife:	Ferstl, Therese, * 1809 Mausheim, Par. Beratzhausen, † 1887 Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Katharina (* 1838), Therese (* 1842), Aegid (1847–1928), Anna Maria (1849–1925)
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI

See section "Peasants Become Farmers", pp. 74–75.

Müller, Georg Michael

Biographical data:	* 1802 Wolflier, † 1874 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI, ▭ Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Wolflier No. 1, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets:	450 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI

Married Maria Theresia Dietz (1823-1892) (see p. 98) whom he met in 1852 on the emigrant ship "Germania."

See section "Peasants Become Farmers", pp. 75–76.

127 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1118.

128 US Federal Census 1870 and 1880.

Müller, Andreas

Biographical data: * 1813 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 9, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Andreas Müller was the oldest of six children born to the farming couple Michael Müller and Margarethe, née Schwaiger, in Painten. In 1847, he emigrated together with his brother Michael (* 1814). Both were in their early thirties and had previously worked as farmhands before setting out for North America, *hoping for better earnings*. They were accompanied by Magdalena Rappl (* 1812) (see p. 162), who was probably the partner of one of the two brothers. The subsequent whereabouts of the three, whose emigration permits all date from June 2, 1847, are unknown.[129]

Müller, Michael

Biographical data: * 1814 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 9, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Emigrated with his brother Andreas Müller (see above).

Niebler, Johann Baptist[130]

Biographical data: * 1792 Rechberg, † 1848 Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI
Place of origin: Rechberg No. 7, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer / Married
Assets: 4,000 guilders
Wife: Koller, Margarethe, * 1792 Unterpfraundorf, † 1871 St. Paul, Marion Co., Oregon
Children: Johann Bapt. (1824–1895), Georg Joseph (1826–1877), Michael (1828–1915), Johann Georg (1830–1901), Franz (1837–1933)
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI

129 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
130 Spelling variant: "Nibler".

Johann Baptist Niebler and his family were among the many residents of the village of Rechberg, which was part of the Pfraundorf parish, who left their homeland for America in 1847. The Nieblers had been married since 1822 and since then had managed the "Girglhof," one of the village's three largest farms.[131] After twenty-four years of marriage and the birth of eight children, of whom five sons survived, they decided to emigrate to North America. Their eldest son was twenty-two, and the youngest was ten. They cited the *hope of improving their livelihood* as the reason for their desire to emigrate.[132]

They obtained permission to leave on June 23, 1847, and traveled via Bremen and Quebec to Wisconsin, where, like many of our emigrants, they settled in the town of Farmington in Jefferson County. However, the father met an untimely death there, which likely thwarted many of their plans. In 1848, the year after arriving in Wisconsin, Johann Baptist Niebler succumbed to a typhus infection at the age of fifty-six. His family must have left Farmington after 1850, since we find them in the neighboring state of Minnesota in the 1860 census. The widow Margarethe and her five sons, some of whom were married, had settled more than 350 miles away in Stearns County, northwest of Minneapolis.

Yet their odyssey did not end there. At some point in the following years, they must have decided to move on to the newly established states on the West Coast. They set out along the legendary Oregon Trail in ox-drawn covered wagons, traveling across the prairie and over the Rocky Mountains. Along this route spanning well over 1,500 miles, their paths diverged: Georg Joseph Niebler (1826–1877) remained in Idaho, while the brothers Michael (1828–1915) and Joh. Georg (1830–1901) settled in Walla Walla, Washington. Johann Bapt. (1824–1895) and Franz Niebler (1837–1933) moved on – together with their mother – to Gervais, Marion County, near Portland, Oregon, where they established themselves as farmers. Their mother died in 1871 at the age of 79 in the nearby village of St. Paul.



Franz Niebler (1837–1933), having been born in Rechberg in 1837 and having arrived in Wisconsin at the age of ten, on one of his later birthdays in Oregon (Photo: David Uphoff)

131 Cf. Liquidationsprotokoll für die Steuergemeinde Rechberg, 1835 (Communication from Doris Sattler, Undorf).
132 Cf. StAAn, RegInn 298.

Nigl, Andreas

Biographical data: * 1823 Breitenbrunn
Place of origin: Breitenbrunn No. 43, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Weaver / Unmarried
Assets: 170 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Marianne"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Baltimore, MD

Andreas Nigl was the son of the cottager ("Häusler") Georg Nigl of Breitenbrunn and his wife Margarethe, née Adler. He traveled with his cousin Johann Baptist Nigl (see below), with whom, according to the "Marianne" passenger list, he shared a piece of luggage. In 1870, he is recorded in the city of Baltimore as a tailor, living with his wife and four children and owning real estate valued at 1,000 dollars.

Nigl, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1822 Langenried
Place of origin: Langenried No. 6, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Weaver / Unmarried
Assets: 170 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Marianne"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Baltimore, MD ?

Johann Bapt. Nigl was a cousin of Andreas Nigl (see above), with whom he traveled. His parents were the weaver Michael Nigl of Langenried and his wife Walburga Seitz.

Obermaier, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1811 Kollersried, † 1884 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Kollersried, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Child: Lukas (* 1843 Kollersried)
Assets: 55 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "Washington"
Crossing: Hamburg – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL; Town of Beaver Dam, WI

A. M. Obermaier traveled in 1846 with her partner, Franz Joseph Landfried (see p. 136), and their illegitimate son Lukas, initially to Chicago, Illinois. They are recorded as living on a farm in the town of Beaver Dam from 1854 onwards. Anna Maria passed away in the town of Beaver Dam at the home of her daughter Anna Roedl on February 7, 1884.

Paulus, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1825 Thonlohe No. 4, Par. Jachenhausen, CD Hemau
Place of origin: Grafenstadl, Par. Aichkirchen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 450 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Joh. Georg Paulus was born the fifth of nine children to Georg Paulus (1798–1833), vulgo "Sandbauer," a farmer holding a "seven-eighths" farmstead ("Sandbauernhof"), and his second wife, Katharina, née Huber (1792–1859), in Thonlohe. Georg was not yet eight years old when his father died of smallpox[133] at the age of 35, and his mother married Mathias Semler (1786–1858) from Thonlohe that same year. "Sandbauernhof," where Georg grew up with two brothers and three sisters (three other siblings had died in early childhood), remained in the family's possession until 1848 but was then sold – probably for economic reasons. The emigration application submitted in 1847 by the son (or stepson), Georg Paulus, should be viewed in this context. Georg was 22 years old at the time and worked as a farmhand. Driven by the *hope of better earnings* and equipped with a 450-guilders inheritance from his parents, he traveled to America in mid-1847 together with his future wife, the farm maid Walburga Rappl from Painten (see p. 163). Permission for the journey had been granted to them on May 29, 1847.

Their destination was Chicago, where they married on September 13th of the same year. The 1860 census lists the couple there (Chicago, 7th Ward) with three children between one and twelve years of age. Georg Paulus worked as a teamster[134] and owned real estate valued at 600 dollars.

Paulus, Johann Michael

Biographical data: * 1791 Rieb No. 1, Par. Eichlberg, CD Hemau, † 1876 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Gundelshausen No. 2, Par. Kapfelberg, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Halbbauer") / Married
Wife: Schweiger, Anna Maria, * 1795 Pullach, CD Kelheim
Children: Walburga (1825–1896), Franziska (1830–1889), Margarethe (* 1833), Nikolaus (1834–1919)
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Joh. Michael Paulus was the firstborn of 13 children of the farmer Georg Adam Paulus, vulgo "Riebwastl" (1759–1825), of Rieb near Hemau, and his wife Margarethe, née Maier. Since his youngest brother, Engelbert Paulus (1806–1844), was designated to succeed him on the family farm, which he indeed took over in 1828 when he married, Joh. Michael was required to establish his own household elsewhere. In 1818, in Teuerting

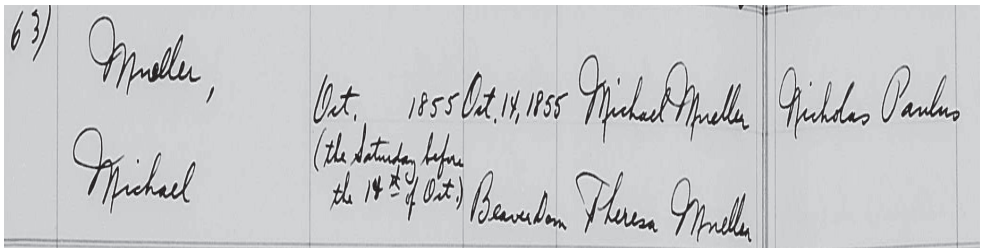
133 In 1807, the Kingdom of Bavaria became the first country in the world to introduce a mandatory smallpox vaccination law.
134 In those days a teamster was someone who drove a team of animals attached to a wagon to haul freight, goods, and materials.

(south of Kelheim), he married the widow Anna Maria Schruck, née Schweiger, (* 1795), and took over the inherited farm ("Halbhof") at Reißing No. 4. By 1830, eight children had been born to the couple there, four of whom reached adulthood. In 1831/32, they exchanged their farm for the property at No. 2, a smaller farm ("Viertelhof"), in Gundelshausen on the Danube (Parish of Kapfelberg), where three more children were born, two of whom survived.

Before Joh. Michael Paulus emigrated in 1854, he had lost two of his adult, unmarried daughters, namely Anna Maria (1820–1843) and Katharina (1822–1853), the latter of whom died of tuberculosis the year before his departure.

In 1854, Joh. Michael Paulus emigrated to North America with three adult children: Franziska (23), Margarethe (20), and Nikolaus (19). His 28-year-old daughter Walburga had already set out in November 1853 with her future husband, Joseph Wimmer (see p. 188), and their daughter Anna, who had been born out of wedlock. Joh. Michael Paulus himself was 62 years old and presumably a widower at the time of his emigration,[135] suggesting that his adult children were the driving force behind the move, perhaps following the example set by the sister who had already emigrated. They may also have been in contact with their cousins Joseph and Georg Prock (see pp. 161–162),[136] who had emigrated in previous years and settled as farmers in the town of Farmington and town of Lowell, respectively, localities not far from Beaver Dam.

They were all drawn to Wisconsin, where we soon find traces of them in various documents. Joh. Michael Paulus initially settled as a farmer in the town of Westford, on the other side of Beaver Dam Lake. On January 23, 1855, at the age of 20, Nikolaus married Barbara Hammer, the 19-year-old daughter of Joseph Hammer, who had immigrated in 1853 from Nittendorf (see p. 116).[137] On October 14, 1855, Nikolaus Paulus stood as godfather at the baptism of Michael, a son of Michael Müller and Theresia, née Dietz (see pp. 75–76).


63) Mueller, Michael — Oct. 1855 (the Saturday before the 14th of Oct.) — Oct. 14, 1855 — Michael Mueller — Beaverdam — Theresa Mueller — Nicholas Paulus

Nicholas Paulus as godfather at the baptism of Michael Mueller in Beaver Dam on October 14, 1855

John Michael Paulus lived to be 85 years old. He died in Beaver Dam and was buried from St. Peter's Church on July 11, 1876.

His son, Nicholas, had since left the area. In 1870, he appears in the city of Beaver Dam with his wife, Barbara, and seven children, who were then between six months and twelve years old, and worked as a day laborer.[138] After that, however, he felt the pull of distant lands. Around 1873, he moved with his family 250 miles further

135 Although there is no death record for Anna Maria Paulus (née Schweiger) in the parish registers of Kapfelberg, other sources suggest that Joh. Michael was already a widower when he emigrated.

136 The mother of Joseph and Georg Prock, Maria Barbara Paulus, was a sister of Joh. Michael Paulus.

137 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

138 Cf. US Federal Census 1870.

west across the Mississippi River to the neighboring state of Iowa. In the town of Rockford, Floyd County, he established a new farm of his own. With the nine offspring already born in Beaver Dam, Nikolaus Paulus's brood grew to thirteen children here.
The 1900 census lists the farms of his sons Frank (1861–1926) and Joseph (1865–1952), both born in Wisconsin and each with a wife and children, in the immediate vicinity of his own operation. Nikolaus Paulus died in Rockford in 1919. His widow, Barbara, née Hammer, followed him in death in 1927. Both were buried in nearby Charles City, in Floyd County, Iowa. Sister Franziska (1830–1889) had remained in Beaver Dam, where she was married to Anton Stang (see pp. 178–179). Sister Walburga Paulus (1825–1896), wife of Joseph Wimmer (see p. 188), had also remained with her family in the town of Westford near Beaver Dam.

Paulus, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1784 Beratzhausen
Place of origin: Beratzhausen No. 4, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Master baker / Widowed
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Joseph Paulus, a 63-year-old master baker from Beratzhausen, had been a widower for two years when he emigrated in 1847 with his stepdaughter Kreszenz Ramberger (* 1824) and her husband Joseph Lorenz Bohrer (see p. 96).

Peller, Joseph

Biographical data: * 1821 Hinterkreith
Place of origin: Hinterkreith, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 500 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1848 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Joseph Peller was the son of the farmer of the same name from Hinterkreith and his wife Maria Anna, née Metz.

Peter, Johann Michael

Biographical data: * 1818 Bodenhof No. 2, Par. Hemau, CD Hemau
Place of origin: Haag No. 8, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Gütler")
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Michael Peter was the son of the farmer Johann Peter (1788–1830) and his second wife, Walburga Engl (1794–1830). From 1812, the family farmed the property Bodenhof No. 2 and then moved about 1820 to Haag (Parish of Hohenschambach). Johann Michael's father died when he was 12, and at 29 he emigrated to North America together with his younger sister, Maria Theresia (see below).

Peter, Maria Theresia

Biographical data:	* 1824 Haag
Place of origin:	Haag No. 8, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Gütler")
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	?
Residence in USA:	?

Maria Theresia Peter emigrated with her brother Johann Michael (see p. 154).

Peter, Peter[139]

Biographical data:	* 1803 Hamberg, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau, † 1890 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Painten No. 60, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Gütler") and day laborer / Married
Wife:	Semler, Magdalena, * 1796 Painten, † 1854 Chicago, IL
Children:	Anna Maria (* 1824), Josepha (* 1827), Johann Bapt. (* 1835), Georg Michael (1837–1921), Georg Joseph (1843–1902)
Assets:	1,380 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1846 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL; Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Peter Peter and his family were among the early emigrants from the Tangrintel region, at a time when Beaver Dam had just 120 inhabitants. They initially settled in Chicago but later sought the proximity of their fellow countrymen in Beaver Dam.

Peter Peter was born in 1803 in the hamlet of Hamberg in the Parish of Hohenschambach, the son of a farmer of the same name and his wife, Anna Margarethe, née Graf. In 1834, he married Magdalena Semler (1796–1854), the daughter of Joseph Semler and Margarethe, née Rappl, day laborers from Painten. The couple already had two daughters before their marriage, Anna Maria and Josepha, who were seven and nine years old, respectively, at the time of their parents' marriage and were legitimized by the union. The legal restrictions on marriage and settlement prevented an earlier marriage. The transfer of the family farm in Hamberg to his brother Jakob Peter (1808–1829) and the associated distribution of his inheritance likely enabled Peter Peter to acquire a small property in Painten, the "Rapplmichlhaus" Nr. 60, before his marriage, where the family now

139 Spelling variant in USA: „Peters".

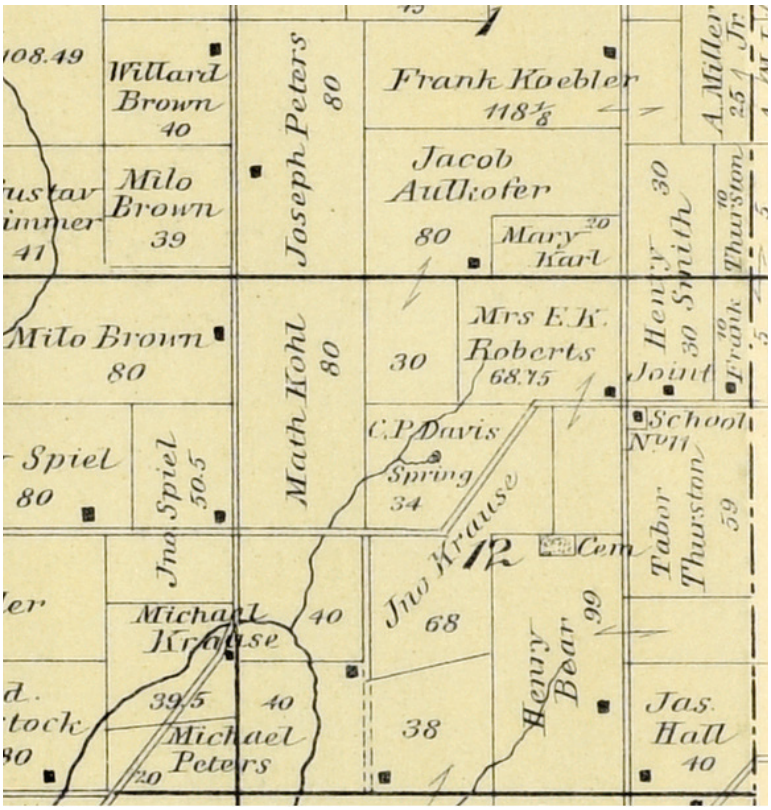
settled.[140] In the same year, Peter's brother Johann Nepomuk (* 1807) also married and moved to Painten, where he bought the "Eisvoglhaus" No. 79 for 700 guilders.

After twelve years of marriage and the birth of three more children, Peter and his wife decided in 1846 to go to America with their three sons and two daughters. They sold their property in Painten and submitted their emigration application with a starting capital of 1,380 guilders. The district court clerk noted the reason for their decision as: *The opinion that the conditions for a farmer in America would be much better than in Bavaria.*

On July 25, 1846, their petition was approved, whereupon the parents set off for the seaport with their five children, aged three to twenty-two. Like many of the subjects who emigrated in the 1840s, they began their new life in Chicago. When Peter's wife, Magdalena, died there in 1854 at the age of 57, he decided to move to Wisconsin with his two sons, Michael (17) and Joseph (11) and probably one of his two adult daughters, to make a fresh start as farmers in the town of Calamus. Here, they met Achhammer, Karl, Maier, and Müller from their old homeland, who had already settled there before them.

Peter remained a widower and continued farming with his sons. In 1873, we find him with a farm comprising 60 acres of land (20 acres in Section 11 and 40 acres in Section 12),[141] and his son Joseph is now shown with his own operation of 80 acres (in Section 1) of the township. His elder son Michael (1837–1921), who married at the age of 20, remained with his father. His bride, Barbara Göschl/Geschel (1839–1922), was born in Schönhofen and came to America with her parents in 1853 (see pp. 107–108). Michael Peter eventually took over his father's farm.

The latter lost his sight around 1880 and probably took this as an opportunity to relocate his residence to the city of Beaver Dam, where he died on May 19, 1890, at the age of 87. He was buried in the St. Mary's Cemetery.



1890 plat map showing the farms of the Painten-born brothers Michael (1837–1921) and Joseph „Peters" (1843–1902) in Calamus Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin (Plat Book of Dodge County, 1890)

140 The church records of Painten do indeed list house number 79 in connection with the baptisms of Peter's three legitimate children. However, this is obviously a case of confusion with the house belonging to his brother Johann Nep. Peter (cf. Liquidationsprotokoll 1835 and BZAR, Painten 12 "Familienbuch").

141 Cf. Atlas of Dodge County, 1873.

The local newspaper in which his obituary appeared also reported that his son, Johann Baptist (* 1835), had traveled from Chicago with his wife and son, George, to attend the funeral.[142]

In 1871, Peter Peter's youngest son, Joseph Peter (1843–1902), had also married. His chosen bride was an immigrant named Katharina Rosenmeier (1849–1907), who had come to Beaver Dam from Nittendorf with her parents in 1853 (see pp. 167–168).

Each of the two brothers now owned his own farm: Michael had taken over his father's 60-acre operation, and Joseph farmed 80 acres in the neighborhood. Joseph Peter was appointed town treasurer of Calamus in 1874 and was re-elected several times. He was also one of the co-founders of a local insurance company. In 1891, he moved to the city of Beaver Dam, where he had purchased a house on Madison Street, but he continued to farm in the town of Calamus. In 1900, he was elected to the Beaver Dam city council as an alderman. His obituary praises him as a good, upright, and hardworking citizen, and a steadfast member of the parish of St. Mary's, of which he had been the secretary for many years. Joseph Peter died on July 17, 1902, at the age of 59 in Beaver Dam.[143] His wife, Katharina, née Rosenmeier, died on August 19, 1907, at the age of 56.[144] Seven years before her death, she had donated one of the stained-glass windows of St. Peter's Church.[145] The couple were buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Michael Peter died on August 29, 1921, at the age of 83 on his farm in the town of Calamus. He left behind eleven children, 22 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.[146] His widow, Barbara, née Göschl, died on November 15, 1922, at the age of 84. Six weeks before her death, she had moved from Calamus to the city of Beaver Dam. Their final resting place is also in St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.[147]



Grave of the couple Michael „Peters" (1837–1921) and Barbara, née Göschl (1839–1922), at St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam (with incorrect birth dates)

Pilz, Anna Maria

Biographical data:	* 1813 Eglsee, † 1892 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Eglsee No. 22, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets:	0
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / "B. Bohlen"
Crossing:	Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA:	Pittsburgh, PA (1847–1855); Beaver Dam, WI (from 1855)

142 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", May 22, 1890.
143 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", July 17, 1902.
144 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", Aug. 23, 1907.
145 Cf. "Dodge County Citizen", Beaver Dam, Dec. 12, 1900.
146 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", Sept. 1, 1921.
147 Cf. "Dodge County Citizen", Beaver Dam, Nov. 15, 1922.

Anna Maria was the third of nine children born to the cottager couple Leonhard Pilz (1778–1842) and Eva, née Ferstl (1782–1847), in Eglsee. In 1847, she emigrated together with her future husband Franz Beer (see p. 93), who also paid for her crossing. Half a year before they left the country, they had a child out of wedlock, who, however, lived only 13 weeks (Margarethe Pilz, † June 23, 1847).
The couple initially lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and relocated to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, in 1855. Her brother Johann Martin (see below) had followed her to the USA in 1852. Anna Maria Pilz died as "Mary Beers" on February 9, 1892, and was buried at St. Peter's in Beaver Dam.[148]

Pilz, Johann Martin

Biographical data:	* 1828 Eglsee
Place of origin:	Eglsee No. 22, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a cottager ("Häusler")
Assets:	210 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Johann Martin was the youngest of nine children born to the cottager couple Leonhard Pilz (1778–1842) and Eva, née Ferstl (1782–1847), in Eglsee. His sister, Anna Maria Pilz (see p. 157), had emigrated to America five years before him. Nothing is known about his whereabouts.

Pilz, Theresa[149]

Biographical data:	* 1823 Eglsee, † 1903 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Eglsee, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried
Assets:	100 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Theresa Pilz's parents were Michael and Maria Pilz.[150] She emigrated to North America in 1852 together with her future husband Georg Michael Dinauer (1817–1855) (see p. 98). The baptism of their son Joseph Dinauer was recorded in Beaver Dam on August 18, 1855.[151] Following Michael Dinauer's untimely death in 1856, his widow married Joseph Maier (1821–1888) (see p. 138). The couple lived in the town of Beaver Dam for about ten years before moving into the city. She died in Beaver Dam on September 20, 1903, and was buried at St. Peter's Cemetery.

148 Cf. "The Daily", (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin), February 11, 1892. In her obituary, her year of birth is incorrectly listed as 1819.
149 Spelling variant: "Biltz"; Theresia Pilz's date of birth and place of origin could not be determined due to incorrect and contradictory information in the available sources (place of origin according to StAAm, RegInn 298: Eglsee; There is no entry in the parish registers of Frauenberg under the alleged date of birth (Dec. 16 or 23, 1823). Her death certificate lists her name as "Eva Theresa," although all other documents (passenger list, census records from 1860 to 1900, etc.) list her name as "Theresa."
150 Cf. Death certificate, Sept. 20, 1903 (www.ancestry.com)
151 Church Records Beaver Dam, St. Peter 1, Image 31.

Pirzer, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * ca. 1822[152]
Place of origin: Großetzenberg, Par. Laaber, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 112 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "François I."
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Anna Maria Pirzer was working as a domestic servant in Großetzenberg when, at the age of 24, *hoping for better wages*, she joined a group of 27 emigrants from her local area who sailed to America from Le Havre on the "François I." Nothing is known about her fate in America.

Plankl, Johann Michael

Biographical data: * 1819 Klingen, † 1897 West Jersey Township, Stark Co., IL
Place of origin: Klingen No. 9, Par. Hemau, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: West Jersey Township, Stark Co., IL

Joh. Michael Plankl was the son of the farmer Kaspar Plankl (1789–1867), vulgo "Rödlbauer," of Klingen and his wife Maria Eva, née Waldhier (1787–1851). Since his younger brother Joseph was designated to inherit the farm, Michael worked as a farmhand before emigrating to America at the age of 27 in *hopes of better earnings*.[153] The 1870 census lists him as a farmer with a property valued at 2,800 dollars in West Jersey Township, Stark County, Illinois.

Pollinger, Jakob

Biographical data: * 1816 Herrnsaal, † 1886 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Herrnsaal, Par. Saal, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Cooper / Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL (1853–1854); Beaver Dam WI (1854 – app. 1855); Town of Beaver Dam, WI

Jakob Pollinger was a trained cooper, like his father of the same name in Herrnsaal, who was married to Katharina Ipfelkofer. At the age of 36, Jakob sailed to New York on the "Mary" together with 59 other passengers from the area, and went on to Chicago. In 1854, Jakob came to Beaver Dam and worked as a cooper for a short time. About 1855, he moved to a 25 acre farm in the town of Beaver Dam. Jakob Pollinger was naturalized on

152 The baptismal records of the Laaber parish contain no entries for "Birzer/Pirzer" during the period in question.
153 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

October 3, 1860; in the same year, we find him in the Census, listed as *Jacob Bolinger*, with his small farm valued at 200 dollars, situated in the neighborhood of his fellow countrymen Mathias Bauer (1817–1879) (see pp. 91–92), Alois Hartl (1809–1875) (see pp. 119–120), and Johann Bapt. Hartl (1819–1897) (see pp. 120–122).[154] Jakob Pollinger lived on his land until his death on March 5, 1886. He is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Pretzl, Magdalena

Biographical data:	* 1826
Place of origin:	Mitterkreith, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets:	300 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1848 / ?
Crossing:	Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Magdalena Pretzl appears in the emigration records,[155] but neither her background nor her whereabouts in America could be ascertained.

Pritschet, Georg Anton[156]

Biographical data:	* 1807 Forsterberg, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Place of origin:	Brunn No. 12, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife:	Huber, Therese (widow of Hummel), * 1805 Brunn, Par. Frauenberg
Children:	Anna Maria (* 1829), Joseph (* 1832), Georg (* 1837), Johann Adam (* 1842)
Assets:	1,400 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1846 / "François I."
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Fredonia, Ozaukee Co., WI

Georg Anton Pritschet was the son of a farmer of the same name from the isolated farmstead of Forsterberg and his wife, Anna Maria, née Spangler. At the age of 32, on May 4, 1840, he married the widow Therese Hummel, née Huber, thereby acquiring through marriage the small farmstead she had inherited at Brunn No. 12. Therese's first husband, Leonhard Maria Hummel, had died of dropsy of the heart (cardiac edema) on December 8, 1839, at the age of 48. Of the five children born during their twelve-year marriage, three had survived. The youngest was two years old at the time of the father's death.

Therese and her second husband, Georg Anton Pritschet, farmed the smallholding in Brunn for six years before deciding to emigrate. A child of their own had since joined Pritschet's three stepchildren (another had died in infancy), bringing the total number of children in the family to four, aged four to seventeen.

154 Cf. US Federal Census 1860.
155 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
156 Spelling in US Federal Census 1850: "Pritchard".

At the district court hearing, Pritschet stated that his reason for emigration was the *hope for an improvement in his living conditions*. From the sale of their smallholding in Brunn, they retained 1,400 guilders, and on May 12, 1846, the family of six was granted permission to emigrate to North America. Together with the Koller (see p. 133–134) and Liebl (see p. 137) farming families from their immediate vicinity, they set off for Le Havre, from where they reached New York on July 20, 1846, aboard the "François I."
They probably continued their journey to Wisconsin together, where, like the aforementioned families, they settled in the town of Fredonia, Ozaukee County. In 1850, we find them there as the *Pritchard* family listed as farmers with real estate valued at 900 dollars.[157]

Prock, Georg (1)

Biographical data:	* ca. 1823 Buch
Place of origin:	Buch, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Unmarried
Assets:	200 [!] guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Marianne"
Crossing:	Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA:	?

Georg Prock arrived in Baltimore on the "Marianne" together with Andreas and Johann Bapt. Nigl. Neither could his origin, as stated in the records,[158] be confirmed, nor could his whereabouts in America be determined.

Prock, Georg (2)

Biographical data:	* 1824 Oberhöfen, † 1896 Cashton, Monroe Co., WI
Place of origin:	Oberhöfen No. 1, Par. Aichkirchen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mary"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI;[159] Town of Jefferson, Monroe Co., WI

Georg Prock was the firstborn of 14 children from the marriage of farmer Joseph Prock (* 1797) in Oberhöfen to his first wife Maria Barbara, née Paulus (1799–1841) from Rieb, who died in childbirth at the age of 42. Four months later, the father married Anna Maria Riepl (1804–1874) from Aichkirchen, with whom he had four more children. The son, Anton Prock (* 1838), was designated as the successor at *Prockenhof*. The handover took place in 1864.
Georg Prock went to America in 1853 at the age of 29. He followed in the footsteps of his younger brother Joseph, who had emigrated a few years before him (see p. 162). Georg traveled together with his future wife, Katharina Dickl (1831–1874), the daughter of a farmer from Painten (see p. 97), with whom he settled in the town of Farmington, Jefferson Co. The couple married there on May 17, 1853, 15 days after their arrival in

157 Cf. US Federal Census 1850.
158 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
159 Cf. www.findagrave.com: Family history entry for son George H. Prock, 1858–1945.

New York. The best man was his brother Joseph Prock.[160] Later, the family relocated to the town of Jefferson in Monroe County, Wisconsin, situated about 100 miles further northwest, where they continued to operate a farm.[161] Georg Prock died there in 1896; his wife had predeceased him in 1874. Both were buried in the nearby village of Cashton.

Prock, Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1827 Oberhöfen, † 1902 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Oberhöfen No. 1, Par. Aichkirchen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship:	1849/51[162] / ?
Crossing:	?
Residence in USA:	Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI; Town of Lowell, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI

Joseph Prock was the fourth of 18 children born to a father of the same name and M. Barbara, née Paulus. His brother Georg Prock (see p. 161) emigrated in 1853. On August 8, 1851, in Jefferson, WI, Joseph Prock married Anna Hauser (1822–1893), a sister of A. M. Barbara Hauser from Buxlohe (1826–1897) (see p. 122). They first settled on a farm in the town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., and later on in the town of Lowell, not far from Beaver Dam. In June 1863 Joseph Prock was drafted into the army and served as a soldier in the American Civil War.[163]

Anna passed away at their home in the town of Lowell in 1893. Joseph Prock then relocated to the town of Beaver Dam. He passed away at his daughter's home in the city on January 12, 1902, at the age of 74, and was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery. He was survived by a son and three daughters, who had married into the Gradl, Hartl, and Schoenberger immigrant families.[164]

Rappl, Magdalena

Biographical data:	* 1813 Schacha
Place of origin:	Schacha No.3, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets:	150 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Magdalena Rappl was the daughter of Johann Ulrich Rappl, a farmer ("Halbbauer") in Schacha, and his wife Margarethe, née Scheid. She emigrated with Andreas and Michael Müller (see p. 149).

160 Cf. Jefferson County Vital records Register, JM-9 Marriage Johann Mair Jefferson Vol 1, p. 42-2.

161 Cf. US Federal Census 1880.

162 Sources provide conflicting information regarding the year of his arrival in America. His baptismal entry in the Aichkirchen parish register contains the terse notation: "to America." His obituary cites 1849 as the year of travel, while 1880 census records suggest he arrived in the country in 1850 or 1851.

163 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

164 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", Jan. 16, 1902, p. 5.

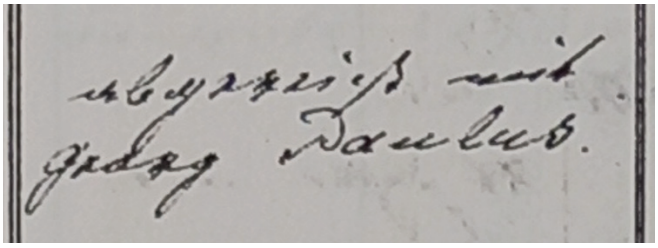
Rappl, Martin

Biographical data: * 1811 Grafenstadl
Place of origin: Grafenstadl No. 4, Par. Aichkirchen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Friedl, Katharina, * ca. 1808 Kollersried, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New Orleans
Residence in USA: Columbia, PA

Martin Rappl is the unfortunate soul who was robbed of his cash upon arrival in America and was subsequently forced to work as a day laborer (see p. 84).

Rappl, Walburga

Biographical data: * 1828 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 16, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 175 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Le Havre – New York[165]
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL



Walburga Rappl was born out of wedlock in 1828 and was given the surname of her biological father, Joseph Rappl (* 1802), a shoemaker's assistant ("Schuhknecht") from Netzstall. Her mother, Apollonia Mirwald (1803–1829), died of tuberculosis in 1829 when Walburga was 15 months old. Walburga grew up with her grandparents, Michael Mirwald and Anna Maria, née Landfried, at Painten No. 16. At the age of 19, she emigrated together with her future husband, Joh. Georg Paulus (* 1825), who hailed from Thonlohe (see ill.),[166] and settled with him in Chicago (see p. 152). On her mother's side, Walburga Rappl was related to Franz Joseph Landfried from Netzstall, who emigrated in 1846 (see p. 136).

Reitner, Vinzenz

Biographical data: * 1824 Haugenried
Place of origin: Haugenried No. 22, Par. Deuerling, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Wisconsin?

Vinzenz Reitner was the son of the farm couple Joseph Reitner (1792–1862) and Margarethe, née Maier (* 1799), of Haugenried. He had originally intended to emigrate with Anna Rost (see pp. 84–87). However, as

165 Although the records indicate that Walburga Rappl and Joh. Georg Paulus traveled together, they list different ports of departure for the two (Bremen/Le Havre). As noted above, this information has been shown to be unreliable.
166 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

her emigration permit was delayed, he decided to travel alone and left Germany in 1853 on the "Mary." He appears on the passenger list with Wisconsin as his destination, and with *no luggage*!

Riehl, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1824 Viehhausen
Place of origin: Viehhausen, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Tailor / Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Bapt. Riehl was born in 1824 in Viehhausen as the illegitimate child of Anna Maria Trautner and Michael Riehl, who was from Dollnstein. He emigrated together with his future wife, Katharina Schneeberger (* 1833) from Loch (see p. 174).[167]

Riepl, Engelbert

Biographical data: * 1820 Langenkreith
Place of origin: Langenkreith No. 6, Par. Hemau, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship: 1847[168] / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Engelbert Riepl was the son of the farming couple Andreas Riepl and Margarethe, née Engl, of Langenkreith. His sister Elisabeth Riepl (* 1819), married to the master blacksmith Joseph Hecker of Beratzhausen, emigrated in the same year (see p. 122).

Robach, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1822 Neukelheim
Place of origin: Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein) No. 77, Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a day laborer
Assets: ?
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Anna Maria Robach was the tenth of thirteen children born to Jakob Robach (1774–1844) from Laufenthal in the parish of Hohenschambach, who settled in Neukelheim as a farmer ("Kolonist") and day laborer. Her mother

167 Vgl. StAAm, CD ä. O. Hemau 1150.
168 Cf. Intelligenzblazz 1847, p. 852.

was Robach's third wife Anna Maria Dreyer (1793–1857) from Schönhofen. A note reading *to America* appears next to Anna Maria Robach's baptismal entry in the Kelheim parish register.[169]
Anna Maria's sister, Katharina Robach (1826–1901), emigrated a year later with her husband, Mathias Bauer, and their two children (see pp. 91–92) and settled in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

Röck, Magdalena, née Mittermaier

Biographical data:	* 1807 Neustadt/Danube, No. 136
Place of origin:	Beratzhausen No. 23, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Innkeeper ("Zum Goldenen Adler") / Widowed
Husband:	Röck, Balthasar, * 1799 Hagenhill, Par. Dietfurt, CD Riedenburg, † 1844 Beratzhausen
Children:	Michael (* 1824), Maria Anna (* 1827), Katharina (* 1829), Rosa (* 1836), Brigitte (* 1837), Agnes (* 1839), Alois (* 1840), Magdalena (* 1841)
Emigration / Ship:	1847[170] / ?
Crossing:	?
Residence in USA:	?

Magdalena Mittermaier was the daughter of the shoemaker Joseph Mittermaier of Neustadt on Danube and his wife, Anna, née Bogner. On October 27, 1835, in Dietfurt/Altmühl, she married the local master tailor, a widower named Balthasar Röck (1799–1844),[171] and became stepmother to his three children, who were between six and ten years of age (two other children of Röck's had died in early childhood).
Five children were born of the marriage between Balthasar Röck and Magdalena Mittermaier, all of them in Dietfurt. In 1842, the couple seized the opportunity to purchase the "Zum Goldenen Adler" inn in Beratzhausen and relocate there with their now eight children. To finance the purchase price of 4,300 guilders, Balthasar Röck sold his property in Dietfurt for 1,950 guilders and assumed the 2,000-guilders mortgage debt that encumbered the inn of the previous proprietor, Paul Fanderl.[172]
After just two years as an innkeeper, Balthasar Röck passed away at the age of 44. He died on May 13, 1844, of *pulmonary paralysis*, leaving behind his 36-year-old widow and eight children ranging in age from two to nineteen. She continued to run the inn for another three years before deciding to sell the business and emigrate to North America with her five children and three stepchildren. In doing so, she had apparently joined forces with Willibald Hiltner, a 37-year-old carpenter from Breitenbrunn (see p. 124), with whom she filed an application to emigrate in 1847. Unfortunately, no information could be found regarding her subsequent fate.

169 BZAR, Kelheim 022_0193; All the evidence suggests that Anna Maria Robach is the same person as "Anton Rabach," who is (incorrectly) listed on the "Germania" passenger manifest..
170 Cf. Intelligenzblatt 1847, p. 437.
171 Balthasar Röck's first wife, Katharina Wittmann (1791–1835), died of "consumption" on Sept. 3, 1835, after eleven years of marriage.
172 Cf. StAAm, LG ä O. Hemau 3311: „Ansässigmachung des Balthasar Röck in Beratzhausen".

Rödl, Franz

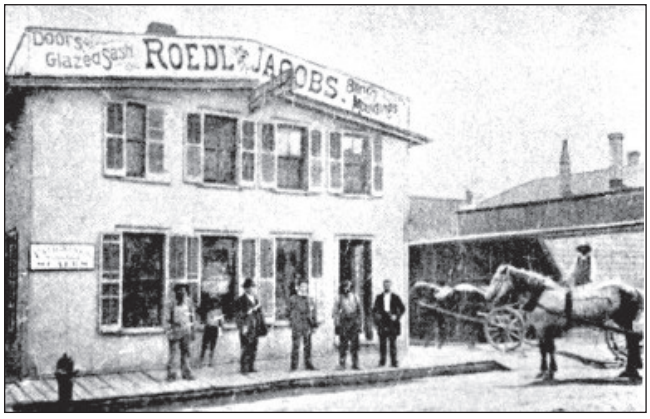
Biographical data:	* 1821 Schneckenbach, † 1897 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Schneckenbach No. 2, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Söldner") / Married
Wife:	Hartl, Therese, * 1817 Reichenstetten, † 1888 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Peter (1843–1922), Joh. Georg (1845–1927), Franz Xaver (1847–1922), Martin (1848–1921), Joseph (* 1850), Michael (1851–1926)
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Carolus Magnus"
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Pittsburgh, PA (one year); Town of Beaver Dam, WI

Franz Rödl had been married since 1844 and, together with his wife Therese, née Hartl, farmed a smallholding in his birthplace of Schneckenbach. His wife was one of four siblings who emigrated with their families in 1853 and 1854, eventually all four settling in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

In the summer of 1853, the Rödl couple set out on the long journey with their six sons between one-and-a-half and nine years of age (a first child had died in infancy), first to Le Havre and then to New York. On the emigrant ship "Carolus Magnus," they shared the steerage deck with 800 passengers. Therese Rödl was heavily pregnant and gave birth to her eighth child eight weeks after arriving in America. This was possibly the reason why the family remained in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the first year before undertaking the arduous onward journey to Beaver Dam.[173] They purchased a farm south of the city in the town of Beaver Dam, where three more children were born to the couple by 1862.

Franz died at the home of his daughter on the neighboring farm in 1897 in his 76th year and was laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery beside his wife, who had died at their home in 1888.

Their eldest son, Peter Rödl (1843–1922), born out of wedlock in Reichenstetten, his mother's hometown, became an enterprising and highly respected businessman in Beaver Dam; upon his death, the local newspaper published a glowing obituary.[174] In 1866, he married Anna Landfried (1849–1941), a daughter of our earliest emigrants, Franz Joseph Landfried and Anna Maria Obermaier, who had arrived in the country in 1846 (see pp. 72–73).



Peter Roedl enjoyed success in the lumber and fuel business. The company, operated jointly with a business partner, traded under the name "Roedl & Jacobs Company" (see illus.). When Roedl purchased a seven-seater "Kissel Kar" automobile in 1909 (list price 3,200 dollars), the event was deemed newsworthy enough to be reported in the press.[175]

According to his obituary, Peter Roedl showed a keen interest in politics and for a time held the office of

173 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", October 7, 1897, p. 3.
174 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", May 25, 1922.
175 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", January 22, 1909, p. 5.




Peter Roedl (1843–1922) and Anna Roedl, née Landfried (1849–1941)

treasurer and chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the town of Beaver Dam. For about ten years, he also served as treasurer of St. Peter's parish.
The "Beaver Dam Argus" describes him as *energetic and progressive, and a man whose business ventures resulted successfully. In civic affairs he was public spirited and at all times stood for those things in the community which were of substantial benefit to it. Endowed by nature with a jovial disposition and a pleasing personality, he attracted to himself, both within and outside of business circles, hundreds of friends who, with his bereaved family, keenly regret his death.*[176]
Roedl passed away on May 20, 1922, at the age of 78. His widow lived to be 91 and died on February 24, 1941. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Rödl, Rupert

Biographical data: * ca. 1774 Pielenhofen, CD Regenstauf, † 1847 near Kulmbach, Upper Franconia
Place of origin: Laaber No. 76, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Citizen and retired butcher / Widower
Rupert Rödl died while en route to Bremen, a journey he was making together with Joseph Glockner, the man to whom he had transferred his property in exchange for retirement support (see. p. 106).

Rosenmeier, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1819 Nittendorf, † 1907 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Nittendorf No. 11, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Söldner") / Married
Wife: Hammer, M. Theresa, * 1823 Nittendorf, † 1900 Beaver Dam, WI
Children: Katharina (1849–1907), Johann (1850–1905)
Assets: 1,200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI
Johann Bapt. Rosenmeier was the son of the farm couple Joseph Rosenmeier and Anna Maria, née Jobst, of Nittendorf. He had been married to Maria Theresa Hammer, daughter of Joseph and Anna Maria Graf Hammer (see p. 116), since 1848. In 1853, he sold his small farmstead in Nittendorf for 1,700 guilders, of which 1,200

176 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", May 25, 1922.

remained after debts were settled,[177] and joined himself, his wife and two children aged three and four with his in-laws and his wife's siblings. Together, they traveled to New York aboard the "Mary" as part of a large group of like-minded emigrants (see pp. 39–40) and continued directly from there to Wisconsin.
Like many of our emigrants, they initially settled on a farm in the town of Westford but moved shortly thereafter to the town of Beaver Dam, where four more children were born to them. Around 1891, the Rosenmeier couple moved into the city of Beaver Dam. Johann Bapt. Rosenmeier died there on October 26, 1907, at the age of 88. His widow, Therese, née Hammer, had predeceased him on February 7, 1900, at the age of 77. They were laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.
One of the stained-glass windows in St. Peter's Parish Church serves as a memorial to the Rosenmeier family (see p. 63).

Rost, Anna (Maria)

Biographical data:	* 1829 Loch
Place of origin:	Loch No. 11, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a cottager ("Häusler")
Assets:	175 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Friedrich Groß"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Albany, New York

A separate section of this book is dedicated to the life story of Anna Maria Rost (see pp. 84–87).

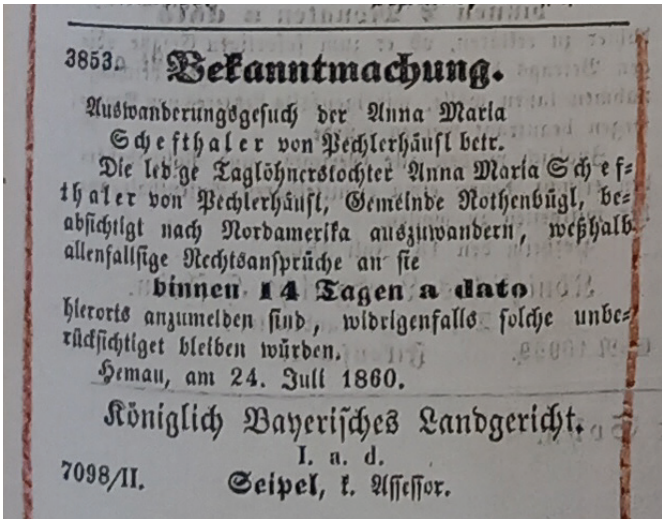
Schefthaler, Anna Maria

Biographical data:	* 1828 Pechlerhäusl
Place of origin:	Pechlerhäusl No. 3 (abandoned),[178] Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a day laborer
Assets:	170 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	Applied in 1860, but did not emigrate

Anna Maria Schefthaler is one of those subjects who – firmly resolved to emigrate – undertook all the bureaucratic steps along with the associated fees and official procedures, only to change their minds at the last moment and ultimately remain in their homeland.
Anna Maria was, in fact, a typical candidate for emigration, the likes of which were numerous in the social underclass of that era. She was born the fourth of five children to the day laborer Christoph Schefthaler (1799–1859) and his wife Anna Maria, née Körbler (1788–1844), in Pechlerhäusl, a hamlet in the Painten Forest consisting of three simple wooden cottages inhabited by resin tappers ("Pechler") and charcoal burners. (In 1854, the resin tapper Johann Bapt. Hartl emigrated from here to Wisconsin with his family) (see pp. 120–121).
Economic hardship and the legal restrictions on marriage (see pp. 6–7) were likely decisive factors for Anna Maria's thoughts of emigration. In addition, she carried the social stigma of being the mother of an illegitimate

177 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1147.
178 Cf. Paulus, Abgegangene Orte. p. 407.

child Franziska (1852–1853). The final impetus for her emigration application was probably the death of her father, who died on November 14, 1859. She had already lost her mother at the age of 15, and in 1857 her older brother, Joh. Michael (1824-1889), had married and taken over the parental home at Pechlerhäusl. Consequently, her application for emigration, recorded on July 24, 1860, begins with the words: *I intend to emigrate to North America via Bremen and New York, hoping to find a better livelihood there.* She stated that, *according to her savings passbook, she possessed 40 f [i.e., 40 guilders] in the local aid fund ("Hilfskasse")* and had another 100 guilders of her parental inheritance held by her brother Michael. However, since these amounts did not meet the requirements for an emigration permit, Anton Winter, a shoemaker in Rothenbügl, promised *to make up the missing sum of 30 f.*



3853. **Bekanntmachung.**

Auswanderungsgesuch der Anna Maria Schefthaler von Pechlerhäusl betr.

Die ledige Taglöhnerstochter Anna Maria Schefthaler von Pechlerhäusl, Gemeinde Rothenbügl, beabsichtigt nach Nordamerika auszuwandern, weßhalb allenfallsige Rechtsansprüche an sie

binnen 14 Tagen a dato

hierorts anzumelden sind, widrigenfalls solche unberücksichtiget bleiben würden.

Hemau, am 24. Juli 1860.

Königlich Bayerisches Landgericht.
I. a. d.
7098/II. Seipel, k. Assessor.

Announcement of the emigration of Anna Maria Schefthaler in the "Abendblatt" of the "Neue Münchener Zeitung," No. 178, dated July 27, 1860

The others present at the regional court hearing, her brother Michael Schefthaler and the shoemaker Winter, confirmed the accuracy of the statement. The latter had submitted an emigration application for his family three days earlier and added that Anna Maria Schefthaler could travel *in the company of himself and his family, since they were taking the same route, and that he pledged to provide her not only with the 30 f but also with more upon request.*[179]

Contrary to Winter's statement, however, Anna Maria Schefthaler's name does not appear on the passenger list of the "Goethe," the ship on which he departed from Bremen on August 28, 1860 (see p. 189). A search for her whereabouts in the parish registers of her home region revealed that, nine months after her application to emigrate, she gave birth to another illegitimate child (Franziska, * March 23, 1861, Deuerling). Apparently, she had decided to remain in her home region and continued to maintain her (official) residence at Pechlerhäusl No. 3. By 1871, she had given birth to a total of eleven illegitimate children, though not a single one survived infancy. The father of the last seven was the unmarried day laborer Georg Hettenkofer (* 1838) from Maierhofen. The fact that her children were born not only at Pechlerhäusl but also in Deuerling, Painten, and Schönhofen is further evidence of her unsettled life. All trace of her is lost after 1871.

In contrast, we find her brother, who had remarried in 1866 following the death of his first wife, living in New York State in 1880. He had evidently established himself as a farmer in the town of Fremont, Sullivan County, with his second wife, Rosina, née Maier († 1881).[180]

179 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1122.
180 Cf. US Federal Census 1880.

Scherübl, Georg[181]

Biographical data:	* 1813 Neukelheim, † 1891 Beamer Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein) No. 42, Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Söldner") / Married
Wife:	Goss, Maria Elisabeth, * 1816 Neukelheim, † 1878 Beamer Dam, WI
Children:	Anna (1835–1919), Georg (* 1839), Elisabeth (* 1841), Johann Baptist (1843–1932)
Emigration / Ship:	1854 / "Sylphide"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI (1855–1866); Beaver Dam, WI (1854–1855, 1866–1891)



Johann Bapt. Scherübl (1843–1932), born in Neukelheim in 1843, who came to Beaver Dam with his parents at the age of ten.

Georg Scherübl was the son of Ulrich Scherübl (1783–1863) (see below) and his wife Barbara Anna, née Altmann (1788–1838), of Neukelheim. For several generations, the Scherübls had been herdsmen on the Tangrintel – in Arnest and Bügerl – before Georg's grandfather, Joh. Ulrich Scherübl (1753–1823), settled in Neukelheim in 1799 with his wife, Anna Walburga Voraus (1752–1820), as one of the first colonists.[182]

Georg Scherübl had been married since 1841 to Maria Elisabeth Goss, the daughter of a day laborer from Neukelheim, and farmed his parents' estate from that time on. A fourth child was born during the marriage, in addition to the three conceived before the wedding. After twelve years, Georg Scherübl sold his property and emigrated with his wife and four children – between ten and eighteen years of age – as well as his widowed 70-year-old father (see below). They set sail from Bremen on April 18, 1854. Of the 264 passengers on the "Sylphide," 65 came from the Kingdom of Bavaria, including the eight-member family of Georg Steil from Kelheimwinzer (see pp. 179–180); they shared the same destination as the Scherübl family, Beaver Dam, where numerous neighbors and acquaintances who had emigrated earlier were awaiting them. Scherübl settled in Beaver Dam for a year before buying a farm in the town of Westford in 1855. In 1866, he and his wife moved back into the city. (In 1855, his daughter Anna wed Joseph Immerfall (1836-1916), who had immigrated with his parents in 1853, see pp. 125–126).

Georg Scherübl died on March 31, 1891, in his 78th year. His wife had predeceased him on June 26, 1878, at the age of 62. Both were laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Scherübl, Ulrich

Biographical data:	* 1783 Bügerl, Par. Aichkirchen, CD Hemau, † 1863 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein) No. 42, Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Retired farmer ("Kolonist") / Widowed

181 Spelling variant in USA: „Scherubel".
182 Cf. Hafner, Ihrlerstein, p. 226

Emigration / Ship: 1854 / “Sylphide”
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Ulrich Scherübl was the father of Georg Scherübl (see p. 170). He emigrated to Beaver Dam at the age of 70, having previously retired from active farm management (“Austrägler”), cared for by Georg’s family. He died there on February 25, 1863, at the age of 79 and was buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Schmaus, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1833 Neukelheim
Place of origin: Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein), Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer (“Söldner”)
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / “Germania”
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Anna Maria Schmaus traveled to New York in 1853 aboard the “Germania” with her sister Rosina (see below). Her parents, Johann Evangelist Schmaus (* 1803) and Therese, née Karl (* 1809), were second-generation settlers (“Kolonisten”) in Neukelheim. The Schmaus family originated from Nittendorf, and the Karl family from Kapfelberg. No information could be found regarding the sisters’ whereabouts in America. In 1873, their great-uncle Sebastian Schmaus (* 1813) from Nittendorf emigrated to North America with his family, including several adult children and their families.[183]

Schmaus, Rosina

Biographical data: * 1834 Neukelheim
Place of origin: Neukelheim (Ihrlerstein), Par. Kelheim, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer (“Söldner”)
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / “Germania”
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Rosina was a sister of Anna Maria Schmaus (see above).

Schmid, Alois

Biographical data: * 1812 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 78, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Stonemason / Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

183 Cf. Hock, Auswanderung.

Alois Schmid was a son of the woodturner Georg Michael Schmid (* 1783) of Painten and his wife Magdalena, née Pollinger, of Thonlohe. (see image of the emigration notice on p. 15)

Schmid, Anna

Biographical data:	* ca. 1828 Wieseneck
Place of origin:	Wieseneck No. 2, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a mason
Assets:	150 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Maria Anna Schmid was a daughter of the mason Mathias Schmid and his wife Barbara, née Altmann, in the hamlet of Wieseneck near Painten.

Schmid, Barbara

Biographical data:	* 1822 Netzstall
Place of origin:	Netzstall No. 1, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets:	400 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Barbara Schmid was a daughter of the farmer Georg Schmid, vulgo "Schweiker" (* 1787), of Netzstall and his wife Maria Anna, née Riepl (* 1791), of Klingen. She left her homeland together with Karl Kargl (* 1820) of Hennhüll (see p. 128). The records note regarding this: *Departed with Kargl, who intends to marry her.*[184]

Schmid, Franz Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1814 Berg No. 2
Place of origin:	Berg, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer
Assets:	300 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Franz Joseph Schmid was the son of the farming couple Johann Schmid (* 1771) and Margarethe, née Schmid (* 1785), in the hamlet of Berg near Painten. In 1852, he traveled to New York with a group of fellow countrymen on the ship "Germania."

184 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Schmid, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1816 Wangsaß
Place of origin: Wangsaß No. 8, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farm ("Gütler")
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Georg Schmid was the son of the farmer Joseph Schmid from Wangsaß and his wife Barbara, née Ehrl. He was one of the "scouts" who emigrated from Wangsaß in 1847 and were later followed to America by the neighboring families Kleindl (see pp. 130–131) and Maier (see p. 139–141).

Schmiedmaier, Michael

Biographical data: * 1793 Hainsacker
Place of origin: Painten No. 28, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Master wagonmaker / Married
Wife: Ehrl, Magdalena (2nd wife), * 1802 Painten
Children: Katharina (* 1826), Georg Michael (* 1832), Joseph (* 1835), Anna Maria (* 1838), Franz Xaver (* 1841)
Emigration / Ship: 1850 / "Admiral"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Brooklyn, NY?

Master wagonmaker Michael Schmiedmaier, originally from Hainsacker, had married Magdalena Sandl, widow of Semler (1776–1830), in Painten in 1824. After her death, he married Magdalena Ehrl (* 1802) in 1830, the daughter of a tailor, with whom he already had a three-year-old daughter born out of wedlock. By 1845, the couple had nine more children, five of whom survived.

Shortly after the death of their youngest child at the age of about seven months († February 26, 1846), Schmiedmaier filed an application to emigrate,[185] yet remained in the country for another four years. When they set out for America in 1850, Schmiedmaier was 56, his wife was 48, and the five children ranged in age from four to twenty-three. On the passenger list of the "Admiral", the ship they boarded on June 8, 1850, Schmiedmaier is listed as *Whilreit* (i.e., wheelwright). Among the 267 passengers was Joseph Fröhler (1803–1866), a day laborer from Painten, along with his family (see p. 105).

While Fröhler moved on to Wisconsin, Schmiedmaier apparently remained in New York. The son, (Georg) Michael, is recorded in 1870 as a carver in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, living with his wife and seven children aged two to eighteen.

185 Cf. Intelligenzblatt, March 16, 1846.

Schneeberger, Katharina

Biographical data: * 1833 Loch
Place of origin: Loch No. 15, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a cottager ("Häusler")
Assets: 200
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Katharina Schneeberger was the daughter of the cottager Johann Schneeberger (* 1805) of Loch and his wife Katharina, née Weinhut (1802–1852), an innkeeper's daughter from Loch. Katharina had lost her mother at the age of 18 under remarkable circumstances. According to the Deuerling parish register, she died on the morning of July 3, 1852, *following an epileptic seizure or a fall into the waters of the Laaber River.*
Two years later, the daughter, provided with a maternal inheritance of 200 guilders, emigrated to North America together *with her lover*, the tailor Johann Bapt. Riehl (* 1824) from Viehhausen (see p. 164).[186]

Schneider, Franz Joseph

Biographical data: * 1816 Hemau
Place of origin: Hemau No. 90, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Unmarried
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Franz Joseph Schneider was one of two sons of the carpenter Michael Schneider (ca. 1767–1841) of Hemau and his wife Margarethe, née Schmid (ca. 1776–1850). In 1847, he followed his younger brother Johann to North America (see below).

Schneider, Johann

Biographical data: * 1821 Hemau
Place of origin: Hemau No. 90, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Locksmith / Unmarried
Assets: 100 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1845 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Locksmith Johann Schneider was the first documented emigrant from the Court District of Hemau. He was the only person to leave his home in 1845, four years after his father's death, in the *hope of better opportunity for settlement and marriage.*[187] Two years later, his brother Franz Joseph (see above) followed him to America.

186 Cf. StAAm, LG ä. O. Hemau 1150.
187 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Schneider, Therese

Biographical data: * 1825 Großetzenberg
Place of origin: Großetzenberg No. 25, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 185 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / "François I."
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Therese Schneider was born out of wedlock in 1825. Her mother was the unmarried daughter of a day laborer, Anna Kailer of Großetzenberg No. 25. Her father, the unmarried day laborer Jakob Schneider, came from Beilngries. At the age of 20, Therese Schneider left her home, stating that she *hoped for higher wages*.[188] She was one of the 28 identified individuals from the Court District of Hemau who traveled to New York via Le Havre on the "François I." (see p. 31).

Schuster, Isidor

Biographical data: * 1820 Weihermühle near Essing, † 1892 Boston, MA
Place of origin: Weihermühle, Par. Essing, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a day laborer
Wife: NN, Johanna, * ca. 1819
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Boston, MA

Isidor Schuster was the son of day laborer Joseph Schuster (* 1791) from Randeck and his wife Therese, née Weigert (* 1799) from Essing. He arrived in New York with his wife Johanna on the "Germania" in 1852. Later, we find him in Boston at 5 Downing Street, where he died on November 24, 1892, while working as a ticket agent.[189]

188 Cf. ibid..
189 Cf. www.ancestry.com. Identity confirmed by the exact age listed in the death record, which also names the mother as "Therese."

Schwaiger, Johann[190]

Biographical data:	* 1790 Unterpfraundorf, † 1872 Jefferson, Jefferson Co., WI
Place of origin:	Rechberg No. 8, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife:	Gusterer, Barbara, * 1795 Rechberg, † 1865 Jefferson, Jefferson Co., WI
Children:	Katharina (* 1817), Maria Barbara (* 1819), Leonhard (* 1821), Johann Bapt. (* 1824), Ferdinand (1829–1903), Therese (1832–1894), Kreszenz (* 1843)
Assets:	1,600 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA:	Town of Jefferson, Jefferson Co., WI

The Schwaiger family was among the many residents of Rechberg who sought a better life elsewhere in 1847. Johann Schwaiger sold his property at Rechberg No. 8. With net proceeds of 1,600 guilders in hand, he set out for Wisconsin with his wife and seven children, between six and thirty years of age, *hoping to improve their livelihood.*[191] In the 1860 census, we find *John Swiger* and his wife Barbara living on the farm of their son Ferdinand, who had since married, in the town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Ferdinand's real estate was valued at 1,500 dollars, and his cash assets at 300 dollars. Johann was still living with Ferdinand at the time of the 1870 census. Barbara Schwaiger, née Gusterer, was buried in Jefferson in1865, and Johann Schwaiger in 1872. Census records from 1870 and 1880 list the brothers Ferdinand (1829–1903) and Johann Bapt. Schweiger (* 1824), along with their families, as owners of farms valued at 4,000 dollars each in the town of Jefferson. Ferdinand must have later relocated to Monroe County, where Georg Prock (see pp. 161–162) had also moved. Like the latter, he was buried in Cashton. The sister Therese (1832-1894) married (Georg) Michael Seitz (1828-1883) who had come to Jefferson County with his father Lorenz Joseph Seitz (see p. 178).

Schweiger, Anna

Biographical data:	* ca. 1814
Place of origin:	CD Hemau / CD Kelheim?
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Anna Schweiger arrived in America in 1852 with a group of fellow countrymen aboard the "Germania." However, her identity could not be established.

Schweiger, Johann

Biographical data:	* 1821, † 1893 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	CD Hemau / CD Kelheim?

190 Spelling variants in USA: „Swiger", „Schweiger" etc.
191 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Occupation / Status: Married
Wife: Maier (?), Therese, * 1829, † 1893 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI

Johann and Therese Schweiger came to America in 1853 on the "Mary" (they appear on the passenger list amidst the family of Mathias Bauer from Walddorf). However, despite the birth dates recorded in Beaver Dam, they could not be found in the Bavarian study area.

After their arrival, they settled on a 75 acre farm in the town of Beaver Dam where they raised their nine children. Therese died on the farm on February 13, 1893, and Johann died there on November 22 of the same year.

Seitz, Johann

Biographical data: * 1823 Rechberg
Place of origin: Rechberg No. 17, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 500 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: ?

Johann Seitz was the son of the farm couple ("Gütler") Georg Leonhard Seitz (* 1789) and Magdalena, née Kraus (* 1794), in Rechberg. He submitted his emigration application jointly with his second cousin and neighbor's son, Johann Georg Seitz (see below).[192] They cited the *hope of better earnings* as their reason. After receiving authorization on June 11, 1847, they traveled to the USA via Bremen and Quebec.[193]

Seitz, Johann Georg

Biographical data: * 1818 Rechberg, † 1891 Jefferson, WI
Place of origin: Rechberg No. 16, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmhand / Unmarried
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA: Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI

Johann Georg Seitz was the son of the farmer Lorenz Joseph Seitz (* 1789) of Rechberg and his first wife, Walburga, née Ehrensberger († 1832), from Rackendorf in the Parish of Parsberg. He traveled together with his second cousin Johann Seitz (* 1823) (see above). (Joh.) Georg Seitz married Anna Maria Barbara Hauser (1826–1897) (see p. 122). The 1870 census shows the couple owning a farm in the town of Farmington, with the land valued at 5,000 dollars and their property at 1,000 dollars.

192 Their fathers were first cousins.
193 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

Seitz, Lorenz Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1789 Richt, Par. Hohenfels, CD Parsberg
Place of origin:	Rechberg No. 16, Par. Pfraundorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Married
Wife:	Eglmaier, Maria Barbara (2nd wife), * 1788 Weiherstetten, Par. Hörmannsdorf, CD Parsberg
Children:	Johann Baptist (* ca. 1817), Georg Joseph (* 1824), Anna Margarethe (1825–1915), Georg Michael (1828–1883), Georg Martin (* 1830) (of 1st wife)
Assets:	3,800 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – Quebec
Residence in USA:	Jefferson, Jefferson Co., WI

Lorenz Joseph Seitz had been married to Barbara Eglmaier (his second wife) since 1833. Around the same time as his son Johann Georg (see p. 177), he applied for emigration permission for himself and his remaining five children. He cited the *hope of acquiring significant landholdings at a very low price* as his reason.[194] We do not know why the son filed a separate departure application. Nor do we know whether he traveled ahead or set out together with his father's family. The corresponding approvals were issued twelve days apart. Lorenz Joseph Seitz's children, aged sixteen to thirty, were all from his first marriage to Walburga Ehrensberger from Rackendorf, Parish of Parsberg († 1832 in Rechberg). The family entered the USA via Québec and then continued by water across the Great Lakes to Wisconsin. After their arrival, they spent a few months in Milwaukee before settling in the area of Jefferson, Wisconsin.[195]

Their son Georg Michael (1828-1883) married Therese Schwaiger (1832-1894), daughter of Johann Schwaiger (see p. 176). In the 1870 census (Georg) Michael and Therese owned a farm in the Town of Farmington, Jefferson County, WI, with the land valued at 3,000 dollars and their property valued at 1,300 dollars.

Stang, Anton

Biographical data:	* 1800 Reichenstetten No. 2, Par. Kapfelberg, CD Kelheim, † 1880 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Herrnsaal No. 1, Par. Saal, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Söldner")
Wife:	Krempl, Anna Maria, * 1808 Herrnsaal, † 1864 Beaver Dam, WI
Children:	Katharina (1828–1889), Anton (1829–1895)
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mary"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

From 1835 onwards, Anton Stang (1800–1880) and his wife Anna Maria, née Krempl (1808–1864), farmed a smallholding in Herrnsaal. After seventeen years of marriage, they left their homeland with two adult children (both born long before their parents' marriage) and, in the spring of 1853, traveled with a group of fellow countrymen aboard the "Mary," to New York and then on to Wisconsin. They were accompanied by Georg Krempl (see

194 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

195 Obituary in the "Jefferson Banner" for Mrs. Margarette Kargl, née Seitz, widow of Lenz († February 11, 1915).

p. 136), Anna Maria Krempl's 50-year-old unmarried brother. On May 11, 1853, nine days after their arrival in New York, they reached Beaver Dam and settled there. Anna Stang, née Krempl, died there on December 12, 1864. Her widower lived to the age of 80 and passed away at the home of his son on June 10, 1880.[196] Their grave marker is located in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Their son Anton married Franziska, the daughter of John Michael Paulus (see pp. 152–154). In the 1870 census, the couple farmed in the town of Beaver Dam. In 1873, he purchased a house in the city and opened a saloon. The1880 census, shows Anton living as a neighbor to families named Altmann, Beer, Gineiger, and Mirlach.[197] Franziska died in 1889 and Anton in 1895. Both are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Their daughter Katharina married George Haider. In the 1860 census, the couple farmed in the town of Calamus, and in the 1870 census they farmed in the town of Beaver Dam. After George Haider's death at their home in 1870, Katharina married Bartholemew Pfaffel in 1874. She died in 1889 and is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery near her first husband.



Grave of Anton Stang (1800–1880) and Anna, née Krempl (1808–1864), at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam

Steil, Georg[198]

Biographical data:	* 1809 Kelheimwinzer, † 1874 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI
Place of origin:	Kelheimwinzer No. 4, Par. Saal, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Farmer ("Achtelbauer") / Married
Wife:	Hufnagel, Walburga, * 1816 Obersaal (Saal), † 1889 Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI
Children:	Johann Bapt. (1840–1932), Franz Xaver (1842–1909), Maria (* 1844), Joseph (1846–1921), Therese (1848–1910), Katharina (1852–1933)
Emigration / Ship:	1854 / "Sylphide"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI

Georg Steil was the son of the married couple Mathias Steil and Eva Rosina, née Hahn (* 1775, Painten), of Kelheimwinzer. From 1839 onwards, he and his wife Walburga, née Hufnagel, farmed the smallholding he had taken over from his parents. After thirteen years of marriage, in 1854 he followed in the footsteps of fellow countrymen who had emigrated in 1852 and 1853, heading to Wisconsin. On March 26, he left Kelheimwinzer with his wife and six children,[199] the oldest thirteen years old and the youngest one year and three months old. They set sail from Bremerhaven on April 18. Georg Scherübl from Neukelheim with his family (see p. 170) was also on board the "Sylphide." Presumably, after arriving in New York on May 22, 1854, they continued their journey together to their shared destination of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

196 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", June 17, 1880, p. 3.
197 Cf. US Federal Census 1880.
198 Spelling of the surname in Census lists: „Stile" or „Stiles". Otherwise, however – and especially in recent times – it has returned to its original form as "Steil.".
199 Note in the children's baptismal records: "Emigrated to North America on March 26, 1854" (BZAR, Kelheimwinzer 005_0031.

Like many of our subjects before them, the Steils settled in the town of Westford, the municipality bordering Beaver Dam to the west. In 1855, the first Catholic parish register of Beaver Dam records the baptism of a son named John Thomas Steil (* June 3, 1855).
In the 1860 census, *George Stiles* appears as a farmer in the town of Westford with his wife Walburga and six children (the daughter Maria, born in 1844, had evidently passed away by then). The value of the farm was listed at 2,500 dollars, and Steil's monetary assets at 400 dollars. Ten years later, the farm was valued at 6,000 dollars, and *George Stile* possessed 1,647 dollars at the time of that census. His immediate neighbor was Georg Amann, the son of Jakob Amann who had immigrated in 1853 (see p. 90), born in Kelheimwinzer in 1839.[200]



Gravestone of Georg Steil (1809–1874) at St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam

Georg Steil died at his home in the town of Westford on May 27, 1874, at the age of 65. His widow Walburga, née Hufnagel, outlived him by 15 years and passed away at her home on August 20, 1889, in her 73rd year. Both were laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.
Their eldest son, John Steil (1840–1932), married Katharina Amann (1841–1925), daughter of Jakob Amann (see p. 90), in Beaver Dam in 1862, and later moved with her to Bird Island, Renville County, Minnesota.
The son, Franz (Frank) X. Steil (1842–1909), also married a daughter of the Amann family, Franziska (Frances) (1847–1914). The couple remained in Beaver Dam, and in 1868 Frank acquired the remains of a brewery that had burned down in 1866 and had previously belonged for a time to his brother-in-law, Georg Amann. Steil and his business partner, Pfestel, rebuilt the brewery under the name "The New Brewery." With an annual output of fewer than 500 barrels of beer, it was the smallest among the many breweries in Beaver Dam at the time. However, just 19 years after the first fire, the brewery fell victim to fire again on June 29, 1885, this time with tragic consequences for Frank Steil's family. While he and his wife managed to escape through a second-story window with a baby, their three older children – five, eight, and eleven years old – perished in their sleep.[201] Frank Steil and his wife Frances later had more children; their descendants in Beaver Dam can be traced to the present day.

Susbauer, Anna Maria

Biographical data:	* 1817 Keilsdorf, Par. Essing, CD Kelheim
Place of origin:	Painten No. 69, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a day laborer
Assets:	190 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / ?
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

200 Cf. US Federal Census 1870.
201 Cf. Historical Committee (ed.), Centennial History, p. 105.

Anna Maria Susbauer was one of three sisters who emigrated to North America in 1846, 1853, and 1858. Her parents were Georg Susbauer (* 1789), a day laborer in Painten, and his wife Anna Maria, née Kargl (* 1790), from Keilsdorf. Anna Maria was born out of wedlock in Keilsdorf in 1817 and was legitimized upon her parents' marriage in 1822. In 1853, she followed her sister Therese (see p. 182), who had emigrated in 1846, to America.

Susbauer, Maria Josepha[202]

Biographical data: * 1828 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 69, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a day laborer
Emigration / Ship: 1858 / "Austria" (steamship)
Crossing: Hamburg/Southampton – New York
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Josepha Susbauer followed her older sisters Therese (* 1824) and Anna Maria (* 1817), who had emigrated in 1846 and 1853, respectively, to North America. She was the fifth of six children born to her parents (see above). At the age of 28, she had an illegitimate son (Peter Susbauer) with Johann Plank, an unmarried farmer's son from Schamhaupten; however, the child lived for only two months († May 18, 1857). In the summer of the following year, she decided to follow the example of her two sisters who had emigrated. She was the first of the subjects in our study to travel to New York on a steam-assisted sailing ship. The "Austria" departed from Hamburg on June 30 and initially headed for Southampton in southern England, arriving there after three days to take on additional passengers bound for America. After arriving in New York on July 17, 1858, Josepha traveled on to Chicago, where her sisters may have been living.

In Chicago, on August 7, 1859, she married Martin Hanfstingl (1817–1880), a widower and gardener who also hailed from Painten (see p. 119).

The steam-sail ship "Austria," on which Josepha Susbauer had arrived in New York, was soon to achieve tragic notoriety. Launched in 1857, it had been operated by the shipping company HAPAG on the Hamburg–New York route since May 1858. Josepha's crossing was only the second voyage to America by the "Austria." Its next trip there would also be its last. On September 1, 1858, it set sail from Hamburg following the same route as before, with a stopover in Southampton bound for New York, where it was scheduled to arrive on September 18. On September 13, 1858, the steamer sank off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland in the Atlantic after a fire broke out on board and eventually engulfed the entire ship. As a result of the disaster, 456 people lost their lives; only 89 were rescued. The sinking of the "Austria" is considered one of the worst maritime disasters of the emigration era.[203]

News of the sinking of the "Austria" would certainly have reached Chicago, and Josepha Susbauer would have learned just how narrowly she had escaped tragedy.

202 The first given name was omitted in later documents.
203 Vgl. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria_(Schiff,_1857); (25.07.2026).

Susbauer, Therese

Biographical data: * 1824 Painten
Place of origin: Painten No. 69, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Maidservant / Unmarried
Assets: 150 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1846 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Therese was the first of the three Susbauer sisters to go to America (see pp- 180–181). She based her application to emigrate on the *hope of better wages.*[204]

Traubinger, Therese

Biographical data: * 1825 Haugenried, † 1912 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Haugenried No. 21, Par. Deuerling, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mercury"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI

Therese Traubinger was the illegitimate daughter of Jakob Traubinger (* 1800), son of a farmer from Haugenried, and Maria Anna Stadelbauer from the same place. Therese traveled accompanied by her future husband, Joseph Wagner (1813–1890) from Lohstadt, with whom she settled in Beaver Dam (see p. 183).
Her second cousin Vinzenz Reitner (see pp. 163–164) from Haugenried No. 22 had emigrated six months earlier on the "Mary," also bound for Wisconsin.

Urbanger, Johann Michael[205]

Biographical data: * 1806 Brunn, † 1871 Chicago, IL
Place of origin: Brunn, Par. Frauenberg, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Carpenter / Unmarried
Assets: 500 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / "B. Bohlen"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL[206]

Joh. Michael Urbanger was the son of the farm couple Johann Georg Urbanger and Maria, née Pirzer, of Brunn. Joh. Michael traveled together with his future wife Maria Anna Winter (1817–1898), the daughter of a basket maker from Frauenberg No. 9 (see p. 189), and their illegitimate daughter Therese (* June 25, 1846, Frauen-

204 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
205 Spelling variant: „Urwanger".
206 Cf. Chicago City Directory 1888.

berg). As expected, they submitted their application to emigrate in the *hope of easier settlement*.[207] They appear as a married couple on the passenger list of the "B. Bohlen," an observation that can be made regarding other emigrant couples intending to marry (see p. 80).
Joh. Michael Urbanger died on August 28, 1871, in Chicago.[208] In 1880, we find his widow in Chicago listed as *Anna Uranger* [!], age 53, with two sons named George (24) and Michael (16), both of whom worked as upholsterers.[209] Anna Urbanger, née Winter, died in Chicago on April 29, 1898, at the age of 81.

Vieracker, Maria Anna

Biographical data:	* 1824 Schönhofen, Waffenhammer
Place of origin:	Schönhofen, Waffenhammer, Par. Nittendorf, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a hammer mill owner
Assets:	250 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	?

Maria Anna Vieracker was the daughter of Anton Vieracker (* 1793), real estate and hammer mill owner in Schönhofen, and his wife Margarethe, née Mann (* 1797). She had been provided with a dowry of 250 guilders by her father and traveled with her *lover*, Joseph Jobst (* 1822), a farmer's son from Pollenried (see p. 127).[210]

Wagner, Joseph

Biographical data:	* 1813 Lohstadt, † 1890 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Lohstadt No. 4, Par. Kapfelberg, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried son of a farmer ("Viertelbauer")
Emigration / Ship:	1853 / "Mercury"
Crossing:	Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

Joseph Wagner was the son of the farmer ("Viertelbauer") Thomas Wagner (* 1777) of Lohstadt and his wife Maria Anna, née Schwindl (* 1787), of Gundelshausen. He traveled via Le Havre to New York, and from there on to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, accompanied by his future wife, Therese Traubinger (1825–1912).
In the 1870 census, Wagner appears as a plasterer's assistant in the city of Beaver Dam, listed with his wife Therese and four children between eight and sixteen years of age. After Joseph Wagner died in Beaver Dam on September 2, 1890, his obituary refers to him as a brick mason.



Gravestone for Joseph Wagner (1813–1890) at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam

207 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
208 Cf. www.ancestry.com.
209 Cf. US Federal Census 1880.
210 Cf. StAAm, LG ä, O. Hemau 1151.

His widow Therese, née Traubinger, passed away at the age of 86 on January 3, 1912. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Waldhier, Johann Evangelist

Biographical data:	* 1824 Hohenschambach, † 1859 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Hohenschambach No. 18, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Married
Wife:	Maier, Katharina, * 1827, Eiersdorf, Par. Hohenschambach, † 1909 Milwaukee, WI
Children:	Johann Bapt. (1850–1932), Anna Maria (1851–1852, died during the crossing of the Atlantic)
Assets:	4,500 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

Regarding Johann Evangelist Waldhier, see section "Land Speculators: The Waldhier Family from Hohenschambach," pp. 76–79.

Waldhier, Johann Michael

Biographical data:	* 1789 Hohenschambach
Place of origin:	Hohenschambach No. 18, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Retired farmer ("Austrägler") / Widowed
Assets:	1,200 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Beaver Dam, WI

Johann Michael Waldhier was the father of Johann Evangelist Waldhier; see section "Land Speculators: The Waldhier Family from Hohenschambach," pp. 76–79.

Waldhier, Katharina

Biographical data:	* 1833 Thonhausen, Par. Hohenschambach, † 1916 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin:	Hohenschambach No. 18, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Unmarried daughter of a farmer
Assets:	0 (passage paid by her father, Joh. Michael Waldhier; see above)
Emigration / Ship:	1852 / "Germania"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Katharina Waldhier was a sister of Johann Evangelist Waldhier; see section "Land Speculators: The Waldhier Family from Hohenschambach," pp. 76–77. In Wisconsin, she married Sebastian Hammer (see pp. 117–118), who had come to America with her on the "Germania" (see pp. 36–38).

Waldhier, Michael

Biographical data: * 1827 Hohenschambach, † 1889 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Hohenschambach No. 18, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore[211]
Residence in USA: Beaver Dam, WI; Hastings, MN; Missouri

Michael Waldhier was a son of Johann Michael Waldhier (* 1789); see section "Scouts and Pioneers," p. 74. He was recorded as an early grocer in Beaver Dam who sold off his stock in 1855. In 1856 he sold his home here. The 1860 census showed him and his family in Minnesota, and his obituary noted he lived several years in Missouri. On March 28, 1889, he died while on a visit in Beaver Dam at the home of his brother-in-law Sebastian Hammer.

Waldhier, Rosina

Biographical data: * 1826 Kochenthal, † 1900 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Kochenthal No. 6, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Halbbauer")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Calamus, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Rosina Waldhier was the fifth and youngest child of the farmer Johann Isidor Waldhier (1791–1855) of Kochenthal and his second wife, Anna Maria Elisabeth, née Peter (1795–1827). In 1853, Rosina Waldhier traveled to New York aboard the "Mary" with a group of 60 fellow countrymen. Also on board the ship was Johann Evangelist Maier (1818–1897) from Wangsaß (see pp. 139–141), whom she married on May 21, 1853, in Beaver Dam.[212]

Wasner, Barbara

Biographical data: * 1825 Kemnathen, † 1904 Putnam Co., OH
Place of origin: Kemnathen No. 10, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a wagon maker
Assets: 380 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Darby, Union Co., OH

Barbara Wasner was a daughter of the wagon maker Georg Wasner of Kemnathen and his wife Therese, née Mirbeth. She came to America in 1852 and, on September 6, 1852, in Hamilton, Ohio, married Joseph Sossau (* 1821), a native of Bavaria. She died on November 18, 1904, in Putnam County, Ohio.[213]

211 Cf. Naturalization Document.
212 Jefferson County Vital records Register, JM-9 Marriage Johann Mair Jefferson Vol 1, p. 42-2Cf
213 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

Wechselberger, Anna Maria

Biographical data: * 1828 Kapfelberg, † 1903 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Kapfelberg No. 38, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a cooper
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Germania"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Anna Maria was a daughter of the cooper Joseph Wechselberger (* 1800) of Kapfelberg and his wife Anna Maria, née Rußwurm (* 1808). She traveled together with her future husband, Jakob Aukofer. A separate section of this book is dedicated to her family (see pp. 80–82). Anna Maria died on May 22, 1903. Her husband Jakob Aukofer died previously on October 15, 1901. Both were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Weigert, Georg

Biographical data: * 1828 Wangsaß
Place of origin: Wangsaß No. 3, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Gütler")
Assets: 200 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Georg Weigert was a son of the smallholder couple Georg Joseph Weigert (* 1797) and Anna Maria, née Rappl (* 1799), of Wangsaß (see p. 139).

Wein, Anna Katharina

Biographical data: * 1821 Heimberg, † 1902 Town of Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Heimberg No. 12, Par. Deuerling, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "F. J. Wichelhausen"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Beaver Dam, WI

Anna Katharina was the daughter of the farmer Michael Wein (* 1797) of Heimberg and his wife Katharina, née Rosenmeier (* 1788), of Bergmatting. She traveled with her future husband, Joseph Hallermaier (1808–1888) from Neukelheim, whom she married in Wisconsin in 1853 (see p. 115). Anna Katharina died at her home in the town of Beaver Dam on September 16, 1902.

Weissmann, Joseph Georg[214]

Biographical data:	* 1794 Hohenlohe, † 1851 Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI
Place of origin:	Hohenlohe No. 1, Par. Beratzhausen, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Farmer / Married
Wife:	Ostermann, Barbara, * 1796 Dinau, † 1869 Town of Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI
Children:	Johann Michael (* 1820), Maria Barbara (* 1821), Joseph (* 1824), Johann Bapt. (* 1828), Anna Maria (1830–1891), Johann Georg (* 1831)
Assets:	7,000 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1848 / ?
Crossing:	Mainz/Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA:	Farmington, Jefferson Co., WI

For 29 years, Georg Weissmann and his wife Barbara, née Ostermann, had farmed a full-sized holding in the hamlet of Hohenlohe near Beratzhausen, a settlement consisting of just two properties. Weissmann was one of those farmers from the Beratzhausen area who decided to emigrate in 1847/48 and became early settlers in Wisconsin.

When Georg Weissmann submitted his application to emigrate in March 1848, he was already 53 years old and was likely concerned above all about the future of his children, some of whom were already of marriageable age. He cited the *hope of better earnings* as his reason for emigrating.[215]

Weissmann had sold his farm and had 7,000 guilders from the proceeds at his disposal. After the family was granted permission to emigrate on April 8, 1848, Georg Weissmann left his homeland with his wife and six children, aged sixteen to twenty-eight (three other children had died at an early age). In his emigration application, he had stated his intention to travel to New York via Mainz (a gathering point for emigrants en route to Le Havre).[216]

Upon arriving in North America, the family traveled on to Wisconsin – specifically to the town of Farmington in Jefferson County (see p. 50), where they joined the Fleh family from Hinterthann (see p. 103) and the Niebler family from Rechberg (see pp. 149–150), who had emigrated the previous year. *George Wiseman* appears in the 1850 census as the owner of a farm there.

In Jefferson on February 25, 1851, his daughter Anna Maria Weissmann (1830–1891), married Joh. Konrad Guttenberger (1831–1881), who had emigrated from Rechberg in 1847 (see p. 112).

Georg Weissmann died in the town of Farmington on November 9, 1851, shortly before his 57th birthday. His widow followed him in death in 1869.[217]

214 Spelling variants in USA „Wiseman" etc.; The first given name was omitted in later documents.

215 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.

216 Since the travel routes listed in the records have proven to be unreliable, it is also possible that the Weissmann family, like many of the early emigrants, traveled via Quebec.

217 Cf. www.ancestry.com.

Werner, Walburga

Biographical data: * ca. 1820 Dürn
Place of origin: Dürn, Par. Breitenbrunn, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Day laborer / Unmarried
Assets: 300 guilders
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: ?

Walburga Werner's identity could not be determined more precisely.[218]

Wimmer, Joseph[219]

Biographical data: * 1825 Poikam, † 1899 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Poikam, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "F. J. Wichelhausen"
Crossing: Bremen – New York
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Beaver Dam, WI



Gravestone of Joseph Wimmer (1825–1899) at St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam

Joseph Wimmer was the son of the farm couple Benedikt Wimmer and Walburga, née Schwindl, of Poikam. In November 1853, he traveled with his partner Walburga Paulus (1825–1896) from Gundelshausen to New York. The latter was a daughter of Johann Michael Paulus (see pp. 152–154), who followed them to America with his family shortly thereafter.

Joseph Wimmer and Walburga Paulus already had two illegitimate daughters together. One of them, Franziska, had died at just two months of age, eight weeks prior to their emigration. The older child, two-year-old Anna (1851–1931), accompanied her parents on the 59 day winter crossing aboard the "F. J. Wichelhausen." They arrived in New York on January 5, 1854, and traveled on to Beaver Dam, where the young couple married and settled on a farm in the Town of Westford. The 1870 census showed the land valued at 1,600 dollars and the property at 520 dollars. An 1873 plat map pictured an 80 acre farm. By the publication of an 1890 plat map, the farm had grown to 134 acres.

Joseph Wimmer was naturalized on November 28, 1859; Jakob Aukofer (see pp. 80–82) was one of the witnesses. Walburga died at their home in the town of Westford on December 14, 1896, at the age of 71. Joseph died at the age of 74 in the city of Beaver Dam at the home of his son Frank on April 3, 1899. They were laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Dam, leaving ten grown children.[220]

218 Cf. StAAm, RegInn 298.
219 Spelling variant in USA: „Weimer".
220 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus", April 6, 1899.

Winter, Anton

Biographical data:	* 1817 Rothenbügl, † 1879 Chicago, IL
Place of origin:	Rothenbügl No. 1, Par. Painten, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Shoemaker and cottager ("Häusler") / Married
Wife:	Kleindl, Friederike, * 1819 Painten, widowed name Spangler
Children:	Therese (* 1842), Joseph (* 1845), Anton (* 1857)
Assets:	933 guilders
Emigration / Ship:	1860 / "Goethe"
Crossing:	Bremen – New York
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL

Anton Winter was the son of the glassmaker Michael Winter (* 1775) of Rothenbügl and his wife Franziska, née Blau (* 1791). Anton became a shoemaker and, in 1853, married the widow Friederike Spangler, née Kleindl, thereby acquiring the property at Rothenbügl No. 1 through marriage. Friederike brought three children into the marriage. She had another five children with Anton Winter, though only one of them survived infancy. One of the Spangler children, Johann Baptist, died in 1856 at the age of six.

On July 21, 1860, the shoemaker Anton Winter and his wife applied for permission to emigrate to North America with their three children. To this end, they had sold their property; after settling their debts, they retained 933 of the 2,033 guilders realized from the sale to finance their travel expenses and the cost of establishing a livelihood in America.[221] They set sail from Bremerhaven on August 28, 1860, and spent the next 51 days in the steerage of the "Goethe," which carried them to New York. Upon arriving there on October 18, they continued on to Chicago, the destination chosen the previous year by the glass carver Johann Mittl from Rothenbügl (see pp. 147–148). In 1870, *Anthony Winter* is recorded as a shoemaker in Chicago (16th Ward), holding real estate valued at 2,000 dollars.[222] He died there in 1879 at the age of 62.

Winter, Maria Anna[223]

Biographical data:	* 1817 Frauenberg No. 6 (9?), † 1898 Chicago, IL
Place of origin:	Frauenberg No. 6, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status:	Maidservant / Unmarried
Child:	Therese (* 1846)
Assets:	0
Emigration / Ship:	1847 / "B. Bohlen"
Crossing:	Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA:	Chicago, IL

M. Anna was the daughter of the basket weaver ("Korbzäuner") Paul Winter (1777–1847) and his wife Barbara, née Biersack, from Hemau (ca. 1776–1842). Following the death of her already widowed father on March 16, 1847, she emigrated to North America together with the father of her illegitimate child Therese, the carpenter Joh. Michael Urbanger, who paid for her passage (see pp. 182–183). She died on April 29, 1898, in Chicago.

221 Vgl. StAAm, CD ä. O. Hemau 1120.
222 Vgl. US Federal Census 1870.
223 The first given name was omitted in later documents.

Ziegler, Michael

Biographical data: * 1801 Großetzenberg
Place of origin: Großetzenberg No. 8, Par. Laaber, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Farmer ("Gütler") / Married
Wife: Rappl, Maria Katharina, * 1799 Kochenthal, Par. Hohenschambach, CD Hemau
Children: Michael (* 1827), Margarethe (* 1829), Joseph (* 1830), Georg (* 1833), Anna Maria (* 1836)
Emigration / Ship: 1847 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

From 1826 onwards, Michael Ziegler farmed a smallholding ("Gütl") in Großetzenberg with his wife M. Katharina, née Rappl. Nine children were born of the marriage, five of whom survived. When these children were between eleven and nineteen years old, Ziegler decided to sell his property and applied for emigration permission for himself and his family.[224] Nothing could be ascertained regarding his subsequent life.

Zottl, Anna Elisabeth[225]

Biographical data: * 1808 Großetzenberg
Place of origin: Großetzenberg No. 3, Par. Laaber, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried daughter of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / ?
Crossing: ?
Residence in USA: ?

Elisabeth Zottl was the daughter of the smallholder couple Wolfgang Zottl and Anna Maria, née Koller, of Großetzenberg. At the age of 24, she had given birth to an illegitimate daughter who died at the age of three and a half. When Elisabeth submitted her emigration application, she was 44 years old and still unmarried. She traveled together with Johann Bapt. Bauer (* 1816) from Schönhofen (see p. 91).

Zottl, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1829 Großetzenberg
Place of origin: Großetzenberg No. 1, Par. Laaber, CD Hemau
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Mary"
Crossing: Bremen – NewYork
Residence in USA: Chicago, IL

Johann Bapt. Zottl was the son of the farm couple Georg Zottl and Therese, née Maier, from Großetzenberg. He was a second cousin of A. Elisabeth Zottl (see above),[226] who had emigrated a year before him. Zottl arrived

224 Cf.Intelligenzblatt 1847/738-9, see ilustration on p. 15.
225 The first given name was omitted in later documents.
226 Johann Baptist Zottl's father and A. Elisabeth Zottl were first cousins.

in America in 1853 with a group of fellow countrymen aboard the "Mary." In the 1860 census records, *John Zoddel* appears with his wife Sophie and daughter Mary, listed as a laborer in Chicago City, Illinois.[227]

Zweck, Georg

Biographical data: * 1823 Viehhausen, † 1906 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Viehhausen No. 36, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1854 / "Florida"
Crossing: London – NewYork
Residence in USA: Town of Westford, Dodge Co., WI; Town of Beaver Dam, WI; Beaver Dam, WI

Georg Zweck was one of three brothers who emigrated to America between 1852 and 1854, two of whom settled in Wisconsin. Their parents were the smallholder couple Johann Zweck (* 1791) and Anna Maria, née Dorfner (* 1796), from Viehhausen.

Georg Zweck followed his brothers Johann Baptist (1821–1907) and Mathias (1825–1910), who had emigrated earlier (see pp.192–193). He was accompanied by Maria Anna Kobler[228]from Gundelshausen (see p. 131), his future wife. Although the couple did not marry until they reached America, the passenger list for the "Florida" already records them under the shared surname of Georg and Anna Zweck. We have seen several examples of this practice previously (see p. 80).

Georg Zweck and Anna Kobler chose London as the starting point for their Atlantic crossing. While the journey there was arduous, the subsequent voyage to New York from that city was cheaper.[229] Among the 410 passengers on the "Florida" were the families of Johann Bapt. Hartl from Pechlerhäusl near Painten (see pp. 120–122) and Jakob Karl from Schneckenbach (see p. 129).

After arriving in New York on September 15, 1854, they all traveled on to Beaver Dam – presumably together as a group of fifteen. Shortly after their arrival, Georg Zweck and Anna Kobler walked to Columbus (about 15 miles southwest of Beaver Dam) to be married.[230] Subsequently, they settled on a farm in the town of Westford before moving to a farm in the town of Beaver Dam. In the 1870 census, Georg Zweck is listed as a farmer living in the town of Beaver Dam with his wife Anna and eight children. He had become a naturalized citizen on March 26, 1860; one of the witnesses was his brother-in-law (specifically, his wife's sister's husband), Jakob Kolb (see pp. 134–135).

In 1893, the couple moved into the city where Anna Zweck, née Kobler, died on February 20, 1901. George spent his final years living on East Maple Avenue (3rd Ward) and passed away on April 9, 1906, at the age of 82. The mortal remains of both of them were laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

227 Cf. US Federal Census 1860.
228 The first given name was omitted in later documents.
229 Cf. Albrecht, S. 160.
230 Cf. Historical Committee (ed.): Centennial History, p. 252.

Zweck, Johann Baptist

Biographical data: * 1821 Viehhausen, † 1907 Pittsburgh, PA
Place of origin: Viehhausen No. 36, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1853 / "Carolus Magnus"
Crossing: Le Havre – New York
Residence in USA: Pittsburgh, PA[231]

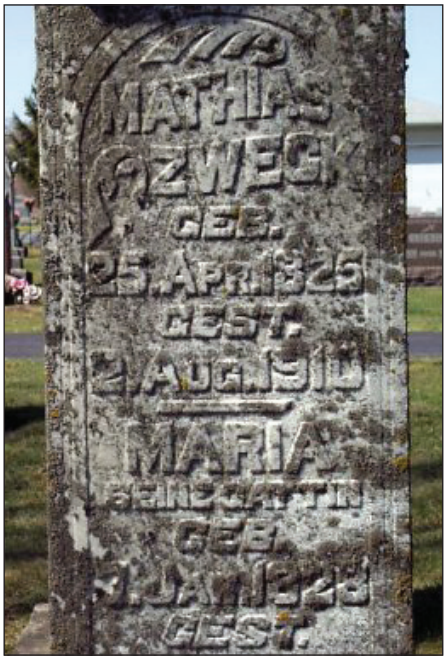
Johann Bapt. Zweck followed his brother Mathias (see below) to America in the summer of 1853 aboard the "Carolus Magnus," sailing from Le Havre. Among the 800 passengers was Franz Rödl from Schneckenbach, accompanied by his wife and six children (see pp. 166–167). While Rödl moved on to Wisconsin after arriving in New York on June 13, 1853, Johann Bapt. Zweck went to Pittsburgh to join his brother Mathias who had settled there after emigrating to America in 1852. There Johann Baptist married and worked as a laborer.[232] He died in Pittsburgh on May 22, 1907,[233] at the age of 86.

Zweck, Mathias

Biographical data: * 1825 Viehhausen, † 1910 Beaver Dam, WI
Place of origin: Viehhausen No. 36, Par. Eilsbrunn, CD Kelheim
Occupation / Status: Unmarried son of a farmer ("Söldner")
Emigration / Ship: 1852 / "Chesapeake"
Crossing: Bremen – Baltimore
Residence in USA: Pittsburgh, PA (18 months), Beaver Dam, WI

Mathias Zweck was the youngest of the three brothers who emigrated and the first to leave his homeland. On August 6, 1852, he boarded the "Chesapeake" in Bremerhaven together with his future wife, Maria Anna Leichtl (see p. 137), bound for Baltimore. The passenger list records the names of 286 emigrants, including 45 children between the ages of one and fourteen, as well as 13 under the age of one. They arrived in Baltimore on September 20, 1852, after a 45-day sea voyage. Mathias Zweck and Maria Anna Leichtl made their way to Pittsburgh, PA, where they lived for a year and a half and probably got married, before moving to the city of Beaver Dam, WI, in 1854.[234]

Census records from 1860 and 1870 list Mathias Zweck as a laborer in Beaver Dam. The 1870 records note eight children and real estate valued at 600 dollars. He died in his home on East South Street on August 2, 1910, at the age of 85. His widow continued to live in their



Gravestone of Mathias Zweck (1825–1910) and Maria Anna, née Leichtl (1828–1920), at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam

231 Communication from Margret Wagner, Kelheim.
232 Cf. US Federal Census 1880.
233 Cf. www.ancestry.com.
234 Cf. "Beaver Dam Argus," August 5, 1910, p. 5. According to their obituaries, Mathias Zweck and M. A. Leichtl are said to have married in Germany before their departure. However, this is contradicted, among other things, by the inconsistencies in the dates provided, as well as by the fact that M. A. Leichtl traveled appears under her maiden name on the passenger list of the "Chesapeake."



The brothers (from left) Mathias (1825–1910), John Bapt. (1821–1907), and Georg Zweck (1823–1906)
The photograph was likely taken in the fall of 1905, when John Zweck traveled from Pittsburgh to Beaver Dam to see his brothers for the first and last time in fifty years, and the local newspaper reported on it ("Beaver Dam Argus," Oct. 13, 1905, p. 5).

home until approximately three years before her death. She lived to be 92 and died in the city at the home of her son Frank on November 21, 1920. Both were buried at St. Peter's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Their son, John V. Zweck (1866–1937), took over the hardware store on Front Street in Beaver Dam from his boss F. Rassman in 1902, and operated it as John V. Zweck Hardware. In 1924 he organized the "Zweck-Wollenburg Hardware Company" by combining two hardware stores with himself as president. Even after his retirement two years later and his death on January 21, 1937, the store continued to operate under the name "Zweck-Wollenburg Hardware" until December 1990.[235]

John V. Zweck was also among the parish notables entrusted with the construction of St. Peter's Church in 1900 (see p. 60) and was the donor of one of its stained-glass windows (see pp. 64–65).

235 Cf. History Book Committee (ed.), Beaver Dam Sesquicentennial History. p. 76.

Author's Afterword and Acknowledgments

When my professional life took me to Beaver Dam several times a good thirty years ago, I was struck by the surnames in the local phone book. Here, in a part of Wisconsin strongly shaped by German immigrants, I found not only the expected high proportion of German names but also a remarkably high concentration of surnames typical of, or even endemic to, my own home region in the Upper Palatinate.

Over the years, my genealogical research frequently led me to encounter emigrants bound for North America. I noticed that the majority of those whose destination was known had settled in Beaver Dam. Clearly, there was a special connection between my home region – the Tangrintel – and that small city in Wisconsin.

The circle closed nearly thirty years after my last visit to Beaver Dam. By then, the Internet had become widely used, and a descendant of Tangrintel emigrants, Patricia T. Pawl, had come across my publications on family and local history online.[1] She subsequently contacted me to seek advice on a specific genealogical issue. That initial contact evolved into a collaboration that led to an exchange of information about emigrants to Beaver Dam and, ultimately, the creation of this book.

As a native of Beaver Dam and the former director of the Beaver Dam Community Library, Patricia Pawl shared her expertise on local history and her knowledge of individual Bavarian immigrant families – invaluable building blocks for this book. Furthermore, she provided me with relevant literature and references to sources that have been incorporated into this work. She also supplied numerous illustrations. I therefore extend my very special thanks to her for her professional assistance. Without the connection to Patricia Pawl and her dedication, this book would have been neither started nor completed.

I also owe special thanks to Anita Streich, a librarian at the Beaver Dam Community Library, for generously providing local history literature; to Todd Janssen, Director of Engineering, City of Beaver Dam, for obtaining historical subdivision plat maps; and to Shelly Taylor, Head Archivist of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, for references regarding church history. I also thank Vicki Schicker, curator Jefferson Historical Museum, for searching for traces of emigrants arriving in Jefferson County, as well as Norma Bohl and Phyllis Tratar of Beaver Dam for pictures and information about their Bavarian ancestors.

I am also indebted to the late Robert Dennis Mittelstadt; several images in this book come from his extensive collection of photographs featuring former Beaver Dam residents and their graves on www.findagrave.com. Likewise, I thank Steven Seim of Beaver Dam for providing several photographs of gravestones.

Last but not least, I would like to thank – among many others – my fellow researchers Maria Ostermeier (Kollersried), Doris Sattler (Undorf), Andreas Sauer (Munich), Margret Wagner (Kelheim), and Helmut Weltmaier (Munich) for the many leads and details that helped complete various family records. My thanks also go to the late Alfred Kunz († 2024) of Weiden for his analysis of the "Official Gazettes for the Upper Palatinate,"[2] which saved a great deal of research time.

Hohenwart, September 2026
Georg Paulus

1 Vgl. www.heimatforschung-regensburg.de.
2 *Amts- und Intelligenzblätter für die Oberpfalz und von Regensburg*

Sources

It should be noted here that the research required for this work only became possible thanks to the online publication of church records from the dioceses of Eichstätt and Regensburg (the latter starting in 2023). This also applies to various online resources provided by U.S. organizations. Without online access to these diverse and sometimes scattered sources, the research would not have been possible just a few years ago.

Germany

Church records from approximately 40 parishes in the dioceses of Regensburg (BZAR) and Eichstätt (DAEI), online at www.matricula-online.eu

Königlich-bayerisches Intelligenzblatt für die Oberpfalz und von Regensburg, years 1838–1853

Königlich-bayerisches Kreis-Amtsblatt für die Oberpfalz und von Regensburg, years 1854 et seq.

StAAm, Kataster Hemau

StAAm, Kataster Regensburg

StAAm, Landgericht ä. O. Hemau (emigration files)

StAAm, RegInn 298 and 299

Staatsarchiv Bremen (Departure Dates of Emigration Ships, online at https://die-maus-bremen.info/)

USA

www.ancestry.com

www.familysearch.org (e.g. church records from St. Peter, Beaver Dam, WI, passenger lists for the ships and crossings listed on pp. 31–35)

www.findagrave.com

www.newspapers.com

National Archives, U.S. Federal Census 1850 et seq.

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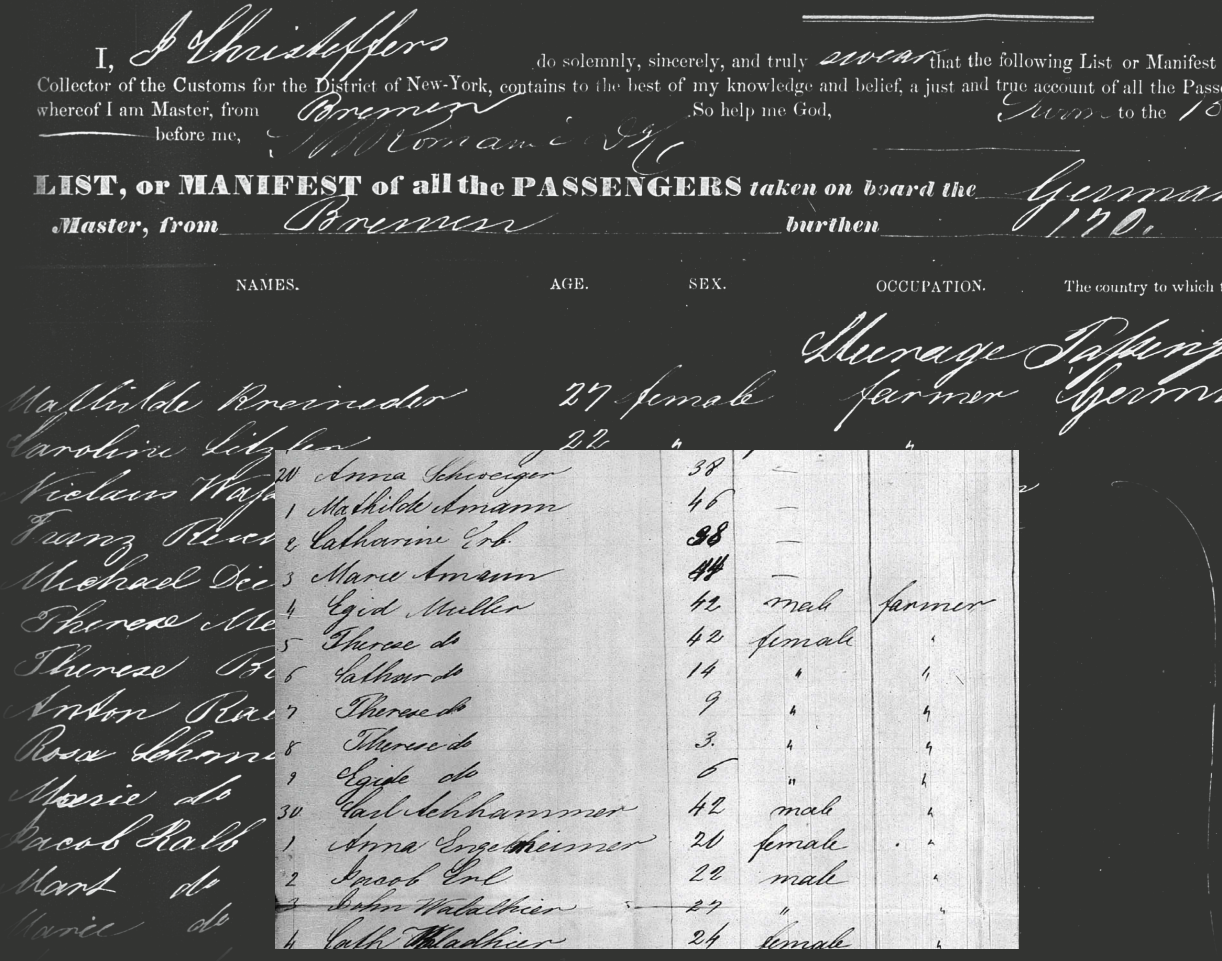
I, J. Christoffers do solemnly, sincerely, and truly swear that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with m
Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, contains to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the
whereof I am Master, from Bremen So help me God, to the 15. June
before me,

LIST, or MANIFEST of all the PASSENGERS taken on board the Germania whereof
Master, from Bremen burthen 170. tons.

NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.
			Steerage Passengers.	
Mathilde Breimeier	27	female	farmer	Germany
Anna Schweiger	38			
1 Mathilde Amann	46			
2 Catharine Erb	38			
3 Marie Amann	44			
4 Egid Müller	42	male	farmer	
5 Therese do	42	female		
6 Lathar do	14			
7 Therese do	9			
8 Therese do	3			
9 Egide do	6			
30 Carl Lehhammer	42	male		
1 Anna Engelmeimer	20	female		
2 Jacob Erl	22	male		
3 John Wahlthier	22			
4 Cath. Wlachthier	24	female		

Between 1845 and 1861, more than 460 people from the Hemau area (central Bavaria) emigrated to North America. A large number of them were among the early settlers of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and among the founders of the first Catholic congregation there. Author Georg Paulus traces the economic, social, and family circumstances that led them to emigrate. He describes their preparations for the journey, the conditions of their travel to the seaports and the crossing, as well as their onward journey inland and their settlement in Wisconsin. A comprehensive biographical section of the book focuses on the living conditions of the emigrants, their family ties, and the role that individuals played in the founding and development of the city of Beaver Dam and St. Peter's Parish. The book sheds light on how the settlers brought their history and beliefs to a new homeland and wrote an important chapter in the early history of Beaver Dam and its surrounding area. Many of their descendants still live in Beaver Dam today forming a continuing bond between the Hemau area and Beaver Dam.

The series "Regensburger Beiträge zur Heimatforschung" (RBH) publishes, at irregular intervals, monographs, documentary works, and editions of primary sources in the fields of art, regional or local history and historic preservation.

Johannes
VERLAG
TH. FEUERER