

Emigration Overseas in the Mid-19th Century

Based on actual events, by Gerhard Schmidt-Grillmeier

Up to the 1950s, emigration overseas was usually associated with a long and very exhausting sea journey.

One day, due to my genealogical research, an American, Jane Lippert-Perry, from Seattle, Washington, United States, came across my homepage (thanks to the internet!). It turned out that she was a descendant of common ancestors from a Bavarian market town, Neualbenreuth. I knew that, Johann Lippert, his wife Margarethe, their four underage children, sister Rosina and sister-in-law Eva Anna Frank had emigrated to the USA in 1853.

Well, Jane was a descendant of about 100 emigrants who crisscrossed the United States. There was a lively exchange of information about the family history and about the relatives still living today. Then there was a visit from Jane and two of her siblings, Anne and John Lippert, to my home and the homes of our common ancestors. We then had a return visit to the USA in 2007.

Of course, Jane and I were interested in finding out how the family managed to emigrate, and what they had to do to make the trip to the United States, which was not entirely safe.

1849 to 1857 was a peak time for emigration from Bavaria. 90% of the thousands who emigrated chose the United States destination for their immigration. The reasons for emigration, were failed hopes for political reforms after the freedom movements of 1848, also religious or increasingly economic instability. In many areas of Germany there is hardly a family that does not have any emigrants.



Neualbenreuth
(Hometown of Johann Lippert's Family)

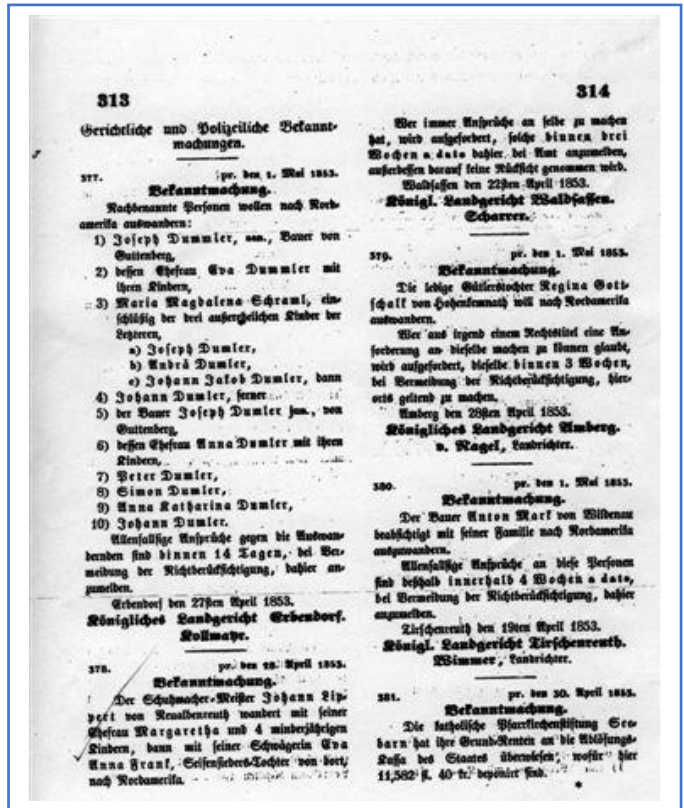
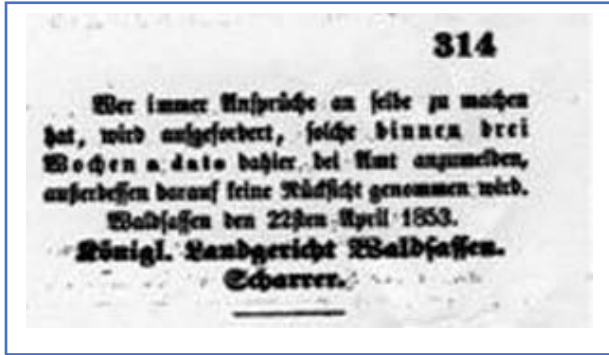
It can be assumed that the Lippert's' economic reasons were decisive. With the large number of children at that time, the farms could no longer feed the families. Many farmers had to have a second job, including Johann Lippert. He was also a master shoemaker, in order to make a living over the barren, winter months. Of course, the wife and children also had to earn money and work.

In Bavaria there were two large agencies - one in Kempten, the other in Aschaffenburg - which had been controlled by the state government since 1849 and organized emigration in cooperation with HAPAG, Hamburg and Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen. Most people who wanted to emigrate received information from the press, from previous emigrants or from emigration associations, e.g. from the Catholic St. Raphael's Society.

The money for the emigration had to be raised beforehand - a very big hurdle! Johann sold his share of the farm to his brother. His wife was sickly, so her sister Margarethe Frank and Johann's sister Rosina Lippert, came on the trip so that they could look after the four children in an emergency.

The Royal Court in Waldsassen needed documents, certificates (birth certificate, baptism certificate, marriage certificate and certificate of good conduct, proof of any compulsory military service and assets) had to be presented to acquire a passport - but this was only valid for this exit. The local newspaper announced that they were willing to emigrate, and any creditors could then contact them. Bavarian citizenship was lost with the purchase of the passport! State aid from Bavaria in the new home or on a possible return was not allowed.

(Newspaper advertisements)



The journey from Neualbenreuth started with ox carts or by foot. A last look at the village must have been very painful for them! Once in the village Hof, they would take a train and travel through Plauen to Hanover and onto Bremen. The hardships with the four children can hardly be imagined. In Bremen, the first stop was an emigrant accommodation and from there the emigrants were brought to Bremerhaven on the Weser River via boat. The trip was organized by the emigration agencies, but people had to bring their own food. The trip had to be paid in advance.

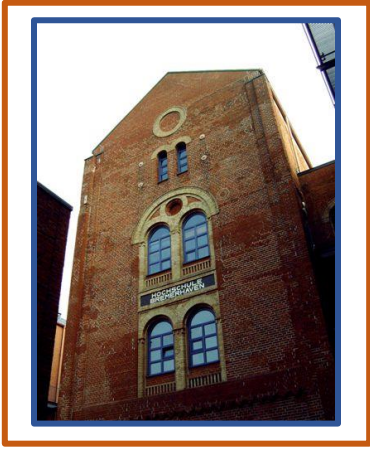
Bremerhaven was founded specifically to better manage the mass of emigrants. People came from all over Central and Eastern Europe, including many Jews. The authorities in Hamburg and Bremen were the ones who adopted guidelines at an early stage so that people were given reasonably, decent accommodation and to protect them from fraudsters. The facilities were considered exemplary worldwide, in accordance with the standards of the time. The Bremen magistrate in 1845, issued an "inspection for emigration." The excellent museum "Deutsches Auswandererhaus" in Bremerhaven also testifies to this. In 1849 there was the Emigration Center in Bremerhaven. There are remnants of the buildings that were destroyed by Nazi bombings in WWII that are now part of the Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences.



Emigrant House Memorial Plaque



German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven



University of Applied Sciences
Bremerhaven
formerly the Emigrant House.



The Ballinstadt Museum site in Hamburg gives an insight into how the emigration was organized from there. There was a church and a synagogue in addition to an infirmary.

The Lipperts and Eva Anna Frank were now waiting to be assigned to a ship. The waiting time could last weeks, in a confined space, with people whose cultures and languages could not be understood. People were quarantine to determine if they had illnesses that would exclude them from traveling.

Then came the day of departure, July 23, 1853, on the Sailboat Louisiana. Since the journey on a steamship was expensive, voyages on a sailing ship was the rule, until the second half of the 19th century. The trip took several weeks. The Louisiana was built in 1846 for the Bremen business, Wätjen & Company. for trading with New Orleans and Vegesack, Germany. It was 37 x 9.9 x 5.8 meters in size. The ship was also used for emigration to New York, on July 23, 1853 with 237 passengers. H. Bätjen was the captain. The vessel made an additional trip from Bremerhaven on May 6, 1854 with 245 passengers. The accommodations were extremely modest with wooden beds to sleep on and no privacy. They could hardly seal themselves off from each other with fabric panels. You can imagine what happened when many travelers got seasick!



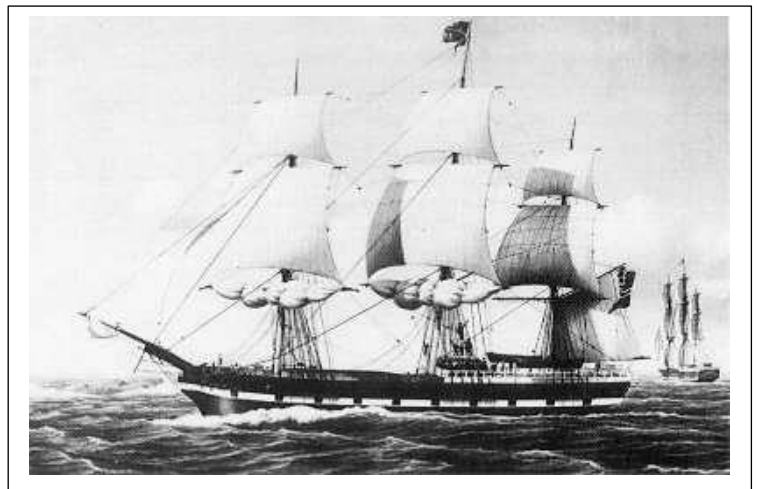
Emigration Museum Ballinstadt, Hamburg, Germany

[**Ballinstadt** is the name given to a memorial park and former emigration station in the Port of Hamburg, Germany.]

The Louisiana Sailing Boat

<https://www.oocities.org/mppraetorius/com-lo.htm>

Source: Peter-Michael Pawlik, *Von der Weser in die Welt; Die Geschichte der Segelschiffe von Weser und Lesum und ihrer Bauwerften 1770 bis 1893*, Schriften des Deutschen Schiffahrtsmuseums, Bd. 33 (Hamburg: Kabel, c1993), p. 271, no. 1



Below is an excerpt from the original passenger list that the captain had to present in the port of New York.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK - PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Karl W. Beyer*, 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 *Ste. Marie Louise*, whereof I am Master, from *Germany*.

Shews to this *1853* So help me God. *K. W. Beyer*

Before me *J. A. Spangler*

List or Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ste. Marie Louise*, whereof *Karl W. Beyer* is Master, from *Germany* burthen *of five hundred and 20 tons*.

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong	The country to which they intend to become inhabitants	Died on the Voyage
<i>Cabin Passengers</i>						
<i>Karl W. Beyer</i>	38	male	Merchant	Halleck	United States	
<i>Karl C. Hitting</i>	27	male	Merchant	Leipzig	"	
<i>Wilhelm</i>	26	female	"	"	"	
<i>Jacob Frank</i>	36	male	Le. Work	Hartenberg	"	
<i>Adolph K. Kirsch</i>	26	"	Engineer	Potsdam	"	
<i>Fritz Deubnermann</i>	24	"	Farmer	"	"	
<i>Louise Hermann</i>	59	female	"	"	"	
<i>Adeline</i>	22	"	"	"	"	
<i>Steerage and on deck house Passengers</i>						
<i>J. H. Roth</i>	22	male	Farmer	Hartenberg	"	
<i>J. C. Witt</i>	22	"	Butcher	"	"	
<i>Anna Bausen</i>	20	"	Merchant	"	"	
<i>Ann. Moller</i>	23	"	Leather Worker	Bavaria	"	

<i>Anna Marg.</i>	28	female	"	"	"	
<i>Joh. H. Warneke</i>	22	male	Joiner	Hannover	"	
<i>Shann</i>	19	"	Farmer	"	"	
<i>Edward Mackwitz</i>	27	"	Leather Worker	Brunswick	"	
<i>Maria Hagen</i>	22	female	"	"	"	
<i>Fritz Lippert</i>	44	male	Shoemaker	Bavaria	"	

<i>Margar. Lippert</i>	36	female	"	"	Bavaria	
<i>Ignaz</i>	11	male	"	"	"	
<i>Joh. Ignaz</i>	8	"	"	"	"	
<i>Anna</i>	24	female	"	"	"	
<i>An. Mari. Josepha</i>	6	"	"	"	"	
<i>Anna Frank</i>	24	"	Servant	"	"	
<i>Rosina Lippert</i>	40	"	"	"	"	
<i>Joseph Gaertner</i>	34	male	Shoemaker	"	"	
<i>Carper</i>	39	"	Labourer	"	"	
<i>Gotth. Schneider</i>	17	"	Weaver	"	"	

(passenger lists)

The seven emigrants surely saw the Statue of Liberty, with relief, on September 4th, 1853! At that time there was not a quarantine station on Ellis Island, and they were again dependent on the help of immigration organizations. There were several in Manhattan such as The Catholic, St. Raphael's Verein, a society dedicated to the safety of these travelers to their destinations. One of the former immigration Hostels is St. Leo's House in New York City (named after Pope Leo XIII) It is still in operation today. I have stayed there once!

From about 1840, New York was the preferred immigration port for Germans. Many settled in Manhattan, in a part, called "Little Germany." Living conditions were more than pathetic, and a warning was issued by the "German New York Society" and was published in Bavarian newspapers, regarding the King's order. It strongly advised against emigration without financial reserves.

The Lipperts were "lucky" at first. They arrived in New York on September 4, 1853. They were assigned to a trek that was to take them to Ohio. Immigrants could be sent to different parts of the United States or could join a trek. The original Native American population was pushed back, and the immigrants tried to cultivate the country.

The Lipperts first landed in Toledo, Ohio on September 10, 1853, as evidenced by a certificate of association from the son, Ignaz Lippert in 1898.

Name.	Tag der Ab- fahrt.	Geburtsort.	Abfahrtsort und Datum.	Landungsort und Datum.	Aufkunft in Toledo.	Aufnahme in den Verein.
Kohler, Johann A.	7. Aug. 1831	Chelethe, Oldenburg.	Bremen, 23. Juni 1850	New York, 4. Aug. 1850	22. Dec. 1850	13. April 1879
Kolla, Johann.	13. April 1831	Zaja, G. Kärnth. Schweiz.	Havre, 5. März 1872	" 18. März 1872	13. Oct. 1872	11. " 1897
Kochhammer, Wilhelm.	21. Jan. 1814	Eber Arbach, Württemberg.	London, 12. April 1849	" 12. Juni 1849	15. Juni 1849	14. Sept. 1887
K. H., Johann J.	22. Dec. 1832	H. Isobach, Zinsheim, Baden.	Havre, 26. Feb. 1853	" 23. April 1853	16. Sept. 1853	9. Aug. 1893
Kochhammer, Johann.	25. April 1838	Verdesbuchen, W. Schw.	Hamburg, 21. Oct. 1866	" 6. Nov. 1866	10. Nov. 1866	11. April 1844
Kochhammer, Carl J.	1. Jan. 1841	Hausnast, Baden.	" 1846	" 1847	Feb. 1857	19. Juli 1889
Kochmann, Johann.	8. Sept. 1833	Überfeldern, Württemberg.	London, 17. August 1853	" 17. Oct. 1853	1. März 1858	24. Jan. 1880
Koch, August.	6. Juli 1812	Züll, Medl. Schw.	Hamburg, 1854	Baltimore, im Aug. 1852	Oct. 1853	14. März 1888
Koch, Friedrich.	21. Mai 1836	Hünningen, Würt.	London, 21. Mai 1847	New York, 1847	3. Aug. 1847	10. Febr. 1841
Koch, Friedrich.	3. Dec. 1836	Mabber, Hannover.	Bremen, 4. Juli 1851	" 12. August 1851	16. Aug. 1851	9. Mai 1841
Koch, Gerhard S.	23. Dec. 1823	Embrüß, Hannover.	" 4. Sept. 1852	" 9. Oct. 1852	Nov. 1852	13. April 1892
Koch, Michael.	3. Jan. 1832	Hünningen, Württemberg.	London, 21. Mai 1847	" 20. Juli 1847	3. Aug. 1847	13. Juli 1892
Koch, Michael.	16. März 1843	London, Rheinpfalz.	Havre, Oktober 1852	" im Nov. 1852	Sept. 1853	10. Aug. 1892
Koch, Georg.	2. Jan. 1814	Zaund, Rheinpfalz.	" 15. April 1849	" 8. Juni 1849	1. April 1889	9. Nov. 1892
Kocher, Johann P.	11. Juni 1834	Chramm, Schwaben, Rheinl.	" 23. April 1853	" 14. Juni 1853	22. Juni 1853	8. Febr. 1893
Kocher, Carl.	20. Nov. 1811	Mattdom, Medl. Schw.	Bremen, 30. Sept. 1861	Baltimore, 6. Nov. 1861	8. Nov. 1861	2. Aug. 1892
Kocher, Franz.	24. Jan. 1838	Salzpfahl, W. H. Schw.	Hamburg, 15. April 1853	New York, 2. Juni 1853	7. Juni 1853	9. Febr. 1898
Kocher, Friedrich J.	21. März 1832	Parqueim, Weichseln.	Bremen, im März 1868	" 1. April 1868	Nov. 1868	9. Febr. 1898
Koch, P. P.	17. Juni 1816	Arrenersheim, H. Darmst.	Havre, 13. August 1856	" 25. Aug. 1856	30. Aug. 1856	13. Febr. 1895
Koch, Christian.	26. Aug. 1818	Züll, Medl. Schwaben.	Hamburg, 1853	" 1853	1853	11. Sept. 1895
Koch, Christian.	14. Juni 1812	Schmalbrenn, Würt.	Antwerpen, 3. April 1866	" 14. April 1866	17. April 1866	11. " 1893
Kocher, Friedrich J.	7. Oct. 1832	Schhof, Medl. Schwaben.	" 5. Nov. 1870	" 18. Nov. 1870	20. Nov. 1870	12. Febr. 1896
Kochel, Anton.	2. April 1832	H. Ober, Pannern.	Bremen, 1. Oktober 1870	" 1. Nov. 1870	20. Juni 1882	9. Febr. 1898
Kochmann, Jakob.	13. April 1825	Kupferdörfer u. Pannern.	Havre, 1. August 1853	New York, 1. Oct. 1853	1. Oct. 1853	10. Apr. 1878
Koch, Johann P.	12. Sept. 1813	Wiesheim, Stauffen, Baden.	" 10. Juli 1870	" 2. Aug. 1870	4. Sept. 1870	13. Mai 1896
Kocher, Christian.	22. Nov. 1833	Jellow, Medl. Schwaben.	Hamburg, 15. Oct. 1865	Halifax, 15. Jan. 1866	12. " 1866	8. Apr. 1896
Koch, Peter N. P.	12. Oct. 1816	Koda, Schlesien, Altenburg.	Bremen, 19. Sept. 1868	New York, 10. Oct. 1868	12. Oct. 1868	10. Aug. 1892
Koch, Friedrich J.	8. Nov. 1822	Altdorf, G. in den, Würt.	Antwerpen, 5. Sept. 1848	New Orleans, 24. Oct. 1848	11. April 1853	8. Sept. 1880
Koch, August.	23. Nov. 1831	Pietigheim, Schlesien.	Havre, 27. August 1848	New York, 31. Sept. 1848	14. März 1851	12. Mai 1889
Kocher, Joseph.	11. Febr. 1815	Wallrechten, Baden.	" 30. April 1868	" 16. Mai 1868	29. Mai 1868	11. Aug. 1897
Koch, Jakob.	12. März 182	Perndorf, Würt.	Antwerpen, 20. Aug. 1852	" 2. Nov. 1852	5. Nov. 1853	12. März 1884
Kocher, Johann.	10. Oct. 1810	Strehlin, Weichseln.	Bremen, 3. Mai 1863	Baltimore, 23. Juni 1863	1. Juli 1863	3. Juni 1896
Koch, Carl.	28. Jan. 1835	Wiesburg, Pannern.	Procepool, 1853	New York, im Febr. 1853	Sept. 1853	11. Sept. 1881
Kocher, August.	9. Sept. 1811	Neualbendorf, Pannern.	Bremen, 21. Juli 1853	" 4. Sept. 1853	10. Sept. 1853	25. Febr. 1894
Koch, Joseph.	10. Juli 1850	Hambrechtshofen, Würt.	Procepool, 28. Juni 1871	" 22. Juli 1871	Oct. 1871	25. Febr. 1898
Kocher, Hermann P.	6. Dec. 1817	Hindl, Hannover.	Bremen, 1851	" 10. Nov. 1851	15. Nov. 1851	12. Juli 1893

(Register of associations)

Shortly after arrival, according to Jane's research, the children's mother and father died of the typhoid epidemic. There are no burial documents because the German Catholic church had not yet been established, in Toledo, Ohio and the epidemic created a need for mass graves. They had lived in a poor area on the river that was particularly affected by the plague. All the other family members survived and founded their own American families.

The foregoing is a tiny fraction of the experiences that millions of people have had - but it becomes more transparent to me because it has to do with my own family. The Lipperts made their way with hard work, in a new environment. And now we have connected new and old ties between us.

Gerhard Schmidt-Grillmeier

Map of Germany from Neualbenreuth to Bremerhaven, Germany. 687 kilometres is approximately 427 miles.

