

The Ships of the Förtmeyer Emigrants

We know most of the ships of the Förtmeyer emigrants. Almost all of them boarded a ship to America in Bremerhaven. At first these were sailing ships. The crossing could take up to 7 weeks. From 1857, steam ships were also used after the foundation of Hamburg America line 1855, which significantly shortened the crossing. The last Förtmeyer emigrants left Hamburg in 1861 on the Harmonnia steamship.

Georg Eduard Förtmeyer

Year of emigration: 1846 Age: 15 Years
Name of the vessel: Bark Johann Georg(e)
Type of vessel: Sailing vessel, 334 tons
Departure and arrival: Bremen to New York—Arrival 27 June 1846
Number of passengers: 134
Travel time: unknown
Number of passengers:

Special features: In total there are at least 17 people from the area around Bohnhorst on the ship who want to go to Cincinnati.

Description of the ship: none

Wilhelm Adolph Förtmeyer

Year of emigration: 1849 Age: 16 Years
Name of the vessel: Schiller
Type of vessel: Sailing vessel
Departure and arrival: Bremen to Baltimore—Arrival 1 May 1849
Travel time: unknown
Number of passengers: 200

Special features: In total there are at least 70 people from the area around Bohnhorst on the ship who want to go to Cincinnati. A total of 120 passengers pass the Zie Cincinnati. They are accompanied by an American citizen from Cincinnati named Christian Gräper, who may have been the agent. The name Gräper is still common today in the Bohnhorst area.

Description of the ship: none

Carl Wilhelm Förtmeyer

Year of emigration: 1850 Age: 15 or 16 Years
Name of the vessel: ship unknown
Type of vessel: Sailing vessel
Departure and arrival: unknown
Number of passengers: unknown
Special features: none
Description of the ship: none

Dorothee Luise Förtmeyer

Age: 25 years

Emma Luise Förtmeyer

Age: 14 years

Relation: Sisters

Year of emigration: 1851
Name of the vessel: Olbers
Type of vessel: Sailing vessel
Departure and arrival: Bremen to New Orleans—Arrival 8 Nov 1851
Travel time: unknown
Number of passengers: 297

Special features: Information on the places of residence of the emigrants is missing or only the country (Hanover) was entered. However, 112 persons indicate the destination Cincinnati. The itinerary then probably ran from New Orleans via the Mississippi and the Ohio to Cincinnati.

Description of the ship:



Ship OLBERS, built by F. W. Wencke, Bremerhaven, for the Bremen firm of D. H. Watjen & Co, and launched on 4 March 1851. 554 Lasten; 43,11 x 10,20 meters (length x beam); 2 decks. She was engaged primarily in the transport of emigrants to North America, and in 1861 was sold Swedish.

Friederike Berta Förtmeyer Age: 17 years
Carl Heinrich Förtmeyer Age: 15 years Relation: Siblings

Year of emigration: 1856
Name of the vessel: President Smidt
Type of vessel: Sailing vessel, 626 tons
Departure and arrival: Bremen to Baltimore—Arrival 25 Oct 1856
Travel time: unknown
Number of passengers: 266

Special features: On board is the schoolteacher Wilhelm Sander, his wife and his 3 children. Sander is a colleague of Diedrich Förtmeyer from the neighbouring village. In total there are at least 42 people from the area around Bohnhorst on the ship who want to go to Cincinnati. A total of 122 passengers pass the Zie Cincinnati. They are accompanied by 2 American citizens from Cincinnati named Johann Ernst Stegemann and Bernhard Wemeyer.

Description of the ship: none

Ilsa Dorothea “Doris“ Georges Förtmeyer Age: 59 years Mother of Louis & Adolph
Louis Charles Förtmeyer Age: 7 years**
Georg Heinrich Förtmeyer Age: 7 years** Grandson of Doris
Accompanied by Adolph Förtmeyer Age: 29 years

Year of emigration: 1861
Name of the vessel: Hammonia
Type of vessel: Steamboat, 2131 tons
Departure and arrival: Hamburg American Line from Hamburg to New York—Departure from Hamburg 24 Aug 1861 and arrival in New York 11 Sep 1861.
Number of passengers: unknown

Special features:

Adolph is already an American citizen and picks up his mother and his youngest brother in Germany. They are the only Förtmeyer emigrants who do not leave via Bremen, but via Hamburg. The crossing from Hamburg was more expensive but certainly more comfortable and much faster with the steamboat. Adolph, or the children already living in America, probably paid for the trip. Adolph and his mother Doris resided in the 1st cabin lower salon. The two seven-year-old boys Louis Charles and Georg H. were accommodated below deck.

On 24 May 1861 Adolph applied for a passport at the consulate of the Kingdom of Hanover and urgently reminded him of this in a second letter dated 30 May 1861. The passport was to be sent directly to New York. One can therefore assume that he went from New York to Germany (Bremen or Hamburg) with the ship at the beginning of June.

- ** There is a discrepancy in the ages of the boys for which we do not have a true answer.
Louis, having been born in 1849, was 12 years old
Georg, having been born in 1950, was either 10 or 11 years old
Why they were listed as 7 years old each is unknown

Description of the ship:



The **Hammonia** was built in 1854 for Hamburg American Line
Sold to Allan Line in 1864 and renamed **Belgian**
Sold to Dominion Line in 1872 and renamed **Missouri**
The sister ship, Borussia sank in 1879.



1861
Doris Georg, Louis Charles, Georg Eduard Förtmeier