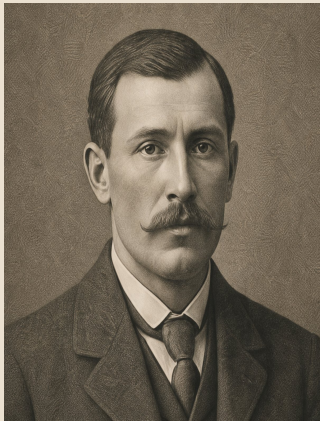


Discovery Brief

Elias Hartmann - From Wetzgau to Wisconsin



THE QUESTION

Can the Elias Hartmann born in Wetzgau be connected to the immigrant who settled in Marathon, Wisconsin?

Starting information supplied: Elias Hartmann; born about 1827 in Wurttemberg; later lived in Wisconsin; wife possibly Clara.

**ANSWER:
SUPPORTED**

CONCLUSION

The records support that the Wetzgau-born Elias Hartmann and the later Wisconsin settler were the same man.

Three linked parish records establish his birth and parents. A citizenship-renunciation record and the ship Havre passenger manifest connect Elias, Clara, and their son John during emigration. Later U.S. census and community records place the family in Wisconsin. The identity chain is strong, while the family's interval between New York and Wisconsin remains unresolved.

WHAT CHANGED FROM THE FREE SNAPSHOT

Free snapshot	Paid Research Sprint
One plausible Wetzgau baptism entry	A connected chain across parish, migration, passenger, census, and local records
A question worth pursuing	A supported answer with citations, limits, and the strongest next question

This example uses changed names while preserving the evidence structure and research logic of a completed study.

The European starting point

The first task was not to collect every Hartmann record. It was to test whether several Wetzgau entries described one coherent family and whether that identity could travel forward into American records.

1	Elias Hartmann	son of	Emile
3			Brück
3	Dr. Klaus Hartmann	ingr.	Joseph
3		1827	
5			

FINDING 01

ESTABLISHED

Born at nine in the evening

Elias Hartmann was born at Wetzgau at 9 p.m. on 9 September 1827 and baptized the following day.

EVIDENCE

The principal baptism register, an independent duplicate register, and the Hartmann family register agree on the child's name, date, place, and parents: August Hartmann and Anna Maria Keller.

LIMIT

The parish records establish the European child. They do not, by themselves, prove his later American identity.

FINDING 02

SUPPORTED

Clara's family was recorded under two maternal names

The evidence supports that Josepha or Josephine was Clara Neumann's stepmother rather than her birth mother.

EVIDENCE

Clara's mother's death record, an official emigration index, the 1860 U.S. census, and Clara's Wisconsin death record explain why later sources appear to name different mothers.

LIMIT

The exact remarriage record and Josepha's maiden name have not been recovered.

The family crosses the Atlantic

The decisive step was finding records that preserved the family as a group, rather than relying on an isolated same-name match.



FINDING 03

ESTABLISHED

Elias, Clara, and John arrived aboard the Havre

The family arrived at New York on 12 June 1854 after crossing aboard the ship Havre.

EVIDENCE

The passenger manifest names Elias, Clara, and their son John together. A Wiblingen citizenship-renunciation certificate provides an independent government record associated with departure.

LIMIT

The passenger record establishes arrival, but not the family's exact residence during the next several years.

PROOF BOUNDARY

The Pennsylvania interval is plausible, but not established.

Later evidence suggests the family may have spent time in Pittsburgh before joining the Marathon settlement group. No contemporary Pittsburgh directory, parish, civil, or naturalization record naming the family has been recovered. The brief therefore does not present Pittsburgh as fact.

What the records support in Wisconsin

Once the identity chain reached Wisconsin, retrospective community histories added texture. They are useful, but they carry a different evidentiary weight from contemporary parish and passenger records.

FINDING 04

SUPPORTED

Named among Marathon's first settlers

Elias was among the first settlers who reached the new Marathon settlement in 1857.

EVIDENCE

Two independent local histories name him within the settlement story and align with later Wisconsin household evidence.

LIMIT

Both accounts are retrospective. No surviving original 1857 roster has been obtained.

FINDING 05

SUPPORTED

The shoemaker's open door

Community accounts remember Elias's household as a place that fed and lodged travelers and newly arrived settlers.

EVIDENCE

Two local histories preserve the account; one also remembers Elias repairing footwear on credit for neighbors who could not pay immediately.

LIMIT

This is community memory written decades later, not a household ledger or first-person account.

EVIDENCE STATE KEY

Established	Multiple strong records converge with no material conflict.
Supported	The conclusion is reasonable and evidence-led, but retains a stated limitation.
Unresolved	The available evidence does not yet support a conclusion.

What supports the answer

The brief cites the records used for the conclusions, while keeping unresolved possibilities separate from established facts.

Selected sources

1. Elias Hartmann baptism, Wetzgau principal register - original contemporary parish register.
2. Elias Hartmann baptism, duplicate register - independent duplicate parish register.
3. August Hartmann and Anna Maria Keller family register - original parish family register.
4. Wiblingen citizenship-renunciation certificate - original government record.
5. Ship Havre passenger manifest, arrival at New York, 12 June 1854 - original federal passenger manifest.
6. 1860 United States census, Elias Hartmann household - original federal population schedule.
7. Wisconsin death record for Clara Hartmann - original state vital record.
8. History of Marathon County, Wisconsin - retrospective local history.
9. The History of Marathon, Wisconsin, 1857-1957 - retrospective centennial history.

STRONGEST NEXT QUESTION

Where did the family live between their 1854 arrival and the 1857 Marathon settlement?

A targeted follow-up would prioritize Pittsburgh-area church registers, city directories, naturalization papers, land records, and associates from the Marathon migration group. This is recommended as a separate question because the present records answer the identity and transatlantic connection without resolving that interval.

BOTTOM LINE

A supported answer, with one important gap left visible.

The sprint connected the Wetzgau child to the emigrating family and later Wisconsin settler through a sequence of mutually reinforcing records. It also identified precisely where the record chain becomes thin. That combination - a useful answer and an honest boundary - is the purpose of the Research Sprint.

EXAMPLE DISCLOSURE

Names are changed. Dates, places, evidence states, and research methods follow a completed family study. This example is illustrative and is not a promise that every sprint will recover a migration story or the same number of records.