Our sisters came to America 142 years ago this month—and we never tire of the story of their voyage. The *Chronicle* for 1870 says that the sisters left Gurtweil on February 2nd, “[t]he departure ... was heartrending” as it meant leaving behind all they held dear. Chaplain Fr. Anton Fraessle accompanied the sisters to Basel where their photos were taken. They continued their journey, passing through Paris and Havre, and boarded the ship *Hamonia* at Hamburg on February 5th.

They were at sea for twelve days. “The voyage was not a pleasant one because of the raging storm which lasted several days and threatened to sink the ship....no one was allowed on deck during those hectic days.” Even the sailors were frightened. One evening they tried to quiet the passengers; many of the sisters prepared themselves for death. The “next morning they discovered that the ship had escaped from a dangerous situation,” but the *Chronicle* gives no details.

Thanks to Sr. Virginia Volkerding we know that the name of the ship was *HAMMONIA*, not *Harmonika* as we had thought for years. Now research through the Internet has provided a picture of and information about the *Hammonia*.

**HAMMONIA II:**

*Built:* 1867 by Caird & Company Greenock, Yard No 135  
*Launched:* Saturday, 08/12/1866  
*Propulsion:* steam, single screw, one funnel, two masts, iron construction, and a speed of 12 knots (= 13.8 miles).  
*Ship Type:* Passenger Cargo Vessel with accommodation for 58-1st, 120-2nd and 500-3rd class passengers.  
*Ship’s Role:* Hamburg - New York voyages  
*Tonnage:* 3035 grt, *Length:* 340 feet, *Breadth:* 40 feet  
*Owner:* Hamburg Amerika Line  
Saloon - Second Cabin, Hamburg America Line ca. 1876-- in a ship similar to the Hammonia

“The Second Cabin is on the same deck forward of the First Cabin; it is comfortably furnished and also heated by steam; the surrounding staterooms are well lighted and ventilated. Both Saloons have large staterooms set apart for ladies traveling alone....”

The Chronicle from 1870 says that the sisters “traveled second class and received good treatment.”
Source: 1876 booklet, Website http://www.norwayheritage.com
Norway Heritage Hands across the Sea: The Hamburg America Line

The Chronicle continues: [when they arrived in new York] “The captain of the ship was so kind as to take the sisters to a German hotel where ... [they] rested for some time to recuperate.” Then they continued westward to Philadelphia—but that’s another story.

Sr. Virginia also obtained the ship’s passenger list through the Mormon Stake (Library) in Clayton and the Genealogy Department at St. Louis Public Library.

**HAMMONIA, voyage February 5-16, 1870, PASSENGER LIST**
Our sisters are listed at numbers 25 to 33
The names in parentheses above are the sisters' baptismal names. There seem to be several inconsistencies between the spellings in the Chronicle, in the Passenger List, and in the Archives master list of sisters.

Sr. Albertine Rogg, “who possessed a wonderful energy and great initiative, was appointed superior.”

“Sr. [Philippine] Moser, Sr. Josephine Dietrich, and Sr. Carolina Knoerr, all quite young...had just pronounced their vows.”

[Chronicle]

L-R, top row: Srs. Benedicta, Marie (did not go), Mechtilde, Fr Fraessle, Walburga, Josephine, Carolina

L-R, lower row: Srs. Emilie, Theresa, Albertine (the Superior), Philippine

Sr. Barbara Payne C.P.P.S. Archivist.