FREE CASE REVIEW

SAMPLE CASE REVIEW
real records · illustrative client

Where was Henry Biebighauser born?

Dear [client name], thank you for sending us your brick wall. Here is our honest view of your case, what we would do first, and what it would cost.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Ancestor	Henry Biebighauser, butcher in Galion, Ohio; died 1921	
Born	10 March 1848 (his passport application of 1920)	● exact date
Records say	"Hessen Darmstadt, Germany" – no village	○ the gap we close
Parents	Johannes (passport); "John and Ephra (Rauth)" in a county history of 1912, which adds that his father was a horseshoer and died in 1857 aged 55	● father, trade, death ◕ mother, as heard
Emigration	From Bremen, 1864 or 1866 – the records disagree	◕ two years
Religion	German Lutheran	● Protestant registers
Where it stops	Online trees say "Darmstadt"; no German place name in any record you have	

● a strong clue ◕ helps, not decisive ○ missing

OUR HONEST VIEW



GOOD CHANCES

You have more than most families: an exact birth date, the father's name and trade with his age at death, and a mother's maiden name – even if it was written down by an American ear. Those are three details an original baptism can confirm.

"Hessen Darmstadt" is not the city but the state, the Grand Duchy of Hesse; trees that give the city have most likely misread it. The surname is rare and local, and the Protestant registers there survive for the years we need. "Ephra (Rauth)" is a clue, not a fact.

WHAT WE WOULD DO FIRST

1 NARROW THE PARISHES → **2 FIND THE BAPTISM** → **3 RULE OUT NAMESAKES** → ○ YOUR VILLAGE

1 NARROW THE PARISHES
A surname that looks like a place name can point to the wrong one – we check before we trust it.

2 FIND THE BAPTISM
Henry's baptism of 1848 in the original register, confirmed by two more entries.

3 RULE OUT NAMESAKES
Other boys of the same name born in the same years.

WHAT WE CAN'T PROMISE

We may not settle the emigration year – the passenger list may never turn up under such a garbled name. Some details in old handwriting can stay uncertain; we mark them "(?)" rather than guess. If the decisive register turns out to be lost, we tell you as soon as we know – see the money-back terms below.

YOUR FIXED PRICE

Village Check – fixed price $249, founding price $195 for our first clients
Money back, minus $49, if we can't prove the village. Usually within 2 weeks after you accept. Every entry transcribed, translated and referenced.

$195

Only if you want more afterwards: **Family in the Village** $590 (Village Check credited within 60 days) · **Back Through the Generations** from $1,250 per line.

NEXT STEP

Reply to this e-mail if you'd like us to start. We then send a short offer and a payment link – nothing is paid before you accept, and you can ask us anything first.

With best wishes, HEIMWYN