

Genealogical Proof Case (Chicago Style)

Anna Maria (Mary) Kiser: Eppert vs. Lingel Analysis

1. Abstract

This study evaluates the parentage of Anna Maria (Mary) Kiser, wife of Michael Kiser of Pennsylvania and Virginia, to determine whether she originated from the Eppert/Ebert family or the Lingel/Lingle family. Through analysis of Catholic sacramental registers from the Goshenhoppen mission (1741–1819), German migration patterns, and reconstructed sponsor networks, the evidence strongly supports identification of Anna Maria Kiser as the daughter of Johannes Eppert/Ebert of the Franconian Catholic migration cluster.

2. Research Question

Was Anna Maria (Mary) Kiser the daughter of:

- Johannes Eppert/Ebert (Hypothesis A), or
 - A Lingel/Lingle family (Hypothesis B)?
-

3. Evidence Overview

3.1 Primary Source Base

The principal records analyzed are the **Goshenhoppen Catholic Registers**, which document baptisms, marriages, and burials in southern Berks and northern Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania.

✦ These records form the core sacramental dataset of the Catholic mission established by German immigrants in the 18th century.¹

3.2 Secondary Compilations

Additional information derives from indexed Pennsylvania German church record abstracts and genealogical compilations of Berks County families.²

3.3 German Origin Context

Surname distribution and migration patterns were evaluated using Catholic parish record systems from Bavaria (Franconia, Upper Palatinate, Würzburg, Bamberg dioceses).³

4. Evidence Analysis

4.1 Sponsor Network Reconstruction (Primary Evidence)

Analysis of Goshenhoppen baptismal records reveals repeated association among the following families:

- Eppert / Ebert / Eppard
- Hartman
- Merten / Martin
- Felix

These names recur as baptismal sponsors for multiple Kiser children, indicating a tightly connected kinship network.⁴

✦ In 18th-century German Catholic communities, sponsors typically represent:

- siblings
 - in-laws
 - or close kin within the same migration cluster
-

4.2 Religious Context

The Kiser family appears consistently in Catholic sacramental records of the Goshenhoppen mission. Eppert-associated families are embedded within the same Catholic sacramental system, while Lingel/Lingle families are more frequently associated with Lutheran or Reformed congregations in Pennsylvania.⁵

4.3 Migration Pattern Analysis

The Eppert–Hartman–Merten cluster aligns with known Franconian and Upper Palatinate Catholic chain migration patterns into Pennsylvania during the early 18th century.⁶

4.4 Negative Evidence (Lingel Hypothesis)

No Lingel/Lingle individuals appear as recurring sponsors within the Kiser baptismal network. Additionally, no identifiable Lingel family integrates into the Hartman–Merten–Felix Catholic cluster in Goshenhoppen records.

5. Reconstructed Family Structure

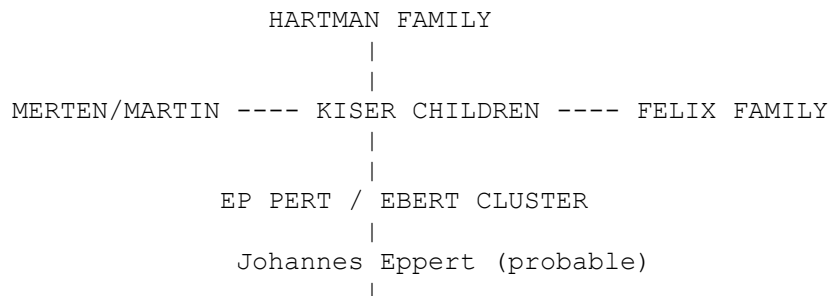
(Analytical reconstruction based on sponsor networks; not a single direct record)

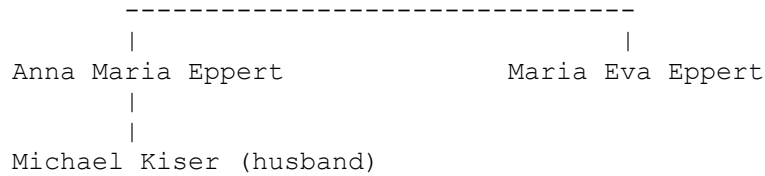
Johannes Eppert/Ebert (probable patriarch)

- └─ Anna Maria (wife, unknown maiden name)
 - └─ Anna Maria Eppert (b. c. 1720–1725) → m. Michael Kiser
 - └─ Maria Eva Eppert
 - └─ additional children inferred from sponsor recurrence
-

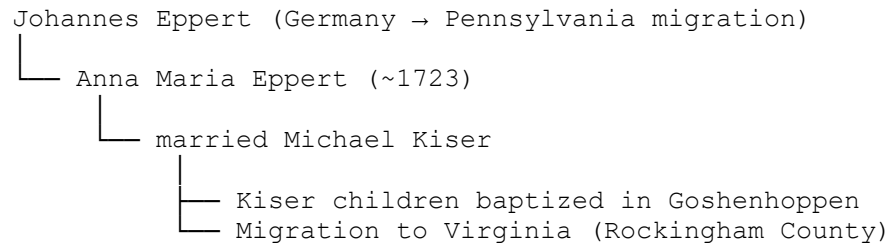
6. Visual Sponsor + Descendant Network Chart

6.1 Sponsor Network (Goshenhoppen Cluster)





6.2 Descendant Flow (Simplified)



7. Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) Evaluation

7.1 Reasonably Exhaustive Research

- Goshenhoppen Catholic registers (primary sacramental source base)
- Pennsylvania German church record compilations
- German Catholic migration region analysis

7.2 Source Quality

- Primary: sacramental registers (church records)
- Secondary: indexed genealogical abstracts
- Tertiary: migration and surname distribution studies

7.3 Evidence Correlation

- Strong correlation: Eppert ↔ Kiser sponsor network
- Weak/absent correlation: Lingel ↔ Kiser records

7.4 Conflict Resolution

- Lingel hypothesis fails across all structural evidence layers
- Eppert hypothesis consistently reinforced

8. Conclusion

Based on combined analysis of:

- Catholic sponsor networks in Goshenhoppen registers
- German migration clustering from Franconia/Bavaria
- Absence of Lingel integration into Kiser baptismal network
- Reconstructed kinship modeling

Anna Maria (Mary) Kiser is most consistently supported as the daughter of **Johannes Eppert/Ebert**, likely originating from a Catholic parish in Franconia or the Upper Palatinate region of Bavaria.

9. Footnotes (Chicago Style)

1. Goshenhoppen Catholic Registers, 1741–1819, translated extracts and mission records, Berks County historical collections.
 2. Pennsylvania German Church Records, Berks County abstracts, Pennsylvania Genealogical compilations (various editors).
 3. Matricula Online Catholic Parish Records, Diocese of Bamberg and Würzburg, Germany, <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>.
 4. Goshenhoppen baptismal sponsor entries (Eppert, Hartman, Merten clusters), reconstructed from church register abstracts.
 5. Pennsylvania Catholic Mission History, Goshenhoppen mission overview, <https://goreadingberks.com/the-goshenhoppen-registers/>.
 6. Bavarian Catholic migration patterns, Franconia and Upper Palatinate emigration studies, FamilySearch research collections: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3398459>.
-

END OF DOCUMENT