

(1500's) Early Eisenbeiß Families

by Werner Haussmann from Ketsch, West Germany using the records of: Freudenstädter Archivar Dr. Hans Rommel and Pfarrer Strobel's Sippenatlas Glatten. Loose translation from German to English by Clyde Eisenbeis (a:3.1.5.3.7-4.8.2.1.3-7.1)

One of the first records that contains the name Eisenbeiß appears in the Black Forest area of southwestern Germany. Three brothers are listed in the archives of the village of Freudenstadt which is located southwest of Stuttgart.

The oldest, Hans Eisenbeiß (a:1), was born circa 1561 (not too long after Columbus discovered America!). His first wife Agnes and their four children died from 'the Plague' in 1610.

Hans remarried to Gertrauta Haug on 17 Oct 1614 in Alpirsbach. While three children came from this marriage (two daughters and one son), there is no further record of them or their descendants. Hans died in Reutin (close to Alpirsbach) at the age of 70.

The second brother, Michael Eisenbeiß (a:2), was born circa 1570 presumably in Reutin and moved to Freudenstadt in 1599 where he was a roofmaker. Three generations of Michael's descendants lived in Freudenstadt before they moved to neighboring villages.

Michael's great-grandson Hans Christoph Eisenbeiß (a:2.1.2.10) moved to Neckarweihingen as a school teacher.

The offspring of Hans Jakob Eisenbeiß (a:2.1.7.1) moved to Grüntal/ Freudenstadt as shoemakers, carpenters, and farmers.

Hans Georg Eisenbeiß (a:2.1.7.3) traveled throughout Alsace, France before marrying a carpenter's daughter and settling down in Hördt by Straßburg. His descendants became respected citizens and village leaders in the German-French frontier village of Kehl.

Out of this "Kehl lineage" the engineer Emil Eisenbeiß distinguished himself in 1919 as a prominent employee in Switzerland, where in 1936 he was granted Swiss citizenship (citizenship in Switzerland is seldom granted to 'outsiders').

There are today many Eisenbeiß families, descendants of Michael, still in Grüntal, Kehl, and St. Gallen.

Gilg (Ägidius) Eisenbeiß (a:3), the third brother, was also born in Reutin. He also married twice but lists only one son, Simon Petrus Eisenbeiß (a:3.1), by his second wife, Anna. After Gilg's death in 1622, the name Eisenbeiß appears no more in Reutin.

Simon Petrus Eisenbeiß moved to Dietersweiler/ Freudenstadt where he was a school teacher. His offspring were millers and farmers.

Bernhard Eisenbeiß (a:3.1.5.3.7-4), a descendant of Simon Petrus, emigrated from Dornhan/ Horb to Glückstal/ Odessa/ Cherson in South Russia in 1805. He and his descendants were farmers in South Russia until the late 1800's when many of his descendants emigrated to North Dakota and South Dakota.

Many of the Eisenbeiß families in the U.S. are descendants of Gilg and Simon Petrus Eisenbeiß!