

(1848) Ferdinand & Mary Virginia Jamis Eisenbeis (n:1.2)

This information, written by Mary Virginia Eisenbeis, was received in April of 1982 from Jim Marchetti (n:1.2.2.7) of Seattle, Washington. In the first letter, Mary apparently is writing as though she were Ferdinand. The second letter describes the trip to Kansas via a covered wagon. It is reprinted verbatim including the spelling errors.

First letter

Grandpa's History: Born in Baden, Germany left Germany the year of 1848. I was 9 year old when I left Germany March 14 I don't remember the vessle name we where 42 Days on the ocean and lande in new york from there to Rochester City an lived there 6 months and from there to Dayton Ohio an Lived there 3 years from ther to Spencervill Ohio ontill the war I inlist in company A in the 81 Ohio in July 18, 1862 an served 3 years I served onder Sherman on the atlanta campane an from there to the sea and to washington and to Louisvillile Kentucky an from there I was dischred I retrned to spencervill allen conty ohio an lived home for a year and got marred July 18 the next year to Mary V Jamis and came to Kansas In Sep of the same fall.

Well that all I know of Pa history he don't remember how many battles he was in.

Second letter dated July 5, 1914

Mary V Eisenbeis 68 years old last June the 29 1914 I was born in France June the 29 1846 near the city of Nancy of the capital city of Lorraine and came to America at the age of 7 or 8 years old we left our beloved Friends home and contry in the eveing at 6 oclock in noveber we arived in Paris at abut 12 oclock stade there the rest of night in the mornig we took the train and went to harur an stead there a few day wating for a ship to take us we had to go on bord of a frate vessle we were on the ocean over a month we had a awful storm while we were on the ocean we thought it was the last of us all our ship stood the storm we finely arived in new york and from there to erie city an stop a month an from there to Dayton Ohio and lived there 3 years an from there to Delphas Allen County Ohio and made our home there my Father bout a 60 acres farm and only lived there short time when our dear mother died in 1861 my 2 brother left an went in the army I lived with my Father and help him to farm ontill a year after the war was over I was 20 years old then. an marred and came to Kans in a big wagon it rain that same night and keepet up raining for a week we had an awful time to get thouth we whre about 8 weeks on the road when we got thouth to our Journey end to where our ohio friend lived when we got to where we thought they lived I stretch my neck to see the house but saw non pettry soon I seen a smoke come out of the grond I wand what that ment petty soon we came to where the smok came out from I seen a door to go in a hole in the grond I thought to myself wel is that the kind of house you are gone to live in I was well wishing the folks my self went back to Ohio at that time to work an dug a dugout an we carld in it too well we stade on the salmon all the winter and lived on corn bread and watter and had to grind our corn on a coffee mell part of the time were 75 milles from any wells it took the folks to weeks to go when they could go the winter was so bad an cold an so much snow one time when the folks had gone to mell there came a thaw the ice in creeks thawed and backed the watter in the creek the watter back up in my dog out if it had not been for a little dog we had I might have been drownd the poor little felow begine to bark an swimm in the watter an wake me up I did not know what to think of it I jump out of bed and got in the watter nee deep I grabed my bed clothing an ran out on the bank an stad their ontill the watter went down my nears neigbar was 3 or 4 miles from us we left in the sping we moved to chapmen creek about 80 mills east from the salmon we left the west Just in good time to save our skelp 2 or 3 weeks after we left their the indinas mad read in the settlement and killed som of the sletters.