

(1958) Joseph J. Eisenbeis Letters (k:2.1.8.3.1)

The following articles are about or by Joseph J. Eisenbeis of Louisville, Kentucky. They are reprinted in their entirety including the typos.

The 1st article was printed in a newspaper circa 16 Nov 1958.

The 2nd article was received by James Irvin Eisenbeis (k:2.1.8.3.2.1) from Joseph J. Eisenbeis. Joseph apparently wrote this about his grandfather in 1959.

The 3rd article is a copy of a handwritten letter that was received in August of 1982 from Joseph. He was 93 years old when he wrote this letter.

Article from newspaper circa 16 November 1958.

Liberty National's Joe Eisenbeis Retires After 53 Desk-less Years

by Sol Schulman, Courier-Journal Financial Editor

Only one question was asked when Joe Eisenbeis applied for a job at the German Insurance Bank (now Liberty National Bank and Trust Company) 53 years ago.

"Can you speak German, keep your eyes open and your mouth shut?"

"Yah," the 15-year-old boy answered. And he was in.

Eisenbeis worked at the bank from that day until his retirement a few days ago. His latest position was in the bond department.

The bank's president did all the hiring in those days, and Eisenbeis had been sent to him by the pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church, where Eisenbeis had been studying German in a Saturday school.

Became Runner

Getting the bank job meant Eisenbeis was moving up to a \$5-a-week job as runner (a combination messenger and office boy) from a \$30-a-week job as a printer's devil (a printshop apprentice).

He recalls that in those days, when a note was paid, the cashier would put the note on a butcher's meat block at the bank and hit the note with a hammer. The hammer's head had the word "Paid" protruding in such a way that the note would be perforated by the blow.

The bank had only one vice-president the, Charles C. Vogt. "The vice-president spent most of his time somewhere else working as resident manager of the American Tobacco Company, and stayed at the bank only while the bank's president or cashier were out to lunch," Eisenbeis recalls.

Never Had Desk

In all his years at the bank, Eisenbeis never had a desk. He stood at a counter or at a window. There was a tall stool behind him, but he seldom used it. "Younger people need desks; but I never did bother about it," he says.

He has never been away from the bank because of sickness; but has "taken time off many a day to fill musical engagements--the bank has been very nice about that."

While other employees of the bank went to night school and studied such things as economics, Eisenbeis took singing lessons, or piano lessons, or clarinet lessons. He still takes singing lessons and he still plays the piano; but he seldom touches the clarinet. His voice teacher is Mrs. Ellen Lawrence Burke of New Albany.

Eisenbeis is tenor soloist at the Crescent Hill Methodist Church. He was a member of the Highland Presbyterian Church choir 35 years.

When he was 9 years old and was living at Logan and Lampton, Miss Jennie Summers, his teacher at the Third Ward School (now the Nicholas Finzer School), gave him a note to take to the Christ Church Cathedral organist and choirmaster, Horatio Browne. As a result of the note, Browne gave the boy singing lessons three times a week and put him in a children's choir at the cathedral.

Years later Eisenbeis organized "the first musical radio program in Louisville." He explains that "when WHAS was just starting, it was glad to have our hour-and-a-half-long Liberty Bank music program, and didn't charge the bank anything; but later we had to pay for time."

For years, Eisenbeis sang on radio as a member of the Greater Louisville Ensemble, a quartette which was sponsored by the Greater Louisville First Federal Savings and Loan Association.

He intends to spend the next two years sorting out the music in his attic--it's full. He also will continue singing in choirs and at weddings and funerals and other places.

Sometimes Eisenbeis thinks he might have made more money out of printing than out of banking; but he's sure neither provide as much pleasure as a career in music.

No Illusions

However, he has no illusions about music being an easy road to riches.

"Franz Schubert," he says, "set such beautiful poetry to music, and when he died all he left was a dirty pair of socks--his entire belongings weren't worth \$12.

"And poor Mozart--just think, Mozart, poor fellow--it was raining so hard the day he was buried that they just dumped him in the first hole they came to, and now nobody knows exactly where he is buried."

Mr. and Mrs. Eisenbeis live at 225 Franck. They have two daughters, and Eisenbeis says the daughters "can sing rings around me."

One, Mrs. Dorothy Potter, is a soloist at the Highland Presbyterian Church. The other, Mrs. Grace Langenhop, is a member of a church choir in Ames, Iowa.

Article received by James Irvin Eisenbeis (k:2.1.8.3.2.1) from Joseph J. Eisenbeis. Joseph apparently wrote this about his grandfather.

May 21, 1959

Henry Eisenbeis born April 8, 1826 - (Munchberg County) over Frankau, State of Bavaria, Germany, emigrated to U.S.A. very likely during year 1848-49 when so many left Europe to find a better place in America. He did not wish to join the Germany Army and left before being called for service as many others did. The only people he knew were friends who left previously - Family Pelgen in Aurora, Indiana.

In 1860 the Civil War began in U.S.A., and there was organized the 32nd Indiana Volunteer Regiment in Indiana. Grandfather Eisenbeis joined this regiment and served all thru the war. He married in Aurora, Indiana, to Susanna Glas, April 28, 1861 (born in Diedesfeld Rhein Pfals, Germany, July 25, 1840).

This German regiment was on the move and stationed in Louisville for a time to join other regiments to stop General Bragg's Southern army which was headed for Louisville. Their first engagement was at Roulette [or Pewletts?] Station where the first offering was made and many were killed during this encounter. Later General Buell's army met the Confederates at the battle of Perryville, Ky. Grandfather Eisenbeis was wounded in this battle by a cavalryman, but not seriously. The bullet was never removed and remained in his leg until he passed away, very likely in 1902. He lies buried among his comrades in Cave Hill National Cemetery.

The Government erected a monument to the deeds of this regiment which are glorious, it reads like the exploits of General George Rodgers Clark. (This stone is engraved in German). Grandfather Eisenbeis lies a few yards from this monument; the number of his stone is 4199. There are many buried there, unknown, with no names very likely wounded beyond recognition.

Grandfather Eisenbeis did not want to fight for Germany but he fought for his adopted country, the U.S.A. His sergeant was killed at Perryville and he took his place there. The State of Kentucky has this place reserved as a state shrine for all people. He was not too much concerned about slavery, it was more of an economic issue with him. Louisville was saved and so was the Union.

My grandfather, baptized in the German Evangelical Church, was not a member of the Roman Catholic Church, but belonged to the German Evangelical Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Married to my grandmother Susanna Glas in the Catholic Church in Aurora, Indiana, April 23, 1861. Grandmother Eisenbeis had relatives in Aurora, Indiana and very

likely the families of Pelgen still abide there. She lies buried in St. Michaels Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky; died 1902. Grandfather Eisenbeis died July 16, 1902.

Joseph J. Eisenbeis

Handwritten letter that was received in August of 1982.

Clyde Eisenbeis
6802 4th St N
Oakdale, MN 55119

Dear Sir,

It is with pleasure I have found that lovely long list of relatives which you have mailed to me. I can hardly digest the many names you have gotten together to form that very nice family tree which you relate in this brochure. I can hardly relate some of the things which I remember about my grandfather Henry Eisenbeis born Apr-26-1826. I would ask my father about him but he always said that he did not ever want to talk about it. So that is all I know about Henry Eisenbeis came over to America in about 1849 and landed in Aurora, Ind. where he had a few friends and when the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the 32nd Ind volunteers and served all during the war. He married in Aurora, Ind. and had 6 children Fred, Joseph, Martin, William, Theresa, and Mary all dead. They were reared as Catholic except my father who joined the German Evangelical Church where he became president of the congregation. Henry Eisenbeis was born Apr 8 1826 in Münchberg Kreis Bauern over Frankau in Germany married Susanna Glas Diedesfeld Rhein Pfalz Germany in Aurora Ind. July 25 1840 in the Catholic Church Aurora, Ind. All of his brothers were in the Postal Service but he was in a revolution and he joined the Army in 1862 in Aurora, Ind. He lies buried in Cave Hill Nail Cemetery in Louisville. He was wounded in the battle of Perryville but lived a number of years afterward, his stone is 4199. I am in my 93 year and am unable to give you any other information. The names of Poff & Siegrist offer in my book.

You have a wonderful story of the Eisenbeis family and I am unable to help you with any more information. I have no records of Russia. Thanks for all of your trouble in giving me this information it is a wonderful record that you have done. If you ever come to Louisville, stop in and I will see that you are taken care of. Your book is wonderful. There is a man in Fillmore, Calif who has a lovely family tree that would be interesting to read.

Yours Truly,

Jos. J. Eisenbeis
225 Franck Ave
Louisville, Ky.