

Arms of Eisenbeiß Ancestors

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The Arms on the left was issued in 1485 to the Eisenbeiß family by King Friedrich III. The Arms in the center comes from an Eisenbeiß family in Freudenstadt. The Arms on the right comes from the descendants of the Siegfried Eisenbeiß clan from Gahma (07356) via Neunkirchen, Saarland. There is similarity of a woodpecker on a rock in all three Arms.



The image below is a recreation of an image found on the J.C. Eisenbeiss Headstone in a Nürnberg, Germany cemetery ... and found engraved on the purchase agreement of the mill of Wellesweiler by Seyfried Eisenbeiss. It was redrawn by Viktoria Eisenbeis Tsvetkovskaya of Moscow, Russia.

More information can be found in:

- _1600's... Eisenbeiss Tomb Johannisfriedhof, Nürnberg, Germany (y)
- _1813 ... Eisenbeiß Mill in Wellesweiler, Germany



Description 1 of the Woodpecker Wappen (Coat-of-Arms) In English:

In 1485, the emperor Frederick III gave a coat of arms to the Eisenbeiß family. The coat of arms was identical to one that had been given to a group of nine knights in 1379 by the emperor Wenceslas, king of Bohemia. When these knights accompanied soldiers into battle, it was their responsibility to provoke their adversaries and to motivate their troops. The knights taunted their adversaries by clenching a sword between their teeth while thrusting a second sword in the air with their right hand.

The coat of arms displays a brown shield covered with a small black framework with black and gold foliage, a woodpecker on a black rock on the bottom, and two black and gold horns on top. There is a legend that each year the woodpecker comes to sharpen its beak on the hill. At the end of thousand years the hill will be gone and all Eisenbeiß'es will have to disappear.

During the 1400's the middle class as well as the nobility possessed arms. Later, the privilege was reserved only for the nobility. At the end of the 18th century the middle class was again allowed to use and display previously issued arms.

Through the research of N. Pohl, royal engraver to the Prussian Court, many arms previously forgotten by the families were made available (Pohl was born in 1803, died in 1872 in Kohl). Some errors have been noted in Pohl's works, so some historians feel all of his works are not reliable. Nevertheless, today these arms have been found in the possession of two families, one of Black Forest, the other of Lobenstein. It is not know how or if our Eisenbeiß lines were related to these nine knights, or if these nine knights were themselves related. This research goes on!

Description 2 of the Woodpecker Wappen in English:

Gold field, horned crest with a laurel wreath upon a black and gold helm. Blue mantling with grey underside cascades from the helm around the shield. The shield bears a green box with a blue border in the chief position extending down to the Fess point. A pile of green rocks or a green hill sits on the middle base, upon that, on the Nombriil point, sits a black woodpecker.

These knights have had to entail soldiers to the battle and by their equips, a sword in the mouth, another in the right hand, to boast ahead adversaries so as to provoke them. In the ancient cemetery, Johannis Grabe, of Nuernberg, exists a tomb constructed in 1600 with a sculpture representing these two knights. This drawing is also found under a form of engraving on the act of purchase of the mill of Wellesweiler, near Neunkirchen (Saarland) by Seyfried Eisenbeiß, September 25, 1697.

The family originates in Bavaria. The coat of arms was granted by Emperor Friedrich III circa 1482 after it was created in Emperor's Wenceslas time in 1379 by nine knights. It shows a white woodpecker on a black rock in a golden shield with above it a small black field and a helmet with two half black, half gold horns. Garlands are of gold and black color. These coats of arms that were granted by Emperor Wenceslas were for ordinary citizens as well as noblemen until Emperor Ferdinand II made coats of arms the prerogative of nobility. All non-noble families had to give up their coats of arms, but these were recorded in the Emperor's archives in Vienna and published in 1696 at Nuremberg under the name of greater Europe. When at the end of the last century the prerogatives of the nobility ceased, ordinary people were again permitted to have a coat of arms that in most families were lost and with assistance from the present work were re-discovered. In it is found the coat of arms of the family Eisenbeiß. The books are the property of N. Kohl, Royal Prussian court engraver in Cologne.

There is a legend that goes with this Arms that says the woodpecker featured on the shield returns each year and sharpens its beak on the hill. At the end of 1000 years, the hill will be completely worn away, and at that time all Eisenbeiß'es will perish the earth!

In Germany, it was the practice to award Wappen to a family of an individual, such that all direct heirs are allowed to use it. This differs from the convention observed in Great Britain where it is only legal and socially acceptable for the individual to that the Coat of Arms was issued to bear them.

Description of the Woodpecker Wappen In French ... En Français:

En 1485 l'empereur Frederick III donne à la famille Eisenbeiß les armes que l'empereur Wenceslas alors roi de Bohème avait offertes à un groupe de 9 chevaliers. Elles montrent un pic blanc sur un rocher noir au sommet d'une colline située dans un près jaune. avec deux cornes noire et blanche. Le feuillage est noir et blanc. A la fin du 18°

siècle la classe moyenne put récupérer ses armes dont la plupart avait disparues et qui furent retrouvées grâce aux travaux de N.Pohl, alors Graveur à la cour de Prusse.

Ces chevaliers devaient entrainer les combattants à la bataille et par leur accoutrement, une épée à la bouche une autre dans la main droite ils provoquaient l'adversaire. Dans le vieux cimetière de Johannis à Nuernberg existe une tombe construite vers 1600, avec une sculpture représentant ces deux chevaliers. Ce dessin se trouve aussi sur l'acte du moulin d'achat, de Wellesweiler à coté de Neunkirchen, moulin acheté par Seyfried Eisenbeiß le 25 septembre 1697.

Description of the Woodpecker Wappen In German ... Auf Deutsch:

Die Familie stammt aus Bayern. Das Wappen wurde gegeben von Kaiser Friedrich III, Anno 1482, nachdem dasselbe Anno 1379 unter Kaiser Wenzeslaus von neun rittermäßigen Männern gestiftet worden war. Dasselbe enthält einen weiß Specht auf schwarzem Fels im goldnen Schild mit Oben einem Kleinem schwarzem Feld, darüber den Helm auf welchem sich qweib halb Gold, halb schwarze Hörner befindet. Die Laubwerke erhalten die Farben Gold und schwarz. Diese Wappen welche unter Kaiser Wenzeslas gestiftet worden waren, führten die bürgerlichen so gut auch die Adeligen, bis unter Kaiser Ferdinand II das Wappentragen ein Vorrecht des Adels wurde. Damals, kamen in sämtlichen bürgerlichen Familien die Wappen ab, wurden jedoch in Wien in Archiv des Kaisers verzeichnet, und im Jahre 1696 zu Nürnberg unter dem Namen der großen Europa. Wappensammlung veröffentlicht. Als nun Ende des vorigen Jahrhunderts die meisten Adelsvorrechte aufhörten, durften auch die bürgerlichen wider ihre Wappen führen, dieselben waren jedoch in den meisten Familien verloren worden und nur mit Hülfe vorstehenden Werks konnten sie wieder aufgefunden werden. Ebendasselbe findet sich auch das Wappen der Familie Eißenbeiß vor. Die Bücher sind im Besitz von N. Pohl König. preuß. Hofgraveur in Köln.

Heraldry ... Arms of Families

Heraldry is a system of signs and symbols that originated in the Middle Ages as a means of recognizing warriors on the battlefield. Since armour or coat of mail was invariably worn, there was no difficulty distinguishing friend from foe even at some distance, for each man bore a shield of a unique design.

The armour or coat of mail often became hot, and a long, sleeveless garment called a surcoat was worn over it as protection from the sun. By the XIIIth century the surcoat had become short, and many knights wore their emblems (also called bearings or arms) on their surcoats as well as their shields. Thus originated the expression "coat of arms". In the XIVth century an even shorter surcoat was worn, called a jupon.

The rules regarding the use of a Coat of Arms differs from country to country. Unlike England, where a Coat of Arms is issued to a single person, not to be used by other family members, Germany assigned a Coat of Arms to a family, and it may be used by any descendant of that family.

Blazoning is the heraldic term for describing a coat of arms. The rules of blazon are follows: first give the color of the field background; second, name the objects on the field, all in their proper order and with regard to their relative shapes, colors and positions. 1. Crest (some arms exist without a crest), 2. Wreath, 3. Mantling, 4. Helm, 5. Shield, 6. Motto (often nonexistent).

Germany and Austria were first known as part of the Holy Roman Empire. The oldest Coats of Arms in Germany and Austria were self-assumed, mostly by men returning from The Crusades. Towards the end of the 1300s, emperors began to award Arms to specially appointed persons known as "palace counts." When a commoner was raised to the rank of nobility, he was allowed to keep his original Coat of Arms, but added new charges, or quarterings. The earliest arms for commoners date back to the early 1200's. For information on heraldry associated with Northern German names it is advisable to contact Der Herold, 1 Berlin 33 (Dableto), Archivstrasse 12-14, Berlin, Germany. For names of Southern German and Austrian origin you may wish to contact The Adler Society, Haarhof 4A, Vienna, Austria.

Rules/Laws governing use of Arms

Germany: In contrast to "one man, one coat of arms" the system of heraldry for the Holy Roman Empire developed along family lines. The files of the Imperial Archives in Vienna show that from 1410 to 1806, many coats of arms were granted simultaneously to several members (brothers, uncles, cousins) of the same family without differentiation, and then passed on to subsequent descendants. These Family Arms were called "Stammwappen". Differentiation took place if one member received an augmentation to his arms from the Emperor or if a family branch petitioned for distinctive arms. Since 1867, Der Herold in Berlin has been registering arms and has a database of over 300,000.

Families world-wide may register new arms or verify their entitlement if they have documentary proof of German descent.

United States: Like in Canada, there is no law to prevent citizens from using a Coat of Arms for decoration. Armorial bearings used as a trademark have protection via the U.S. Patent Office. Government heraldry and insignia are handled by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry in Alexandria, Virginia. Several private organizations register personal and family entitlements and publish armorials, such as the American College of Heraldry. Their registration fees for Arms were \$195 US in 1993.

In all countries no one has the right to assume Arms belonging to another family or persons. A surname gives no right. Subject to the rules of a country to that one belongs, a personal Coat of Arms may be drawn up. As long as this does not infringe on any other right, this is legal. For legitimacy, a further step must be taken to have it registered and granted by a proper authority. To meet the rigorous design requirements of granting Heralds, avoid plagiarism, pay for final calligraphy and artwork, and publish as a public announcement. This will cost the armiger from about \$600 to as much as \$14,000 US. However, this cost generates a work of art, an heirloom, a trade mark, and a badge of honor measured as a corporate or family asset for generations to come.