

17-8-2014

Dear Cousins and Friends in Eichstatt, Gruss Gott!

I wanted to again express my gratitude for your hospitality and warmth during my visit in July 2014.



Wilhelm Eisenhart and brother Walter

It was great of Wilhelm Eisenhart to pick me up at the Airport and as we drove to Eichstatt, I compared the abundant pine trees to our state of Maine or New Hampshire, which also has a "Franconia" region. The Atmuhl River cuts a well through the surrounding higher elevation which reveals the City of Eichstatt only as we are upon it in a most impressive way.

The dramatic Baroque style of architecture embraced on one side by the Willibald Fortress, and on the other side by the the Convent lends a feeling of protection . The river's tranquility and the Dom and surrounding administrative buildings of the Bishopric at the city's heart, gives the impression is that this truly is a City, rather than a town! 500-700 year old buildings are lovingly restored for posterity.

I felt quite at home in your company, enjoying the graciousness and friendliness of your families and friends, who provided care, food, information and concern for my well being, and I find their lives to be most interesting and unique, people with multiple talents and interests in many aspects of the larger world that we live in. The musical culture was a great experience for me too. The high mass and full choir in the Dom with well performed music was in an atmosphere that one cannot find in the states. The brass concert in the Convent, and other musical offerings at the various events were also Unique. What better summer fun can be had than seeing The World Cup finals game with family and friends and to see Germany Win..!!! (*Frau Fieger makes a potent Martini*)



Eisenhart Family Tin/Pewter Shop and Wilhelm

There is much pride in observing the family Zinn (Tin/Pewter) business that continues for over 200 years, as handed down from father Heinz Eisenhart to son, master zinn (tin/pewter) craftsman and restoration expert Wilhelm Eisenhart, who carries on this tradition begun in 1804, much as it was also in Baltimore for over 100 years! The Eisenhart store which displays the family craft and other upscale home goods, displayed artfully, looks wonderful as a result the hard work by cousins and family members. It is one of Eichstatt's "treasures".

Enjoying the summer months is not complete without a trip to the old "Swimming Hole" and also the countryside and a view of Eichstatt from a higher terrain, or a visit with Friedi's horse. (I regret not seeing the fossil museum, but I was tired that day, and the rain was soon upon us) Also memorable, the trip to the Willibaldberg and surrounding

area. I rarely have the opportunity to be treated to Sauerbraten and dumplings as wonderfully prepared at the Eisenharts, or the lovely Cabernet wine, Slibowitz and dinner at Walter's haus, It was a "home run"! The Eichstatt Fest was, (as Wilhelm said) "a continuous joyous summer celebration" .The beer, well, to be sure, most formidable..!

My trip to Munich/Lenggries was quite comfortable. My stay in Lenggries with the Raeder family was mostly sunny and I took the tram to the top of the Brauneck, where I met a nice family on holiday from the Frankfurt area, who were all fluent in English , having lived in Virginia for 3 years. We enjoyed the afternoon walk along the top towards the Benediktenwand, then had a drink at the alpenhut up there. .While in Lenggries, I spent a day in Munchen, bought a concert ticket at the Bahnhof, walked through the old city, and traveled to Herz Jesu Kirche, a modern glass church for a concert of Bach's motet Jesu Meine Freude and Pergolese's Stabat Mater with the venerable Gerhard Schmidt-Gaden conducting the Tolzer choir!.

I spent my last 4 days in Germany at Bad Tolz, staying above an Italian Restaurant and enjoying lounging by the Isar River and Kurpark, enjoying Italian meals (and German beer) on the Marktplatz, and attended a concert by a local group of Heinrich Schutz music in the Pfarrkirche, then to Benediktbeuern, the inspiration of Carmina Burana, where I attended an organ concert, and took in the splendor of Rococo church architecture. My hope was to go to Garmich Partenkirchen next, but some local bleeding (I take a blood thinner) caused me to rethink my stay away from home any longer and I was advised to return..

Well, upon returning home, I had to do some yard maintenance, painting, etc. Tonight I had my first of many rehearsals for the concert season, beginning early Oct. with Bach's Cantata #117 the baritone solos (same music as the "Grosse Herr" in the Weinachts oratorio, just different words.)

Once again, many thanks to all for hosting me and feel free to email/write or Facebook me as I explore some of my family origins research of the Eisenhar(d)t family "*from Bayern to Baltimore*"

John "Hans" Eisenhardt

Hello my dear Cousin Hans!

Many thanks for the letter You wrote about Your stay in good old Bavaria. It is the end of August and the summer is nearly over. About the fresh temperature I have plenty of room at the Eichsätt swimming pool. On Friday our famous "Volksfest" will start with drinking beer from the big Maßkrug and traditionell Brassbands. Last week we have been to Berlin, I think you must have got a Photo from Ferdinand.

Things are going very well, I am packed with orders in my manufactory and it wasn't time to try my new casting moulds from the Baltimore pewter-smith. I hope the local bleeding , You wrote is o.k. again. We wish You all the best, good health and a great success with Your concerts.

All the best from Eichstätt

Your cousin Wilhelm Eisenhart