MARKT EISENSTEIN, BOHEMIA
Now known as Železná Ruda, Czech Republic)
CHURCH RECORDS

Church records (baptisms, marriages and deaths) are available for Markt Eisenstein and the nearby villages of Bayerisch Eisenstein, Dorf Eisenstein, Pancir, and Deffrnick from 1694-1810 and are found in the following book:

Häupler, Hans-Joachim. *Die Personenstandsmatrikel Des Catholishen Pharramtes Markt Eisenstein 1694-1810,* (Parish Records for the Catholic Church of Markt Eisenstein) Sauerlach, Oktober,1990.

This book is available on microfiche from the LDS Family History Center. It is listed on-line at www.familysearch.org in the film catalog. The microfiche may be ordered and viewed at regional family history centers. Hans-Joachim Häupler typed the church records into an easy-to-read format; one doesn't have to try to decipher German script. The book is filmed on 26 microfiche and organized as follows:

Microfiche set 6001707 consists of 4 fiche, covering the years from 1694 to 1734.

Microfiche set 6001708 consists of 7 fiche, covering the years from 1734-1783, mainly:
6001708-1 Baptisms from 1734 to 1755
6001708-2 Baptisms from 1755-1768
6001708-3 Baptisms from 1768-1781
6001708-4 Baptisms from 1781-1809; engagements and marriages from 1746-1760
6001708-5 Engagements and marriages from 1733- 1746 and 1760-1783
6001708-6 Marriages from 1783-1809 (mainly from Bayerisch Eisenstein); deaths
6001708-7 Deaths

Microfiche set 6001709 consists of 5 fiche, covering births, marriages and deaths in Pancir (Panzer), Dorf Eisenstein and Deffernik from 1784-1810.

Microfiche set 6001710 consists of 3 fiche, and covers births in Markt Eisenstein from 1784-1810.

Microfiche set 6001711 consists of 1 fiche and covers marriages in Markt Eisenstein from 1784-1810.

Microfiche set 6001712 consists of 2 fiche and covers deaths in Markt Eisenstein from 1784-1810.

Microfiche set 6001713 consists of 2 fiche and contains indices to above data.

Microfiche set 6001714 consists of 2 fiche and also contains indices to above date.
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A glass-making factory was established in Markt Eisenstein about 1700 and a number of families from Eisenhammer and other nearby German settlements were invited to settle in Markt Eisenstein. Many of these families stayed there through the years until events of the twentieth century forced them out. However, a good number immigrated to America, especially to Wisconsin, between 1870 and 1900.

The families who settled in the Eisenstein valley had large families. By the nineteenth century, there were many families with a common surname and they often used common Christian names. Therefore, the only way to trace ancestry is with careful search for baptism and marriage records, beginning with the most recent generation and working backward.

Marriage and baptism records can be very helpful. Marriage records frequently, but not always, listed parents of the bride and groom. Both parents and both sets of grandparents are often listed on the baptism records. The occupation for the men is also listed.

Death records are not that helpful because they often did not give the name of spouse or parents. There might be several people in the village with the same Christian and surname, living at the same time.

Church records for Markt Eisenstein after 1810 are in the State Archives in Pilsen (Plzen), Czech Republic. A Czech researcher may be hired to search the records. It is necessary to have the name of an individual and the name of his parents, as well as a date of birth (baptism), in order to identify the individual in the records. For families who immigrated with children, it is easier to start with the children because you will have that information for the child and might not have that information for the adults.

The Czech Republic has recently put church records throughout the country online at www.portafontium.eu . The records for the church at Železná Ruda (formerly Markt Eisenstein) are available at this website. Note that much of the German script is difficult to read. One may need the help of someone skilled in reading old German to decipher the records.

FamilySearch.org also has information on accessing the church books in the Czech Republic: https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Czech_Republic_Church_Books_from_the_Plzeň_Regional_Archive.

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