

## **The Balthasar Eisenrich (Eisenreich) Family** **Submitted by Brian Eisenrich, Great-Great-Grandson**

The Eisenreich name goes back in record as far as 1389 in Lower Austria where Hans Eisenreich was registered as the owner of the Eisenreich estate in county Waidhofen on the Thaya River. The first name Balthasar or Balthazar was used through many generations. A splinter of the family is known to have moved on to become barons of Bavaria the early 1600s.

Jump to the 1850's - Balthasar (b. ???) and Theresa (b. about 1833) were married in Bavaria and immigrated to the US via New York in 1854 and initially settled in Mankato. In 1862 they moved to a homestead along the Minnesota River between Beaver Creek and Birch Coulee (as shown in Gregory Michno's *Dakota Dawn*. Based on information I have, this would have been early 1862 since their son Joseph is recorded to have been born in Renville County on April 30. (I suspect that family information might be wrong, as moving to and settling in during the middle of winter would have been extremely difficult. It is possible, the move was in 1861.)

On, August 18, 1862 a band of Indians moved through this area ransacking and burning homes. The Eisenreich family and one of the Hayden families attempted to flee to Fort Ridgely but were overtaken by the Indians. (At this point I have a blank in the history but I assume what was written about them being taken to the Faribault house is probably correct.)

The following portion of the story has been handed down by word of mouth. I have a tendency to believe it has some credence because the modern day Eisenrich family split up to various portions of the US in the early 1900s and never really talked to each other.

As I have approached each of the splinters of the family to build the family tree, the same story keeps reappearing. Also, in talking to a distant relation on the Bliven line of the family (related to Joseph M. by marriage), the same story appears. Lastly, all the members (men, women, and children) of this last party were killed EXCEPT Theresa and the children. But I still take it with a grain of salt. . .

As the group was moving from the Faribault house toward the Fort, they were again attacked by Indians. Theresa, with her children huddled around her, managed to wrestle a tomahawk away from one of the Indians and split his skull with it. The Indians admired her for her bravery, spared her, and took her and her children to Camp Release.

The children saved would have been Sophie (b. 4/30/1855 / d. 1/24/1873), Peter Henry (b. ??/??/1857 / d. unknown), Mary (or Marie b. 4/21858 / d. 3/28/1944), John (b. 10/??/1859 / d. 7/191912), and Joseph M. [my great grandfather] (b. 4/30/1862 / d. 7/28/1915).

A note from my great-aunt says that Mary never married but my research shows she probably did marry George Panter, and I have not had time to follow that line of the family tree in any detail either. Sophie died as a teenager and never had any children. There is a note from my great-aunt that there was another child, Emily, who died young but I cannot find any records. If this is correct, I suspect she would probably have been born around late 1860 or early 1861 due to the gap in births noted above.

After being released, Theresa married Albert Dagen (in late 1862) in Kittson County and went on to bear 5 more children with him. She died on 6/5/1909 in Kittson and is buried at the Springbrook Cemetery in Karlstad.