



Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Jasper, Indiana · Pfaffenweiler, Baden-Württemberg

The Late Drs. Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann



Dr. Ruth Reichmann passed away at her home in Nashville, IN on January 6, 2024. She was 95 years old.

Ruth and Eberhard were instrumental in establishing the Pfaffenweiler-Jasper Sister City Partnership.

Ruth and Eberhard were "forces of nature" when it came to spreading information of German Heritage. They were the "go to" for many of us when we needed information on the when, where, and how when it came to researching or learning of any German Heritage in connection to Jasper and the surrounding areas. They were extremely proud of the German Heritage work that had been done here in southern Indiana.

They enjoyed attending Jasper DeutscherVerein meetings, picnics, and German Heritage dinners. They enjoyed being the house guests of Martina Eckert!!!

They spent time at the Monastery Immaculate Conception with the Sisters of St. Benedict translating and organizing their archives. They also spent time at the Dubois County Museum translating information brought in by individuals, especially during the Strassenfest. And then enjoyed coming to the Strassenfest.

Ruth and Eberhard were both immigrants from Germany.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Eberhard Reichmann (1926-2009). She is survived by a son and a daughter, two grandsons, and five great grandchildren.

Rest in Peace

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The information above is from the February 2024 Jasper DeutscherVerein newsletter

The information below is from the publication "Celebrating Our Partnership 1985 – 2000, Sister Cities, Pfaffenweiler and Jasper, which is available on the Jasper German Club website https://www.jaspergermanclub.org/PDFs/Celebrating_Our_Partnership_1985-2000.pdf

Celebrating Our Partnership

Greetings!

By Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann

It was in early 1984, when we traveled through the Black Forest toward Pfaffenweiler. Heavy snow had fallen. The big beautiful trees were all clad in white. We were to talk to the mayor about the possibility of a sister city arrangement with Jasper. Sabine Jordan, Humanist-in-Residence in Jasper a few years earlier, had suggested that Pfaffenweiler could become an ideal partner, since many settlers in Dubois County were immigrants from that town and neighboring villages.



Entra11ce sign to Pfnffewmrei/er Ortsschih/ Pfnffenweiler

In Mayor Fritz Gutsell's office we chatted over a glass of Batzenberger Wine about the emigrants and the interest in Jasper to reconnect with Pfaffenweiler. We had taken a Dubois County telephone book along. "You want to see if we find any Gutsells in there?" we asked the mayor. He was amazed: "You have more Gutsells in Jasper than here in Pfaffenweiler!" And then we checked the Eckert name and others. "Unglaublich" [unbelievable], he said. We talked about the Pfaffenweiler crosses on many of the street corners and that there was also one such cross at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, sculpted by Georg Baumann. The mayor took us to the village museum, which exhibited the story of emigration through photographs, letters, maps, tools and utensils. We could tell that Fritz Gutsell became excited, when he offered his help: "Wie kann ich helfen [How can I help]?"



Rathaus (City Hall) Pfaffenweiler

Since a group from Jasper was planning to visit Austria and Germany that September, we suggested that he invite them to Pfaffenweiler, and he did. We had a very good feeling when we left -- carrying two bottles of Batzenberger Wine and greetings from Pfaffenweiler to Jasper. The rest is history and we are glad that over the years we have been a part of this great relationship, based on close historical ties. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Jasper- Pfaffenweiler friendship, our congratulations go to both communities for having made a real go of it.

Keep it up! Macht's gut!

Jasper - Pfaffenweiler

The First Fifteen Years