

A love in the shadow of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/1871.

It occurred between Johannes Federle, born on May 7, 1848 in Obersulmetingen, Württemberg, and Eudoxie Collin, born on September 25, 1838 in Vroil, Marne Department, France.

The events surrounding Johannes' birth are already unusual. According to a note by Siegfried Federle, who researched this family, the parents received a jail sentence of two days because they were not married at the time of John's birth.

Eudoxie, who was born in Vroil in 1838, was married in 1st marriage to a Louis Alexis Commenil and had four children with him, two daughters and two sons. Three of them were born in Vroil, France, while the youngest son Lucien was born in St. Gallen, Switzerland. St. Gallen is also where her 1st husband died in 1874. Eudoxie then returned to her birthplace of Vroil, where Johannes Federle's son was born in 1877.



Jean Irénée Edmond Federle (1915-1930)
at the age of about 10.
(Grandson of Johannes Federle).

Three days after the birth, the child was legitimized by Johannes Federle and entered in the birth register under the name Jean Charles Anatole Federle - spelled "Féderlé" in French.

In 1896 Johannes still held German citizenship while Eudoxie was a French citizen. They lived with their son/stepson Paul Commenil in Vroil, who had married in 1891.

John then married Eudoxie Collin in 1902 after they had lived together unmarried for 25 years. A thing quite tolerated by society in our days, but certainly not easy 150 years ago in a small Catholic village in France.

Incidentally, the son married an Aline Lahaye from Contrisson, Meuse department, France, only three weeks after his parents. Both couples were still living in Vroil in 1911.

In 1913, Charles Anatole Federle moved to Paris with his wife Aline - their son Georges Charles, born in 1903, had died in 1905. At the general mobilization for the World War I, he was drafted into the military in 1914 and served in the artillery from 1914 to early 1919. He was discharged to his address: Paris, rue de la Jonquiere 87, where he already lived in 1913. During his military service, his 2nd son Jean Irénée Edmond was born. Apparently Aline moved in with her parents in Contrisson, Meuse, for the birth of their child.

In 1921, Eudoxie Collin, John's wife, died at the age of 82. John, however, remains in Vroil for the time being, but moves in about 1926 to join his son Charles Anatole, who had since moved from Paris to Contrisson, Meuse. Here the 2nd son of Charles Anatole and Aline dies in January 1930. According to oral tradition, he died during an asthma attack. In May of the same year, Johannes Federle also dies at the age of 82.

Charles Anatole died in 1952, it is said that he was working in the forest and suffered a heart attack on his way home. He was still able to call for help, but the people who came to his aid were unable to save him. One of the helpers is said to have driven the dead man home with a wheelbarrow.

In 1963, his wife Aline died at the age of 80 as the last member of the Federle family.

So much for the facts, but there are still many questions that cannot be answered by the documents known so far:

1. When did Johannes Federle emigrate?
2. Was he a soldier and did he participate in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/1871?
3. Why did he marry the woman with whom he had the son only after 25 years?
4. Was it not allowed, or at least not opportune, for a French woman to marry a German so soon after the war lost by France?

Yes I know that in genealogy only facts should be used, but it is the facts that just challenge the imagination in this case.

June 2022

Rolf Federle