

The Federle DNA Project

It was at the 25th Federle/Feederle Family Day on April 25, 2009 in Oberkirch, that five male participants decided to have a DNA test done.

What they all had in common was that they bore the name Federle - except for minor differences. They did not know whether and how they were related to each other. Four of them had reached the often quoted "brick wall" with their research, which they could not overcome despite great expenditure of time and money.

A cousin from the USA had told me that he had done a DNA test and that it was possible to check relationships with it.

To compare our results with my cousin's, we chose the Y-37 marker test at the company FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA). This test also includes an analysis of origin (haplogroup). "The determination of the so-called haplogroup allows statements about the geographical origin of the purely male line in the last millennia - whether this direct paternal line belonged, for example, to the hunter-gatherers after the last ice age or to the first farmers and cattle breeders in the Neolithic period" (Tobias A. Kemper: Familienforschung, edition 2019/2020 p. 145). The Federles from Rammingen and Gamshurst have the haplogroup "G". This is thought to have originated in the Middle East or Southeast Asia. All other Federles in our project have other haplogroups.

However, we were more interested in what is called "matching". In this test, certain sequences (markers) on the Y chromosome are examined for particular characteristics. In the Y-37 test chosen, at least 33 markers must be the same in order to be able to speak of a relationship. The more markers that are the same when compared to another person, the closer the relationship.

When the results of our test became available towards the end of 2009, there were disappointed faces. Only two of the five people tested were genetically related. For me, on the other hand, it was a complete success. What I had tried to find out for years with traditional research in vain, was now proven.

The Federle from Gamshurst, to which I belong, are genetically closely related to those researched by Siegfried Federle - I will call them "Rammingen Federle". Further tests within our group also confirmed the first results.

Today, our DNA group includes 25 people from different branches of the Federle family. So far, we have not succeeded in finding any further relationship between the individual branches. It would be desirable if more Federles - also with different spelling - could be tested. This would establish proof of belonging to one of the family branches. This could also establish connections between the different branches. For example, it is not yet clear where the Federle in Italy come from. Do they come from Germany or are they related to the Federli from Uznach in Switzerland?