



Federles from Gamshurst

Gamshurst is located in the Rhine plain about 30 km north of Offenburg and about 30 km south of Baden-Baden. Strasbourg, which lies to the west on the French side of the Rhine, is also 30 km away. Until 1805, the village belonged to the old bailiwick of Ortenau, which is in the present-day state of Baden-Württemberg.

The community was first mentioned in the 10th century as "Gameneshurst". Until 1973, Gamshurst was an independent municipality, and since then it has been a district of Achern in the Ortenaukreis.

Our ancestral line of the Federles in Gamshurst start with Georg Federle and Katharina Bruder. They married in Durbach in 1669 and lived there in the district of Vollmersbach. Around 1680, they moved to Grossweier, where their son Joseph was born in 1684. They had followed Georg's mother, who had married Georg Bruder from Grossweier in 1671. (Katharina's second marriage). Georg Federle was a shepherd in Grossweier, an occupation he also held in Gamshurst, where he moved to between 1684 and 1687. However, he was not the first Federle in Gamshurst, because his sister Jakobea had already married Jakob Mayer from Gamshurst in 1681.

However, there were Federles in Gamshurst before that, but I do not know how or if they are related to Georg Federle.

In 1671, the wife of a Michael Federle, who was a tailor by profession, died in Gamshurst.

In 1675, a Johannes Federle, also a tailor by profession, was found dead between Gamshurst and Achern. The following entry is found in the death book of Gamshurst:

On March 4, not far from Unterachern, Johannes Federle, tailor, a citizen of Gamshurst, was killed and found dead not far from the above-mentioned place in impassable terrain by some people and was transferred there for burial. The funeral ceremonies were held there.

A similar fate befell Joseph Federle (born 1748), who was shot in 1772 in the forest near Memprechtshofen. The death book contains the following entry in German translation:

Today, July 26, 1772, Joseph Federle, a citizen of here, was miserably shot by Lutherans while hunting near Memerenzheffen (Memprechtshofen) and buried the same day by Lutherans in unhallowed ground in Freistat (Freistett). Here, however, the requiem was held for the poor deceased.

Maria Bohnert, the mother of the above-mentioned Georg, was first married to Mathias Federle. They lived - as did their son later - in Durbach-Vollmersbach. At their marriage in 1647, the records show Jakob Federle as the father of Mathias. Jakob died in 1645 in Bottenau, today a district of Oberkirch.

Here our paper research ended at first at the famous "wall", which we could not overcome despite intensive searching. The hope that this Jacob can be found in another family tree, which goes back even further, was not fulfilled. Only a DNA analysis put us on the right track. The Gamshurst Federles are a branch of the Federles originating from the area of Ulm a. d. Donau. This tribe was traced back by Siegfried Federle (1893 - 1984) to Hans Vetterlin (Veterlin, Federlin), who was named in 1375 in Rammingen in the Alb-Donau district.

What happened next in Gamshurst?

Joseph Federle, born in 1684, had a total of 12 children from three marriages. Of these, only four sons and one daughter reached adulthood. Joseph, like his father Georg, was also a shepherd, while his sons were called small farmers or day laborers. The profession of farmer remained the predominant occupation of the Federles until the beginning of the 20th century. However, there were also craftsmen who practiced their profession along with small-scale farming. For example, the profession of carpenter runs through some Federle families. It begins with Blasius Federle, born in 1734, and ends with Hubert Federle, who is still alive today. There were also weavers, bricklayers and a nail smith among the Federles.

The number of Federle families in Gamshurst grew rapidly. In the 18th century, there were just 10 families. More and more of the numerous descendants also reached adulthood. With the real estate division customary in Gamshurst, i.e. each child entitled to inherit receives the same share of the inheritance, the shares per child became smaller and smaller. It was almost inevitable that

not everyone could make a living in Gamshurst. So they emigrated. There are a number of Federles in the 18th century of whom it is not known where they lived or where they died. I found one of them - Franz Balthasar Federle - in the marriage book of Landau in the Palatinate, where he was named in 1764. His great-grandson died in 1917 in Bombay, India (see also my contribution in Federle worldwide "from Gamshurst to Bombay").

A big increase in emigration occurred in the 19th century. In the period between 1831 and 1912, 74 Federles emigrated. The majority, 58 people, emigrated to North America. Two emigrated to Hungary. However, I have not been able to find any really reliable data about the persons who emigrated to Hungary. Ten went to France and four to Switzerland.

The majority were unmarried men. Numbering 26 people, they represent almost half of the emigrants. However, 19 unmarried women also emigrated. Two of them had one child each. They belonged to the group of people who were sent to America at the expense of the municipality.

Among the seven families that emigrated, there were two families where the men married abroad, but probably could not quite get a foothold there. Three families were sent away completely or partially at the expense of the municipality. We also have the curious case that an emigrant from Gamshurst in 1853 came back in 1868, married a Federle and went back to America with her.

To date, there are about 3,500 known descendants of the couple Georg Federle and Katharina Bruder in 12 generations, about 1,500 of them in the USA. Today, there are more descendants of the Federle family from Gamshurst living in the USA than in Germany.

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(Translation by Carol Sanman)