Neuschwanstein Castle

The Most Distinguished Surname

Federmann

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Origins

Medieval Austria is the ancient homeland of the Federmann family. Austria, which was originally home to a Celtic people, was conquered by the Roman Empire in about 15 BC. Following the fall of Rome, Austria was repeatedly invaded by barbarian tribes, such as the Vandals, Visigoths, and Huns, who swept in from the east. During the 5th and 6th centuries, the Alemanni, Avars and Slavs settled Austria. The Avars were defeated in 785 by the Frankish emperor Charlemagne, who set up the East Mark, which later became known as the Österreich. Austria was ruled by the Babenburger dynasty until 1278, when they were succeeded by the Hapsburg dynasty, which ruled Austria until the 20th century.

Ancient History

Our research into the well-known name Federmann brings us to the state of Bavaria, which owes its name to the ancient tribe of the "Bajuvaren." They settled here after the Romans ceased their occupation in 500 A.D. Despite resistance from the Bavarian Dukes, the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne incorporated Bavaria into his empire in 788 A.D. Bavaria reverted to its former status of a dukedom, coming under the control of the houses of Saxony, then Franconia, and finally the Welfen family dynasty. The Welfen family enjoyed the peak of their power from 1156 to 1180, until the Wittelsbach house gained power.

During the Middle Ages the name has been found in Bavaria, where the name, historically associated with the landed aristocracy, could be considered to have played a major role in the feudal society which became the backbone of early development of Europe. The name became prominent in local affairs and branched into many houses which took part in the tribal and national conflicts, each group seeking power and status in an ever changing territorial profile. The main branch of the family left Bavaria for Styria in Austria in 1587 and later moved into Silesia where they became one of the most respected families. The ancestral seat was the castle and estates of Feistritz, near the city Cilley, two miles from Graz in Styria. The family also acquired the castle and manor Miestitz near Oppeln in Silesia.

Spelling Variations

After separating from the Ostmark, now Austria, the duchy of Bavaria was ruled by the Wittelsbach dynasty from 1180 until 1918. Although Bavaria eventually lost its control over its southern neighbor Austria, it gained through a pact with Napoleon the regions of Franconia, a section of Swabia, and a part of the Palatinate, and became a kingdom in its own right in 1806.

Extensive research into the history and development of names has shown that the spelling of a surname varies greatly over time. In the mediaeval period, when very few people knew how to write, scribes often recorded a name in official documents based on its sound. It was therefore possible that a name, depending on the local dialect, would even change between father and son. Among the many variations of the name Federmann we find Vetter, Voetter (Bavaria), Votter (Bavaria), Vetters, Vetterle, Voetterl, Vetterling,

Vetterlein, Vetterley, Vetterline, Vedder (northern Germany), Vett, Veth, Vether, Fett, Fetter, Fetters, Fetterle and Fetterling, to name a few examples.

Early History

From the 6th to the 12th century, the city of Regensburg was the residence of the Bavarian dukes. Another notable city is Augsburg, one of Germany's oldest cities founded by the Romans, as well as an important European trading center. Nuremberg was the cultural and economic center of the Empire, and a later residence of the Emperor.

Meanwhile bearers of the family name emerged in Lower Austria, in the province of Styria, which became the fertile source of the many succeeding branches of the family name. In the year 1653, Johann Balthasar Vetter received the titles of Count von der Lilie and Baron von Burgfeistritz. They acquired estates not only in Styria but throughout Moravia and Silesia. During the 16th century, a turbulent time of much migration throughout Europe, their dimensions grew and they developed interests outside the region as they followed their occupations either in the military, or in the religious orders, or following their political convictions. Additionally, they increased their status and wealth by intermarriage with distinguished families and notable amongst these were von Kainrath and von Wachtler. The second main branch of the family became known as Vetter von Lilienberg, and were also Austrian counts. This title was received by the knight Wenzel Vetter, a major general in the Austrian army. The Lilienberg line has been traced back to Bohemia (they may have come from Holland before then) but were raised into the nobility by Kaiser Ferdinand II in reward for the great service and bravery of the knight Eusebius Vetter, who fought for Austria in the Battle of the White Mountain during the uprising of Bohemia. At this point they were rewarded with the title "von Lilienberg." The variation Fetter was represented by the prominent Fetter von Fehdenfeld family in Austria. In 1822, Carl Fetter, a calvary captain the Austrian military, received a title of nobility for his outstanding accomplishments.

Early Notables

Prominent bearers of the name Federmann during this early period include the knight Eusebius Vetter, who so distinguished himself at the Battle of the White Mountain during the uprising of Bohemia; Conrad Vetter (1547-1622), German Jesuit preacher and polemical writer; and Andreas Nicolaus Vetter (1666-1734), German organist and composer.

The Great Migration

The renowned tradition of German craftsmanship also has its place in Bavaria; in Augsburg the first mobile artillery was produced, as well as muskets in 1430. Augsburg weavers and textile manufacturers also became well known, while the city also became the site of many important treaties and parliaments. Nuremberg, where the pocket watch was invented, was the site of the first German railway in 1835. Bavaria is also known for its popular Oktoberfest, that celebrates the national pastime: the drinking of the local beer, an enjoyable tradition that is always popular with tourists from around the world.

Settlers

There are 108 settlers with similar origins in the Appendix.
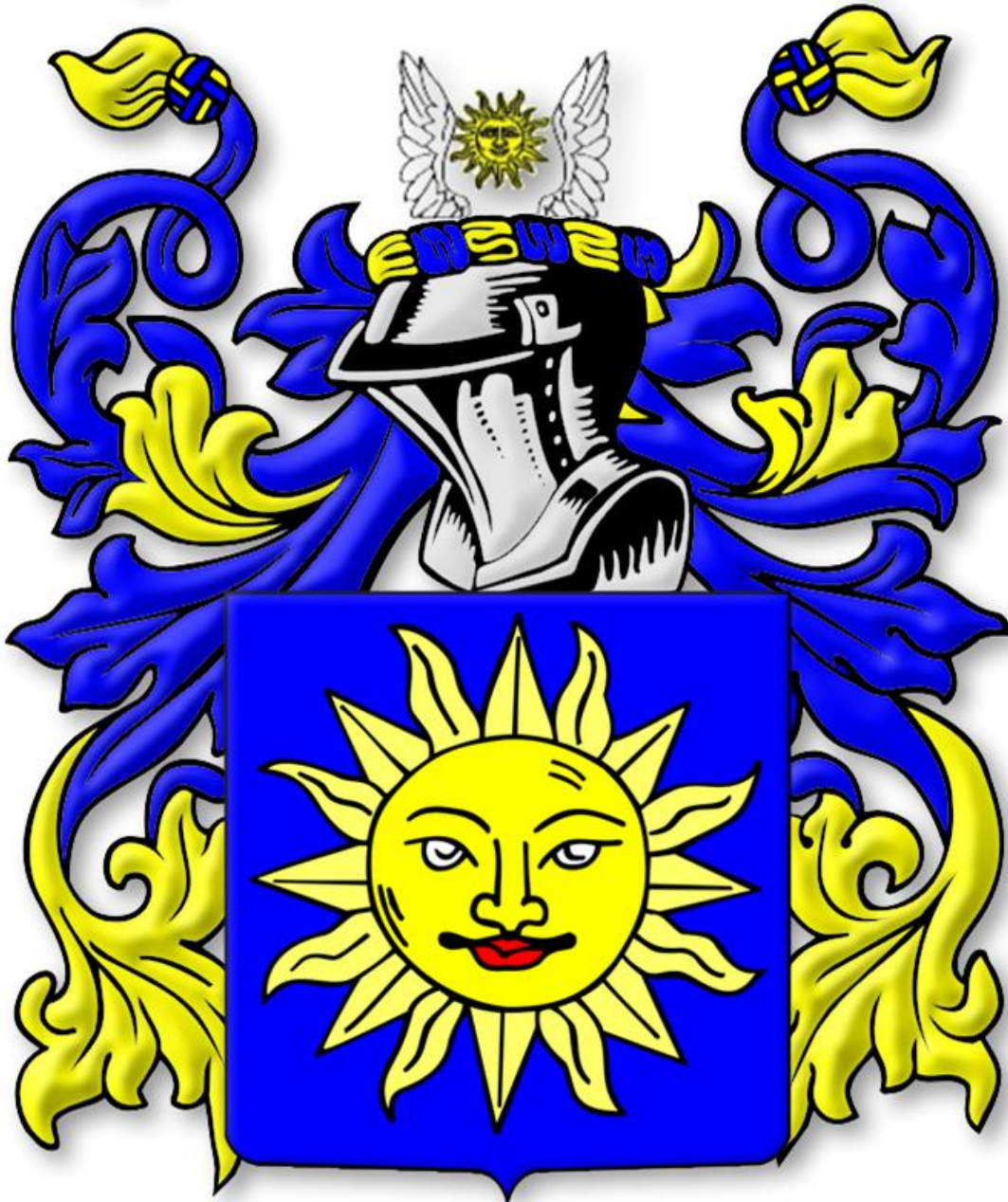
Current Notables

The settlement of the west began when the wagon trains headed across the Allegheny, creating the Ohio settlements. Later, the wagons pushed further west, before the railroads opened up a flood of western migration in the late 19th century.

There are 51 notables with similar origins in the Appendix.

Historic Events

There are 1 historic event entries in the Appendix.
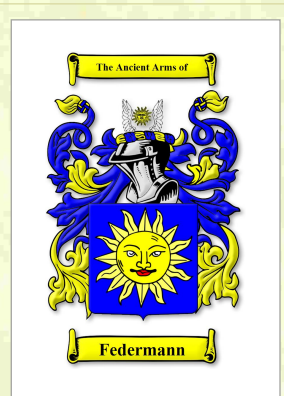
Federmann

Symbolism

Introduction

In the feudal states of the Holy Roman Empire, that at one time encompassed most of eastern Europe, it was especially important to be able to identify enemies from allies because of the many conflicts that occurred there. A system of heraldry evolved that achieved this. It regulated what arms were borne, and allowed each of the German knights to be distinguishable from others.

Achievement of Arms of Federmann

Mantle of Federmann

An Achievement of Arms such as the Federmann arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.
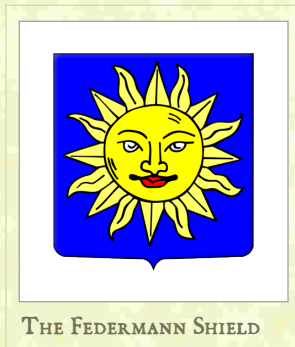
Motto

The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

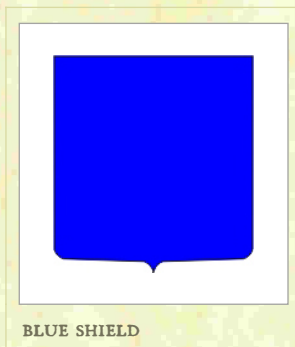The coat of arms displayed here for the surname Federmann did not include a motto.

Shield

Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Federmann can be described as follows:

The Federmann Shield

FEDERMANN ARMS

A blue shield displaying a sun.
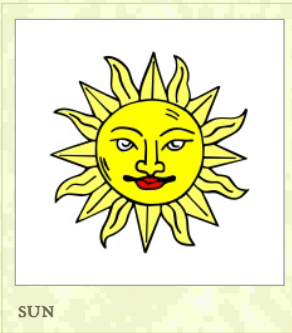

BLUE SHIELD

BLUE SHIELD

Azure (derived from the French word for "blue") represents the color of an eastern sky on a clear day. It also corresponds to the metal tin. The word, "azure" was introduced from the east during the Crusades. It signifies piety and sincerity, and is equated with autumn. In engravings it is represented by horizontal lines.

Symbolic Virtues: Blue denotes calmness and power of reflection. It infers nobility of the soul and signifies Loyalty, Justice and Courage. The color has also long been associated with purity and love, since the times when brides wore blue ribbons to the chapel.

Precious Stone: Turquoise

Planet: Jupiter

Obligations: Help for the servant

SUN

The Sun is an emblem of glory and brilliance. It is also a symbol of authority. It represents happiness, life and spirituality. The rising sun is a symbol of hope.

The Sun, when not rising, is always blazoned the "sun in splendor." The rays are alternately straight and wavy, which symbolize the heat and light that we derive from them, and the heraldic The Sun usually has a human face though this is not strictly necessary. Rays of the sun, also called Beams, are sometimes borne singly as in the ancient rolls, but more often they issue from other charges when described by one of the terms as radiant, rayonné or rayonnant. One ray of the sun signifies "by the light of heaven."

"This is the emblem of Glory and Splendour, and is the fountain of life." (Guillim)

"Roman kings had their crowns constructed with points in the shape of the sun's beams, because they were themselves like suns and flaming lights; for the whole world was led by their example. " (Wade)
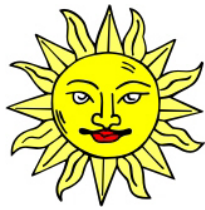
The Crest

The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. The Crest for the surname Federmann is described as follows:

The Federmann crest

A sun between a vol.

SUN

SUN

The Sun is an emblem of glory and brilliance. It is also a symbol of authority. It represents happiness, life and spirituality. The rising sun is a symbol of hope.

The Sun, when not rising, is always blazoned the "sun in splendor." The rays are alternately straight and wavy, which symbolize the heat and light that we derive from them, and the heraldic The Sun usually has a human face though this is not strictly necessary. Rays of the sun, also called Beams, are sometimes borne singly as in the ancient rolls, but more often they issue from other charges when described by one of the terms as radiant, rayonné or rayonnant. One ray of the sun signifies "by the light of heaven."

"This is the emblem of Glory and Splendour, and is the fountain of life." (Guillim)

"Roman kings had their crowns constructed with points in the shape of the sun's beams, because they were themselves like suns and flaming lights; for the whole world was led by their example. " (Wade)

Conclusion

Appendix - Notable List

Surname Variants of Federmann

- Daniel David Federman MD (1928-2017) American medical researcher, Carl W. Walter Distinguished Professor of Medicine and the Dean for Medical Education at Harvard Medical School
- John H. Fetty, American politician, Mayor of Laurel, Maryland, 1930-34, 1946-48 [1]
- Mrs. Harlan C. Fetters, American Republican politician, Alternate Delegate to Republican National Convention from Nebraska, 1932 [1]
- E. H. Fetters, American Democrat politician, Alternate Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Iowa, 1952 [1]
- W. Roger Fetter, American Republican politician, Alternate Delegate to Republican National Convention from Pennsylvania, 1956 [1]
- Henry Fetter, American Democrat politician, Member of Pennsylvania State Senate, 1857-59 [1]
- O. J. Fett, American Republican politician, Member of South Dakota State House of Representatives 55th District, 1941-46; Member of South Dakota State Senate 30th District, 1947-48 [1]
- Kathryn Fett, American Republican politician, Delegate to Republican National Convention from South Dakota, 1948 [1]
- Darrell Fetty, American actor, screenwriter and Emmy-nominated producer from Milton, West Virginia
- Willy Fitting (b.1925) Swiss bronze medalist fencer in the team épée event at the 1952 Summer Olympics
- Hans Fitting (1906-1938) German mathematician who worked in group theory who identified Fitting's lemma, Fitting ideals and the Fitting subgroup in finite group theory
- Frédéric Fitting (b.1902) Swiss fencer at the 1920, 1924, 1928, and 1936 Summer Olympics, brother of Édouard Fitting, and Emma Fitting
- Emma Fitting -Ramel (1900-1986) Swiss fencer in the women's individual foil at the 1924 Summer Olympics
- Édouard Fitting (1898-1945) Swiss fencer at the 1920, 1924, 1928 and 1936 Summer Olympics
- Andrea Fitting Ph.D, American founder and CEO of Fitting Group, an advertising agency based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1986
- Alfred Vetter (1923-1984) German Leutnant in the Kriegsmarine during World War II, recipient of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross
- Craig Vetter (b.1942) American entrepreneur and motorcycle designer, inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 1999
- Cyril Vetter, American songwriter, best known for the popular song "Double Shot (Of My Baby's Love)" co-written with Don Smith

- Harry Fett (1875-1962) Norwegian art historian, director of the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage from 1913 to 1946
- George Leonard Fett (1920-1989) American cartoonist born in Cleveland, Ohio, best known for his Sniffy and Norbert comic strips

Appendix - Historic Event List

Bismarck

On May 24th, 1941, the Battle of the Denmark Strait began. On the allied side, the HMS Prince of Wales and the HMS Hood were fighting the German Battleship Bismarck and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen. After less than ten minutes, the Bismarck had hit HMS Hood and she exploded, sinking three minutes later.

Thus began the Royal Navy's relentless pursuit of the Bismarck involving dozens of warships. Damaged from the battle, the Bismarck was forced to retreat. Heading to France she was pursued by British ship and aircraft.

On May 26th 1941 after breaking radio silence, her peruses caught up with and caused further damage forcing the crew to scuttle her and abandon ship. She sunk with a crew of over 2,200 men of these only 114 survived most picked up by the British ships before a German U Boat entered the area to rescue three and later a trawler scooped the last crew member from the water.

Surname Variants of Federmann

- Heinz Vetter (1921-1941) German Matrose who served aboard the German Battleship Bismarck during World War II when it was sunk heading to France; he died in the sinking [2]

Appendix - Settler List

American Settlers
Surname Variants of Federmann

- Harmen Albertse Vedder, who landed in Albany, NY in 1657 [3]
- William Fetter, who arrived in Virginia in 1702 [3]
- Jacobus Vedder, aged 24, who arrived in New York in 1720 [3]
- Georg Vetter, who settled in Philadelphia in 1729
- Anna Margarett Fetter, Henry Fetter, Jacob Fetter, and Richard Fetter, who all settled in Philadelphia in 1729
- Jacob Fetter, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1729 [3]
- Richard Fetter, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1729 [3]
- Anna Margaret Fetter, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1729 [3]
- Jorick Fetter, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1729 [3]
- David Vetter, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1731
- Joanna Fetter, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1731 [3]
- David Vetter, aged 21, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1731 [3]
- Lucks Vetter, aged 55, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1731 [3]
- Margerita Vetter, aged 18, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1731 [3]
- Sophia Vetter, aged 13, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1731 [3]
- Hans Goerg Fetter, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738 [3]
- Hans Jurg Fetter, aged 26, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1738 [3]
- Henrich Vetterley, who settled in Georgia in 1741
- Johann Philips Fett, who landed in America in 1741 [3]
- Wendel Vetter, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1742 [3]

Canadian Settlers
Surname Variants of Federmann

- Mr. Lucas Vetter U.E. who settled in Canada c. 1784 [4]

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Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching German surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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Citations

Extra Credit goes to Jan Arkesteijn at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Neuschwanstein__Castle__LOC__print.jpg for the picture on the cover.

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