

Georg Federle, provost in the monastery of Allerheiligen.

A story from the early days of Federle in the Gamshurst area.

On November 3, 1477, Georg Federle, the provost (abbot) of the Allerheiligen monastery in the Lierbach valley in the Black Forest, died. By car, this is about half an hour from Gamshurst today.

He was elected provost in 1474, at a very difficult time for the monastery. In 1470, a fire that started in the monastery kitchen destroyed large parts of the monastery, including the cloister building and the church. The then provost Andreas Rohart of Neuenstein had already begun to rebuild the monastery, but only Georg Federle was able to finish the reconstruction.

In the necrology (register of the dead in monasteries) of the monastery of Allerheiligen in the diocesan archive in Freiburg it states:

"Ehrwürdiger Herr Georg Federle. He led the community for only three years; in those years, however, he skillfully brought the reconstruction of the burned monastery begun by his predecessor to a good end, as shown by his coat of arms with a golden and blue feather testifies to this. He ended his short regiment on November 3, 1477".ⁱ

However, this necrology does not seem to have been written in 1477, but later, because our name is usually written Federlin or Federlen at that time. The present spelling is found only in the 18th century.

The monks, who belonged to the Premonstratensian order, were not only active in the monastery itself, but also as priests in the early parishes in the vicinity of the monastery. In addition, they were also active in charity work. For example, it is known from Gamshurst that the hospital located there around 1200 belonged to the monastery Allerheiligen. (Probably a so-called infirmary. In such a house, which was usually located somewhat outside the village, mainly poorer people who suffered from a contagious and incurable disease were cared for until the end of their lives).

The monastery received its income from the proceeds of the priesthood, and then from donations and endowments from both nobles and non-nobles. For example, the knight Otto von Schauenburg, his wife and children sell income from the Vetterlin estate near Sasbachwalden to the monastery on December 1, 1344.ⁱⁱ "Vetterlin" is a very early spelling of our name. Whether there is a relationship between the owners of the Vetterlinhof and the provost Georg Federle remains in the darkness of history.

During the reconstruction the monks lived in Lautenbach in the Renchtal on estates of the then Provost Andreas Rohart von Neuenstein. In Lautenbach they also took over the still unfinished church "Maria Krönung" around 1480. In 1555 there was another fire in Allerheiligen. Also during this time the monks lived in Lautenbach. In the course of secularization, the monastery was abolished in 1803 and the monks had to leave. A fire caused by a lightning strike in 1804 destroyed parts of the church as well as the cloister building. The damaged buildings were partly used as a quarry, as a result of which the church building collapsed in 1820.ⁱⁱⁱ

Today it is only a ruin, but still impressive and worth a visit together with the waterfalls located below the monastery garden.

Bühl, October 2021
Rolf Federle

ⁱ Diözesan Archiv Freiburg, Signatur Ha 561, Nekrologium Allerheiligen Nr. 15.

ⁱⁱ Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe, Bestand 34: Allerheiligen, Oberhäuser, Nr. 967.

ⁱⁱⁱ [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kloster_Allerheiligen_\(Schwarzwald\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kloster_Allerheiligen_(Schwarzwald)) (2.11.2021)