

Impressions from Lavelsløh and Essern

Manfred Raker

Both places have a relationship with the Foertmeyer family. In Essern Diedrich Förtmeyer had his first job as a school teacher. In 1825 he married Ilse Dorothea Georges here. In Essern also the children Dorothee Luise (1826), Louise Mathilde (1828), Georg Eduard (1830), Wilhelm Adolph (1832) and Carl Wilhelm (1834) were born. Today's church is newly built. The villages Essern, Steinbrink and Nordel belong to the parish.

To the parish of Lavelsløh belongs Lavelsløh, Diepenau and Bohnhorst. Diedrich Förtmeyer presumably changed from the parish of Essern to the parish of Lavelsløh in 1836 as a teacher, which built a new school in Bohnhorst in 1836. The children Emma Louise Bertha (1837), Carl Heinrich (1841), Anne Caroline Sophie (1843), Louise Friederike (1844) and Carl Louis (1849) were born here. Anne Caroline Sophie (1843), Louise Friederike (1847), Louise Mathilde (1854) and finally Diedrich Friedrich Wilhelm Förtmeyer (1861) were buried in the Lavelsløh cemetery.

Today there are no gravestones and graves from this period left.



Daniels Church, view from the north



Daniels Church, View from the West with typical family graves



Private coat of arms of Duke Wilhelm of Braunschweig-Lüneburg

History of the church

The evangelical church in Lavelosloh was founded around 1400 as a catholic church. In 1636 it was destroyed in the 30-year war and rebuilt from 1639 to 1649. The history of the Daniels Church is historically exciting. On the one hand, because it did not bear a name until the year 2000, on the other hand, because it was rebuilt by Daniel after the destruction in the Thirty Years' War. The previous thatched church had been destroyed by Swedish cannons in 1636 after repeated looting of soldiers. A new building of the only church for the whole office Diepenau in the southeast part of the county Hoya belonging to the principality Lüneburg seemed almost completely impossible in the continuing poverty. About 20 kilometres northwest of Minden in Westphalia, which was also hard hit by the turmoil of war, threatened brutalisation and hunger, epidemics and famine, making it impossible to reflect on God and build a new house of worship. At that time Daniel Sarninghausen (1583-1656) was pastor of the church and left no stone unturned to raise money for the reconstruction. He travelled to the surrounding parishes and sent other envoys. The success was rather moderate. Therefore he decided to take a drastic and also dangerous step: He asked the conquerors, who were also destroyers of the church! During their victory, Pastor Sarninghausen asked not only the Swedish officers and soldiers, but also the general Count Hans Christoph von Königsmarck himself for a donation. His efforts had paid off: he received, probably from the spoils of war, the amazing sum of 300 ducats, which resulted in a very solid foundation. The new building was also supported by Duke Wilhelm of Braunschweig-Lüneburg as the Protestant sovereign. He immortalized himself accordingly with his private coat of arms and the year 1641 outside over the church door.



A urn grave field at the cemetery Lavelosloh



An old grave site for the Waltke family with inscriptions from the 19th century. This is an exception on German cemeteries.



A memorial stone for the killed soldiers of the First World War.



The Lavelshoh parsonage



The Martins Church in Essern



Grave of the Dröge family in Essern



Memorial plaque for the dead of World War I and II from Essern.

I discovered a very old house today, in Bohnhorst, next to the school from 1898. According to the house inscription and the dates of birth of Cord Hinrich Rodenberg, the house dates back to the 1780s. Unfortunately it is no longer inhabited and decays.



I have not yet found out where the Förtmeyer school from 1836 stood, but if the new location and the old location of the school are the same, then the family Rodenberg from the house below was the direct neighbour of the Förtmeiers.



Ortsfamilienbuch Lavelstloh
Familienbericht

♂ **Cord Hinrich RODENBERG**

* 1737 in Bohnhorst
+ 19.03.1812 in Bohnhorst

Bemerkungen:(notes)

Konfession: EV
getauft: 22.01.1737 in Lavelstloh
Alter: 75J
begraben: 23.03.1812 in Lavelstloh

Familien (families)

1.Ehegatte: ♀ **Maria Elisabeth EISBERG**
(1st spouse) * 17.09.1747 in Lavelstloh
+ 29.06.1809 in Bohnhorst
oo 13.10.1769 in Lavelstloh

Bemerkungen:(notes)

Eltern (parents)

Vater: ♂ **Johann Diedrich RODENBERG**
(father) * 1694 in Bohnhorst
+ 02.04.1755 in Bohnhorst

Mutter: ♀ **Ilse Margarete VINKE**
(mother) * 1711 in Bohnhorst
+ 07.05.1786 in Bohnhorst

Kinder (children)

♂ **Johann Hinrich RODENBERG** * 1770 in Bohnhorst, + 1818 in Bohnhorst
♂ **Johann Rolf RODENBERG** * 1772 in Bohnhorst, + 1832 in Bohnhorst
♀ **Ilse Maria RODENBERG** * 1774 in Bohnhorst, + 1776 in Bohnhorst
♀ **Ilse Maria RODENBERG** * 1777 in Bohnhorst, + 1844 in Lavelstloh
♂ **Johann Dieterich RODENBERG** * 1780 in Bohnhorst, + 1808 in Lavelstloh
♂ **Christian Ludwig RODENBERG** * 1783 in Bohnhorst
♂ **Johann Friederich Wilhelm Conrad RODENBERG** * 1787 in Bohnhorst, + 1796 in Bohnhorst
♂ **Johann Cordt RODENBERG** * 1789 in Bohnhorst, + 1808 in Bohnhorst

Geschwister (siblings)

♂ **Johann Hinrich RODENBERG** * 1735 in Bohnhorst, + 1751 in Bohnhorst
♀ **Ilse Marie RODENBERG** * 1738 in Bohnhorst
totgeborenes Kind RODENBERG * 1740 in Bohnhorst, + 1740
♀ **Catharina Margaretha RODENBERG** * 1744 in Bohnhorst
♀ **Marie Elisabeth RODENBERG** * 1746 in Bohnhorst, + 1758 in Bohnhorst
♀ **Catharina Ilse RODENBERG** * 1748 in Bohnhorst, + 1753 in Bohnhorst
♂ **Johann Rolf RODENBERG** * 1752 in Bohnhorst, + 1758 in Bohnhorst

The Rodenberg Family