



Descendants of the family Bader from Jettenburg in front of the city hall in Kusterdingen with the raven, the city coat of arm in the middle from left to right:

Mayor Jürgen Soltau, Hans Kern, Melanie Jay, Nathan, Jay, Keith Jay with Zachary and Ruediger Kemmler

Genealogy - Melanie Jay a descendant of the Jettenburger family Bader visited with her husband and the two sons the homeland of her ancestors.

“As on a trip through the time”

Kusterdingen-Jettenburg

Melany Jay titled her visit on the Haerten as “very emotional”. She is staying in the area with her family for a few days to get to know more about her ancestor, Mathias Bader, from Jettenburg. He emigrated in 1752 as one of the first ones from Jettenburg. The 42-year-old is currently living in Bahrain where her husband is stationed working for the US Navy. When she was asked what she does like most in Germany, she answered “the weather”. She loves it when it’s colder. But she likes as well the little villages and the mountains. Her 14-year-old son Nathan was heavily impressed by the “cool architecture”. “I have the impression I’m on a journey within the time” his mother said. Visiting the church in Jettenburg she felt as an embracement.

On Sunday, they will move on to Garmisch during their two-week vacation in Germany. The family would like to live in Germany, if her husband Keith would obtain a position in Stuttgart. 20 years ago, they lived 4 years in Spain and since then they enjoy Europe. “We didn’t want to return”. The ancestors of her husband were from Norway and she will start research there for family relationships as well.

Participation in the DNA project

Ruediger Kemmler, who is living in Munich but was born in Wankheim and Hans Kern, President of the Historical Society are supporting since a number of years the descendants of the emigrants to find the roots of their ancestors.

The shepherd, Mathias Bader, emigrated in 1752 with his wife and five children to Pennsylvania. There the name changed from "Bader" to "Border" respectively to "Borders", the maiden name of Melanie Jay. She is a descendant of the youngest child, Michael Bader, who settled in Augusta, GA.

Ten years ago, Melanie Jays cousins, the American Billy Borders and his three sons were visiting Jettenburg on the track of their ancestors. Now also the cousin wanted to know more about the roots of the family abroad.

"The people are very friendly" she noticed. A highlight of her trip was also the visit of the farm museum in Jettenburg including the wine tasting there.

The ancestors are extremely well researched and documented in a book" Kemmler said. It exists even a DNA-project where the descendants can confirm that they are part of the descendant tree. Also, Melanie intends to participate in the future.

Searching for the descendants of the emigrants of his Kemmer line, Kemmler has recorded all the emigrants of the Haerten including their children over the past years. About a quarter, he could find. The majority of them were coming from Kusterdingen and Maehringen. The family names are predominantly Kemmler, Grauer, Kuttler, Mayer und Walker. (GEA)