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## The pharmacy in Gersfeld/Rhoen and Veit Jakob Metz (1792–1866)

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A “Privileg” for a pharmacy in Gersfeld (Rhoen) was issued October 26, 1788 by the ruler of Gersfeld, the *Reichsfreiherr* Amand von Ebersberg (1747–1803), to Peter Franz Wilhelm Feuchter (1766–1835). Feuchter was not only a dedicated pharmacist but also scholarly active both by publishing and by serving on various journal editorial boards. Vitus Jacobus Metz (1792–1866) was accepted 1808 as an apprentice in the pharmacy and later enjoyed private lessons from Feuchter (until around 1813, when he gave up the study of pharmacy to pursue medical studies in Würzburg). This major decision was possibly influenced by Metz experiencing the outcome of a dispute between pharmacist Feuchter and the physician Andreas Laubreis (\*1778), dispute with an outcome favoring the physician. As a physician Metz great achievement was to establish 1830 the *Mariannen-Institut*, the lying-in asylum in Aachen, Bendelstrasse, the first such institution in Germany. How revolutionary and way ahead of its time the *Mariannen-Institut* really was can only be understood considering that it took over half a century until a similar institution, the second one in Germany, opened in Düsseldorf. With this short contribution we attempt to shed some light on the life and family of Veit Jakob Metz from Römershag (Bad Brückenau) and on the Gersfeld pharmacy, the place that played such a major role in shaping his personality.

### 1. Introduction

Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century attempts were made by the ruler of Gersfeld in the Rhoen (Fig. 1), then the *Reichsfreiherr* (baron) Amand von Ebersberg (1747–1803), to establish a porcelain manufacture. Around the same time, a pharmacy was deemed necessary and a “Privileg” for a pharmacy was issued October 26, 1788 to Peter Franz Wilhelm Feuchter (1766–1835) of Oggersheim (in the vicinity of Ludwigshafen on the Rhine). On July 21<sup>st</sup> 1803, the countess (*Gräfin*) Louise von Froberg (Montjoye) expanded the “Privileg” to Feuchter’s descendants (Fig. 2). Marie Louise born Freyin von Ebersberg was Amand’s only child to whom he transferred the Gersfeld property; she had married 1785 the French count of Montjoye whose name then became Froberg (Kramm 1938; Maass 2009). While the attempts at porcelain production went nowhere, the pharmacy in Gersfeld turned out to be quite successful and is still in existence nowadays, some 220 years later.



Fig. 1: Market square in Gersfeld (Rhoen) (most likely in the early 1920s). Postcard (Verlag Louis Schuessler, Gersfeld) from the private collection of the author.

### 2. Early history of the pharmacy

The first pharmacist in Gersfeld was also an active scholar both by publishing and by serving on the Editorial Board of the *Archiv fuer die gesammte Naturlehre* and *Archiv fuer Chemie und Meteorologie* (with Karl Wilhelm Gottlob Kastner (1783–1857) as Editor in Chief) (Feuchter 1829; 1831a, b). Peter Feuchter was also a teacher: Vitus Jacobus (Veit Jakob) Metz (1792–1866) joined 1808 in the pharmacy as an apprentice and became subsequently Feuchter’s private pupil until around 1813 when he gave up the study of pharmacy to pursue medical studies in Würzburg. This major decision was possibly influenced by Metz experiencing the dispute between pharmacist Feuchter and the physician Andreas Laubreis (\*1778), an episode well described by Gottfried Rehm (Rehm 1999). In brief, during the 1808 smallpox vaccination campaign in Gersfeld Dr. Laubreis delegated the vaccination of children to the local pharmacist, who dully performed the task. Dr. Laubreis was however admonished by the authority (*Regierung*) for delegating a medical tasks to a pharmacist. Since Feuchter wanted to pursue this activity Dr. Laubreis asked the *Regierung* to interdict further vaccinations by Feuchter. The authority issued the interdiction despite protests both by Feuchter and other local dignitaries. The episode illustrates the elevated authority position of physicians *versus* pharmacists and might have contributed to Metz decision to study medicine.

Peter Feuchter passed away 1835 upon which his son Joseph (born 1795 in Gersfeld) took over the business (Martius 1838). Three years later (August 10<sup>th</sup> 1838), however, the passing of Joseph Feuchter, pharmacist in Gersfeld was announced in an ad (*Intelligenzblatt von Unterfranken und Aschaffenburg des Königreichs Bayern*) by the mourning widow (Katharina born Lang) and Joseph’s siblings Sophie, Heinrich, Helene and Eleonore (Traueranzeige 1838).

Upon Joseph’s death, his brother, Heinrich Feuchter, took over (October, 1838) and was listed in the local official directory (*Amts-Handbuch für den Kreis Unterfranken und Aschaffenburg*)



Fig. 2: Left: *Reichsfreiherr* Amand von Ebersberg (1747–1803) issued October 26, 1788 a “Privileg” for the operation of a pharmacy to Peter Feuchter (1766–1835) of Oggersheim. On July 21<sup>st</sup> 1803, the countess Louise von Froberg expanded the “Privileg” to Feuchter’s descendants. Right: Bernhard Rust (1834–1870) from Arnstein received from the King of Bavaria the permission (*Konzession*) to operate the Gersfeld pharmacy. Copies kindly provided by the Marbaise family.

as the new owner and pharmacist, with a *Herr* Alexander Sippel as *Provisor* (pharmacist temporarily in charge) (Taubald 1840). Pharmacist Sippel became later *Hofapotheker* (pharmacist appointed to the court) in Würzburg, owning the pharmacy *Zum Löwen* situated on the market square (*Am Marktplatz*) (Boll 1852). From February 1839 until April 1840 a pharmacy apprentice from Fulda (Gustav Neumann; later pharmacist in Großostheim) trained in the Gersfeld pharmacy under the supervision of Heinrich Feuchter, who issued him the required recommendation letters (Stoll 2000). Heinrich Feuchter owned and operated the pharmacy until 1854.

### 3. Veit Jakob Metz (1792–1866, Fig. 3)

Metz was born January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1792 in Römershag, nowadays part of the city of Bad Brückenau. His parents were Dr. Eduard Balthasar (Baltzer) Metz, a military physician and Margaretha Will. Both names, Metz and Will are common in the area and indeed a number of – most likely – related physicians and surgeons can be found such as the *chirurgus* Johann Adam Metz (1737–1811), son of Michael Metz from Hausen and Gertrude Will from Oberbach (1746–1796) (Kömpel 2009).

Our Dr. Metz married 1822 in Aachen Anna Catharina Dubuse (1797–1879) and the couple had five children. Daughter Fanny Bernhardina (1825–1853) married Johann ter Meer (1820–1853) a bookseller in Krefeld, son of Abraham ter Meer (1782–1850) and brother of Hermann (1813–1887). Hermann was the father of the



Fig. 3: Veit Jakob Metz (1792–1866) of Römershag (nowadays part of the city of Bad Brückenau). Between 1806 and 1813 Metz trained in Gersfeld under the guidance of the local pharmacist Peter Feuchter. Photo reproduced from Beaucamp (1929) with kind permission of Margarethe Dietzel, Stadtarchiv Aachen (year and photographer unknown).

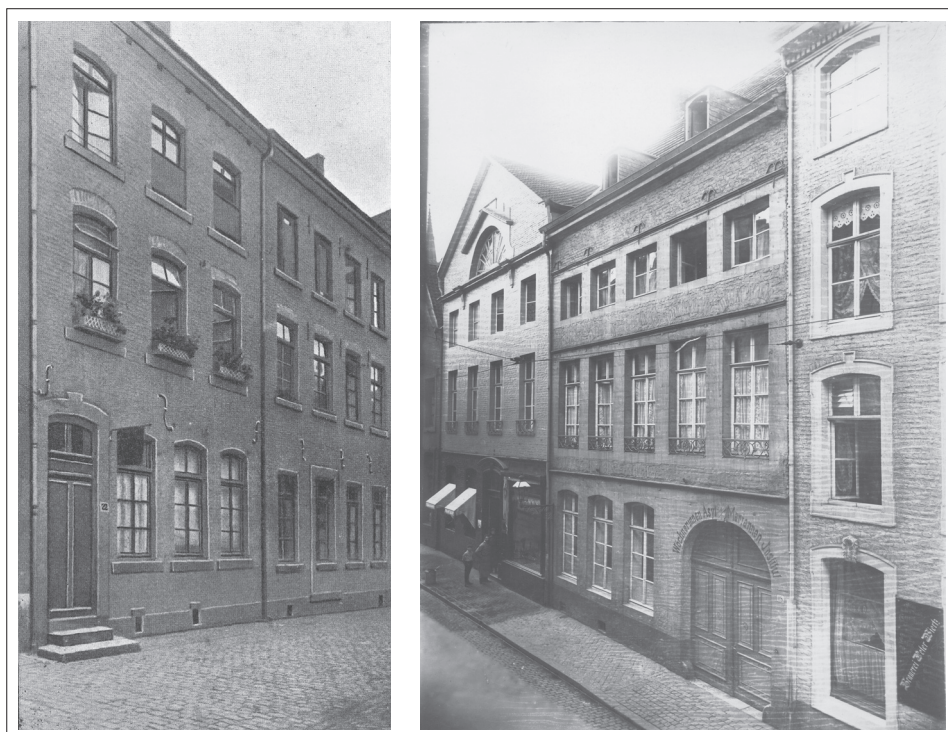


Fig. 4: Metz great achievement was to have established 1830 the *Mariannen-Institut*, the lying-in asylum in Aachen, the first such institution in Germany. Photos provided by and reproduced with kind permission of Margarethe Dietzel, Stadtarchiv Aachen (photographer unknown).

chemist Edmund ter Meer (1852–1931), founder of the chemical company Teerfarbenfabrik Dr. E. ter Meer & Cie in Uerdingen, which in 1925 became part of IG-Farben.

Daughter Wilhelmina (\*1832) married Peter Konrad Pastor (1822–1874), owner of a spinning mill in Weißenmühle, Aachen.

After 1806–1813 when he trained to become a pharmacist under the guidance of Feuchter, Metz pursued a medical career in Würzburg. His medical training was interrupted by the Napoleonic wars during which he served in the Prussian army; after that he returned to Würzburg and completed his studies 1817. In 1819 he became *chirurgus (Stadtwundtzt)* in Aachen, in 1823 was promoted to *Oberwundtztzt*. 1828 he received the Doctoral Degree from the University of Giessen for the thesis titled “*De hysteralgiae speciebue eorumque diagnosi*” (von Winkel 1904). His great achievement is to have established 1830 the *Mariannen-Institut*, the lying-in asylum in Aachen, Bendelstrasse, the first such institution in Germany (Metz 1838, 1847, Fig. 4). The institution was first located in the Bendelstrasse 20-22 (Fig. 4, left) and moved 1897 into the much larger premisses at Jakobstrasse 18 (previously the residence of the beer brewer Balthasar Quadflieg (1766–1844) and his spouse Anna Maria Chorus, Fig. 4, right). While the original building in the Bendel street was destroyed, the facade of the Jakob street location still exists. For more than over 30 years, Dr. Eugène Beaucamp (1859-1936) was Director of the Mariannen Institute.

How revolutionary and way ahead of its time the *Mariannen-Institut* really was (named after HRH Princess Marianne of Prussia, 1785-1846) can only be understood considering that it took over half a century until a similar institution, the second one in Germany, opened in Düsseldorf in 1882 under the leadership of Dr. Anton Hucklenbroich (1846-1907, Hucklenbroich 1898).

#### 4. Pharmacy owners in Gersfeld after Heinrich Feuchter

*Joseph Albrecht*: A pharmacist with that name was owner from 1854 to 1859 but little else is known about him (Riegel 1859). He is possibly J. Carl Albrecht, owner of a pharmacy in Dinkelsbühl around 1870.

*Carl Friedrich von Staudt* (Ungelstetten 1829 – Berlin 1890) was the son of a Bavarian civil servant (*Revierförster*). He owned the pharmacy from 1859 to 1863. His daughter Alma was born 1862 in Gersfeld.

*Franz Bernhard Rust*: The next owner (from 1863 to 1870) was Franz Bernhard Rust (1834–1870) from Arnstein. He received from the King of Bavaria the permission (Konzession) to operate a pharmacy (Fig. 2). Rust married 1863 in Zwingenberg (Hesse) Amalie Schnatz (1841–1914). The Schnatzs were a large and prominent family in the region: Johann Schnatz (\*1799) studied law in Giessen and Heidelberg and was for a number of years *Hof-Gerichts Sekretariats Accessist* (civil servant at court of law) in Zwingenberg while another Schnatz was pharmacist in the closeby Biblis.

In addition to the daily duties of a pharmacist Rust was involved in the production of *Senfpapier* (mustard plaster), a product developed in France by Jean Paul Rigollot (1810-1873)- that was very much *en vogue* in those days (Fig. 5). Our Bernhard Rust is however not to be mistaken for the inventor of the *Rust'sche Probe*, a test used to differentiate varieties of creosote (coal-oil vs. beechwood derived), developed around the same time by pharmacist Hermann Rust (Peltz 1868).

The health of pharmacist Rust was however not the best so (unsuccessful) attempts were made at selling the pharmacy. He passed away in 1870 (at the early age of 37). The remains of pharmacist Rust, as well as those of his wife Amalie, daughter Emma and grand-daughter Erna, are buried in Gersfeld.

*Georg Meyer*: After the death of Rust in 1870 until 1894, when a Georg Meyer purchased the pharmacy from the widow, a series of care-takers (administrators) were employed (Table).

Among the administrators that managed the pharmacy, Alexander Koebrich (1845–1918) was the first pharmacist in Gersfeld with a doctoral degree (conferred by the University of Marburg 1866 for a thesis titled *Untersuchungen über die Producte der Einwirkung von schmelzendem Chlorzink auf Kampher*). After the time in Gersfeld Koebrich returned to his native Steinbach-Hallenberg in Thuringia where he took over his father's pharmacy (Wahl 2008).

*Wilhelm Bansbach*: Georg Meyer owned the pharmacy for only five years until 1899 when Wilhelm Bansbach (\*1870) from Buchen/Baden purchased it. Bansbach held the pharmacy until 1907 when he moved on and bought 1912 the pharmacy in Osthofen (Worms). *Prosper Marbaise* (1862–1965) (Fig. 6) from Herzogenrath became 1907 the new owner of the Gersfeld pharmacy then in the Schloss-Straße; in the 1930s the pharmacy was moved to a

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**Nr. 11.      Wien, den 1. Juni 1868.      6. Jahrgang.**

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**Inhalt:** Allgemeine pharmaceutische Angelegenheiten. — Chemie und Pharmazie. Ueber die Rolle, welche die Kreide bei der Buttersäure- und Milchsäure-Gährung spielt, und über die darin befindlichen, noch lebendigen Organismen. Von A. Béchamp. — Ueber die Fabrication des Kelpes und über ein neues Verfahren zur Gewinnung des Broms und Jods, sowie zur quantitativen Bestimmung des Jods. Von E. Morlé. — Einige Angaben über das Gussakharin. — Naturgeschichte und Pharmakognosie. Tamping-Jalapa. Von Ch. Umney. — Blasensteine. — Gallspiegel. — Ein Beitrag zur Darwin'schen Theorie. — Therapeutische Notizen. Ueber Zahnreinigungsmittel. Von Dr. C. E. Francis. — Ueber die Resorptionsfähigkeit der Haut für Arzneimittel. — Von Dr. Roussin. — Fall einer Vergiftung mit Labrasäure. — Herbs Cotyledosis gegen Epilepsie. — Notizen. — Veränderungen in der k. k. Militär-Medikamenten-Branche. — Mitglieder, welche dem Vereine seit Neujahr 1868 beigetreten sind. — Offene Korrespondenz. — Anzeigen.

MARQUE DE FABRIQUE      MARQUE DE FABRIQUE  
DÉPOSÉE      DÉPOSÉE

**MOUTARDE**  
**EN FEUILLES**  
POUR SINAPISMES  
DE  
**RIGOLLOT**  
LAURÉAT DE L'ÉCOLE DE PHARMACIE DE PARIS

**ADOPTÉE PAR LES HOPITAUX DE PARIS,**  
Par les Ambulances et Hôpitaux militaires,  
Par les Marines Française et Anglaise, etc.

MANIÈRE D'APPLIQUER LE SINAPISME  
Faire baigner la feuille dans l'eau pendant  
quelques secondes ; la poser toute mouillée sur la  
peau, et la fixer ensuite avec un mouchoir ou une  
bande de linge.

*Rigolot*      DÉPÔTS  
POUR LA VENTE EN GROS  
Paris, 13, Rue Pavée, Paris  
POUR LE DÉTAIL  
DANS TOUTES LES PHARMACIES DU MONDE ENTIER.

X-2

Senfpapier. Charta sinapinata.

Aus der Fabrik des Unterzeichneten  
ist dieses neue und ausgezeichnet wirkende  
Präparat, das sich der Anerkennung aller  
Aerzte, die es verordnet, erfreut, zu be-  
ziehen:

1 Büchse mit 12 Blatt 10 Sg. ; 12 Büchsen 3 Thl. 15 Sg.  
Wiederverkäufer erhalten Rabatt.  
Gersfeld a. d. Rhoen.  
**B. Rust.**

Fig. 5: Left: Advertisement in the Journal of the Austrian Pharmacists-Association from June 1868 where Rust is offering for sale mustard plaster (*Senfpapier*) from his own factory (*Aus der Fabrik des Unterzeichneten*), a new and excellently acting product, enjoying the recognition of all prescribing physicians. Right: The original product marketed by Rigolot (from the private collection of the author).

new location in the Peter-Seifert-Straße (Maass 2009, Fig. 7. The pharmacy in Gersfeld is now for over a century in possession of the Marbaise family: *Carl Marbaise* took over in 1954, *Jochen Marbaise* in 1969 and the present owner, grand-grand-son of Prosper, *Maurice Marbaise* in 2003.

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Fig. 6: Prosper Marbaise (1862–1965) from Herzogenrath became in 1907 the new owner of the Gersfeld pharmacy then in the Schloss-Straße. The pharmacy in Gersfeld is since then in possession of the Marbaise family; Prosper Marbaise received 1961 the Federal Cross of Merit (*Bundesverdienstkreuz*). The photograph (left) showing Landrat Dr. Stieler congratulating the pharmacist (right) was published on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1961 in the *Pharmazeutische Zeitung* (PZ 108; 21). Reproduced with kind permission of the Govi Verlag, Gina Knese, Eschborn. Right: Prosper Marbaise in his pharmacy. Undated photograph kindly provided by the Marbaise family.



Fig. 7: Left: The Gersfeld pharmacy in the Schlossstraße, Gersfeld at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From Maass H (2009) *Schloss-Straße*. In: *Gersfeld gestern und heute*. Imhof Verlag, Petersberg. Reproduced with kind permission of Michael Imhof and Anja Schneidenbach, September 2015. Right: In the 1930s the pharmacy was moved to a new location in the Peter-Seifert-Straße. Undated photograph kindly provided by the Marbaise family.

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Table: Administrators of the Rust Pharmacy from 1880-1894

<b>Heinrich Adolph Ripke</b>	1871	1872
<b>Dr Alexander Köbrich</b> *1845-1918	1872	1873 → Pharmacy owner in Steinbach-Hallenberg in Thuringia
<b>H G A Marks</b>	1873	1874
<b>C L Julius Wegner</b>	1874	1875
<b>Johann Fischer</b>	1875 January	1875
<b>Friedrich Walther</b> from Giessen	1875 August	
<b>Dietsch</b>	1877	
<b>Iwan Doblów</b> *1852 in Gross Vielen/ Friedland	1880	? → Pharmacy owner in Thorn 1893-1908

Owner: Widow Amalie Rust born Schnatz (1841-1919)  
The list is most likely incomplete.

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