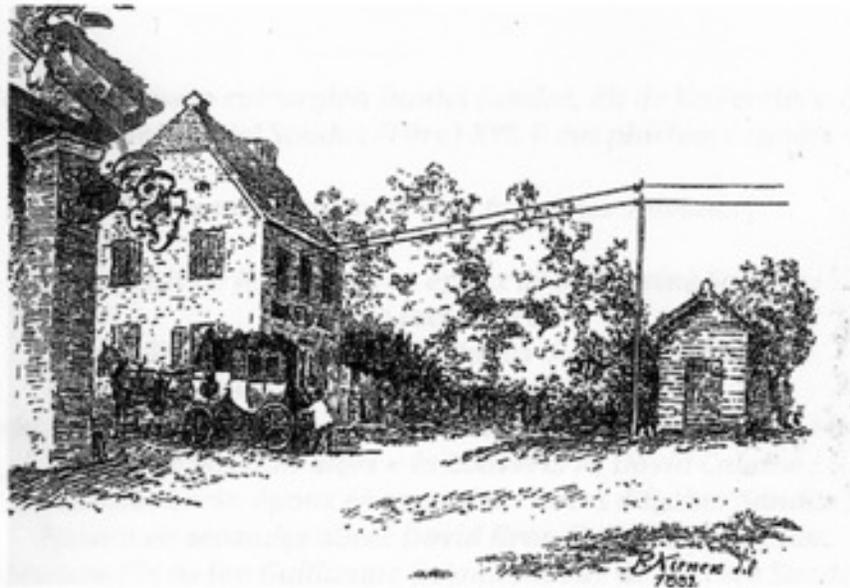


## *History of La Licorne at La Ferrière*

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*The ethnology of the name of the commune of La Ferrière seems to be related to the former iron mining operations. It was especially in the 16th century that settlers from the Seigneurie of Valangin came to settle in the region.*



*Facade of the "Logis de la Licorne" at La Ferrière*

***The surgeon, doctor Daniel Sandoz of La Ferrière  
Founder of La Licorne (the Unicorn)***

***Born around 1650, the surgeon Daniel Sandoz, known as 'of La Ferriere'.***

***Only son of Marshal Daniel Sandoz (Father) XVI, he had several sisters.***

***The marshal's sons-in-law were the following!***

***Abram, son of the late Jean Droz husband of Madeleine Sandoz;***

***Abram Jacot-Parel;***

***Jacob Sémon (d) of Sonvilier, husband of Suzanne Sandoz;***

***Abraham Ducommunus called Véron;***

***Abram Borle, notary of Renan, husband of Jeanne Sandoz;***

***widow from the beginning of the year 1691, she lived at that time "ès Converts";***

***David Calame;***

***Guillaume Borle, first husband of Esther Sandoz;***

***Married in second marriage with David Brandt, notary in Renan.***

***Abraham, son of the late Guillaume Calame, husband of Lucrece Sandoz;***

***The spouses lived on the Crêt de la Ferriere, the house called 'on the planes'.***

***The mother of the surgeon, Marie-Madeleine, known as Marie Sandoz, née Robert.***

***XVIe. XVIIe century, whose widowhood lasted for years. (?)***

***Sandoz married Madeleine Robert, daughter of Abram Robert and Eve Ducommun.***

***The family of Madeleine Robert was related to the notary Abraham Robert-Nicoud,***

***Eve Robert, the elder sister of Madeleine Robert, wife of surgeon Sandoz, married Pierre Nicolet of La Sagne, La Chaux-de-Fonds and La Ferriere, a surgeon and councilor in La Sagne.***



1896-1900

## *When did surgeon Daniel Sandoz marry?*

*In the absence of precise information, they may conclude that Daniel Sandoz and Madeleine Robert celebrated their marriage at the end of 1679 or the beginning of 1680. Our surgeon was approaching his thirties.*

*Where did the surgeon Daniel Sandoz live?*

*On September 22, 1686, Sandoz and his mother bought "jointly" from Jonathan Robert, a parishioner of Saint-Imier and his wife Marie Droz. A year later, on March 5, 1687, the widow Marie-Madeleine Sandoz leased her son Daniel the property under the Crêt de la Ferriere (La Licorne).*

*It was in this dwelling acquired in 1686 from Jonathan Robert and Marie née Droz, that Daniel Sandoz transformed into the Unicorn at La Ferrière. Above the main door of this inn, there is still today a cartridge bearing the 1688 vintage, plus a heart flanked by two stars and bearing the initials DS (Daniel Sandoz) and MR (Madeleine Robert, his wife). Two buttresses frame this vast and solid building. On the first floor, the beautiful row of six symmetrical windows gives this dwelling a stamp of grandeur. The back of the house has the appearance of a great age. The transformations which Sandoz undertook in the year 1688 seems to have left it intact.*



*about Year 1944*



*Year 2000*



*Cartouche of the Daniel Sandoz & Madeleine Robert family  
Renovated in 2001*

## *The sign of Logis de la Licorne*

*The documents call the unique hostel of La Ferriere of yore the "Logis" or "the sign" of the Unicorn. What meaning did this sign have? It was borrowed from both medicine and hospitality, for the "master of the house" was a surgeon and a guest.*



*Former sign of the Logis de la Licorne  
(Horn missing, early 1900)*



*Ensign restored in 1989  
(Received horn in March 2002)  
By Sébastien Hager*

*The word Unicorn is a derivation of the Latin 'uni cornus' (one horn). It is used to name a fabulous animal, symbol of virginity and religion, mentioned by the Greek and Roman authors as originating in India. According to legend, he had the form of a donkey or a horse, with a head surmounted by a single long and sharp horn. According to tradition, this animal had white body, red head, blue eyes and was remarkable for its strength, agility and pride.*

*Daniel Sandoz, pioneer of medicine and scientific surgeon  
in the Old Bishopric of Basel and the Neuchâtel Mountains*

### *The masters Daniel Sandoz*

*Daniel Sandoz's father was a marshal. Now we know from the archival documents of the marshals of the seventeenth and seventeenth centuries that "doctors have horses and cattle". His father's profession may have directed Daniel Sandoz towards the medical career. But there is better – in the family archives of naturalist physicians Abraham III and Daniel Gagnebin, his brother of La Ferrière, descendants of Daniel Sandoz.*

## **THE BROTHERS GAGNEBIN DOCTOR, HERBORIST**



DANIEL  
1709 -1781



ABRAHAM  
1707-1800

*One finds a handwritten volume. The first parts of the volume, comprising 68 pages, bear the following title at the head of the first page:*

*Surgical lessons  
Written and dictated by Noble François Mestrezat,  
Doctor of the city and Canton of Bern, to me.  
Pierre Droz-dit-Busset. This first April 1644.*

*The second part of the volume begins at the other end of the manuscript. It contains 44 pages and carries on the front page this header, in the hand of Daniel Sandoz which is familiar to me:*

*This (present) book belongs to me Daniel Sandoz,  
That my uncle Pierre Droz-dit-Busset presented to me on 12 March 1674.*

*Pierre Droz-dit-Busset the Elder was the master and good counselor of his nephew, Daniel Sandoz, who followed in his footsteps and surpassed him as a practitioner. A very interesting part of the manuscript volume deals with the waters that Sandoz distilled as remedies in the company of his uncle.*

*"The public," says Voltaire, "was astonished to see a chemistry in which neither the great work nor the art of prolonging life beyond the bounds of nature was sought."*

## *The scientific spirit of Daniel Sandoz*

*Sandoz was imbued with a scientific mind. The manuscript volume and his "book of reason" are proof of this. The volume contains several sentences written by his hand that highlight his scientific aspirations. Sentence No. 2 is again worded as follows:*

*It is nothing else to practice except the theoretical effect. (?)*

*But the reverse is also true. Thus he writes (Sentence No. 26):*

*Science without experience  
Does not bring great assurance.*

*According to the disease.*

*At that time, there were five categories of practitioners. At the bottom of the medical ladder was the surgeon, who was only a barber; he generally operated a bathing establishment and also worked as a wigmaker. His field was low surgery. He was strictly forbidden to encroach on other fields of medical activity.*

*The surgeon proper occupied the next higher degree. In the closed medical corporations, only external interventions were reserved for him. Then came operator. He was a surgeon who, in addition to his practical apprenticeship in surgery at a master's, had done an internship in hospitals under the direction of medical graduates of medical schools. He was the man of high surgery,*

### *Sandoz is called "Operator Surgeon"*

*In the countryside especially, the surgeon was also a doctor, in other words, he did external interventions and practiced medicine by ordering and administering medications and diets. Sandoz was one of them. The documents call him sometimes a surgeon doctor, sometimes a doctor surgeon.*

### *Daniel Sandoz the practitioner*

*The book of reason of Sandoz and Gagnebin, his son-in-law, proves how numerous and extensive their clientele was. Their radius of medical action extended as far as Franches Montagnes, Tramelan, via Bienne and La Neuveville on the one hand, and Peseux on the other.*

*One day, he performed an operation of the lithotomy, another, helped by his two colleagues Jean-Jacques Robert and Daniel Tissot-Vougueux, he amputated the right arm of a cousin.*

***D. Sandoz and A Gagnebin II organized a clinic in La Ferrière at the Logis de la Licorne, in which they hospitalized patients. At the Licorne, Daniel Sandoz trained apprentice surgeons and in particular his future son-in-law and successor Abraham Gagnebin II.***

***Daniel Sandoz deployed as a farmer, horticulturist, arborist and breeder. In his manuscript volume on medicine and surgery, he devoted a page to the horse. The breeders of the Haut Jura listened to the teachings of this advised counselor.***

***Sandoz was the host of the Unicorn. He drank wine, beer, and cherry-water until sweep-time; he sold bread, cheese, salt, nets for lace-makers, candles, etc. The Unicorn was the supply store for part of the populations of Haut-Erguel and the Franches Montagnes.***

***His wife Madeleine Sandoz, born Robert, was a mistress lady, who seconded the host and surgeon of the Unicorn. Widowed in 1719, she remarried in a second marriage with David Sagne, June 20, 173?***

### ***The surgeon Abraham Gagnebin II and the Unicorn***



Abraham Gagnebin le père.  
1682-1749.  
de Nodding.

***Abraham Gagnebin II***



La maison du chirurgien Gagnebin, à Renan.

***Gagnebin House in Renan***

***Abraham Gagnebin II, born on November 6, 1682 in Renan, was the only one who perpetuated the male progeny of surgeon Abraham Gagnebin I, himself descended from the surgeon Claude Gagnebin, born in Renan (1610-1654). Abraham Gagnebin I born in Renan 1641, surgeon operator, went to Neuchâtel but returned to Renan in 1679. Appointed elder of the Church in Renan in 1680 and then settled down to La Ferrière where he died in 1699. His son was barely 17 years. At that time, young people began their career as surgeons; sometimes 15 or 16 years. It is very probable that Abraham was the first teacher of his son's learning.***

*One fact is certain: from 1699 to 1719, Abraham was intimately associated with the surgeon Daniel Sandoz. He married daughter Anne-Marie called Marie Sandoz (1683-1760) in second marriage. They had twelve children.*

*Gagnebin was the right arm of Sandoz, his collaborator in everything and every circumstance, and finally his spiritual heir. He succeeded him as owner of the Unicorn. Five years before his death, he perpetuated the tradition inaugurated by his father-in-law Daniel Sandoz.*

*He died in 1749, and was buried in the temple at Renan.*



*Abraham III Gagnebin à l'âge de 18 ans.*

Abraham Gagnebin III at age 18



*Abraham Gagnebin.*

Abraham III Gagnebin herb-gathering



Abraham Gagnebin III  
1707-1800



Abraham's Compass  
Jurassic Museum



Daniel Gagnebin  
1709 -1781

## *Abraham Gagnebin III and the Unicorn*

*Abraham Gagnebin III is the most famous of the Gagnebin; his marriage with Esther Marchant of Sonvilier had six children. During family sharing to the children of Abraham Gagnebin II, the Licorne passed to the doctor surgeon Abraham Gagnebin III (20.08.1707- 23.04.1800). Speaking of Abraham III in his "Journey to Western Switzerland" (1787), Sinner writes on this subject:*

*"... content to study nature without aspiring to the reputation of an author, M. Gagnebin III confined himself to collecting a collection of plants and minerals which he filled his house to the attic, he unveiled a sea star discovered at La Ferrière in 1733, it is the most precious piece, it is absolutely unique. He went to live with his son-in-law in a neighboring house, which serves as an inn. "*



Pavilion next to the Logis de la Licorne  
Gagnebin House



The Pavilion (2001)  
Belonging to the Weber Family  
descended from the brothers Gagnebin

*Gagnebin III lived, for a time, in the building called the Pavilion or the Store which his father Abraham II and Daniel Sandoz built in the year 1715. But he spent a long time at the Unicorn.*



J-J Rousseau herb-hunting



## *Rousseau at La Ferrière*

*From 16 to 26 June 1765, Jean-Jacques Rousseau came to spend a few days at La Ferrière where Abraham Gagnebin III was his botanical advisor. They are said to have planted the linden trees which are now the pride of the village and which left four of their falling leaves in its coat of arms. The tower is that of the Erguel, who belonged to the hospice of La Ferriere; the chief shower of the Erguel mountains and the sun, the magnificences of the country.*

*Abraham III also met Jean-Antoine d'Yvernois, a physician and naturalist, who wrote a methodical catalog of plants that naturally grow in the sovereignty of Neuchâtel and Valangin. He walked with Abraham Gagnebin, tweezers and magnifying glasses in his hand is so inexhaustible on botanical science that Rousseau nicknamed him "Lyricist".*

### *Testimony of Thomas Blaikie (1750-1838)*

*This Scottish botanist, the future gardener of the Comte d'Artois and the Duke of Orléans, who gave his name to the creation of the famous gardens of Bagatelle and Parc Monceau, explored the Jura in 1775 as part of a long journey to Switzerland . He was instructed by two English scholars to collect alpine plants. He arrived in the principality in August, after having stopped at La Ferriere, where he visited Abraham Gagnebin III, whose curiosity he admired. The latter accompanied him in his botanical excursions around La Ferrière and around Tête de Ran. August 11, wandering in the mountain, between Tête de Ran and La Tourne, the two scholars desperately sought an inn for restauration: "At about eight o'clock, however, tired and anxious, they heard voices which led them to a small farm occupied by people with their livestock. They were restored with milk and cheese, alone which these mountaineers could procure for them, with a good bed on the hay. The next day Gagnebin returned to La Ferriere, and Blaikie continued on his way alone towards the Pays de Vaud through the ridges of the Jura.*



Memorial stone of the Gagnebin brothers installed on the facade of the pavilion.

### **Pierre Jaquet-Droz and his time**

**Pierre Jaquet-Droz was born on 27 July 1721 at La Chaux-de-Fonds, of Le Locle origin. He was the friend of the brothers Gagnebin de la Ferriere.**

**Daniel Gagnebin was a physician at La Ferriere; their friendship with Pierre Jaquet-Droz increased even more when Daniel Gagnebin, the physicist, went to live in La Chaux-de-Fonds to practice his art as a surgeon. He was fond of physics, chemistry and mechanics, the observations on magnets must have particularly interested Pierre Jaquet-Droz, who later profited by their peculiarities in some of the automata.**

**Daniel had talents for experimental physics and mechanics. (He invented a machine capable of stitching, with the greatest precision, the cylinders or rolls necessary for pendulums and chimes.)**

**Speaking of La Ferriere, wishing to bring out the ingenuity of its inhabitants, Osterwald writes: "There is also a four-headed hammer working by the aid of a horse which revolves around a pivot placed vertically and which stops when his master rings on a bell. There is another at La Chaux D'Abel, some distance from La Ferriere, the plateau of which is a great circle of inclined planks, turns under a horse which pushes it back, always remaining in the same place with his crib. "**

### **The Cellier and the Unicorn**

**The son-in-law of Abraham III, Jean-Henri Cellier, was originally from La Neuveville, and son of the minister Cellier, who was a pastor of the French church in Basel. As a young man he was called to the office of receiver of the Bureau of Tolls of La Ferriere, where he practiced the profession of watchmaker, after his marriage with Lydie Gagnebin, the daughter of Abraham III, simultaneously with his trade of host of the Unicorn, from 1766.**

**Becoming a widow (Cellier died on July 8, 1787, aged 43), forced into embarrassment with a family of five children, Lydie Cellier née Gagnebin sold most of his movable property by frank and public auctions, and finally the Logis de the Unicorn.**

### **The Calame, the Véron and the Unicorn**

**In 1797, the widow Cellier and her children sold the Unicorn to Abraham Calame of la Ferriere, a close relative of the Gagnebin, and then it came to Louis Ferdinand Véron of Saint-Imier, by testamentary disposition of Dame Esther, widow of Abraham Calame, dated November 27, 1816. They were legally invested on January 30, 1827. Enriched in horology and trade, owners of several farms, the Vérons could not appreciate the past of the Unicorn at its true value. They soon sold it.**

## The Swiss-German owners

On the date of September 3, 1829, Louis Ferdinand Véron, the owner living in Saint-Imier, and his brother Louis Florian Véron Robert, also an owner, living in Dijon, sold to Jean-Mathias Von Kaenel, a baker, with joint and several bonds, merchant, both residing at La Ferriere,

"A property that the vendors own at La Ferrière consisting of a house operated as a hostel, plus a meadow and a garden. "

Registre Foncier  
2608 Courtelary

Messieurs,

En consultant vos archives je suppose que vous êtes en mesure de me fournir les renseignements suivants:

1° J'espère connaître la date où Christian ZEHRE, originaire de Niederstocken, devint acquéreur de l'Hôtel du Cheval Blanc à La Ferrière Immeuble 37

ainsi que la date où il remit cet Hôtel.

2° Christian Zehr s'est marié à Courtelary le 30 août 1856, avec Lisa Jeanrichard. Si vous connaissez la date de son arrivée à La Ferrière avec ses parents, ses frères et sœurs, venant de Niederstocken, vous seriez bien aimables de me l'indiquer aussi.

Je vous remercie à l'avance de vos renseignements, et vous prie d'agréer, Messieurs, mes salutations distinguées.

*Christian Zehr*

ad. ch. 1 : Brandt Ulysse tuteur des ses enfants et agissant en leur nom, soit Louise, Elmaire et Alice Brandt, Mathilde Witzig-Brandt ont vendu par voie d'adjudication publique le 12.06.1886 p.j. Vol.7/299

à: Christian Zehr, propriétaire, fabricant d'horlogerie à La Chaux-de-Fonds

l'immeuble de LA FERRIERE comprenant

- une auberge à l'enseigne de La Licorne avec droit loger, avec boulangerie et rural.

pour le prix de Fr.25'000.--

Christian Zehr, fils de Jean et de Marguerite née Streubhaar

a vendu cet immeuble (ensemble de plusieurs immeubles) le 19.08.1898 p.j. Vol. no 169

Prix: 30'500.--

ad ch. 2: veuillez vous adresser (mariage) à l'officier de l'Etat-Civil de et à Courtelary.

10 NOV. 1888  
Registre foncier  
2608 Courtelary

*10 -*

Act of sale of the building including hostel with the sign of the Licorne on 12.6.1886 Louise Von Kaenel, the daughter of the baker Von Kaenel, and her husband, Ulysse Brandt, succeeded their father and father-in-law as owners and innkeepers of the Unicorn.

On May 17, 1886, the spouses Brandt and Von Kaenel sold to Christian Zehr, owner and manufacturer of watchmaking, residing at La Chaux-de-Fonds, with the joint consent of Mr. Philippe-Edouard, ally of Zehr, watch maker, and Louis Arthur Sémon, visiting in watchmaking, both residing at La Ferrière. The act explicitly states that it is a dwelling-house "exploited as an inn with the right to lodge under the sign of the Unicorn. "



**Marriage of three couples of the Christian Zehr family,  
in front of the Logis de la Licorne about 1894)**

**On August 19, 1898, Christian Zehr, headmaster and owner of Niederstocken in the canton of Berne and his wife Lisa Jean-Richard, sold the Unicorn to Louis Heimann of Reichenbach, Frutigen district.**

**In the year 1903, on November 2, the Licorne at La Ferriere, Madeleine née Barben, mistress of the hotel, widow in first marriage with Louis Heimann, sold the Unicorn with bakery and rural plot belonging to the estate of Louis Heimann, as his living innkeeper, to Paul Bieri, son of butcher Bieri in La Chaux-de-Fonds.**

**A few years later, La Licorne passed into the hands of the baker Oscar Graber, who operated the old house of the Sandoz and Gagnebin under the sign of Cheval Blanc. He sawed off the frontal horn of the Unicorn.**

**This change was very regrettable; But it is to be hoped that the new owner, better inspired than his predecessor, will take over the sign of the Unicorn, thus continuing a tradition charged with history, a past that can only give glory to the venerable Logis de La Ferrière. "According to Marius Fallet"**



**1934 Photo – Ancient hostel of La Licorne  
Owner Oscar Graber**



**Cheval Blanc in the years 1968 Family Heinz Hager-Furer**



**Showroom and dining room at the back. Decorated for theater.  
At the Logis de La Licorne in 1989**

**On 1 May 1944, Erwin Hager and his wife Elise, born Gafner of Béatenberg, took over the operation of the Cheval Blanc as owner for bakery and rural hotel. They had four children, Heinz, Edith, B at, & Lorry.**

**On July 1, 1968 the son of the above, Heinz Hager and his wife Anna n e Furer, both of La Ferri re, succeeded their father and father-in-law as owners, innkeepers, grocer and baker. They had four children, B atrice, Marielle, Jean-Pierre & Anne Lise. After the death of Mr. Heinz Hager in June 1992, Mrs. Anna Furer sold the Hotel du Cheval Blanc to her son Jean-Pierre Hager.**



**Restaurant in 1984**

**July 13, 1992 Jean-Pierre Hager of La Ferrière and his wife Roswitha (née Jost) of Renan [Daughter of René Jost, Marshal of Renan & Maria (née Karner) of Austrian origin] succeeded their mother and mother-in-law as owner and innkeeper under the sign of Cheval Blanc. They have three children. (Sébastien, Christophe, Anthony).**

**In 1995, restoration of the old Cheval Blanc restaurant**





**Paneling and ceiling with deep box dating from (1600?)  
(Restoration in 1995 by J-P Hager tenant then owner)**



**April 2001 Renovation of the façade**

**In July 2001, Renovation of the old façade (plastered with lime).  
The family of JP Hager resumed the baptism name of the house "Logis de La  
Licorne "**

**Article published in the newspaper of the Impartial on August 21, 2001 :  
"La Ferrière finally regains his Unicorn"**



**After renovation in 2001 – Logis de la Licorne, and the Pavillon**



**Photo 11 March 2002**



**Bulls-Eye on the sides  
of the large entrance door**



**2004 Expansion of the Terrace**

2015 November Great work of the kitchen with new furniture,  
 There will be no more vegetable garden in the kitchen.  
 3 weeks of work and then a week of reinstatement.  
 2017 July 6 opening of the Wellness area.

*List of owners of the Logis de la Licorne or Cheval Blanc:*

?	Jonathan Robert and Marie née Droz
1686 22 September	Daniel Sandoz (1650-1719) Physician surgeon married Madeleine née Robert He appeared in 1675 at La Ferrière. Cartouche with the initials D.S. & M.R. (1688 renovation dates) of the house Auberge or Logis de la Licorne.
1714 29 January	Abraham II Gagnebin. Born on (06.11.1682-1749). (Gender of Daniel Sandoz) he married Anne-Marie née Sandoz (1683-1760).
1749	Abraham III Gagnebin. Born on (29.08.1707-23.04 1800) and Esher Marchand of Sonvilier
1766	Lydie Cellier Gagnebin, his daughter, and Jean-Henri Cellier
1797	Abraham Calame and Esther (parents of Gagnebin).
1816 on 27.11	Louis Ferdinand Véron of St-Imier.
1829 on 3.09	Jean-Mathias Von Kaenel and Louise (Bourgeoise of La Ferrière)
1866?	Brand Ulysse guardian of her children Louise, Elmire and Alice Brandt, Mathilde Witzig-Brandt. Sold for 25'000 Fr. We think according to an invoice that the Logis of the Unicorn became the White Horse
1886 on 17.05.	Christian Zehr (1834-1913) and Lisa née JeanRichard (1836-1899) 30'500 Fr.
1898 on 19.03	Louis Heimann of Reichenbach and Madeleine née Barben
1903 on 02.11	Paul Bièri son of the butcher of La Chaux-De-Fonds sawed the horn to make the Cheval Blanc.

**1920?** Oscar Graber baker (09.04.1873-1950) and Berthe  
**1944 on 01.05** Erwin Hager cook (baker patente) and Elise Gafner  
 (23.7.1903.198?) (23.07.1902 -1994) Du Béatenberg.  
**1968** Heinz Hager (baker) and Anna Furer (Patente)  
 (20.07.1931-1992) (22.03.1935-) From La Ferrière.  
**1992** Jean-Pierre Hager baker and Roswitha née Jost. (Patent)  
 1998, 13.07.1992  
 (Jean-Pierre 12.10.1960-) (Roswitha 28.07.1959-)  
**1994** Coffee renovation  
**2001** Renovation of the façade,  
 done as the old 'La Chaux' by the current owner.  
 The White Horse becomes the Logis de la Licorne.  
**2004** Already 60 years in the Hager family on 1 May.  
**2004** Development of the new terrace.  
**2006** Renovation of the former store  
 to do The Abraham Gagnebin room.  
**2011** July 14th Gagnebin room layout in old-fashioned bakery.  
**2011** Christophe Hager and Laura Reinhard come to work  
 at the Logis de la Licorne.  
**2015** 08.11.2015 The kitchen is completely refurbished,  
 3 weeks of work, a week of cleaning.  
**2017** Opening of the wellness area 06.07.2017.  
**2018** January 01 Discount of the trade to Laura (Patente)  
 and Christophe (Joiner) Hager Reinhard.

**Books consulted:**

**Jurassic Society of Emulation** 1941-1942  
**Histoire populaire du Bernese Jura (former Bishopric of Basel)** Gustave Amweg  
**Tourism in the Bernese Jura** Pro Jura N 9 1962

**Original content by**

**Roswitha Hager Jost La Ferrière on April 25, 2001.**  
**February 13, 2002; March 11, 2004; September 17, 2011; 07 August 2017.**  
**Translation by Alfred Cellier based upon Google Translator, 15 Sept. 2017.**

## **Important dates of La Ferrière**

**1590**

**Courageous settlers arrive at this time and form a small world apart in the bishopric of Basel. An assembly brings together 134 people and families from this region. A pact is concluded and signed. This venerable document is preserved in the archives of the commune.**

**1614**

**Date of construction of the first farms, the oldest of which still exists at the place known as the "Haut des Vieilles".**

**1623 28 April**

**Maybe tacitly recognized by the Prince-Bishop of Basel its founding, the new "Community of Mountains" had to wait until this date to be recognized by the lord of Erguel, in the name of Prince William Rinck of Baldenstein.**

**1639**

**The young commune grew and its inhabitants worked courageously when the Thirty Years' War brought the Swedish soldiers to our house, and La Ferriere, like other towns in the neighborhood, paid its tribute of blood and ruins. Marshal Daniel Sandoz XVII [?] marriage with Marie Madeleine called Marie Sandoz née Robert.**

**1679**

**Daniel Sandoz 1650-1719 (son of Daniel Sandoz and Marie Madeleine) marriage with Madeleine Sandoz née Robert daughter of Abraham Robert and Eve Ducommun. Jonathan Robert and Marie née Droz, owner of the Logis de la Licorne.**

**1682 06.11**

**Birth of Abraham II, son-in-law of Daniel Sandoz**

**1686**

**Purchase of the house 'La Licorne' by Daniel Sandoz on 22 September 1686 (Logis de la Licorne).**

**1688**

**Renovation of the Logis de la Licorne. We do not know the date of construction of the house. Cartouche with inscription D.S and M.R (Daniel Sandoz and Madeleine, Robert)**

**1706 May**

**Marriage of Abraham II Gagnebin with Anne-Marie née Sandoz daughter of Daniel and Madeleine Sandoz. A. Gagnebin II was the right arm of D. Sandoz, his collaborator in everything and everything, and finally his heir to his family. He succeeded him as owner of the Unicorn.**

**Abraham II and Anne-Marie had 12 children.**

**1707 20.08.1800**

**Birth of Abraham Gagnebin III**

**1709 11.02**

**Birth of Daniel Gagnebin**

**1715**

**Construction of the Gagnebin House Pavilion by Daniel Sandoz and Abraham Gagnebin II, next to the road. It was a true museum of natural history that many travelers came to visit and admire.**

**1719**

**Death of Daniel Sandoz surgeon doctor born about 1650.**

**1735**

**Marriage of Abraham III Gagnebin and Esther née Marchand of Sonvilier. Six children are born. Abraham Gagnebin will be a surgeon and naturalist geologist and climatologist. He corresponds with Swiss and foreign scholars.**

**1736**

**Marriage of Daniel Gagnebin brother of Abraham III and Madeleine Sagne daughter of David-Louis Sagne established in Renan. Daniel Gagnebin is a chemist and mathematician physician. He will have helped in the research of Pierre Jaquet Droz for androids (the automata).**

**1749**

**Death of Abraham Gagnebin II and he was buried in the temple of Renan.**

**1765**

**Visit of Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Abraham III Gagnebin for 10 days he is at the Logis de la Licorne and at the Pavillon (house Gagnebin). They planted linden trees that exist today. They are also represented in the coat of arms by four of their leaves. They also planted fir trees with five tops and an arboretum towards the station.**

**1797-1798**

**The region is annexed by the French troops and attached to France and the department of Mont Terrible. From this period comes the name of La Ferriere (derived from the Latin fofraria grange). [?]**

**1806**

**Our people bought out the domain of the castle of Fief D'Erguel (Erguel Castle) for 22 years (which they sold in 1828).**

**1813-1814**

**Our commune suffers from the passage of Allied troops (Napoleonic war). Its territory is diminished in favor of the neighboring communes.**

**1815 Attached to the canton of Bern. La Ferriere has since joined the District of Courtelary.**

**1847 Adolphe Gagnebin (1780-1889) Mayor of La Ferrière. Younger brother of the grandsons of Abraham Gagnebin III.**

**1854 Opening of the first post in the Pavillon (house Gagnebin).**

**1859 Construction of the old school (now Isler Heinz family 1990-2017).**

**1861 An era of prosperity seems to be born. The parish detached from that of Renan, becomes autonomous (1861-1864). Construction of the church.**

**1892 Arrival of the steam railway. The commune is served by the Saignelégier-La Chaux-de-Fonds line.**

**1895 Supervision by Renan of La Ferrière is ended.**

**1900 (Approximately) Horn of the Unicorn removed.**

**1906**

**The Bernese government authorizes the holding of two fairs.**

**1910 April 14**

**Fire of the Auberge du Sapin in the village (Lanz house of food) (The house is modified).**

**1911 March 6th**

**Fire of the Auberge de L'Union at the Basse Ferrière. (There will be no construction).**

**1913 Oct. 9**

**Adoption of the coat of arms of La Ferriere by the municipal authorities.**

**1919**

**Discovery of the cave (Combe du Pelu).**

**1924 13Jun**

**A fire destroys the farm school of the Combe du Pelu. The construction of a new farm with a school class and a dormitory for the teachers took place the same year.**

**1924**

**Opening of the Alpina pasta factory. Léon Hubert master baker.**

**1926 June 12**

**A tornado with a width of 300 to 1000 meters ravages everything on its way between Pouillerel and La Chaux Des Breuleux. Houses are destroyed at La Chaux-D'Abel on the commune of Sonvilier.**

**1927 August 2**

**Hurricane on the Ferrière.**

**1936**

**The death of Léon Hubert; son Léon resumed the Alpina factory until 1977.**

**1944 1 May**

**Oscar Graber sold the Cheval Blanc to Erwin Hager and his wife Alise née Gafner of Béatenberg.**

**1958**

**Construction of the new school of the village (land belonging to Erwin Hager) for a 100 year old lease.**

**1968**

**Erwin Hager sold the Cheval Blanc to his son Heinz Hager and his wife Anna née Furer.**

**1967**

**Construction of the new school of Combe du Pelu.**

**1978**

**Death of Leon Hubert son.**

**1989**

**Construction of the new hotel rooms in the ancient theater (Cheval Blanc). Restored sign.**

**1992 13.07**

**Anna Hager Furer widow rented the White Horse to her son Jean-Pierre Hager and his wife Roswitha née Jost.**

**1992**

**Inauguration of the versatile hall, long expected by the population and the local companies.**

**1994**

**Autumn, renovation of the Cheval Blanc restaurant.**

**2001 01.03**

**Renovation of the façade of the Cheval Blanc and the original name which is the Logis de la Licorne.**

**2002 March**

**The sign of Cheval Blanc regains its' Unicorn made by Sébastien Hager (sanitary installer and tinsmith)**

**2004 July**

**Renovation of the terrace, and it has been 60 years since the hotel is in the Hager family.**

**2006 July**

**Renovation of the former bakery grocery store to become the Gagnebin Room.**

**2011 14.07**

**Installation of the bakery in the Gagnebin room.**

**Laura née Reinhard and Christophe Hager come to work at the Logis de la Licorne.**

**2012**

**Renovation of the rooms of Ilhôtel (ceiling, floor, painting) done by Christophe and family.**

**2014 01 May**

**70 years that the Logis de la Licorne is in the Hager family.**

**2015 08.11**

**Construction of the kitchen and fitting out, 3 weeks of work, then a week of restoration.**

**2017 05.07**

**Construction of a wellness area Uacuzzi, sauna, steam shower).**

**2018 01.01**

**Remission of the business Logis de la Licorne to Laura and Christophe.**

## **Birthdays to be expected**

**202401.05**

**80 years that the Logis de la Licorne is in the Hager family**

**2044 01.05**

**100 years as the Logis de la Licorn in the Hager family**

**Roswitha Hager née Jost July 28, 1959**

**Last updated on August 6, 2017**

**Translation by Alfred Cellier based upon Google Translator, 15 Sept. 2017.**