

THE SAINT-MICHEL STREET

The Saint Michel street, a dead end which lead to the hills, reminds the existence of a prayer place, first mentioned in 1275, in an orchard buying act from the Lucelle's Abbey. Alongside other religious houses or noble families, this Cistercian abbey, founded in 1124, owned in Rixheim a large agricultural domain. It was mentioned of a square (curia), dealt directly by monks.

This chapel, linked to the existence of the old village of Eschelsheim, and still mentioned in the sixteenth century, was an annex to the Saint Leger church.

If it was already mentioned in 1554 of a « Sant Michelweg », the Saint Michel Street was also known as « Sillacker gasse ». This name reminds that a stream, taking its source in the hills, was flowing alongside the road. The word Sill or Ziel means source in old Deutsch. Another so called place from Rixheim, the Zielbrunnen, located in the Buchwald forest, takes its name from the same etymology. It is to be said that before the creation of the drinking water network, in 1933, the water supply of the village came from streams from the hills, which delivered the public or private fountains. We can still see this in the old pond, the fountain near the church and the "rue de la Fontaine" (Fountain Street), (previously Kühlebrunne Gässlein).

This street was also known as « s'Schleret Gassla », thus referring to an old bakery, founded in 1910 at 100 "Grand rue" by Henri Schleret, bakery continued by his son Henri and taken back by Roger Adolf. On the picture below, we can see the bakery and the old fountain, which lead to the Saint-Michel Street.



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