

# The early history of the Hitz family —mainly the Klosters stem

after **Florian Hitz, historian**  
(and Katharina von Salis, kvs)

**Davos, 16.07.04**  
**IHC04**

# HITZ — the name

Origin unknown, but  
maybe from the first name  
Christian >> Hitsch >> Hitz

This means, that the name can have  
been formed in different regions at  
different times in german speaking areas

# The „Walser Connection“

German speaking people from the West (Valais, Wallis) immigrated to the Davos/Klosters region in the 13/14th century and later also to the upper Rhine valley (Tujetsch) and to the Bernese Oberland.

**The name Hitz could have formed at all of these places.**

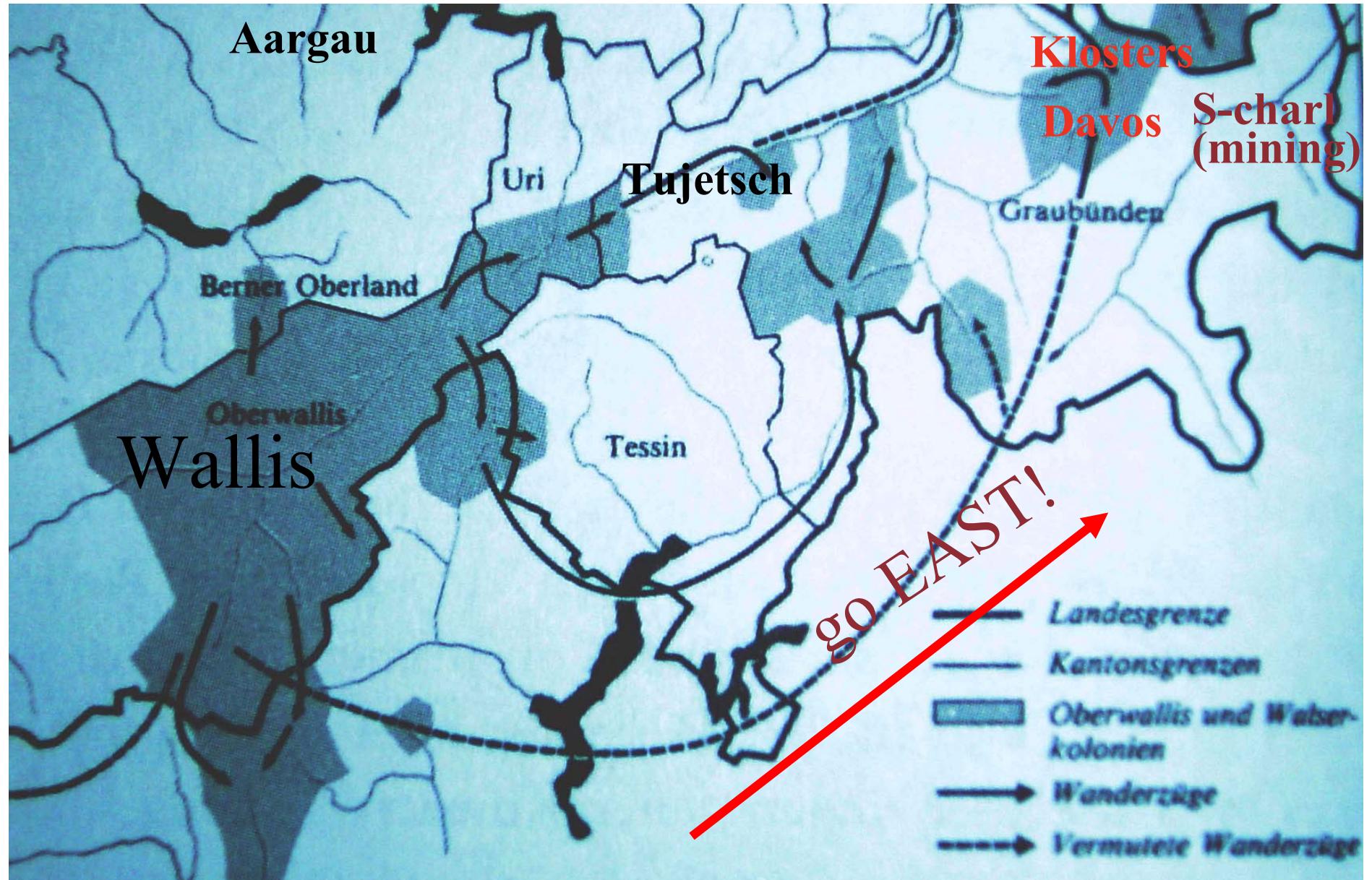
# Walser-Migration, 13th-14th cent.

Seewis

Klosters

Davos

S-charl  
(mining)



One family  
or several families?

We do not know

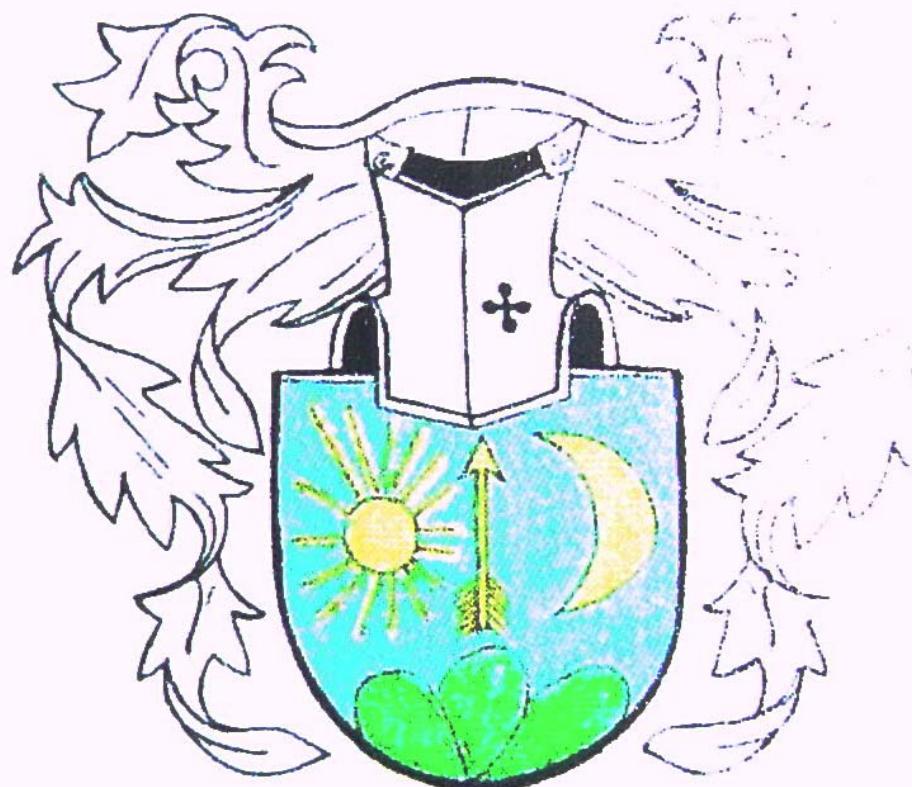
maybe the „coat of arms“ could help?

# Coat of arms

The Hitz from Klosters have one coat of arms — the Hitz from Aargau and Hitz from Zürich have others. They maybe originated in the 17th century only.

*,,I discovered that the Coat of Arms is based on alchemical symbolism and speaks to the families history in mining and metallurgy“  
(Wolfensberger, July 04)*

# The Klosters Hitz coat of arms



A Hitz Coat of Arms  
(courtesy of Kristian Hitz)

The coat of arms of other well known Davos families — the Sprecher (two crossed arrows) & the Jenatsch (two opposite halfmoons) — include some of the same symbols as the Klosters-Hitz c.o.a.

# The first Hitz — written records

For the reconstruction of a family tree we need written records.

The first church-books start in the mid 17th century.

Older data are spread in all kinds of documents (Gerichtsprotokolle, Handelsurkunden etc.) back into the 15th century.

# Hitz in Tujetsch

(uppermost Rhine valley; after Tarcisi Hendry, 2004 )

**The first family registered:**

1706: Antoni, his father Jodoci (?),  
his mother Monica Riedi

1709 Melchior, brother

1711 Maria Ursula, sister

1713 Melchior

1715 Joannes Alexius Joannes  
Alexius

1717 Maria Margarita

1718 Christianus

kvs

**up to 1400, the Klosters-Hitz  
are Walser settlers  
moving around in the 15th**

**1428:** Hennin (Heinrich) Hitzen bought some land in Küblis

**1450:** „Hitzen kind“ in Davos, had to pay yearly interests

Thus the Hitz have moved around in the general Davos-Klosters-Küblis/Prättigau region during the 15th century

# around 1500 — the Hitz as Landammänner

1496: Hans Wehrli Hitz is Landammann of Klosters

1511 & 1517 Hans Hitz is Landammann of Klosters/Küblis called “königlicher Majestät Ammann zu dem Kloster“

First and last names are not yet clearly established during this time

# **around 1600 — a Hitz having problems with the law...**

1572: Felix Hitz from Klosters had fights, drank too much etc. He had to pay a fine and was forbidden to drink alcohol. He was fined again and again.

# Moving around

Around 1600, Felix Hitz „the old“ — possibly a son or nephew of the notorious Felix — moved from Klosters to Seewis and became the father of a new line of the family Hitz. They had to „compete“ against the Salis-Seewis family which arrived at about the same time.

# **Georg Hitz, the „Father of the Klosters-Hitz“**

1687: Georg Hitz is mentioned in the newly established church book of Klosters. He was a clergy-man from 1712-36  
From here on, one can follow the family tree in the church books and later the Zivilstandsakten.

# **around 1800: the Hitz as leaders in the community and as engineers**

Two generations of Hitz after 1800 are known beyond the family history:

**Johann Hitz, 1772 - 1838, Landammann in Klosters**

**Hans/John 1797-1864, first Swiss Consul**  
who were involved with the mining and  
emigrated to the **USA** in 1831  
with little **John** (1828-1908)

from here onwards,  
you can follow the Hitz history

Saturday, 17.7. and  
Sunday, 18.7. from 9.00-12.00

at the  
Central Sporthotel, Davos

**Everybody is welcome!**

## .....and the ladies?

Traditionally, a family treey is defined by the men and their sons who carry the name.

In this Hitz-gathering, however, we also consider the daughters and thus build a more complete and complicated, but also a more realistic family tree.

With „all kind of names“, as you will see from the name-tags.

- thanks to all of you for coming to Klosters (and Davos)
- thanks to Florian and Luzi Hitz for Hitz-history and visits to Hitz houses

APERO  
here  
now

(train for Klosters  
leaves 18.28)