

**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

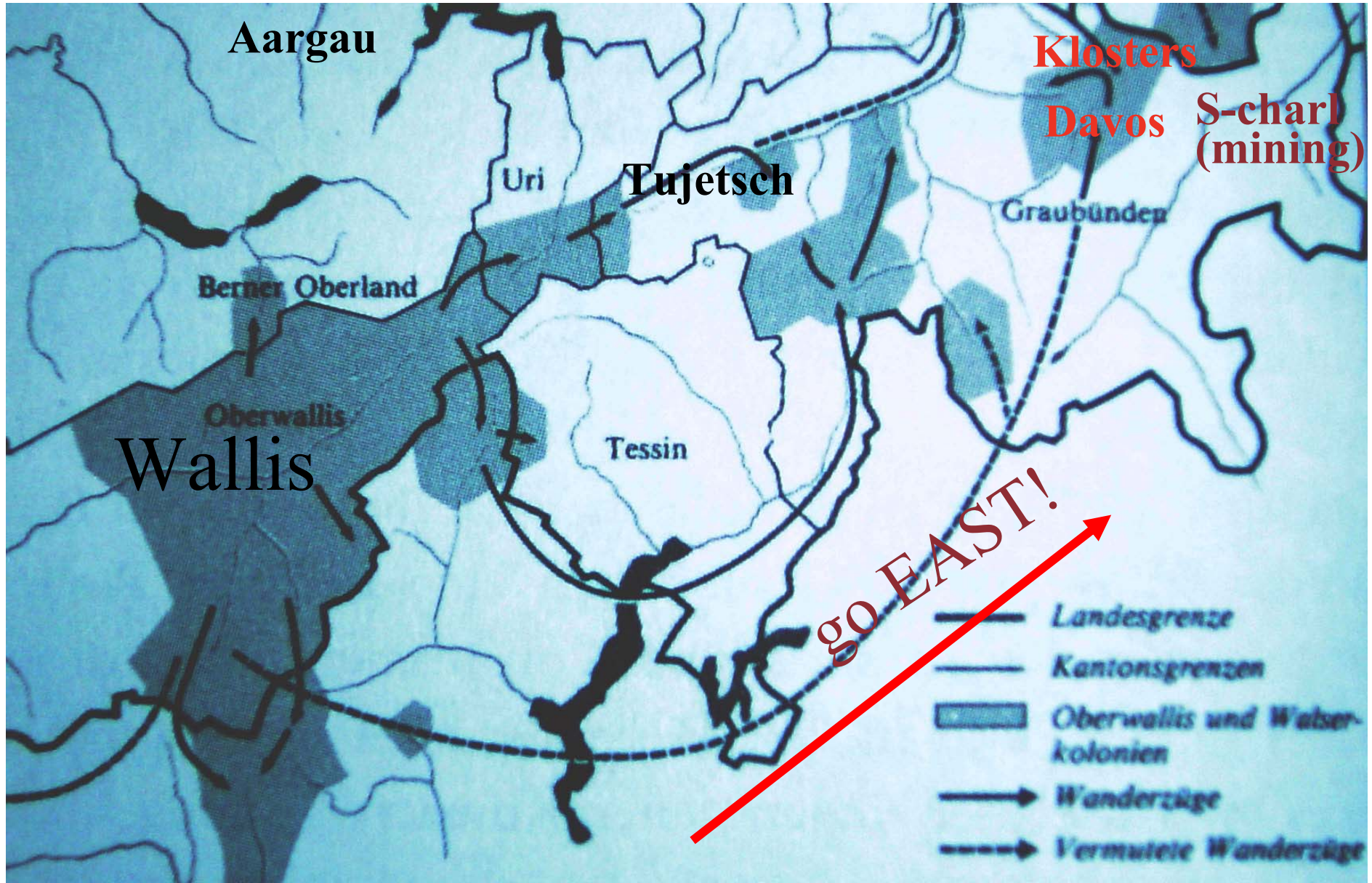
The „Walser Connection“

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



One family
or several families?

We do not know

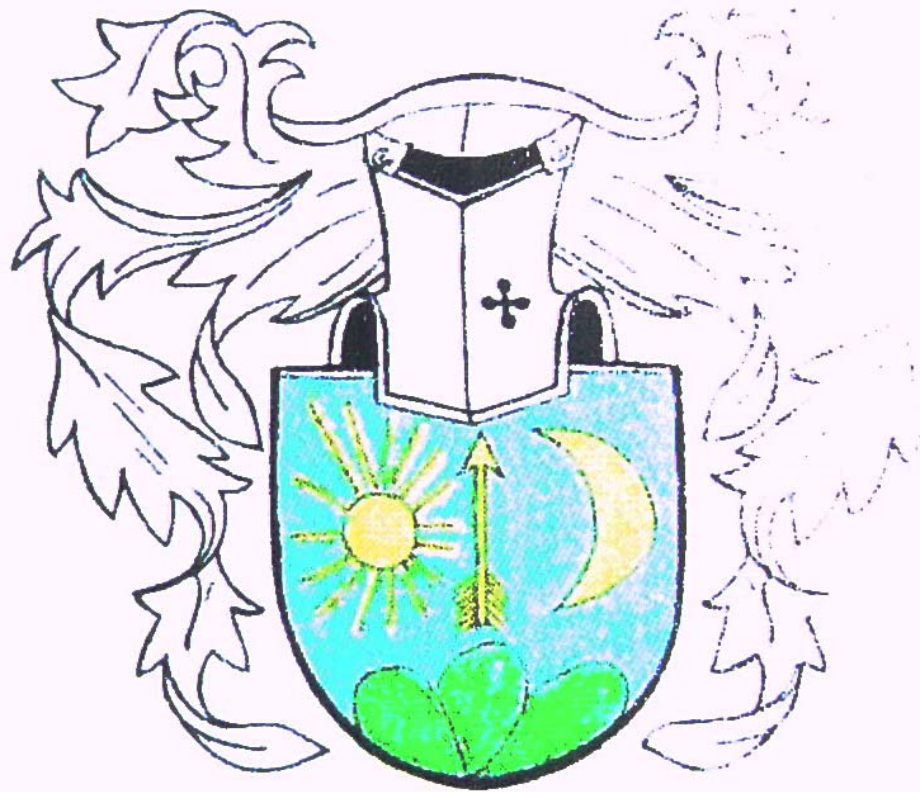
maybe the „coat of arms“ could help?

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 tree 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**

APERRO

here

now

**(train for Klosters
leaves 18.28)**