

Source of information:

“Die ältesten Geschlechter der Landschaft Saanen”

“The oldest families/houses of the Saanen Region”;

J.R.D. Zwahlen.

The Hutzliga – as they are called in the dialect of the region around Saanen – appear in 1312 as ucily and uchily, in 1324 as uclin and utili, and after Friedli von Hutz (Hutz = running start or jump) as surname. Hutzli is also a pet name for a foal up to 3 months of age. There was a Hutzli farmstead as early as 1324 just east of the Vanel (mountain? river?). The family and ownership undoubtedly originated in the 12th century.

The serfs or bondsmen Uldricus and Heyny Hutzli occupy and work in 1312 two farmsteads, which earlier were part of a large holding (Hube) at the Bühl (mountain? river?), along with the Gehret and dou Bühl farmsteads. The fact that Uldricus paid the taxes for the sisters Elsy and Christina Gehret is evidence that there is either some kind of connection between the Hutzli and the Gehret families, or that Uldricus had the use of part of the Gehrets' land. In 1324 Elsy and Christina are no longer recorded; it may be assumed that they have died, since we find that in 1324 several pieces of their lands are in Uldricus' ownership. By 1324 Uldricus owned a significant amount of land, encompassing 20 Jucharten (possibly plowable land areas) and 40 Mahd (apparently a measure for meadows) and paid the traditional taxes (Usagia) to the feudal lord. In 1312 he paid one cheese for one Mahd in the Rohr region.

The original landholdings (Hube) probably belonged to the houses of dou Bühl or Gehret, and, judging from the few records in the Allmendland, were apparently broken up just prior to 1312. Detailed information about what happened to the individual pieces of land after that time can no longer be identified. It is equally difficult to reconstruct the correct relationships among the individual Hutzlis in the oldest generations. Johannes Chinau (from the old Chinau family of 1276) sells in 1351 certain pieces of land in the Salzwasser region near the Saane and situated among the farmsteads of the Haldi, Hutzli, and Bossimant families. Because of their debts, Wilhelmus Hutzli and several other heads of households from Saanen were guarantors and hostages to the Count of Greyerz in 1368. In 1393 a Willo Hutzli was instrumental as representative in the peace treaty and court case of Saanen with Wallis.

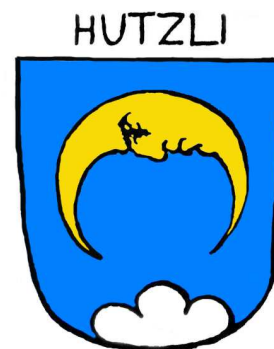
A 1417 church record concerning the will of one Elsina, widow of Nicolay Fabri, mentions the term “Ouchilly”, presumably a garbled version of “Hutzli”. No given or baptismal name is mentioned. Starting in the middle of the 15th century, Ruff Hutzli plays a leading role in the affairs of the valley and remains as a significant figure in the area for more than 35 years. He served as Kastlan in 1447, 1448, and 1449. He was Landsvenner in 1445, 1447, and 1458. In 1473 he is given mention as alt-Venner. (Note: Venner has the same origin as the German Fahne, or flag. The Venner had the honor of carrying the flag into battle, and – if he survived – in parades and official functions). In the years 1448, 1451, and 1455 he was a member of the commission (Loskaufkommission) charged with the job of settling and removing dormant feudal tax claims. He appears as witness in 1458, 1470, and in 1478 with the description “fürnemen”, presumably foreman. He was also entrusted with the Seal of the Landschaft, but that was stolen from him in 1481. Subsequently he had to defend himself before court against certain allegations and suspicions.

A Jaggo Hutzli is a witness in 1447 in a dispute over the “Zehnten” (possibly a 10% tax or tithe??) and in 1452 a 65 year old Jakob Hutzli is a witness in a dispute between the citizens of Saanen and their minister, concerning the duties of the latter. We may assume that it is the same Hutzli in both cases, who would thus have been born about 1387. A Christen Hutzli is mentioned as “Weibel” (??) in the records when Saanen paid homage to the Count Ludwig of Greyerz in 1475. He is also mentioned with a Hans Hutzli in the 1494 records describing the defense of secular courts against the incursions by church authorities. We meet a Rodolfus Hutzli in 1511 in a church will, and a Willy Hutzli in 1525.

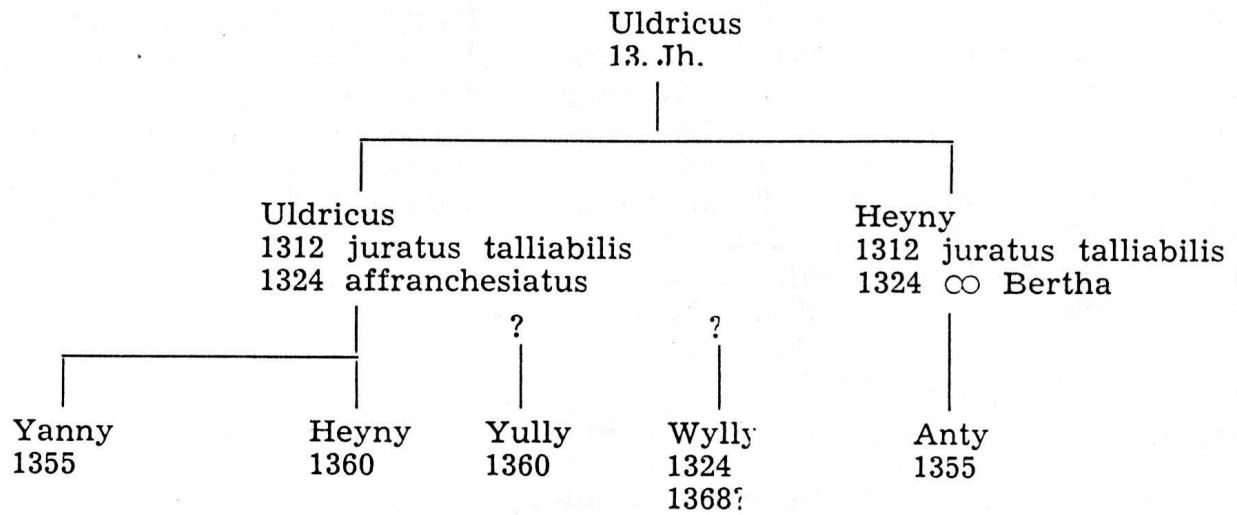
Johann Anton Hutzli served 1771-1777 as Seckelmeister, 1774-1791 as Landsvenner, and 1776-1798 as Kastlan.

Johannes Hutzli was a representative 1803-1809, a Landsvenner 1804-1816, and senior representative 1810-1815.

The family crest shows a blue field over 3 white mountains with a golden, downward-facing half moon. This was the seal of Johannes J. Hutzli, Senior Representative, 1811.



Aelteste Generationen:



Nicht einzureihen sind Wilhelmus Hutzlis, 1368, und Willo Huczli, 1393