

Residents of Winterkraut in 1715

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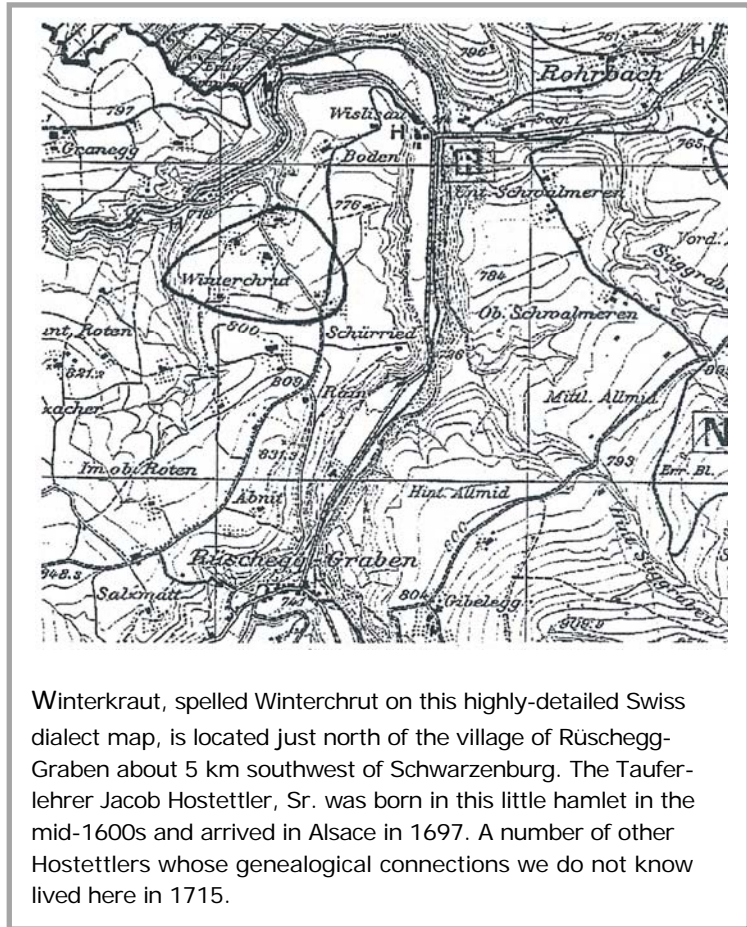
For some time we of the H/H/H Newsletter have assumed that Jacob, Sr., the father of our immigrant ancestor Jacob Hochstetler, was born in Winterkraut, a farm hamlet near Schwarzenburg, Switzerland. Recently I discovered that there is a list of residents [Einwohnerliste] of Winterkraut in 1715 in the book by Pf. Paul Hostettler¹ on the Anabaptists of the region of Schwarzenburg. It gives us a chance to study the names of the families who lived there at that time. A few of the families are designated as (Anabap.), but not everyone.

It does give us some valuable information. In the first paragraph, only Hans Stubi is called "Anabap." Just after his name, the others are called "behausung" or "Lehensleut," which means "lodgers." (Were these lodging for elderly or disabled Anabaptists?) It has the note "mit Bleistift nachträglich beigefügt," which means "added later in pencil." In the first part there are two women designated as "vidua" [widows] and both are named Hostettler. The first is Elsbeth Schlegel, the widow of Peter Hostettler. If this was the Anabaptist preacher, he was already deceased by 1715. The second "vidua" was Isabella Hostettler Roux. or Rohn, thought by some as the widow of Christian, the father of Jacob, Sr., father of our immigrant ancestor. Following

Isabella's name are children *Jaggi* [Jacob], Elsbeth, Anni, Christi, Gabriel, Bäbi and Madleni. Was *Jaggi* the one who went to Markirch in Alsace in 1697 and came back for the *Täuferweiber* [Anabaptist women] in 1720 (his sisters?)? Unfortunately there are no dates on the document except (1715).

In the second paragraph, translated from German, there are these families:

- a. Hans Stökli and Benedichta (Dichtli) Hostettler. Two sons, Hans and Christian, im Welshland [abroad].
- b. Uli Hostettler and wife Anni Stöckli. Children: Uli and Elsi.



Winterkraut, spelled Winterchrut on this highly-detailed Swiss dialect map, is located just north of the village of Rüscheegg-Graben about 5 km southwest of Schwarzenburg. The Täuferlehrer Jacob Hostettler, Sr. was born in this little hamlet in the mid-1600s and arrived in Alsace in 1697. A number of other Hostettlers whose genealogical connections we do not know lived here in 1715.

¹ Hostettler, Paul. – Die Täuferfamilien Amman/Ammen im bernischen Voralpengebiet: ihre Verwurzelung und Auswanderung im Zeitraum 1580–1713 / Paul Hostettler. – In: Mennonitica Helvetica, 26/27, 2003/04, S. 223–262

c. Michel Hostettler and wife Anni Hostettler. Children: Hans, Peter, Uli, Jaggi [Jacob], Christen.

d. Peter Hostettler, a mute, Anni's brother.

Uf der Platte [On the plain]

e. Peter Bingele. Christen Bingele, wife Elsi Henni, Peter Bingele, absent. Elsi, Bäbi (at present near Wahlern), Christen, Anni, Gredi, Stini.

f. Peter Stubi m. Bäbi Zisset. Children: Christen, Hanssli, Uli, Stini, Bäbi.

Rain [on the ridge]

g. Hans and Stini Hostettler (Nidegger). Children: Uli and Hanssli

Source: About the Anabaptists in the Land of Schwarzenburg, 1580-1750, Mennonitica Helvetica, by Pf. Paul Hostettler, Bern, Switzerland, 1996. See Virgil's review of this book in Newsletter, September 1999.

NOTE: Click [here](#) to visit a Swiss website that has some information on early Winterkraut residents. One can still see birth and death dates that are near or during the time of our relative's life experience there.