

## **The History of the Glarus Families, especially Those of the Sernf Valley.**

A Medley of Pictures from Past Days.

(Zur Geschichte glarnerischer Geschlechter, derjenigen des Sernftales insbesondere. Allerlei  
Bilder aus vergangenen Tagen)

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*[All lettered footnotes and information in brackets were added by the translator]*

### **XXV. The Wirths**

[pg. 145-146]

"On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June in 1634, Uli Wirt, Conrad Wirt's son from Hundtwyl, of the Canton Appenzell Outer Rhodes, and Barbara, daughter of the late Andreas Bähler, were joined in marriage; Governor Trümpfi, and members of the Evangelical religion's council, sent appreciation of their people over to me." So reported Pastor J. Melchior Wyss in the first baptism and marriage register. And: "On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March in the year 1635 a daughter named Anna was baptized to Uli Wirt from Hundwil, of the Canton Appenzell Outer Rhodes, and Barbara Bähler, and she was sponsored for holy baptism by Hans Heinrich Stauff, *Tagwen*<sup>a</sup> official in Matt; Wernet, Lieutenant Elmer's son; Elsbeth Frey, the minister's servant; and Ursula Zwiflin [*Zweifel*], married housewife of Emanuel Elsiner, called Milten, from Bilten. She substituted for the spinster, Magdalena Elmer, daughter of Rudolff Elmer in Glarus, who was in the final place." After the daughter, Anna, followed in 1640 a son, Conrad, in 1641, Andreas, in 1642, and a second Andreas; on 24 January 1646 (so writes Pastor Hamann), "Uli Wirt died at Brumbach<sup>b</sup>". His son, Cunrat Wirt, (so writes Pastor Tschudi, in his turn) got married to a Magdalena Weiss (Wyss) and, in 1672, had a son, Fridli, to report to baptism, and, in 1675, a Huldrich. All these, and further descendants of Uli Wirt, lived until 1834 as poor small farmers in the canton, until they received the Glarner citizen rights<sup>1</sup> as a result of the 1834 *Landsgemeinde*<sup>c</sup> decision, which was recounted above on page 114 [*in the chapter on the Bräms*]. In 1876, nine Wirts were found in 6 Glarner communes, but all without taxable property. In 1915, three *Tagwen* rights were in the hands of the Wirts in the Matt commune.

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<sup>a</sup> Tagwen – an ancient term, from at least the 6th century A.D., which is still used today in Canton Glarus to denote the commune of the citizens, i.e. those who have inherited or purchased the Tagwen rights (this may only partially coincide with the political commune). It is derived from Tage Wann, meaning the work someone could perform in one day in the commonly-held fields, pastures and forests. Over the years the number of Tagwen in the canton has varied considerably, with the present-day number being 29. Also its duties have changed – from jointly working on and enjoying the benefits of its common property, to administering all the commune's public interests, to (today) administering and enjoying the benefits of its common property. [SW]

<sup>b</sup> A Matt field name, which is a descriptive term for the area where he lived. [SW]

<sup>1</sup> Six males over 1 year old and 3 female Wirts.

<sup>c</sup> The Popular Assembly, which is the Glarus cantonal legislative body. It is made up of all the citizens of the communes who have full citizenship rights. [SW]