

# **New Glarus Wisconsin**

## **Mirror of Switzerland**



**By Millard Tschudy**  
New Glarus Native



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Finishing this book was possible only because of the valued help and encouragement from two special persons. I refer to my wife Virginia and our son Kim. They both gave without complaint of their time and their talents and ideas.

Thanks family!!  
-Millard Tschudy

# New Glarus, Wisconsin Mirror of Switzerland

By Millard Tschudy

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# Introduction

**T**his book has been a pleasant, interesting task. I thrilled more than once to revelations of strength and character in the Swiss—the mother who defied a violent storm on shipboard to feed her dying child, the families who, surrounded by wilderness in a foreign country, built a colony which endured, the stolid men who dropped their spades and mattocks for rifles in the struggle to preserve a nation they hardly knew—all these are as epic as the legend of Wilhelm Tell or the tale of little Heidi.

There are, to be sure, errors of omission and errors of commission on these pages. Raw material was mined from early accounts of eyewitnesses, diaries, pictures, newspapers, letters, maps and charts, interviews. The end product contains impurities.

One observer placed an event in two different decades. Occasionally, garbled articles found a place in print. Maps and distances were sometimes little more than an educated guess. A decade can dim memory, a generation can shroud it in uncertainty.

Every effort was expended to minimize errors; yet errors there are. This is not to justify those errors; rather, it is an admission of human fallibility.

The pleasant drudgery of typewriter and paper was often interrupted by the appropriate intrusion of a Rhone valley legend which I share with you.

In the beginning, God had made the world, but Saint Peter, in a bickering mood, found fault with everything. This was too large, that was too small, something else was in the wrong place.

God gave His critic a chance to rebuild according to his taste. Peter built higher mountains, deeper valleys, swifter streams and then presented his "*masterpiece*" to the Lord.

God asked the builder, "How can man plant on such steep mountains or sail boats on these rushing torrents?" Peter hurriedly tamped soil on the rocks, pinning it down with trees and grasses. Heavy rains washed away the soil; strong winds uprooted trees so that nothing remained except bare rock. Peter was crestfallen.

God came to the saint's aid: "*You made the land. I'll create the man who will live on it.*"

And so He made a man with keen eyes and sure feet who could walk safely among the precipices. This man was rugged, loyal, persistent and had a faithful heart. He was easily satisfied with simple pleasures.

The man was a Swiss mountaineer.

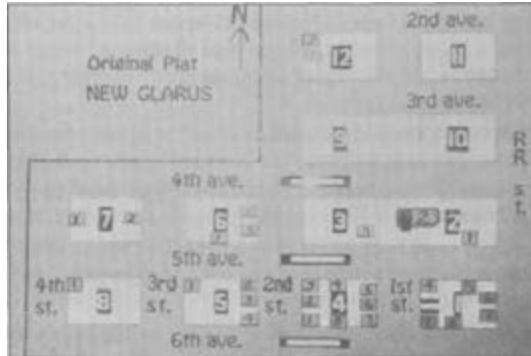
**Millard Tschudy**

213 Sixth Ave.,

New Glarus, Wisconsin



*New Glarus seen from hills east of village. Photo made from an 1860 or 1861 sketch.*



Key to Village Plat of the 1860's  
(addresses are approximate)

Block 1:

- 1, 8- Mark. Luchsinger, 544 First St., blacksmith
- 2-Mathias Jenny, 514 First St.
- 3, 4-Sebastian Duerst, 500 First St., tinsmith
- 5-Thos. Luchsinger, 19th Fifth Ave.
- 6, 7-Sam Luchsinger, Railroad St., stone-mason

Center of block 1: Village well

Block 2 and 3:

- 1-Abraham Schindler, 16 Fifth Ave.
- 2-Swiss Reformed Church
- 3-Schoolhouse, 102 Fifth Street

Block 4

- 1-Fridolin Kundert, 117 Sixth Ave., cobbler
- 2-John Kundert, 512 Second St., innkeeper
- 3, 4-Henry Geiger, 127 Fifth Ave., cobbler
- 5-New Glarus hotel stables, 513 First St.
- 6-Eugen Vidal, 523 First St., Austrian apothecary
- 7-Joseph Genal, New Glarus Hotel
- 8-Dr. Sam Blumer, 114 Sixth Ave.

Block 5:

- 1-Fridolin Egger, 219 Fifth Ave., stables
- 2-Andreas Schindler, 203 Fifth Ave., carpenter
- 3-Fridolin Egger, 507 Second St., merchant
- 4-J.J. Tschudy, 200 Sixth Ave., merchant

Block 6:

- 1-Henry Schindler, 216 Fifth Ave., wagon maker

- 2, 3-Jacob Hoehn, 407-421 Second St., cobbler

Block 7

- 1-Oswald Hauser, 319 Fourth Ave., stone-mason
- 2-Peter Disch, 409 Third St., carpenter

Block 8:

- 1-Balthasar Elmer, 500 Fourth St.

Blocks 9, 10, 11: nothing

Block 12:

- 1-Math. Hefty, 218 Second St.
- 2-David Klassy, 200 Second St., miller

# CHAPTER 1

## Pre-emigration Glarus

When Nicholas Duerst and Fridolin Streiff, natives of canton (state) Glarus, Switzerland, sailed for the United States early in 1845, they carried with them the hopes and prayers of their fellow Glarners for a new home free of the ever-tightening shackles of poverty in the fatherland.

Glarus, by 1844, was in deep economic trouble. Food was scarce, employment dwindling, morale sinking.

Surrounded by the rugged Alps, Glarus had long been populated by families of diverse origin. There were Beckers, Stauffachers, Kunderts, Duersts, others of Germanic ancestry; Heftys, Stuessys, Kublys, Tschudys whose lineage suggested Latin sources.

Centuries of near-isolation, except for occasional military ventures, most notable being the victory of eight hundred Glarners over several thousand Austrians at Naefels in 1388 had produced a hardy, industrious people capable of adapting to a harsh environment.

The 19th century Glarner, a frugal, sturdy individualist, had learned self reliance by the time he had learned his alphabet. He had a solemn respect for his neighbor and a strong loyalty, bordering on chauvinism, to his canton. His pleasures were few, his tastes, largely, unsophisticated.

Historically, Glarus was a rural canton. But arable land, owned for the most part by parishes and communes, had been divided and re-divided so often to accommodate increasing population that a family's allotment was seldom more than a few acres, often only a garden-sized parcel.

To better their economic position, the Glarners had turned to weaving cloth for export. Unfortunately, the advantages of industry were short lived. Factories, utilizing the numerous swift-running mountain streams as a source of inexpensive water power, mechanized, throwing 2,000 weavers out of work. General economic chaos, sweeping across Europe like a tidal wave, had struck remote Glarus.

An 1842 government report reveals that in Matt (population: 800) there were 69 families on the poor list, 21 beggars, and over 100 persons who owned no land. Other Glarus communities fared no better.

The desperation of the working people was intensified by a crop failure and higher food prices.

Little grain growing in Alpine areas, most breadstuffs were imported, usually from Hungary and Italy, and even in prosperous times these were limited.

Chief food products of the soil were potatoes, beans and other vegetables. Potatoes were of major importance, so much so that a government decree forbade a grower from harvesting his own crop until it had fully matured so that maximum value would be realized.

As potato harvest time approached, watchmen stood twenty-four-hour guard over fields to prevent stealing.

Genuine coffee was all but unknown and the beverage used in its place was a concoction made of chicory with little or no sugar available for flavoring.

Few meals were complete without schabzieger, an interesting Glarner cheese packed with vitamins and spiced with pulverized leaves of *Melilotus coerulea*, a pungent clover-like plant growing in the Glarner lowlands since its introduction to cloister gardens in the 11th and 12th centuries by crusaders returning from Asia Minor.

The basic ingredient is skim milk coagulated with acid whey. Left to ripen for several weeks, the mixture is molded into small cones to dry and mature until dark green and hard enough to be grated.

Glarner schabzieger found its way to Zurich markets by 1429, two centuries later to Germany and the Netherlands. Also called sap-sago, the ancient delicacy, nibbled by New World Swiss, is imported from Glarus and sold in New Glarus shops today.

Konrad Schindler, 11th century physician, prescribed it for weak stomach, constipation, fever and ague, dropsy, and melancholia!

A Swiss-German verse, possibly an early sales pitch for schabzieger, goes like this:

### **"Heider oder weider**

Alte, guete, herte Glarner Schabzieger?  
Ihr chaend ne use nih,  
Ihr chaend ne aen all Waend haere khiie—  
Und er tuet ech nued verhiie."

Roughly translated:

Do you have or do you want  
good, old, hard Glarner Schabzieger?  
You can take it out,  
You can handle it,  
You can throw it against a wall  
But you can't break it.

### **Glarners Seek, Find Solution**

Glarus officials, seeking a solution for the canton's grave crisis, arranged public meetings. Traditionalists quoted an old proverb: "*Bleibe im Land und Ernaehe dich redlich*" (Remain in the land and support yourself honestly). Progressives had a ready answer: "*Bleibet im Land und fresset einander*" (Remain in the land and devour each other).

Questionnaires requesting information about founding a colony, forwarded to Swiss consulates throughout Europe and overseas, brought answers from New York, Philadelphia, Madison Co., 111., Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Alexandria, Algiers, Naples, Lisbon, Marseilles, Brussels, Odessa and St. Petersburg.

Glarner, wherever they were, dispatched information from their area.

Since most prospective colonists were interested mainly in America, U.S. reports aroused the greatest enthusiasm. Most promising were from middle west informants, from Madison Co. came word that earlier colonists from Zurich, Bern and Aargau were prospering, happy, well adjusted; ample tracts of rich, inexpensive land were readily available, opportunities for success almost unlimited.

Glarus newspapers carried stories of emigrants departing for America. *"This morning two families, fathers, mothers, five children the oldest, five years and a grandmother left for America"*

The "**Glarner Zeitung**", March 15, 1847, reported: *"today fifty-seven persons from Kerenzen ... left for the USA. Accompanied by friends and relatives, the emigrants made a last visit to the cemetery to pay their respects."*

Emigration, occasionally suggested, was more and more discussed. A list for names of persons interested in organized emigration was circulated.

The March 20, 1844, edition of the "**Neuen Glarner Zeitung**" printed this notice: *"Persons who have signed to join an emigration to North America, others who wish to join, those with any interest in such a project are requested to attend a meeting at noon, Sunday, March 24, at the Schwarzen Adler in Glarus."*

*"Purpose of this meeting is to discuss ways and means of organizing an emigration unit to found a 'New Glarus' in the American state of Missouri."*

More than 100 persons attended, ready to forsake their ancient ties in Glarus for the welfare of their families.

On April 16, delegates from Diesbach, Elm, Ennenda, Haslen, Luchsingen, Mollis, Netstal, Nidfurn, Schwanden, and Sool agreed to support an emigration.

Swiss government officials reported that several independent emigrants had been swindled into paying for passages on non-existent ships and advised prospective emigrants to act as a unit.

The U.S. consul in Basel warned against signing any papers not fully understood, pointing out that in the past, port city "*labor-brokers*" had signed trusting emigrants into virtual bondage.

The "**Glarner Zeitung**" on July 19 announced that an organized emigration would have several important advantages: costs could be held to a minimum, supervision and assistance simplified, homesickness and general despair reduced.

Rules governing the emigration:

1. Emigration shall be as a unit to found a community, preferably in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois or Indiana.

2. Every family is to receive twenty acres paid by the Emigration Society, the amount to be repaid by the colonists. Expenses of travel to be paid by emigrants.

3. Expenses of two advance men to be paid by the society.

4. All agreements are to be ratified by participating communities of Glarus and the Glarus government

Judge Nicholas Duerst, forty-eight, and M. Marty, English-speaking teacher who withdrew shortly to be replaced by Fridolin Streiff, twenty-nine, a blacksmith, were selected to precede the main body to locate and buy land to fill the needs of the entire group.

Instructions to Duerst and-Streiff:

1. Agents will travel from Switzerland, via Havre to New York.

2. They will find \$2,500 deposited with the Bourry d' Ivernois Credit Co., New York City.

1. Agents will not draw money before land has been or is about to be selected.

2. On arrival in New York, agents will seek out William H. Blumer, Allentown, Pa., and follow his advice on how to proceed.

3. Agents will consider climate, soil adaptable for grain and cattle.

4. Agents need not necessarily buy government land but must not exceed \$1.25 per acre, the price of government land.

5. Agents must get land in one tract near readily available means of communication and transportation.

6. Land is to be divided into timber, bottom, and field land to make partition as equitable as possible.

7. Agents will escort emigrants from St Louis to new home and supervise fair land distribution.

8. Agents will supervise families on arrival and until colony is established, but colonists are to defray their own expenses.

9. In all difficult matters, agents are to consult Blumer and the credit company.

10. Agents must allocate land for raising food and feed.

11. Land purchases are to be made in the name of "*Emigration Society of the Canton of Glarus.*" Duerst must have lands platted, divided into lots, numbered, recorded with names of owners.

Heads of families will draw lots for twenty-acre parcels. Costs and money advances to be repaid in ten years with no interest charges. Streiff is to keep a copy of said plate and all papers; also an account of all land owners, changes in families, and other pertinent data.

12. Agents will provide, as soon as possible, for a church and school, and relief of the poor.

13. When agents agree that the above instructions have been executed, Duerst will return to Switzerland.

14. Streiff will remain with the colonists, reporting to the society from time to time on the progress of the colony.

15. Duerst will receive one dollar per day, plus expenses until his return. Streiff will receive whatever remuneration the executive committee feels just and proper.

## **Duerst and Streiff: Old Glarus to New Glarus**

Duerst and Streiff, on March 8, 1845, set out from Switzerland for the eight-day coach journey to Havre, France, and March 16 boarded a packet ship bound for the U.S.

After a stormy seven-weeks-long voyage the pair debarked in New York, May 6. Following instructions, they sought out William Blumer in Allentown, long time resident well qualified to advise the foreigners.

On May 10, at Easton, Pa., Duerst and Streiff were joined by Josua Frey, who travelled with them in the search for land.

The trio proceeded by mail coach to Somerville, N.Y., by rail to New York City, boarded the steamer Empire to Albany, again by rail, arriving in Buffalo, May 14.

Fray's journal affords an interesting account of their travels to the middle-west:

*"Took passage on steamer Bunker Hill for Detroit same evening (May 14), arrived at Detroit, May 16. Next day proceeded across the state of Michigan by stage and rail to St. Louis.*

*"Thence by steamer to Chicago, arriving there on the morn of the nineteenth. We went to the United States land office in that town and examined maps and plats, and found that nearly all timber land in that land district was either preempted or sold, but a great amount of prairie land was yet open for entry.*

*"Next day we took stage for Dixon, on Rock River. On the way we crossed immense prairies, reaching an unbroken level so far as the eye could see. The main road passes through Aurora, the neighborhood of which is quite well settled.*

*"Arrived at Dixon, May 21, having rode all night. We went to the United States land office and found an immense quantity of prairie land yet subject to entry, but the woodland was mostly taken. The same afternoon we traveled northward along Rock River to Oregon City. May 23, we again return to Dixon.*

*"The land on both sides of Rock River is very fine and productive. May 24, we went by stage to Princeton, a little village surrounded by rich lands. Twenty-fifth, being Sunday, we rested.*

*"Twenty-sixth, examined a tract of timber known as Devil's Grove, but found that it was already entered; could have bought 240 acres for \$1,000. Twenty-seventh, went to Peru on the Illinois River. Twenty-eighth, as the water was too low in the river for boats to land, we hired a team to take us to Hennepin.*

*"Thirtieth, went on steamer to St. Louis, where we arrived June 1. As*

the expected emigrants had not yet come, we authorized Mr. Wild of that city to take charge of them when they arrived, to send us word of their arrival, and to provide temporary quarters for them."

Exploration continued by stage, horseback and on foot into Missouri, passing through St Charles, Warrenton, Danville, Mexico, Florida, Palmyra and Marion.

The trio boarded the steamer Di Vernon for Keokuk in Iowa Territory, went across country to Winchester, Fairfield, and Mt Pleasant; east to Bloomington on the Mississippi, and Galena, early communications, transportation and commercial center.

They explored the Wisconsin Territory, going through Platteville and Belmont, arriving at Mineral Point, June 16, to find a letter from Blumer advising that the emigrants should be at Milwaukee.

Failing to find their countrymen, the three left Milwaukee, June 24, and three days later arrived west of Exeter in Green Co. Here, in town four, range seven they discovered a large tract of land, healthy climate, numerous fresh springs, fertile soil, ample timber and convenient routes to markets at Mineral Point, Milwaukee, and Galena.

After reconnoitering a few days in the Como, Ill., area and up along the Wisconsin river, they returned to Mineral Point where on July 17, Duerst and Streiff visited the government land office and purchased 1200 acres of land and 80 acres of timber they had inspected June 27.

In Mineral Point Streiff took the first step toward becoming a citizen. He understood little English and was not required to take the usual oath but expressed his fealty by kissing the Bible.

Before leaving for the newly purchased site, Duerst Streiff and Frey met Theodore Rodolph, an Aargauer who had lived in the vicinity for over a decade and offered to guide and assist them.

Here is Rudolph's description of what followed:

*"In the summer of 1845 I was visited by two Swiss gentlemen, Messrs. Fridolin Streiff and Nicholas Duerst. They were sent out by the government of the canton of Glarus, in Switzerland, for the purpose of selecting a tract of land whereon to settle a colony of emigrants. I prevailed on my brother Frederick, who still lived on the farm on which he had settled in 1834, to place his horses at the disposal of these gentlemen and carry them wherever they wished to go. I also engaged a competent surveyor, Arnzi Comfort, to accompany them.*

*"... We reached a valley in Green County which united all the essential features we needed. There were some squatters whom I knew. One was Stephen Armstrong and his wife, who had been our neighbors in 1834. The other was a French Canadian whose wife, Boleta, had been a domestic in my mother's-family. We bought the claims of Armstrong and Boleta's husband, and, having arranged everything satisfactorily, returned to Mineral Point."*

Streiff, Duerst and Frey headed for the colony, their last journey together, for Frey was to leave on Aug. 6 for his Pennsylvania home.

Surveyor Comfort arrived July 24 and with Frederick Rodolph measured the site and helped plan a road to Green's Prairie (southeast York township).

Duerst and Streiff began erecting crude shelters on what is now the south lawn of Swiss Church for the colonists who were soon to come.

# CHAPTER 2

## EMIGRATION

### Glarus to Holland

**T**he Emigration Society had agreed to delay emigration until spring 1846 to give Duerst and Streiff ample time to explore carefully all promising areas and complete preparations for the arrival of the colonists.

However, many persons, favoring emigration, threatened to leave, family by family, independent of cantonal control or aid, and pressure for early action increased so rapidly that the sailing date was advanced to April 16, 1845.

The night of April 15, all arrangements complete, 140 persons on emigration rosters and their friends proceeded north toward Ziegelbruecke to Biasche, a landing on the Linth Canal linking the Walensee and Zurichsee, to await the next morning's departure. They chose George Legler, Sr. and Jacob Grob spokesmen to settle disputes and speak for the group when united action was required.

Wednesday, the sixteenth, dawned cold and grey. Rain and snow spread a chilly mantle on the somber parting of life-time friends. By sailing time 53 Glarner had made an overnight decision to forsake the land of their birth for a new life in a new land, so 193 persons turned their backs on the harsh, yet beloved Alps that had dominated their lives, and jammed the ship Felder bound for Zurich.

As they neared the city, the weather worsened, and Cosmos Blumer, Canton Glarus representative in the Swiss legislature, accompanying his people on the first leg of the journey, arranged for covered wagons to transport women and children to Basle.

The rest shivered through the snowy night, trying to sleep, sitting on the crowded, open deck of a barge. Mathias Duerst, shrewd observer, and as it turned out, competent historian of the group, recorded day-to-day events in pencil in German. His description of the arrival in Basle:

*"Just before we got to Basle we caught sight of the wagons wherein our people were packed, going over the Basle bridge. We all arrived at the same time at Basle to our great satisfaction."*

April 19, all boarded a Rhine steamer for Rotterdam. It ran only during daylight hours, stopping every night, usually near a town where passengers purchased provisions for the next day. There were no berths or beds, so the Glarner slept on the hard deck or in lodging houses when the rates were low enough. Travel was slow and tedious, weather cold, wintry, damp. During the eleven days between Basle and Rotterdam, morale deteriorated so far that there was dangerous disorder and threatened mutiny.

From Duerst's diary:

*"On the 30th April we arrived at Rotterdam. Thieves abounded, and several of our people had articles stolen."*

They transferred to two coastal boats which were to take them to New Dieppe and their trans-Atlantic ship.

*"The night of the 30th to May 1st was to us a night of terror, about midnight a severe storm struck and madly stormed until morning. An anchor was dropped 100 feet from shore, then a rope was thrown to shore and by means of a windlass our vessel was drawn to land and fastened. Only our ship was so fortunate, the other—containing mostly Little Valley people was obliged to cast anchor about 100 rods from land; we were able to get refreshments but not so the others."*

At New Dieppe they were delayed while their schooner, the Superb, was fitted with berths. Finally, on Tuesday, May 13, everyone chafing at the bit, the Superb was pronounced shipshape and pulled by tug six miles, sails set, and the Swiss left Europe.

## On the Atlantic

Aboard, each family was responsible for its own meals, often only dried meats and fruits, and cheese. An adult's weekly ration of two-and-one-half pounds of salt pork (almost inedible), eight ounces of flour, two pounds of rice, and rock-hard ship's biscuit did little for the health; dysentery and other disorders being commonplace. Duerst's observations on the food:

*"We greatly wished for our Green Sap Sago cheese to give a better flavor to our rancid, watery potatoes and to strengthen our stomachs. "*

Wednesday, May 28, just six weeks after departure from Glarus, death struck twice.

*"On the 28th we realized the results of our bad lot; we sorrowed over two victims, Anna Beglinger, Rudolf Stauffacher's wife of Matt, after suffering many deaths for several days gave up her spirit this afternoon at 3 o'clock. She was wrapped and sewed into a large linen sheet; three pails full of sand were placed at her feet so as to sink her body. We carried her on deck, laid her on a plank, we sang the first two verses of the 140 hymn, leader Grob read our home funeral service, and so one hour after her death she was sunk into the ocean, where she will undergo no decay, and her bones need not first be sought and gathered at the resurrection.*

*"On the same day at 7 p.m. the half-year-old child of Henry Stauffacher of Matt died. It was bound into a pillow and placed overnight in a small boat on deck, the next morning committed to the waves with like services as before; we sang the 142 hymn."*

The following Wednesday a baby was born prematurely to the wife of Hilarius Wild of Schwanden, but lost the struggle for life and was consigned to the waves June 5.

Two weeks later

*"This evening the little son Rudolf of Henry Hoesli of Diesbach died;*

he declined a long time and suffered from convulsions. It was sad to see him when sick and not able to give him any relief. He was on the morning of 20th (June) with the customary services committed to the waves. We sang the 138 hymn.

"Barbara, mother of the dead child, alone had to watch and care for the dying child. Her husband was confined to his bed by sickness- other friends were weak and seasick. Many a time when no one else would venture on deck in the fierce storm, in greatest danger of being thrown down and washed overboard, she went to cook some warm food for her beloved child."

One Saturday, damp sea air gave way to summery land breezes, warning the bodies and spirits of the Swiss. Two days later, June 30, after a tempestuous, hardship-filled 49-day voyage, they debarked at Baltimore.

They had reached their Promised Land!

## To The Middle West

The emigrants had orders to proceed to St Louis for directions from Duerst and Streiff guiding them to the colony site. Buying passage was difficult They had clothing, bedding, kitchen utensils, furniture, sets of tools an accumulation of tons of excess weight Several days of negotiation netted a contract for transportation at \$20 per adult, half-fare for children four to twelve, no charge for youngsters under four. Excess baggage to be carried at a dollar per hundred-weight

Before leaving Baltimore, they witnessed an impressive event. Duerst's observations:

*"This day we saw in Baltimore a ceremony performed such as none of us had even seen ... funeral obsequies for the late President Jackson. Seven thousand horsemen in vests and white jackets trimmed with black ribbons and crepe rode on splendid white horses. Column after column rode."*

Again:

*"We had two families who were bare of all money, and could travel no farther than Baltimore, they were Andr. Stuessi of Rieden, and Andr. Kundert of Rueti, each had a wife and child, one of them had an offer of employment. Our leaders agreed to give the two men 15 francs which they received and divided."*

The colonists left the city on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, their first time on a train, fascinated by broad fields of grain, extensive orchards, and what seemed by comparison to Glarner huts, large homes, to the Susquehanna River and a 14-cent supper at the Golden Eagle tavern in Columbia, Pa.

Of their arrival on canal boats in Pittsburgh, Wed., July 9, Duerst noted:

*"As we floated into the city our singers sang several Swiss songs which attracted hundreds of people to the border of the canal and to the windows of adjoining houses."*

Across the Allegheny's, by Ohio River barge to Cincinnati, and steamboat to St Louis.

Wednesday, July 23:

*"We arrived this evening at St. Louis, and many Glarus people who lived there greeted us kindly, C. Wild, Henry Hoesly, Fr. Blesi, Paulus Kundert, Fr. Schiesser."*

But the only communication awaiting them was a month-old letter from the two advance men explaining that they were still searching.

After two weeks without definite "go ahead" orders from Duerst and Streiff, the colonists' morale was shattered by a rumor that the two had lost their lives. A longer delay and the group would disintegrate; indeed, some families, through fear, uncertainty, finding work along the way had already seceded.

At a hastily called meeting, Paulus Grob and Mathias Duerst were appointed to search for Duerst and Streiff and immediately booked passage on a steamer for Peoria, arriving the night of July 31.

Next day, the 554th anniversary of the founding of the Swiss confederation on Ruetli meadow by patriots of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden, the pair set out on foot to conquer the seventy-five miles to Peru. Duerst reported:

*"About 2 p.m. we came to a farmhouse where we drank buttermilk and by signs asked the lady of the house to give us some dinner, which she promptly did and prepared us a good meal. We had coffee this time and also salad. In our (Glarus land there is many a so-called hotel that could not entertain and provide as well as is the usual custom in even the poorest log houses here."*

Checking in at the Peru post-office, Aug. 3, they learned that Duerst and Streiff had passed through on their way to Mineral Point Grob and M. Duerst's travels would have ended there except for financial assistance from John Freuler, a Swiss employed in Peru. They went on to Galena, Aug. 6, continued northward through the lead-mine area into Wisconsin, reaching Mineral Point, 9 p.m., next day, to find that Duerst and Streiff were thirty-five miles farther on, had already purchased land along the little Sugar river, and were awaiting the colonists.

## **Journey's End**

Grob and Duerst sent word to their comrades in St Louis to start for Galena, and, guided by Theodore Rodolph, set out for the site. The trio hired a German named Schwarz and his team, headed for the colony, covering twenty-five miles before darkness forced a halt near a settler's hut where they stayed overnight

Next day they lost their way and at 2 p.m. questioned another settler who explained that the site was still four miles away, to the south. They plunged ahead and rounding a clump of brush saw Duerst and Streiff hard at work on the first hut

Once more Duerst's diary, Friday, Aug. 8:

*"Judge Duerst and Mr. Streiff saw us floundering along, and supposing that we were people of their company, they came to meet us. The feelings that then arose in us, I cannot and will not describe. To all of us came tears of joy. We went*

into the hut they had made. We had supper; Judge Duerst baked the bread. The same evening we walked a short distance over our land it is beautiful beyond expectation. Excellent timber, good soil, fine springs, and a stream filled with fish. Water sufficient to drive a mill. Wild grapes in abundance. Much game, deer, prairie chicken and hares."

The men agreed that Grob and Freuler would help Streiff with the huts and Judge Duerst and M. Duerst would proceed toward St Louis to guide the colonists to their new home.

They arrived at Galena early next morning headed for the steamboat landing and heard that a large party of immigrants had arrived on the St Louis-Galena steamer the night before. They were the Glarners.

That afternoon, eighteen men started on foot for the settlement, sixty-two miles away. They hiked all night and the next day, reaching Wiota in Lafayette Co., and rested overnight in a stable.

The next morning they hired a guide, went on, crossed the Yellowstone River where they bought flour. They noted that everyone they met fled in terror at the approach of bearded, unkempt ragged strangers struggling through the frontier, resembling more a group of possessed thugs than poor, honest immigrants. Late in the evening they reached their goal, weary, footsore, but happy.

The newcomers pitched in helping Streiff, Freuler and Grob erect a second, larger shelter near the site of the Pioneer Monument They dug a large excavation into the hillside, inserted posts into the ground, enclosed the area with boards dragged from Galena, roofed it over with boughs and wild hay. The floor was split poplar logs. No windows or chimney.

The remaining colonists, driving teams hired at Galena, came with provisions, pots, pans and anything else they could transport

Friday, August 15, 1845, marked the finale of an almost uninterrupted ordeal, over 5,000 miles of which had been on water - Linth Canal, Zurichsee, the Rhine, Atlantic Ocean, the Susquehanna, Erie Canal, the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Only 112 miles were on land -50 by rail from Baltimore to Columbia, Pa, 62 from Galena to New Glarus.

One hundred-eighteen Schweizers (seventeen more than the Pilgrims) had endured a journey beset from the beginning by disaster, hardship, disappointment A few had lost their lives, others had dropped off along the way. Some who had parted company with the group rejoined the colony within a few years and helped to build America's most historic Swiss community.

# CHAPTER 3

## NINETEENTH CENTURY NEW GLARUS

### A Stake In The Wilderness

**T**he pioneers had crossed the established frontier into what was officially labeled "*wilderness country*" with too little food, inadequate shelter, unable to understand the language, customs and way of life of the few "*neighbors*" they had, far from their old homes and friends, their towering mountains, an inauspicious beginning for a people designed by destiny to mirror their Old World origin a dozen decades later.

Judge Duerst wrote on Aug. 19, 1845, to the Emigration Society:

*"We have selected and bought what we believe to be a favorable point for settlement in Territory (sic) Wisconsin, Green Caunte, Tonship 4. The land lies eight miles from Exeter, and thirty-five miles from Mineral Point, where great markets are held. It contains mostly fertile soil, good water in springs, and streams, and sufficient forest.*

*"One of the streams running through our land has sufficient power for one or two mills, and we indulge in the pleasing hope that our fellow citizens who may emigrate, will, if they are industrious and steady, find themselves in time well rewarded for their labor.*

*"The colonists, one hundred and eighteen souls, have arrived after a long journey, in which they experiences many hardships and disappointments, and are so destitute of everything that we were at once obliged to draw upon our credit in New York, so as to be able to supply their need until the next harvest. We havre provided temporary shelters for them and have allotted the parcels of land to each colonist.*

*"Have also drawn rules and bylaws for the government of the colony, and for best managing its possessions, and have elected four trustees: Fridolin Streiff, Balthasar Schindler, Fridolin Babler and David Schindler, the last-named to act as secretary."*

Regulations for management of the colony.

Everyone is obliged to take the land which he draws by lot, and whether it be better or worse to accept the same without protest

Main Street from east to west shall be thirty feet wide, but the other streets shall be only fourteen feet wide.

All creeks, streams, and springs shall be the common property of all lot owners. The colonists shall be obliged to assist each other in building houses and barns.

As soon as the patents for the lands shall have been signed by the President of the United States, and not before, each owner shall have the right to dig and prospect for minerals. Should any such be found, then the lot

on which it is found shall revert to the society, and the owner shall receive therefore an appropriate compensation."

Main Street was what is now Fifth Avenue and extended from Railroad Street west to Fourth Street Community life centered in the area between Fourth and Sixth Avenues on the north and south, and Railroad Street west to Fourth Street

Streiff explained purchase of provisions:

*"I buy provisions in large quantities and distribute them at cost, charging the amount to those who have no means, and receiving payment from those who have means to buy, as they could not buy as cheaply themselves. Flour per hundred pounds costs two dollars, beef two-and-a-half cents a pound by the quarter, tallow four cents, lard four cents, and potatoes twenty-two cents per bushel. Should the people do well, I shall call upon them to repay these advances."*

Swiss frugality, learned through years of harsh, unyielding economic duress, is evident in the accounting of money spent Total cost of exploration, passage of emigrants, purchase of 1,280 acres of land and timber, and subsistence for about one year \$5,600!

The colonists busied themselves at once building additional shelters, and by Christmas sixteen had been completed, each housing two families. That winter was mild and men worked out of doors splitting rails, chopping wood for fuel, and laying out projects for the planting season.

Judge Duerst returned to Switzerland in 1845, as agreed, afflicted with the ague. His replacement J. J. Tschudy, twenty-year-old Schwandener, reached the colony in autumn 1846 and represented the society's interests until 1856, when official ties between Glarus and New Glarus were dissolved with disposition of all land to private owners.

History records a curious secession of little Valley people. Glarus is divided into two topographical sections, Great and little valleys, and small though the canton is, each section has its own peculiarities setting it apart from the other. Inhabitants of each were clannish and secretive in the presence of the other and these traits crossed the Atlantic with the emigrants, manifesting themselves when a trifling disagreement arose. Twenty-five little Valley people withdrew to the east bank of the little Sugar River in fall 1845, built shelters and remained until spring. Several of these families left permanently a year or two later for larger tracts of land in Mt Pleasant and Sylvester townships.

Spring saw the settlers experimenting with crops—beans, potatoes, pumpkins and tobacco—mostly successful. Using general funds they bought cattle (about twelve dollars a head) at an auction in Exeter. Meadows, long silent echoed to the sounds of livestock, wagons and the strange guttural patois of ragged strangers from half a world away.

Work was on a communal basis. Streiff bought four yoke of oxen which were shared in turn by the former dyers, weavers and slaters, who, totally ignorant of American farming, knew little more than how to care for cattle and make butter and cheese.

Earlier settlers helped them adapt and adjust. Dispatches named Cap't Otis Ross, Theodore Greenwood, Charles George and the Armstrongs friends and advisors. Noah Phelps and Norman Churchill of Monroe collected a wagon load of provisions and clothing for the settlement in 1847. But the most effective of the colonists' resources were the firm determination, courage, and care and direction of their leaders. John Luchsinger, Glarus-born resident of the colony in the mid-nineteenth century, and later, member of the Wisconsin Historical Society board, wrote:

*"The names of F. Streiff and Nicholas Duerst, the pioneers; Rev. William Streissguth, pastor and physician; J. J. Tschudy, arbitrator, teacher, physician, and advisor; F. Egger, Mathias Duerst, George Legler, and Peter Jenny Elmer, men whose wise judgment and counsel were directed to the good of the community, all deserve in particular to be mentioned. Neither should we omit the members of the association in old Glarus, whose judicious action, and whose faith and money, made it possible to plant this stake in the wilderness."*

Frequently the pioneers, to earn things they could not make or grow, worked in other areas — Galena, lead mines at Exeter and Mineral Point, Thompson's settlement in Sylvester township, for earlier settlers. Men earned about fifty cents per day plus board, the fee often paid in flour, meat or potatoes carried home twenty-five miles or more. Women hired out as maids and washerwomen, their *"take home pay"*: clothes, food and other necessities.

Colonial progress is reflected in this early census report

	1846	1849
Horses	2	1
Bull	1	1
Oxen and steers	16	41
Cows	37	49
Heifers and calves	40	91
Sheep	9	15
Hogs	193	1482
Acres of tilled land	109	280
Population*	125	104
Dwellings	20	20

\*Some sources reverse these: 104 and 125

The virgin land did not yield to man without a struggle. Prairie fires blazed across acre after acre, taking a tremendous toll, some colonists losing beard, hair and clothing fighting for their crops and hay-covered dwellings. Swine, unhampered by fire-destroyed fences, ranged from field to field and what remained was subjected to repeated incursions of gophers.

A document of the era names these original settlers still in New Glarus:

Colonist	Wife	Children
Fridolin Babler	1	2
Oswald Babler	1	5
Casper Becker	0	1
Fridolin Becker	1	1
Jost Becker	1	0
Balthasar Duerst	1	4
Math. Duerst	1	2
Fridolin Hefti	1	2
Fridolin Hoesli	1	2
Henry Hoesli	1	2
Marcus Hoesli	0	2
Math. Hoesli	1	2
Fridolin Legler, Sr.	1	5
Fridolin Legler, Jr.	1	1
George Legler	1	5
J. C. Legler	1	5
Abraham Schindler	1	3
Balthasar Schindler	0	1
David Schindler	0	0
Math. Schmid	1	4
Anton Stauffacher	1	4
Henry Stauffacher	1	6
Jacob Stauffacher	1	3
Peter Stauffacher family (he died at Galena)	1	4
Rudolph Stauffacher	1	4
Fridolin Streiff	1	4
Hilarius Wild	1	2

Totals: 26 men; 3 wives; 73 children-122 persons in all.

Other lot holders, according to a report of Nov. 20, 1846, were Henry Aebli, Paul Kundert, Leonard Haemmerli, Jost Truempi, John Kundert, Mrs. Barbara Hoesly, Niklaus Duerst, Gabriel Baumgartner, Caspar Zwicky, and Fridolin Oertli. Other pioneers had not yet chosen their lots; consequently, some names do not appear on property records.

## Immortal Immigrant

Statistics surrender when misery invades the human heart. Often, the pioneer woman, like Keats' Ruth, "*stood in tears amid the alien corn.*"

"We cried," admitted one many years later, "*until our heads were like Laegele (small kegs for carrying water to workers), and wished we were home again, even if we had nothing else to live on but Schotte and Chruf (whey and spinach).*"

Colonial farming was farming at its worst. Not one settler knew how

to handle a plow, sow wheat, plant corn or build a grain shack. Faced with a choice of adapting or starving, the Swiss learned quickly. They made better use of acres they had and acquired more. A man could go to Mineral Point and for fifty dollars buy forty acres, not infrequently the same forty his neighbor eyed, and more than one friendship was destroyed in the race to "the Point" to make a purchase.

More Swiss immigrants arrived, New Glarus their goal, a home away from home, whose inhabitants spoke their language, understood their customs and shared kindred hopes. Available land in the colony was snapped up and newcomers, many from Canton Bern, went on to homestead in Jefferson, Clarno and Washington townships in Green County.

A second organized group of Glarner, sponsored by the parish of Bilten, came in 1847 and occupied seventeen forty-acre tracts purchase for them by Fridolin Streiff, in Washington township. Biltener, of the same sturdy stock as the Glarner who preceded them, accumulated additional land and the five mile gap between the two colonies disappeared, the two colonies becoming one extensive belt of Schweizers.

In 1848 a stranger carrying a small bag walked into the village from Milwaukee. Samuel Blumer, first colonial physician, a Glarner, practiced until the early "fifties", went to California, returning to New Glarus in the middle "fifties" to serve his neighbors until 1868 when his son J. Jacob took over.

By 1850 there was little doubt that the transplanted colony had taken root well enough to forecast a fruitful future. The stolid Swiss had carved an irrevocable niche in the American wilderness. The Swiss colony, originally part of York township, became New Glarus township in April and the village platted the following year.

The clang of hammer on anvil echoed across the settlement when Mark Luchsinger opened the first blacksmith shop. There colonists had their teams and wagons "*tuned up*" for the bumpy drive to Brooklyn township and the mill at Winnesheek, named after a long gone Indian chief.

But not all the Indians had gone. Sometimes rural families were frightened by the sudden appearance of small groups begging for food and clothing, or travelling through the area searching for pre-colonial camping or burial grounds. One such camping ground, designated on 1833 maps as White Breast's village, had existed in northeast New Glarus township, huts straddling the Dane-Green Co. line. Trails had run in several directions through the area. However, no major Indian settlements remained south of the Wisconsin River after Black Hawk's defeat in 1832. One pioneer woman recalled years ago: "*Indians came every summer and camped for weeks on the hill northwest of the village. But they were friendly and begged for food from the whites.*"

Following township organization, postal service, once-a-week delivery by horseback from Mineral Point, was inaugurated. The first postmaster was a Frenchman, Panchouz, relieved shortly by Joshua Wild. Other early postmasters were J. J. Tschudy, F. Egger, F. E. Legler, and Thomas C. Hefty who

acted in that capacity when the office was located in the Hefty and Kundert store, now 101 Sixth Ave.

In 1851 New Glarus got its first store, a cooperative venture by George, James and Conrad Ott. Joshua Wild built the village's first and only saw mill and produced many of the logs and boards for early buildings. Wild, a witty, vibrant person, recorded some observations on life and events.

*"I built a saw mill in 1851, also a house. We could not move into the house until spring, during which time we had to live in a very poor house. The winter was severely cold, often the water would not thaw out beside the stove all day.*

*"Then the terrible epidemic (1852) of scarlet fever covered the entire country. Many (seventeen) children died. We were sad but when we had to see her suffer with convulsions for 2-1/2 days we gladly gave her into the arms of the Lord. Our own dear little Maria also was a victim of that terrible disease."*

The year 1853 was the "year of the citizenship trees." Here's how it came about In January, thirty-one persons walked to Monroe for their citizenship papers. After the ceremony, the county clerk distributed a bushel of apples, fruit the Swiss had not seen for years. Seeds were carefully wrapped and carried home, planted and the trees aptly dubbed "citizenship trees."

With so many new citizens New Glarus was ripe for a real American holiday. The community dropped everything on Fourth of July to hear the more learned of their neighbors define Fourth of July, sing and dance and make their first observance of the Fourth a proper salute to America's national day of independence.

Melchoir and Rudolph Baumgartner built the New Glarus hotel, First St and Sixth Ave., where it still stands. New Glarus had "arrived." A mid-century American village without a hotel was a "nothing" like a European village without a square and fountain. It had many owners, Joseph Genal and other short time proprietors, S. Luchsinger who kept it many years, and in 1884 Henry Marty.

In 1854 a second deadly epidemic swept the colony. Wild describes it:

*"Friedli Schindler, wife and two children came from Freeport happy and looking ahead with great dreams. He hired a man in Albany to work in the harvest, but in the night, cholera overtook him (Schindler) and he finally died after suffering a great deal. Twenty-two persons (all adults) followed in the same manner. Every one was chewing garlic and carrying camphor which prevented the severe disease to some extent. People always had brandy on hand."*

The Crimean War of 1854, miles removed from New Glarus, had a major effect on local economy. Farmers had pinned their financial hopes on wheat, and the war caused a spectacular rise in price. The happy result was monetary success surpassing the dreams of even the most optimistic persons.

The graph line of European immigrants rose parallel to the price line of wheat. In 1830, 100,000 foreign born persons lived in America; by 1850 two-and-a-half million, and the number was increasing rapidly. Swiss headed for New Glarus, where they purchased land or bought established plots from

adventuresome young New Glarners who, lured by the excitement of travel and gold, went west, joining existing colonies or settling independently in Dodge Co., Minnesota; Kossuth and Humboldt counties, Iowa; and California and Oregon.

The Swiss remained aloof from politics until 1858 when J. J. Tschudy became the first one elected to a county office, two terms as register of deeds, four as county clerk. Mathias Marty became county clerk in 1852 and again ten years later, serving for fourteen years. John Luchsinger, historian, was five times state assemblyman, and in the 1887 session both Green Co. members were Glarners, the second, J. C. Zimmerman. Luchsinger was county treasurer from 1883 to 1887. Two nineteenth century sheriffs were Swiss, Edward Rugger in 1882; Thomas Luchsinger in 1890.

Schweizers, hard workers when work had to be done, occasionally assumed a convivial posture when a special near-at-hand vintage. A Mr. North, native of the grape growing area in the Alsace, started a vineyard south of the village and produced an average of 300 gallons per year, 500 being tops.

Beginning in 1861, for several decades the pungent smell of horses' hoofs being fitted with shoes emanated from the northeast corner of the Sixth Street Ave. and First St intersection where Constantine Haegele ran his blacksmith shop.

A year later, down the street at 26 Sixth Ave., Gus. Alder built the Wisconsin House, intending it for a store. In 1864 Henry Marty bought it, remodeled and operated it as a hotel for about fourteen years. Later landlords included Henry Hoesly, Ulrich Kubly, and Henry Aebli, Jr. who had it in 1884.

In 1854 David Klassy bought Joshua Wild's saw mill and eight years later built a grist mill, propelled by water power, and with it a barley hulling machine, perhaps the first in Wisconsin, providing hausfrau's with the basic ingredient of a Swiss favorite, gerste suppe, (barley soup) enjoyed today as much as then.

Klassy sold the property in 1864 to S. and H. Hoesly who carried on four years. Subsequent owners were Mathias Schmid, Rudolph Kundert, Fred Kundert By 1884 the mill was rented to A. N. Beeny, an English miller, who pleased housewives with his manufactured yeast cakes.

Despite their Americanization, New Glarners never forgot their origin in the Alps. Dramatic evidence of this appeared in 1861 when word reached New Glarus that the city of Glarus had been almost totally destroyed by fire. At once a sum of \$1,250 was contributed and rushed to Glarus. This is especially noteworthy since not one of the original colonists was a native of that city.

The shot fired on Ft Sumter, in Charleston harbor, April 12, 1861, struck every city, village and township in America. Remote New Glarus was no exception.

In the finest tradition of their ancestors who fought with pike and battle-ax at Sempach and Morgarten and Naefels, one hundred Swiss, armed with rifle and sword, went to the defense of their adopted land and fought and bled at Bull Run and South Mountain and Gettysburg.

The Swiss had never heard of those small but bloody streams whose name gave title to a battle; they had never heard of the villages whose limits marked the end of a thousand lives. Yet the mountaineers and weavers who had come from Switzerland less than a lifetime before left their mark on hallowed battlefields. Only a few fought in the land that gave them birth. Some had come here only a decade earlier, and one or two had not been here long enough to learn the language of the land they served.

Most were assigned to either the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment or the 9th. The latter, composed of men with previous military experience in Europe, was one of Wisconsin's finest. Of Green County's fifty-five men, about fifty were New Glarus Swiss.

One, Thomas Schmid, Co. D, was the first child born in New Glarus, Dec. 12, 1845. Another, Jacob Kundert, joined the colony in 1854 and enlisted in Co. K in 1862. When he arrived here, Kundert was \$100 in debt but eventually became one of the county's largest landowners with 1,100 acres, making Swiss cheese with milk from his 140 cattle.

The 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin regiments, plus one each from Indiana and Michigan, made up the famed Iron Brigade, whose daring and brilliance in battles at Gainesville, Laurel Hill, and Fredericksburg, Virginia; South Mountain and Antietam, Maryland; and Gettysburg, thrilled patriots with the glory of American fighting men.

Thirty Green Co. men fought with the Iron Brigade, eight in the 6th and 7th regiments. The 2nd's twenty-two man contingent included nineteen from New Glarus. One was Fridolin Streiff, who had arrived here in 1861, volunteered in October of the same year before learning English. In battle he was wounded three times and mustered out a sergeant. His adventures earned him the respect and admiration of his Iron Brigade comrades who called him "The Iron Dutchman."

A Nov. 6, 1861, issue of the **Monroe Sentinel** carried this story:

*"The portion of a company of infantry raised at New Glarus, consisting of between forty and fifty men, came into town on Friday last, preparatory to going into camp. They expect to increase their number here. Their fine soldierly appearance, and martial bearing excited the admiration of all who saw them."*

A father and son donned Union uniforms. Christian Luchsinger enlisted in 1864 for a six month term with the 142nd Illinois Volunteers, was discharged but reenlisted in the 55th Wisconsin Volunteers, serving for fifteen months. His son Thomas joined the 35th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in 1864.

New Glarus' second physician, Dr. Fred Hees, of Switzerland, who practiced in 1861 and 1862, enlisted in the army and died in service.

Joshua Wild commented on the home front during the war days:

*"This became a bad time. Taxes were high, whoever had lots for sale got high prices. Prices of all products were high, calico was 50 cents a yard, sheeting was \$1 a yard. The gold dollar was worth \$2.85."*

The war ended in 1865, two decades after the founding of New Glarus. In those decades the Swiss had created a home in the untouched hills and valleys of southern Wisconsin and added a new, permanent dimension to Green County's population and culture. The Swiss had fought hard to preserve the life of a nation.

A less viable colony would have perished. But the Glarner, carved rock-hard by the immutable Alps, clung tenaciously to life, like his beloved edelweiss clings to its mountain, and endured: an immortal immigrant.

## **The Inner Man**

Major problems following birth of the colony centered about consolidation of gains colonists were making in conquering their physical environment. Yet at no time were the settlers unaware of their need for high religious and academic edification.

They took the initial step toward balancing tangibles against intangibles in 1847 in a small log house belonging to Balthasar Schindler, when a Mr. Cowan undertook the first English school. County records credited the New Glarus school district with forty students attending a three-month term.

In 1848, education centered in Math. Schmid's primitive cabin, 101 Fifth Ave., taught by Jas. Kilroy, an Irishman whose interpretation of progressive education was to wallop pupils who didn't measure up. School facilities would have failed the lowest modern standards. One room in a log house, shared by a pioneer family of nine, an Irish teacher, twenty Swiss "*scholars*."

The following year, the first house of worship was built near 102 Fifth Ave. by voluntary contributions of labor, material and money, and pressed into service as a school house and public meeting hall. In autumn congregations of Glarus voted to provide a minister for their brethren in Wisconsin.

William Streissguth, graduate of Basle Mission House, preacher and missionary, reached the colony Sunday, June 23, 1850, and commented:

*"The greeting could not have been heartier, or more joyous. My fears and prejudices vanished as I met and conversed with the people. Religious feeling and sentiment had from disuse become only dormant, and not, as I and others had feared, extinct."*

Next Sunday, Streissguth consecrated the small crude building: "While this temple is in no way to be likened to that of Solomon, yet was our joy and thankfulness as great as that of Solomon."

On Tuesday, the people organized as a congregation of the Swiss Reformed Church and elected J. J. Tschudy president. Services were held Sunday mornings, religious instruction afternoons. Every fourth week the pastor buggied five miles to satisfy the needs of the Bilten colony.

Weekdays Streissguth taught German, reading and writing, as had Mr. Ernst and J. J. Tschudy before him. A true man of the cloth who placed ministry ahead of money, Streissguth was paid two hundred dollars his first year, two hundred fifty the second. An early resident recalled: "*Rev. Streissguth kept several cows to help augment his small income.*"

First teacher in the 1849 model church-meeting hall school was Peter Jenny, succeeded six years later by J. Conrad Zimmerman, who had arrived in America in 1854, taught German in Freeport, Ill., one year, came to New Glarus in fall 1855 to teach the only school in town, for four years. District school enrollment, 166; number of books in the school library, 166.

In 1856 Streissguth was replaced by the Rev. John Zimmerman, brother of teacher Zimmerman, and he, in 1859, by John Etter, community religious leader until 1896.

The log church had performed yeoman service in unifying and giving substance to the religious wants of the colonists in the difficult years, but it had completed its span of usefulness by 1858 and a new stone structure graced the gentle, historic hill in mid-town, inspiring Etter to write:

*"Viewed from the hill on the east, the village presents a lovely appearance with its white, yellow, red and blue houses against the background of green forests. There are about thirty dwellings in the village. In their midst on a small hill the beautiful new town church with its cupola tower presents a lovely picture, especially at sunset when the cattle come home with their musical bells tinkling in the breeze. The church has a pulpit, altar, balcony and tower. Adjoining is the graveyard."*

The graveyard on the south lawn of the church lay where Duerst and Streiff's original structures had succored colonists with their first shelter and rest. Many of the same colonists found their final rest there. This burial ground became inadequate and in 1874 the congregation dedicated the present one in the 700 block of Sixth, Seventh and Eighth avenues.

Conceived in the old world, the Swiss church preserved ancient traditions, enriching community-life. It was a centuries-old practice, since abandoned in New Glarus, that families separated after entering church, males sitting on one side, females on the other. Services ended, the latter made their exit while men stood silently waiting their turn. This is believed to have originated as a badge of honor to the lady of Naefels, who in 1388 left church, discovered an Austrian ambush and sped back to warn the congregation which then proceeded to scatter the enemy.

Another denomination deserves attention. The Evangelical Assoc. was introduced to the colony by itinerant preachers in 1847. The faith it espoused was different from that in old Glarus and opposition ranged from mild to hostile so that the tiny congregation had to build its first church, 1859, two miles southwest of the village on land purchased from Heinrich Hoesly, Feb. 28, by trustees Marcus Hefty, George Legler, and Peter Jenny.

Opposition mellowed with time and in 1865 members put up a church

in the village. The present building in the 200 block on Sixth Ave. is the home of the Evangelical United Brethren.

Education advanced steadily. In 1866 a new school was erected of labor and materials donated by residents of the district. The following year Fabian Knobel, native Glarner, settled in the village and taught for twenty-three years.

Night classes in German for adults wishing to improve their lot were conducted by Christian Luchsinger, who had joined the colony in 1852 with two of his children, Thomas and Elizabeth, his wife and son Samuel coming the next year. Luchsinger left New Glarus in 1854 to mine at Mineral Point but returned to the Swiss after his Civil War service.

The school system was supported by taxation; however, unusual supplementary financing was recorded. In 1863, schools realized a sum of \$45.50 from dog licenses, and ten years later, parents who were not taxpayers were billed one dollar per month as their share of the burden of "rocketing" expenses.

In 1892 one thousand dollars were raised to cover current expenses and start a building fund. The red brick structure in the 400 block of Sixth Ave., was finished in 1897.

Kilbi, an old world church holiday celebrated by colonists and latterday Christians, is worthy of special mention. "**Kilbi**," a peculiar Swiss-German idiom for "Kirchweihe," or church hallowing, falls on the last Sunday in September and is dedicated to religious thanksgiving. Services include a roll call of confirmation classes and reunions. Years ago, secular activities featured sharpshooting matches at which New Glarus Swiss were tops.

Kilbi Monday, the fun day, generations of Schweizers lived it up with foaming steins, Alp-high heaps of Swiss foods, traditional bread, butter, and honey, and at night danced themselves to exhilarating exhaustion in schot-tisches, waltzes, laendlers and wittligs.

Any hall large enough to accommodate a dozen pairs of dancing feet had a fiddler and a bandonion player knocking out "**Pony Boy**" and the rest of the top ten. Young men organized the dances, publicized them, and on the big night decorated horse and buggy and tooled around the country through the lanes and over the hills driving eligible frauleins to the dance hall full of eligible young men. The Kilbi of today is relatively mild, revolving about the Sunday church observance.

## **Swiss Colony to American Village**

Eighteen hundred sixty-six. The war had ended. The last bugle had blown and the proud, bloody banners of the north were furled. The Swiss had come home changed men They had seen a great nation devoured in flame but, Phoenix-like, rise from the ashes with vigor and determination and purpose. They had seen the grandeur of their country, teeming cities, men of diverse birth bear arms to preserve common ideals.

War had "Americanized" them and the home folks as no other single event had. Physical remnants of colonial days disappeared, leaving almost no traces, and in their place rose shops and homes that second generation New Glarers were to remember from their childhood. Utilitarian homespun was relegated to the closet after bright yard goods and "store bought" clothing pried a Schweizer's purse. A hut went down, a house went up. The colonial aura vanished, swept inexorably into history by effervescent postwar progress.

Fritz Tschudy opened a general store near 523 First St, which he operate several decades. One year later (1867) Jacob Hefty and Dr. Sam Blumer built a distillery which never distilled, 218 Fifth Ave., but Hefty assumed complete ownership in 1871, converted it to a brewery and in the early 80's produced 600-700 barrels annually until selling to Gabriel Zweifel in 1893.

Hefty had been ten when he arrived with the original 118 colonists and never lost the pioneering spirit He was the first Swiss boy to learn English and owned the first threshing machine in this part of the county.

The magic word was "wheat" Since 1850 wheat had been bread, butter, cake and icing to the Swiss. But before 1870 there appeared ominous signs of crumbling and decay. Chinch bugs ruined several crops. Hills, carpeted with golden grain for almost twenty years, had become scarred by erosion. Wheat prices plunged.

The Swiss were in a quandary. Their wheat-based economy was disintegrating and few persons were skilled in anything but the rural arts.

Almost from the beginning cheese had been made on a small scale, mainly for home consumption; any surplus had found ready markets in the county. The limited amount of milk available had precluded assembly line manufacture but as farmer after farmer, voluntarily or of necessity, abandoned wheat and turned to dairying, the trickle of milk broadened to a stream.

A man whose trademark was a long black beard and a fine white horse, Nick Gerber, opened Green County's first limburger factory in southern New Glarus township in 1868 and the first Swiss cheese factory a year later, four miles south of the village, in Washington township. Sites were marked with plaques in 1939.

The transition from wheat to dairying was not effected in a month or even a year, but the change was steady. The urgency of falling income was unflagging. Equally instrumental, though less dramatic, was the fact that later immigrants were dairymen, determined to succeed in their specialty. And so the wheat belt gave way to a lush green tapestry of rich grasses and clovers admirably suited for ever-increasing herds of fine dairy cattle.

Eighteen hundred seventy ushered in a highly significant decade in New Glarus and Wisconsin history. During that era were laid the foundation stones upon which was built the structure of Wisconsin's cheese industry.

In 1870 merchants' stocks totalled \$5,215, personal property \$63,295.

Residents gathered to hear speeches and music celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the colony.

Two years later Mark Hoesly bought Peter Zweifel's store and saloon, 108 Second St, added to it and ran it as a hotel and meat market, N.C. Duerst started his harness business at 500 First St

In 1873 the village had its first cheese factory, New Glarus Cheese Corp., 401 Railroad St, specializing in American cheese, and by 1876 Mr. Wilder was producing 136,000 lbs., some of which was exported to England.

Melchoir Schmid opened a blacksmith shop in 1874, operating it many years. And cheese-making had become a major occupation involving a large share of the dairy industry.

Americans were restless and ready to answer the strong call of the Far West County population, 23,611 in 1870, had dipped to 22,027 by 1875. New Glarus township was one of four to show a rise, going from 958 (491 native born, 467 foreign) to 975. A half-dozen township farmers each owned four hundred acres or more: Paul Kundert, Fridolin Kundert, Adam Schmid, Elmer Bros., Jost Hoesly, Geo. Legler, Sr.

In 1876 Gerber, cheese pioneer, operated two factories in New Glarus township, one in Washington, manufacturing 227,900 lbs. of limburger. The aromatic product had proven more profitable than romantic Swiss and had taken precedence throughout the area so that by 1879 three-fourths of total township cheese was limburger. Twenty-five hundred cows gave their all for the 600,000 lbs. shipped from New Glarus factories to Milwaukee, Chicago, St Louis, Great Britain and Switzerland.

A unique art came to New Glarus in 1878: marble-cutting. John P. Schmid, trained in Switzerland, opened a shop just north of 301 Second St and turned out tombstones for the village and neighboring communities.

The following year Jost Hoesly, Jr. opened a hardware store at 101 Fifth Ave., and the twenty-member New Glarus Schuetzen Verein (shooting club) purchased land at the north end of Second St for a permanent park which is today the site of the annual Volksfest

A sketchy profile revealed that the village, just before 1880, boasted the following:

Fifty dwellings, with barns and outbuildings

Two churches

Two school houses

A grist mill and a sawmill

A large cheese factory

A Brewery

Three stores

Four hotels and saloons

One minister

One physician

Over 3,000 Swiss and descendants, one-seventh of the population, lives in the county.

The "seventies" were the "*decade of the birth of the cheese industry*," the "eighties" the "*decade of expansion*." Factories sprang up at every crossroad, and almost every one prospered. Little has been said of cheesemakers. Many shared in the remarkable progress chalked up by the fledgling industry which was to be the keystone in county rural economics for years to come. But detailed examination of every maker, his accomplishments and contributions, the years of his service, would necessitate a separate volume and encompass the entire county and its hundreds of factories; this lies beyond the scope of New Glarus history.

The pace at which the local dairy industry advanced can be gauged by these facts. In 1880 New Glarus township produced 19,000 lbs. of butter and 752,000 lbs. of cheese, little if any of the latter, Swiss.

Also in 1880 Fred Schindler opened a boarding house at 200 Fifth Ave. and with it a meat market and saloon. Thomas Hoesly, Jr., born in Barcelona, Spain, built a residence and business, 102 Second St., and handled general merchandise. Hoesly had opened a harness shop in 1875 but extended his operations five years later.

Gabriel Schindler, who had begun a wagon and blacksmith shop in 1876, rebuilt in 1881 at 116 Fifth Ave., rented the second floor to organizations and businesses. His wife sold millinery to fashion-conscious ladies from the Schindler residence at 130 Fifth Ave.

A blind deaf-mute, Joshua Tschudy, trained boot and shoe maker, opened a confectionery and notion stand at 23 Sixth Ave. in 1882, and a year later, down the street 29 Sixth Ave., Henry Luchsinger established a furniture business.

By 1884 New Glarus township was turning out cheese in eighteen factories, largest of which was in the village, run by Henry Holdrich, devouring milk from 425 cows to turn out American and Limburger. The same year Peter Streiff started a hardware store at 401 Second St

Forty years after the settlers had arrived, their numbers had dwindled and the Swiss organized a fortieth anniversary to honor those remaining and remind newer generations of their historic heritage. August 12, 1885, in a rustic grove at the western limits of the village, near present highway 39, twelve survivors, greyed, bent by hard work, told their stories of suffering and struggle and near-starvation. But their tear-filled eyes saw the home they had built, the families they had raised into fine Americans, the life blood they had infused into Wisconsin's dairy potential.'

In 1887 Lovejoy and Richards, formerly of Brooklyn, moved to New Glarus and built the first lumber yard in the 300 block of Second St where the village park stands. But the major event of that year, and one which had a tremendous effect on local life and economy was begun when negotiators representing the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St Paul railroad proposed a rail line to New Glarus.

Within four months, less time than is consumed by modern negotiators mouthing "fringe benefits," New Glarus was linked to the rest of the world and easily accessible to travellers, salesmen, and others whose affairs required fast, dependable transportation. Goods flowed in and out with ease. Communications were practically instantaneous via telegraph, handmaiden of the iron horse.

The character of the community was changing. Youngsters, who had gotten their thrills listening to Civil War tales, went to the depot to hear and see travellers from the "outside." Provincialism was routed the day a trail of smoke and the call of the whistle traced the first train's route to the village siding.

A fitting climax to the decade was this 1889 statement by Theodore Rodolph, friend of the pioneers, then residing at La Crosse:

*"I have never been to New Glarus . . . my duties in other directions have prevented me from ever visiting the colony in whose inception and birth I assisted. But from all reports, the colony is prosperous-industry and thrift prevail. The people have preserved the honesty, integrity, activity, and love of liberty which have been the distinguishing traits of the Swiss nation for the last six hundred years."*

Rodolph died three years later, Feb. 12.

The nineteenth century's last decade opened with New Glarus, a solid American village, consisting of:

One hundred fifty dwellings, plus barns, outbuildings

A brewery

One cheese factory

A stock yard

Stores, shops, hotels, saloons

Six hundred residents

One physician

One preacher

Three schoolteachers

Artisans, merchants, laborers

The village was "Swiss headquarters" for the area. On a Swiss holiday, sacred or secular, county Swiss gathered here to celebrate as they had in the land of the Alps, and those who had never seen Switzerland were indistinguishable in their ardor for Vaterland traditions.

The people spoke their strange dialect on the streets, in the home, when conducting commercial and official business. If official business outside the perimeter of the Swiss bastion involved them, they used an interpreter.

The Swiss had flowed and were flowing beyond the borders of the community, and except for three or four Norwegian families on the northern border, through the township, like a glacier stream flows through Alpine meadows. Two-thirds of Washington township, large portions of other townships in this county and southern Dane Co. were dominated by the sons of the mountains. In Green Co. they exceeded 8,000 persons, one-third of the total population.

John Luchsinger noted:

*"The colony was standing proof of what a small amount of money, well directed and expended, may do to better the condition of the honest poor of overcrowded places in the old and new world. As the money thus laid out has long since been refunded, the founding of this colony cost literally nothing, while the benefit to thousands has been priceless.*

*"Movement started with 118 poverty-stricken people, whose very destitution anchored them to their new home, compelling them to stay where they were placed. These have now grown into communities aggregating 8,000 persons, whose landed possessions have increased from 1280 acres of wild land and timber to more than 90,000, fertile and improved.*

*"Success of this colony has attracted wide attention, and much inquiry has been made in regard to the manner of founding it. Kentucky and Tennessee have with great success adopted the colony plan for the settlement of their mountain land with Swiss."*

The Swiss confederation was founded Aug. 1, 1291, on Ruetli meadow. In September, 1891, over 6,000 Swiss and non-Swiss gathered at New Glarus, many coming by special train, to celebrate the 600th anniversary of Switzerland's birth. Swiss hearts beat faster as villagers presented tableaux, speeches, and haunting yodels, the birthright of mountain Swiss. News of the festival had been spread through the county in the pages of the "**Green County Herald**," German language publication printed in Monroe by a Swiss, the first newspaper offering regular service to residents. The first locally owned newspaper, "**Der Neu Glarus Bote**," appeared in 1897, founded by John Theiler, whose descendants continued the newspaper tradition over half a century.

The Bank of New Glarus opened its doors Oct 30, 1893, at 113 Sixth Ave., just west of Hefty and Kundert's store post office. That year Chicago's Columbian Exposition attracted world-wide attention and, curiously, a trace remains in New Glarus today. Here is the tale.

The Swiss government display at the exposition included a life-size, carved wooden steinbock (Alpine ibex) inhabitant of the highest reaches of the Alps. When the display was dismantled, the Swiss government presented the carving to Chicago's Swiss Consul. The government pressed the two hundred pound statue back into service as part of its entry at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933. It found its way to a tailor shop in Neenah, Wis., and when the shop became too crowded, the Swiss proprietor presented it to the New Glarus Historical Society, where it stands among the treasures of this village's Swiss heritage.

Eighteen hundred ninety-five was an interesting year in community affairs. Dr. Elias J. Helgeson started a practice and, in what must have seemed a daring political coup, was elected justice of the peace—the first person of other than Swiss ancestry to win a New Glarus election.

In the quarter-century since 1870, merchants' stocks had tripled from \$5,215 to \$16,515.

The passing of twenty-five years had brought the men and women to the fiftieth year since the birth of the colony. Six original colonists still lived in the village and witnessed a celebration which began with a parade led by a band and dozens of Swiss banners, horsemen. Excursion trains unloaded visitors from miles away and the depot was the starting point for the procession which led up Fifth Ave. and on to the school where John Luchsinger spelled out the significance of the colony's achievements and its role in state and county history.

A tender observation by Charles A. Booth well summarizes the changes which had taken place by the end of the century:

*"Strange, indeed, would it seem to one of the original colonists, who dug up his little twenty-acre tract with spade and mattock, cut his grain with a sickle and threshed it with a flail; who tied his hay from the tiny meadow into bundles and carried it upon his back to the tiny log barn, where he stored it.*

*"Later generations-two or three, perhaps, had barns as large or larger than the land allotments of their grandfathers."*

# CHAPTER 4

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

### Yesterday, Today

New Glarus went into the new century, a paradox. The physical environment had, with few exceptions, completed a transition from colonial to small town American appearance. Log huts were gone, homes and shops and barns looked like those in any other middle west village. Yet something remained that was different from other communities, something sensed rather than seen. Reverence for the customs and traditions of their fathers and grandfathers was a way of life for the Swiss.

The first colonists had brought with them from the old world to the new, a proud, strong heritage. Their descendants brought that heritage from the old century into the new.

In 1901 the village, which had remained a part of New Glarus township, was incorporated as a separate entity. Over the next few years citizens availed themselves of creature comforts with installation of basic services, light, water, fire department, telephone.

The same year, the congregation of the Swiss church, under pastor Anton Roth, who had begun a busy seventeen-year stint of loyal service in 1896, had grown out of the quaint white church that had been a landmark on the knoll in the center of the village since mid-century, and dedicated the present red brick structure March 24.

In Sept, 1913, Gottfried Elliker assumed the duties of the pulpit. By 1924 the congregation needed better facilities and replaced the white Sunday School with a larger building for church organization meetings and Sunday School, naming it Zwingli House after Ulrich Zwingli, sixteenth century Glarus reformer and patriot.

The Rev. Richard Rettig succeeded Elliker in 1927 and served until the arrival of the Rev. Walter Stuckey in 1943. The latter was followed by the Rev. Lynn Tschudy in 1951 and present pastor, Linus Wierwill, in 1961.

An interesting fact gleaned from church records indicates that the first pipe organ was installed in 1874, and since then only three regular organists have served: J. Conrad Zimmerman, 1874-1894; J. J. Figi, 1894-1922; Miss Alice Freitag, 1922 to the present time.

Deeply rooted in New Glarus Swiss was a custom born in the new world: honoring founding of their colony. In 1905, Swiss gathered in the village to witness 60th anniversary rites, hear speeches and listen to yodel songs handed down through centuries.

That year marked the high tide of cheese production in village and township factories, twenty-two producing no less than 1,396,000 lbs. The steady rise in the number of cheese manufacturing plants in the city is

evidenced by the fact that in 1911 Green Co. boasted 182 factories. But New Glarus' peak had passed, and by 1915 only three remained. The influence of New Glarus on the cheese industry was aptly noted by Charles Booth in 1913:

*"For many years American cheese was made in various parts of the county, but the introduction of foreign types made the county so distinctively a dairying area, and this introduction is due to the Swiss colony at New Glarus."*

In 1910 village population reached 708, township, 627. Population statistics show that while rural population had been greater than village population, the situation had reversed and the village was coming into its own. The year brought other changes.

The Bank of New Glarus left its original location for a new building at 101 Fifth Ave., where it has been ever since. The Citizens Bank opened its doors a few hundred feet away at 130 Fifth Ave. and handled money where earlier Mrs. Gabriel Schindler had handled millinery. The banks merged in 1930 and continued under the name of the first.

Also in 1910 a factory whistle sounded the death knell for the village's last cheese factory, 103 First Ave., when its last ten patrons turned their horses toward 88 Second St. and, Nov. 30, hauled 3,087 lbs. of milk to the newly-opened Helvetia Milk Condensing Co. After a year's operation, milk purchases hit a million lbs., patrons numbered 172.

The name was changed to Pet Milk Co. Average volume of milk reached a half-million lbs. daily, brought in by company owned trucks from a seven-county area. But the demand for "canned" milk declined after World War II and the plant ceased operations in New Glarus, Feb., 1962.

Advertisements in the "**Deutsche Schweizerische Courier**" of 1911 told that Joseph Puempel had taken over the wirtschafft (pub) at 18 Sixth Ave.; Gottlieb Kammer, at 200 Fifth Ave., had a wirtschafft and a kegebahn (bowling alley) at 425 Second St; and Rudolph Schmid ran a restaurant below the Citizens Bank, 130 Fifth Ave.

The Farmers Cooperative Stock Co. began buying and selling livestock in 1913 and is still at it After a half-century of operation, figures revealed that the firm had done over \$53,000,000 worth of business. Alvin A Ott is the only manager the company has had.

The 1897 school was bursting at the seams so in 1914 a large addition was built on the south side, and in 1939 another was required. By 1958 the school district had multiplied several times and a new high school was erected at the south end of Second St To this was added a junior high wing in 1963. Enrollment figures for 1965:

kindergarten through fifth grade:	365
junior high (grades 6,7,8):	175
high school:	222
Total	762

For the fifth time the Swiss got together to recall founding of the settlement. Special feature of the two-day 70th anniversary in 1915 was the unveiling of the Pioneer Settlers' Monument near the site of the crude huts that first sheltered the 118 pioneers. This twenty-two foot granite shaft supports a life-size figure of a pioneer, on the sides are inscribed names of the first settlers. Besides the usual parade, addresses, singing and merrymaking, was a speech by Gov. Emanuel Phillip, first Wisconsin governor of Swiss descent.

New Glarus contributed between seventy and eighty men to WW-I, two gave their lives: Walter Stuessy, August Martin.

Items chosen at random from 1924 issues of the "**New Glarus Post**"  
Jan. 30, Druggist R. Bartlett put "Cuti-Smooth" hand lotion on the market.

Feb. 20, Fridolin Legler, colonist, dies.

June 4, Henry G. Hoesly patented a milk cooling machine.

June 30, First tourist uses tourist park.

July 28, Ku Klux Klan meets on a farm between Monticello and New Glarus.

Nov. 29, J. Conrad Zimmerman (historian) dies at Anaheim, California.

The cheese industry, born and raised in New Glarus, had withered to insignificance here, but had grown into a strapping champ in other parts of the county. Production in 1925 soared to 4,200,000 lbs. of limburger, 7,300,000 lbs. of Swiss. Cow population reached 64,201, three times the human population!

By 1925 the Swiss had been here eighty years, time for another anniversary. Festivities included church services featuring the Rev. A. E. Burkhardt of Glarus, music and addresses at the Schuetzen park, then used mainly by tourists. Two original colonists had survived, Mrs. Mary Engler, who had been six when she came, was confined to her home because of blindness, and Oswald Babler, 90, who had been ten at the founding, attended, the last survivor to be present at any anniversary.

A favorite in New Glarus, Sol. Levitan, state treasurer, spoke of his days as a resident walking dusty roads, selling general merchandise from a pack on his back, later travelling those roads by horse and wagon, and finally as a partner in Levitan-Stuessy store, 523 First St

*"Among these sturdy Swiss people I made my home for many years, for I settled in New Glarus as a merchant and spent some of my best years there.*

*"America has drawn its people from many lands and from every corner of the globe, but it never has received into its melting pot any finer elements than those supplied by these Swiss settlers of Green County."*

A major fire threatened New Glarus, May 12, 1926. The Streiff and Domholdt livery barn, 19 Fifth Ave. belched smoke and flame and before the fire was brought under control, a residence was lost and at least ten others were burning in the south part of town, although all were saved.

like "*all of Gaul*," the village was, as in earlier days and to some extent even today, "divided into three parts." The "Schoenegrund," (good land) was the area south of Seventh Ave. Seventh Ave. north to Fourth Ave. was "Vorderstaedtli" (front town); Fourth Ave. north was "Hinterstaedtli" (back town). There is no unanimous agreement on boundaries for each area, but a poll of community elders resulted in a majority-for these.

At the start of the "thirties," village population was 1010. May 31, 1931, the New Glarus American Legion dedicated a historical marker, the first in this area, on the Old Lead Trail a mile south of the village, where the original 80-acre timber tract stood almost untouched from colonial days.

The trail is a pageant of history. Early miners and merchants moved their products along it; Gen. Henry Dodge and his rangers rushed down it pursuing Black Hawk; and early settlers followed it in their journeys to and from Exeter, Galena and Mineral Point

Three years later seventy-eight acres were purchased by the Wisconsin Conservation Department and converted into a state camping, hiking and picnicking site. A recent acquisition increased park size to about one hundred acres used by thousands of tourists annually.

Another decade passed. New Glarus celebrated its 90th anniversary with premiere performances of a pageant of local history, written by the late Dr. John Schindler, born and raised a New Glarner. Guest speaker was Gov. P. F. La Follette, and once more "Uncle Sol Levitan reminisced with his Swiss friends and prophesied humorously that if the governor became president, he (Levitan) would be appointed "Ambassador to Jerusalem."

In World War II New Glarus sent 200 men and women to every battlefield on the globe. All returned except Otto Kuenzi, Alvin Stauffacher, Lester Meland, and Henry Nehrbass. Many visited Switzerland, a natural goal for New Glarner. With what devotion New Glarus had preserved the language of a century before is related in this Mar. 21, 1948, "**Milwaukee Journal**" dispatch from Glarus, Switzerland:

*"Gl's from New Glarus, Wis., who have visited their Swiss 'second home' have surprised the local residents with their knowledge of the Swiss German language.*

*"... These Wisconsin boys speak a purer Schwiezer-Deutsch than is spoken in Glarus.*

*"The language handed down from generation to generation in New Glarus has kept words which have since disappeared from the Swiss vocabulary."*

The war ended too late for full scale participation by the whole community in a 1945 centennial. Few service persons had come home, so villagers observed the 100th anniversary quietly. A three-day celebration was staged in 1946, featuring a repeat of Dr. Schindler's pageant

New Glarus had been rural from the beginning. Colonial artisans and persons with Swiss training for manufacturing had little opportunity to use their skills. Farming, wheat and dairy, had sustained the settlement

for generations and continued through the years a major prop of the economy. In 1850 New Glarus township recorded forty-four farms of forty acres each and in 1950, 117 farms averaging 192 acres.

The Swiss took time out for their 110th anniversary, Saturday, September 3, 1955, combining that day with the two-day Wilhelm Tell festival.

Not many American communities can boast of having been spawned by organized efforts of a foreign country as New Glarus was. Still fewer can point to having been the target of two colonial movements as New Glarus can.

Early in 1964 thirty-three Amish arrived and founded a settlement in rural areas north of the village. In a year the number had doubled.

The Amish movement began in 1693 when a Swiss Mennonite, Jacob Aman, felt that the Mennonites were becoming too worldly. Since then, little has changed for the Old Order Amish, who build no churches, preferring services in homes.

Activities of these friendly, picturesque people are dictated by rigid tradition and deep-seated beliefs. Men wear broad-brimmed black hats and denim work clothes with hooks and eyes rather than buttons, substituting black suits for denims on dress-up occasions. Women confine their simple, ancient fashions to dark colors.

Transportation is by horse and buggy, affording New Glarus residents and tourists an opportunity to observe the mode of transportation that "whisked" early settlers from one corner of the settlement to another.

An interesting similarity exists between the 1964 Amish and 1845 New Glarers. Both preferred Thursday or Tuesday weddings and shunned Wednesdays.

## **Mirror of Switzerland**

New Glarus, 1965, is a kaleidoscope of color, architecture, food, song, and tradition in which the ever-recurring theme is Swiss. Referred to as "*Switzerland's tiniest, most distant canton*," New Glarus deserves more than any other community this side of the towering Alps to be called "little Switzerland."

To a casual observer or an experienced traveller, the village and its environs mirror the Switzerland that was and the Switzerland that is. No one physical attraction, no one intangible impression could paint the picture that New Glarus is today.

New Glarus' singular fame rests on an amalgam of many factors, some devoted to preservation of an ancient heritage, others to infusion into New Glarus life of new, yet authentic characteristics.

In 1912 twenty-three American and foreign born Swiss, whose fondest images of the Swiss nation were reflected in the old songs, gathered to organize a maennerchor (men's chorus). It disbanded in the early 20's but was reorganized in 1928 and has been active ever since. Annual events include spring and fall concerts and social evenings for members.

After World War I the chorus sponsored a benefit concert for orphaned children of Swiss soldiers, and in 1940 one for Swiss soldiers. For years, Labor Day weekend visitors enjoyed free concerts in the village park. The star event, drawing thousands of visitors, is the annual Volksfest, first Sunday in August, honoring founding of the Swiss nation, Aug. 1, 1291.

A well known Swiss group is the New Glarus Yodel Club, formed in 1928. The club has entertained at every Volksfest, throughout the U.S., and parts of Europe. These masters of authentic Swiss yodeling sponsored a pilgrimage to Switzerland in 1960 for 158 American-Swiss visiting the land of the Alps and chalets for the first time, or revisiting the land of their birth. They charmed European audiences with a series of concerts, first of which was in the Schuetzenhaus in Glarus, where American-Swiss and Swiss-Swiss exchanged greetings. They led another tour in 1964.

The yodelers, among the most versatile in the country, include soloists, duet and trio groups, a flag thrower, Alpine horn blowers, and have an extensive repertoire of old world yodel favorites which thrill even a non-Swiss.

Those artists made history sponsoring what was probably the first two-continent long play record, "*Songs of The Swiss*," potpourri of their songs and those of the Jodelklub Glaernisch, hosts at the Schuetzenhaus concert

A second yodel group, Edelweiss Stars, first appeared in 1950 and has sung its way into the hearts of thousands in exciting performances throughout the country.

Most Swiss of New Glarus' present industries is the Upright Swiss Embroideries, Inc., which in 1938 started embroidering handkerchiefs, dresser scarfs, and dress trimmings on imported looms. During World War II the government ordered chevrons and unit emblems. Green County's fighting men carried New Glarus-made insignia into battle all over the world.

The lace factory, 1100 Second St, and the recently built sales mart, 1101 Highway 69, annually attract thousands of visitors to the community.

A tradition of brilliant pageantry and folk entertainment was born in 1938, when the late Edwin Barlow organized the first performances of Schiller's "**Wilhelm Tell**" drama. In this Labor Day weekend classic, hundreds of villagers and rural folk pay homage to the legend of Wilhelm Tell, an apple and an arrow.

Barlow had built and lived in the Chalet of the Golden Fleece, New Glarus showpiece, since the late "thirties." The chalet became a village owned museum in the mid "fifties" and is a repository of jewelry, carvings, parchments, and other curios from round the world.

Collections of historic objects pertinent to New Glarus history are exhibited in the New Glarus Historical Society's Swiss Museum Village at the west end of Sixth Ave. Six full-size replicas of a community shelter, first church, cheese factory, blacksmith shop, school house and store are crammed with books, furniture, tools, cheese equipment, pictures, documents of colonial days.

Three more recent landmarks appear on the New Glarus historical horizon and command a well deserved prominence. In 1962 New Glarus forged another link to its origins in ancient Switzerland, when a couple dozen homes and businesses sported unusual emblems on their doors.

New Glarner families traced their families back centuries when authorities granted family crests to heroes who had performed well for the canton. The crest, symbolizing the deed, and with other flourishes and details added as they were earned, honors those families. Grade school art classes reproduced the crests and eligible families bought and displayed them. The crests, hallmarks of history, are a colorful, unique attraction identifying families whose proud lineage reaches far back in time.

In 1964 New Glarus added a floral clock to an already glittering array of attractions. The twelve-foot-wide timepiece, product of Swiss craftsmen, sits on a grassy slope at the junction of Highways 39 and 69, near the southernmost point of the four-state Hiawatha Pioneer Trail, Capitol Branch. The dial is a living carpet of flowers and foliage plants, the hands, gold-plated copper. This is one of four made-in-Switzerland floral clocks in the new world. Others are in Detroit, St Louis, and on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

Academically, New Glarus is more than holding its own. The Swiss-German of the founders, based on German, is still spoken, primarily by adults. However, German, formal language of colonists before English displaced it, is taught in school beginning in seventh grade and going through-four years of senior high. A youngster who begins his battle with umlauts, genders, and cases in seventh grade can, by persisting, graduate with six years of German credits. And so the official language of 120 years ago is still studied and spoken in New Glarus.

The first settlers would undoubtedly be amazed to learn that today their basic language is pursued by 113 students, five less than the total number of colonists!

New Glarus, *Mirror of Switzerland*, 1965, is accurately described in this final Luchsinger quotation, dated 1892:

*"Communication with friends and relatives among the mountains across the water is quite generally kept up; newspapers and letters are regularly exchanged, and some of the oldtimers read the Swiss newspapers with more interest than they would the great American journals... Many Swiss have revisited the old home some of them a number of times but very few have remained there. The halo which memory had cast over the scenes of childhood and youth was found to have vanished. They returned to America more American than ever.*

*". . . Yet the love for the old home, and its heroic history, cannot be extinguished, and next to being Americans the pride of a Swiss is to be a Swiss."*

New Glarus observed its 120th anniversary July 30-31, 1965. Featured were a Hall of History exhibit in the village hall, with photos, documents and displays relating to New Glarus and Old Glarus history. Many display materials were donated by agencies of the Swiss government. The anniversary

saw premiere performances of Johanna Spyri's "Heidi" drama, so successful that they became a festival held annually the last weekend in June.

October 16, 1966, the Rev. Richard Dargatz conducted the first services at Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church, 506 12th Ave. The congregation was organized February 9, 1967, and dedicated its new home April 30.

The New Glarus Home (senior citizens) accepted its first resident January 6, 1968, observed its dedication in May.

The village's oldest congregation disbanded May 26, 1968 with closing of the Evangelical United Brethren "white" church. Itinerant preachers had visited colonists as early as 1847, holding services in members' homes.

Thursday, August 15, 1968, a sports complex of over 200 acres opened with the first round of gold at Edelweiss Chalet Country Club, 2 1/2 miles southeast of the village.

Memorial Day, 1969, an idea born during the 120th anniversary came into full bloom when doors opened to a permanent Hall of History, a fine modern Swiss structure in the center of the Swiss Museum Village. A cooperative venture by Switzerland's Swiss and New Glarus Swiss, the first display was appropriately Glarner textiles, provided by Swiss firms. Subsequent displays will be enlarged to include the finest exhibits of Switzerland and this village.

# CHAPTER 5

## UNTIL TOMORROW

**T**he 1970s glowed with excitement and change. In April, 1974, WBBM-TV, Chicago, toured New Glarus for data on a special program about ethnic attractions in the Midwest

May 15 marked the opening of the Sugar River State Trail by the Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources. The Trail followed the abandoned railroad through New Glarus, Monticello, Albany and Brodhead. Trail headquarters were in the old railroad station in New Glarus and included concessions. The Trail was dedicated in September. The first Trail manager was Millard Tschudy of New Glarus. In Tschudy's 13 years as manager he served over 500,000 visitors from dozens of countries and countless states.

October brought 80 Liechtenstein visitors for a day in New Glarus. They were responding to an invitation given them by Mr. and Mrs. Duane Wilde and Mr. and Mrs. Millard Tschudy who had been in Liechtenstein a few months earlier. Another foreign visitor was the Swiss Ambassador here in June of 1976.

The same year, 1976, work began on Ivan Elmer's Bridge, linking Sixth Avenue and Valley View Road, spanning the Little Sugar River.

Two years later construction began on two major village projects First was Roy's Market east of highways 39 and 69 south of Sixth Ave.

Heavy snows damaged many buildings on January 20. Shovels, while not always popular tools, were eagerly sped into service bringing 1979 to the people's attention. And in April building was underway on west Hwy. 39 for the New Glarus Branch of the Monroe Clinic.

New Glarus yodel lovers, almost everyone in fact, enjoyed a special treat July 10 when a Swiss Yodel Club from Bern spent a week here in Little Switzerland to share their talent for a thrilled crowd, before leaving for Bern.

The Paul and Lise Rohrig family of Madison, bought rural property north of New Glarus on County O. From the striking hills and valleys in that area the family created a lovely 50-acre apple orchard. The Swiss Valley orchard added a bakery, gift shop, brat house and countless tours for thousands of annual visitors. A popular feature is the autumn apple festival with dancing and wagon rides.

A typical Swiss-style motel, the Chalet Landhaus opened 1980. This handsome, authentic structure with hand-carved trim and beautiful mural interior stands between the Sugar River State Trail and Highways 39 and 69, within easy walking distance from the village business district. A few years after opening, more room was required

and an addition increased to 67 the number of rooms, along with a restaurant.

January 1, 1981, marked the closing of Poplar Grove Cheese Factory a few miles west of the village on highway 39. Brick and Muenster cheeses had been made there for 80 years. Alfred Lehnerr was the last cheesemaker there.

On January 4 that year, a publisher released noted New Glarus author, Herbert Kubly's "Native Return". It told of Kubly's visit to Switzerland, home of his forefathers and sharing the sensitivity only Kubly could feel.

The same year, a large group of Swiss citizens unpacked their bags and settled in for a week of getting to know their New Glarus kinfolk. The Swiss had arrived on a Friends of New Glarus Tour, new friends were made and relatives met relatives they didn't know they had. One visitor, Balthazar Tschudi of Ennenda, Glarus, presented \$300 to the New Glarus Historical Society. (Balthazar was this writer's relative.)

Two years later the Small World Nursery opened at the New Glarus Home, but later moved to the former New Glarus Theater at 107 2nd St. Average attendance is 75 youngsters and 24 employees.

In October Swiss music once again rang through the streets of New Glarus when the Echo Vom Stockhorn Band of Bern visited and performed.

New Glarus Swiss placed a wreath at the Schiller Monument in Chicago's Lincoln Park. Schiller authored Wilhelm Tell his honoring was for his 224th birthday.

That same year New Glarus Jaycees and Jaycettes installed lights and bleachers at Southside Park on South 2nd St The park was renamed Veterans Park in 1994.

With the Wilhelm Tell Festival observing its 50th anniversary in 1987, a parade, dramas, dancing and yodeling would attract visitors from Switzerland and more than 200 flew the Atlantic to share the event with their New Glarus friends.

Shortly after the Tell anniversary a lady visitor from Florida donated \$50 to help keep the Swiss traditions that had impressed her.

In September 1987, more than 300 Swiss from "over there" dropped in to sample their "daughter settlement" and witness the Swiss Swingfest at the Wm. Tell grounds. The visitors included 39 Swiss wrestlers who mixed it up with American and Canadian wrestlers. Guess who won? The Swiss did!

A year later was interesting, as well. In October, Norwegian entertainers invade the Swiss country here and the Norsk Vise Trio proved their talents with moving Scandinavian music. Also in October, John Deere employees arrived from Germany for a short time. Another group of 136 Swiss from the eastern cantons, arrived. Also in October,

the Education Department of Canton Glarus presented 12 sets of history and social studies books to the New Glarus school system.

In 1989 a Swissair plane crowded with Glarner only and staffed wholly by Glarner selected from Swissair ranks, spent days here meeting relatives and friends who had long ago departed the "home country." All 135 visitors were deeply touched by what they found here and finally had to head for O'Hare Field and home.

Ernest Thierstein, a longtime popular figure in Swiss circles had died. The deceased had been a member of the New Glarus Maennerchor and in 1990 that singing group placed a memorial plaque at the Schuetzen Park which Thierstein had once owned. The Wilhelm Tell bought it and it was used every year for the Volksfest, the first Sunday in August, an event that was like a family reunion of all the Swiss around.

On the Volksfest program in 1990 was the Oberkreiner band plus 85 of the band's fan club. They joined observing Swiss Independence Day. Then they performed in the village itself creating another memorable weekend with the best of Switzerland and New Glarus.

A few weeks later Germany's Euro Quintet entertained in the village during the New Glarus October Fest. This group was followed shortly by the well-loved Looser Family of Switzerland, all young persons who had attained well-deserved popularity here on earlier visits. Asked about the differences in songs played here and in Switzerland, the Loosers grinned and said, *"We can sell only Swiss tapes here, but back home we can sell only American tapes."*

Another October act by the New Glarus Board of Education arranged for a student exchange program with the high schools in Kanton Glarus. Obviously links between Old and New Glarus are becoming stronger and more fascinating as the years pass into history.

One year later (1991) more than 100 Vietnam veterans came to New Glarus in January to march in the Winter Fest parade. This act was so popular that the veterans have been coming back every winter to participate in ever increasing numbers and are a feature of the evening parade.

In May the 65-year-old Madison bridge north of New Glarus, was removed and replaced by a modern, larger bridge crossing the Little Sugar River.

To help celebrate Switzerland's 700th Anniversary, Switzerland bands, folklore and family groups came here to participate in local activities. Then in July representatives from Swiss TV visited New Glarus to create a documentary about the annual Heidi Festival and drama.

And if July weren't busy enough, a non-denominational church moved into the former Zweifel Garage at 418 2nd St. and the New Glarus Edelweiss Gegenseitige Unterstuetzungs Gesellschaft Germania

decided it was time to disband. The group had been active and a part of life since 1923.

Also in July 100 New Glarus Swiss flew to Switzerland to take part in that nation's 700th anniversary activities.

In August record crowds attended the Volksfest noting Switzerland's 700th birthday in New Glarus. Present was Swissaire Capt Marcus Ritzi with his hot air balloon giving rides to children.

In 1993 New Glarus went back more than a half-century when it lost its only brewery. In spring Dan Carey and his wife and family packed up and left Colorado for Wisconsin to find a place to brew beer, a profession in which he was well experienced. A quick search in this state brought them to New Glarus where they sensed they were in the right place and remodeled a building facing Hwy. 69 and County W. The building was rapidly transformed into a micro brewer and shortly turned out delicious beverages.

March 1994 marked the 75th anniversary of the national American Legion and the New Glarus Legion Post 141. The event included a birthday party at the New Glarus Hotel.

One month later New Glarus students in the high school building classes constructed two dugouts at what was to become Veterans Park at the south end of 2nd Street. Financing for this project was the American Legion Post, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter III.

In May a New Glarus family was named for outstanding dairy production on their farm just southeast of the village. Tony and Esther Zgragen, both born and raised in Switzerland, came to this country. They met and were married in the New Glarus Swiss United Church of Christ in 1989.

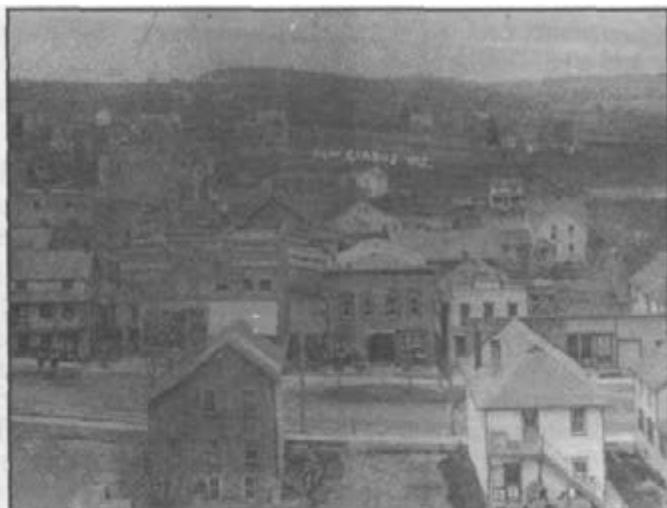
June was a busy month. New Glarus represented Switzerland at World Soccer Opening ceremonies at Chicago. Wilhelm Tell usherettes danced at Chicago's Soldiers Field and paraded with the New Glarus Yodelers and Monroe Swiss Singers. In the meantime the Edelweiss and Betty performed their yodeling in Detroit preceding the USA -Switzerland soccer match. The game was a tie. What could be better?

Finally, in August 1994, the Friends of New Glarus in Glarus, Switzerland, contributed \$1,000 to the New Glarus Swiss United Church for landscaping church property.

The Swiss of Switzerland and those in the U.S. worked on plans for the 150th village anniversary in 1995.

In 1995 the single important event is to be the 150th anniversary with the Swiss of New Glarus joined by the Swiss of Switzerland united for a history making enterprise.

*Looking west  
from Swiss  
Church  
steeple, 1901-  
1912*



*Northwest quarter of  
New Glarus, 1910-  
1912.*

*Looking south  
on First Street  
shortly after  
1910.*





*Second church built by the Swiss, endured from 1858 to 1900. On lawn, earliest colonial graveyard.*



*Spring Valley School , 1895. Teacher Lydia Reuss. L-R. 1st Row: Tillie Argue, \_\_\_ Anderson, \_\_\_ Anderson, Elsie Elmer, Henry B. Hoesly, Math Figy, Jr., Melvin Becker, Nic. Elmer, John Becker.  
L-R 2nd Row: Alma Hoesly, Fannie Argue, Rosie Schmid, Mary Elmer, Anna Figy, Louise Hoesly, Jennie Argue, Rolland Argue, Peter Schmid, Marcus Hoesly, Fred Becker, Anna Schmid, Bertina Hoesly, Anna Hoesly, Julius Elmer, Wm. Anderson, Albert Anderson.*

*70th Anniversary  
and dedication of  
Pioneer monument,  
August 16, 1915.*

*Speaker: Gov.  
Emanuel Phillipp,  
first Wisconsin  
governor of Swiss  
descent.*



*Dedication of  
Schuetzen Haus,  
Kilbi Sunday, 1907.*



*Hefty & Kundert general  
store and post office, 601  
1st St., built in 1882. L-R:  
Jake Kubly, Paul Kundert,  
Paul Kubly, T.C. Hefty and  
Bartli Kundert.*

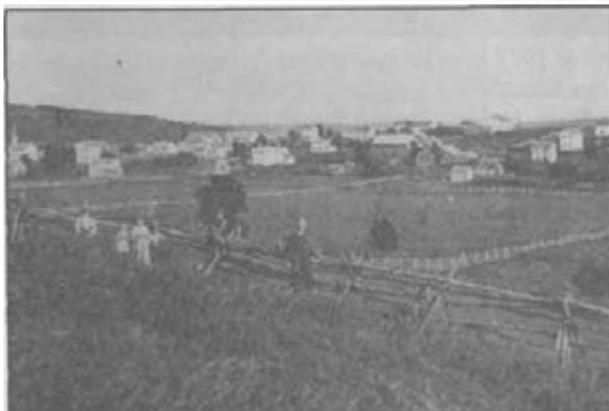


*Streetcars in New Glarus? Not until someone souped up a post-1910 photo of north Second Street. Photo taken at the 2nd Street and Fifth Avenue intersection.*



*The kindergarten class of 1917 were serious indeed. Hardly a smile in the group. Teacher Kathryn Stauffacher poses here with her charges.*  
*Front, L-R: Philip Andrews, Harold Kundert, Donald Klassy, Fred Wild, Marvin Betz, Robert Bartlett and Paul Elliker.*  
*Second Row, L-R: Rose Klassy, Mabel Disch, Maurice Kugjohann, Bessie Kubly, Verus Gmur, Ruth Hilton, Hazel Zweifel, Wilma Ziltner.*  
*Third Row, L-R: Edwin Disch, Frances Moyer, Kathryn Schlatter, Eleanor Mitmoen, Iona Hilton, Leona Arn, Margaret Mauer, Helen Benedict.*  
*Fourth Row, L-R: Marie Kubly, Kathryn Stauffacher (teacher), Velma Kundert.*

*Early blacksmith shop, 544 First Street, Henry Haegele, Sr., son of Constantin Haegele, prominent colonial citizens.*



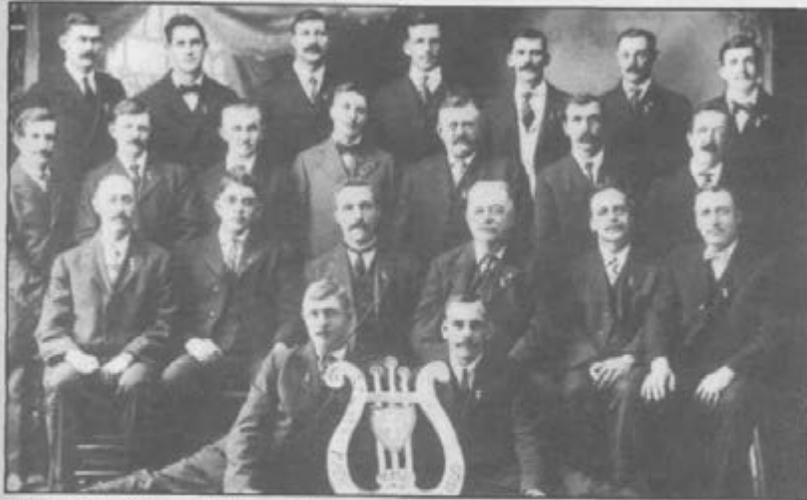
*Looking southeast, Circa 1876. Note rail fence in foreground.*

*Last meeting in Old Sunday School building, 1923. Building served from 1868 - 1923. Zwingli House built on this site in 1923.*





*Back in 1906-1910 here's what a clothing store looked like. This store was at 412 Second Street. Manning it were Fred Tschudy (left) and J. J. Figi (right).*



*1917 New Glarus Maennerchor.*

*Seated on floor unknown.*

*First Row, L-R: Arnold Kerli, Sr., unknown, Baltz Duerst, John Theiler, unknown and Henry Z. Duerst.*

*Second Row, L-R: Nic Hefty, Fred Maurer, unknown, John Leuenberger, Ernie Mueller, unknown and Gottlieb Gmur.*

*Third Row, L-R: Jack Schottler, Ernest Maurer, and the rest unknown.*

# New Glarus Veterans of Three Wars



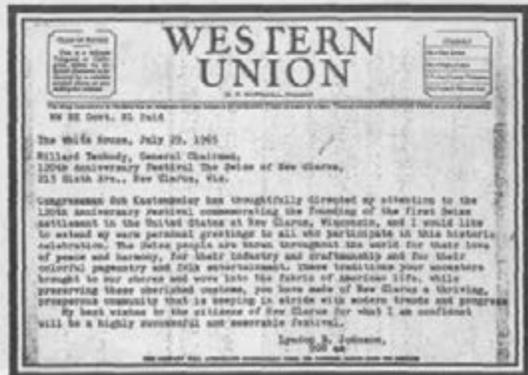
**Top Photo:** Front Row, L-R: Roger Klassy, Marshall Ingwell, Richard Crimmins, Norman Hanna, Herbert Gmur, Bill Bauer, Quinton Ott, Art Elmer, Darrel Durst, Cleo Foster and Millard Tschudy  
 Second Row and Third Rows, L-R: Bob Maurer, Frederick Opferman, Dick Krugjohann, Gerald Disch, Phil Hustad, Lawrence Meland, George Hartman, Gordon Krugjohann, Eldon Hustad, Joe Haegele, Fra Theiler, Bennie Stamm, Gerald Dorst, Bill Kuenzi, Jr., Emil (Mickey) Wittwer, Ron Tschudy, unknown, Charles Postler, Palmer Strickler, Delmar Zweifel, Howard Beckwith and Herman Theiler

**Bottom Photo:** Front Row, L-R: Dr. C. Hefty, Ted Syverud, Lee Gmur, Henry C. Hefty, Peter Hefty, Tim Luchsinger, Thos Hefty, Walter Klassy, Jacob Urban and Wilbert Zweifel.

Second Row: L-R: C.S. Alexander, John Hofmaster, Henry Kobbervig, Edwin Stuessy, Chas. Hoesly, John W. Disch, Jacob H. Duerst, Clarence Syverud, Wm. Engler, Paulus Roth, Thos. Disch and Jacob Bruni.

Third Row, L-R: Oswald Babler, Peter Disch and Thomas Schmid.

*President Lyndon Johnson,  
 in recognition of New  
 Glarus' 120th  
 Anniversary, sent this  
 telegram to Millard  
 Tschudy, head  
 of the anniversary  
 observance.*



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# About the Author



ryptanalyst in World War II.  
Named Friend of Switzerland  
by American Society for

Friendship with Switzerland.

For the 20th Wilhelm Tell anniversary (1957): arranged for visit by Queen For a Day on NBC/TV (142 stations), organized boy bell ringers, created first Alpine Festival, arranged hobby and talent windows in village shops and wrote a script on Wilhelm Tell for Voice of America.



Spearheaded use of German language in high school. Suggested adding names and dates to canton shields on light standards.

Produced three long-play records: Holiday in New Glarus, Songs of the Swiss, New Glarus, Heidiland USA

Created New Glarus Pictorial Calendar plus recipes, photos, historic dates. Proposed official New Glarus emblem (Wm. Tell at Floral clock). Authored first edition: *"New Glarus, Wisconsin, Mirror of Switzerland."*

Chaired the 120th Anniversary (1965) and two new attractions: First, the Heidi drama, became an annual festival drawing thousands. Second, Hall of History which became major part of New Glarus Museum Village through efforts of the Swiss of Switzerland and opened 30 May, 1969.

Published *"New Glarus, Wisconsin, a Photo Journal."* Named to the Advisory Council of the Swiss-American Historical Society of Washington and Europe, serving four terms.

Office manager of the Wisconsin Sugar River State Trail and in 13 years handled 500,000 visitors.

Created an old Glarner-Swiss language tape now available at the University of Zurich, the Freuler Palast in Naefels, State of Wisconsin Historical Society, and New Glarus Library.