Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 1 (65) May 1, 2011

Leaders Line

Season 2011 at the Swiss Historical Village.
Opening day is here and the 2011 tourism season at the Swiss Historical Village has several bus tours scheduled. The workers' schedules have been organized by Jo Gehl.
A reminder that the Swiss Historical Village is open May 1 to October 15 for general visitors and the bus tours will be given through October 31, 2011. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Admission for adults is $9.00 and admission for children ages 6 to 13 is $3.00. Mastercard and Visa are available. Membership fees are Individual - $20, Couple - $30, Family - $40 and Lifetime - $500. Genealogy is available upon request for a small fee.
The gift shop has a great selection of gift items, also Sap Sago and Brăzeli.
The popular big event of the season at the Swiss Historical Village is **Harvest Fest** held the Sunday before Columbus Day, October 11, 2011.
We hope to have another wonderful year. Come and see us and bring others with you!

Historical Society Board News
The first order of business at the March 8, 2011 meeting was reorganization of the board. A unanimous ballot named John Marty for president, Peter Etter for vice president, Doris Arn for treasurer and Judy Reuter for secretary.
President Marty noted that New Glarus would again be guests at the Tinker Swiss Cottage in Rockford, IL.
Two for America book by Gloria Jacobson and the Tree cutting and pruning were up for discussion.
A Digital grant was received.
The board voted to become a Blue Star Museum. They will give active military personnel and their families free tours from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Buggy, New to Swiss Historical Collection!
At the annual meeting, Ray Bowen of Clarno, Green County, told how the buggy was stored in the barn of the family farm that was homesteaded by his family in 1836. He also told how the Swiss Historical Village became the recipient. His son was asked by Jo Gehl to spray for spiders in our buildings. He told his dad (Ray) that's where he thought the buggy should go so Ray contacted the museum. Ray and John Marty worked together and a gift of deed for Ray and his siblings was issued.
Daryl Pagel offered to restore the buggy and the museum furnished the materials.
Thank you to the Bowens and the Pagels!

Digital Grant
Denise Anton Wright reported the New Glarus Public Library has been awarded a grant to digitize selected local history materials, focusing on the first 100 years of New Glarus and the surrounding area. (The grant placed second out of 13 entries.)
The following will be released to the local media.
The federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds are administered by the Institute Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. This project is collaboration among the New Glarus Public Library, the New Glarus Historical Society, and the Swiss United Church of Christ of New Glarus. Materials to be digitized include family records of the Swiss Evangelical and Reformed Church for 1850-1909 (now the Swiss United Church of Christ), a history of the church, several historical texts about the settlement and first 50 years of New Glarus, atlases and plat books of Green County, tax assessment records of the Town of New Glarus from the 1850s and early 1900s, and a selection of historical photographs including street scenes, community events and organizations, confirmation classes, high school graduation classes, and portraits of individuals and families. Janis Merkle, Assistant Director of the New Glarus Public Library, is the Project Director.
Grant funds will pay for the materials to be digitized by the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center. By the end of the project – in December of 2011 – digital versions of these valuable historical materials will be accessible to the public through the websites of the UWDCC, the New Glarus Library, the New Glarus Historical Society, and the Swiss Church. This project will preserve fragile materials for the future and will provide the general public with easy access to historical and genealogical materials that currently have extremely limited access.
Denise thanked John Marty, assisted by Gail Beal and others, for the many hours spent identifying persons and places on the photographs.

Insight ...
You have a wonderful museum space. Continue to preserve history for future generations.
A Couple from Madison, WI

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

The Fire in Glarus, Switzerland

The fire, on the night of May 10-11, 1861, destroyed two-thirds of the city of Glarus. It was fanned by the intense fohn winds that come down out of the Alps. The government building and the state church were among 593 buildings that were destroyed. Today that part of the city is built on a more modern grid design, while the other third contains rare examples of working-class apartments dating to the early 1800s. The fire prompted three Swiss insurance companies to form Swiss Re in 1863. The giant Swiss re-insurance company is now based in Zurich.

1861 - Glarus - 150th Anniversary

In December of 2010 the Village of New Glarus and Swiss Center of North America contacted us (New Glarus Historical Society) because they had both received a request from a gentleman in Switzerland who was working on an exposition/display for the 150th anniversary of the fire in Glarus, Switzerland.

August Berlinger from Glarus sent a list of contributions received from outside of Europe to help those folks who lost everything from the terrible fire in Glarus in 1861. He pointed out that over $1,250 was collected from New Glarus. Since this was the largest single amount contributed he wondered if we could find any documentation that he might be able to include in the exposition he was planning.

The New Glarus Historical Society was able to help because we have Joshua Wild's diary covering the years 1845 to 1872. Duane Freitag, a former board member, remembered seeing an entry related to the fire in the diary and he also was aware of some newspaper articles. When we found these items we made copies and sent them to Mr. Berlinger in Switzerland.

The item in J. Wild's diary was from 1861 and was translated into English by Peter Etter, board member. The translation states that, "$1,250.20 was collected from the German community in New Glarus and surrounding areas to help those suffering from the fire in Glarus. Two Methodists also contributed $4.00".

At the Wisconsin State Historical Society Duane found a story from the Monroe Sentinel of July 19, 1861. He made a copy that was sent to Glarus. According to Duane; I am using his exact words: "There was a mass meeting in New Glarus, and J. Jacob Tschudy of Monroe was there and wrote about it. He had been the lead agent for the emigration society for a while and in 1861 was Green County Register of Deeds (you can tell he speaks German when you see his run-on sentences!). The third paragraph is a touching one: I think when he says "new, now also hard-tried country" he was referring to the start of the Civil War.

Thank you, Duane, for providing the entire copy of the article by J.J. Tschudy from June 10, 1861 and it will appear in the June issue.

Contributed by Peter Etter, Board member and guide.

More details emerge on how colony learned of Glarus fire

While Canton Glarus was preparing this spring to mark the 150th anniversary of the terrible fire that destroyed much of the city of Glarus, historians there found a number of items about New Glarus that they have shared with us. The fire occurred the night of May 10-11. A special display is being set up near the Glarus train station and the Glarus Fire Department is hosting a special event on September 30.

Their first communication to us was translated and read at the annual meeting of the New Glarus Historical Society March 5. It consisted of an article in the Glarner Zeitung of July 20, 1861, relating how $1,200 was raised here and sent to Switzerland to help the homeless. The article quoted J. Jacob Tschudy of Monroe, then Green County's Register of Deeds, who wrote that a meeting was held in New Glarus June 9 after the church service. A help committee was set up and Tschudy was to represent Monroe, although he lamented that because there were few Swiss there he couldn't raise much money in that city. In referring to the start of the Civil War, he noted that the Americans "who behave coldly toward the Swiss in our county, perceive that while our union faces terrible and heavy dangers the Swiss have not placed one man in the military." The first large group of volunteers from the Swiss Colony enlisted later in the year.

A second newspaper story from August 21, 1861, was sent shortly after and it quoted from a letter written by Mathias Jenny of New Glarus. In it he related how the community first learned of the New Glarus fire. Jenny had driven an oxcart loaded with corn to Monroe (a six-hour trip, he said) on May 29 and while in a store discussing the Civil War someone showed him a brief article in a German-language newspaper from Chicago. It was a one-sentence news dispatch from London that said 150 homes were destroyed by a fire in Glarus. "I proceeded home and 50 – 100 times I thought, 'It is not so'." Jenny wrote, "When I arrived at other houses, no one wanted to believe it when I read it." Soon a letter and newspapers from Switzerland arrived with more details on the fire. Jenny said that when a discussion was held at the meetings in New Glarus they even considered sending all of the meager church funds, including money that they had been collecting for a second bell for Swiss Church. In the end a separate fund drive was held.

Later communications from Glarus included notes written with additional cash contributions, and comments made in the official minutes of the Glarus Help committee.

Contributed by Duane Freitag

August Berlinger of Glarus, Switzerland was very happy and thankful to get both the Diary entry and the newspaper article from us.

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 2 (66) June 1, 2011

Leaders Line

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of May was 850, which included visitors on 11 buses. Guests from 25 states visited the museum in May and seven countries were represented.

May, the Season's First Month

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked many hours to prepare the Village for opening day. Pick up sticks was a necessity and it wasn't the game we played in school when we were young! Tulips and Daffodils were in bloom making the grounds colorful.

The restrooms received a coat of paint on the partitions and the floors. Room was made in the Farm Implement building for our newly restored buggy. The flags were hung as well as the mural of the City of Glarus made from a slide taken in the early 1900s.

The gift shop looked alive again with items galore to choose from. Anything from chocolates, Brăzeli, Sap Sago, cookbooks, cuddle wraps, bags with crayons, small clutch bags, dish cloths, jewelry, handmade baby and birthday cards, bee's wax ornaments, soaps/candles, Swiss fabric dresses for the American doll, Jerry Apps and Kim Tschudy's books to a fourth printing of Gloria Jacobson's book, "Two For America".

Notice: Members get 10% off any gift item over $2

As it got warmer, geraniums, petunias and other colorful flowers were planted by Therese and Ernie Jaggi.

Historical Society Board News

President John Marty called the meeting to order on May 10, 2011 at the Historical Village meeting room. Permission and Licensing was needed for the Digital Grant program to proceed. Credit was given to the New Glarus Society. There will be no alterations and can be viewed not printed. The contact persons at the New Glarus Historical Society will be its officers. A general email address will be created (separate from the blbeal address needed for bus reservations). Mary Funseth volunteered to update our website.

Insights...

Such a charming, lovely tour – thank you so much.
Couple from Ontario, Canada

What a special place for us!
Couple from Switzerland

Very interesting tour – well presented.
A. couple from Maryland

Swiss Historical Village to Participate in Blue Star Museums

New Glarus' Swiss Historical Village in one of more than 1,300 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer.

Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1,300 museums across America will offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2011. Leadership support has been provided by the MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The complete list of participating museums and a map to help with visit planning is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

The Blue Star Museum Program runs from Memorial Day (May 30th) through to Labor Day (September 5th). This free admission program is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, active duty National Guard, and active duty Reserve members.

New Glarus' Swiss Historical Village is located at 612 7th Avenue and is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week from May 1st through October 15th.

Antique "Standing Cupboard" on Display

An antique "standing cupboard" has been added to the pioneer cabin, the oldest structure at the museum. The cupboard was donated by Mary Dibble of New Glarus, who has owned it for about 20 years. The cupboard, which would have been used to store a variety of household items, appears to be hand-made of butternut in the mid-19th Century. It contains the name George Curtis of Adams County.

Two For America

The New Glarus Historical Society has recently reprinted Gloria Jacobson's charming "Two For America," the story of her mother's immigration from Switzerland to America in 1910. This is the fourth printing of the book. It is available at the Historical Village gift shop and several other locations in New Glarus, and is suitable to read to children to acquaint them with the community's heritage. Mrs. Jacobson taught third grade in New Glarus for 29 years. A book signing is planned for Saturday, June 25th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Web-site is www.swisshistoricalvillage.org

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

At the Wisconsin State Historical Society Duane Freitag found a story of the fire from the Monroe Sentinel of July 19, 1861. He made a copy and sent it to Glarus. The entire copy of the article by J.J. Tschudy from June 10, 1861 was also given to the New Glarus Historical Society and it appears below.

Editors of the Sentinel:
Yesterday there was a fine and spirited meeting at New Glarus, of which I will endeavor to give you a brief notice, as it will interest a part of your readers, particularly our countrymen in other parts of the county. The meeting was called for the benefit of the sufferers by the terrible and frightful conflagration which destroyed on the night of the 10th and 11th of May last, the beautiful, industrious, thriving city of Glarus, the capital of the canton of Glarus in Switzerland, of the canton that is the mother and benevolent founder of the colony of New Glarus in this county.
A terrible South Storm (called fohn – which regularly blows in Spring, and is the principal cause of the melting of the terrible snow-drifts, carried down in the valleys from the high mountains by the avalanches) raged throughout the day and night, and in the night the cry of fire, the most to be dreaded at such a time, awakened the terrified inhabitants and in a very short time, in less than 5 hours, the principal part of the fine and rich Capital, of over 500 habitations were in ruins and a pile of ashes. 3,000 persons are without homes and almost without means to cover their bodies, as not the least thing could be saved, so sudden was the terrible visitation. All the public buildings, churches and capitol were totally destroyed; some of them magnificent buildings, which would have done honor to any large city. The richer part of the population is ruined and the damages will reach the sum of 10,000,000 franks, which may give some understanding of the richness and solidity of the place and of the inhabitants, who are known throughout the world, as some of the largest manufactories of cotton goods were there, and their goods are sent over the whole world, particularly the turkey-red calicoes, which are sold, as well in Monroe, as in China, the East Indies and Turkey, and are manufactured in that little mountainous Canton of Glarus, where no agriculture is possible, except cattle-breeding, and dairies, as the large Alps give the best grass, which produces the far and wide celebrated Swiss cheese.

It is with pride that I can state here, how noble and willingly my countrymen met together yesterday on call. A thrill of horror shook their souls on hearing the sad news, as the nearest friends, aye, parents, brothers and sisters have suffered and are thrown out of ease and comfort in the most bitter want and destitution, and great was the feeling and pity for the unfortunate and so heavily visited brothers and sisters of the dear old country. I believe that nearly $1,000, if not over that sum, has been, or will be, subscribed, and sent to help those sufferers and to ease the hard tried friends. They have proved that their hearts are still in love with the dear old free home, and fatherland, so rough and hard it is for the too great population, but such men will also be true and steady in their fidelity and attachment to their new, and now also hard-tried country, --and they have proved to be so since they have settled here, and chosen this beautiful state for their new home.
I cannot expect material help for my unfortunate country, in this far off place, but I thought it proper to let a few lines tell my fellow citizens of this awful catastrophe, which has ruined and destroyed so many families and friends of their fellow citizens. The countrymen in this place, I have no doubt, will also come forward nobly and do their little share for repairing such a loss and damage.

J.J. Tschudy Monroe, June 10, 1861

ORDER FORM

Two For America by Gloria Jacobson is a story of her mother's immigration to the United States. It's the 25th anniversary of the first printing.
You may order as many copies as you wish.
Mail to:

Swiss Historical Village
c/o Gail Beal
P.O. Box 745
New Glarus, WI 53574

Please mail _____ copies of "Two For America" @ $12.66 (tax included) plus $2.50 postage and handling per book ordered. Enclosed is $ _____
Mail books to:
Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 3 (67) July 1, 2011

Leaders Line

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of June was 987, which included visitors on six buses. Guests from 18 states visited the museum in June and six countries were represented.

Historical Society Board News

President John Marty called the meeting to order at 7:08 at the Historical Village meeting room.
Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.
A thank you was received from the New Glarus School District for the donation of $50 toward the Post Prom activities.
Plans are being made for the 52nd commemorative service in the Log Church. This year, it is scheduled for August 13th. A motion to invite Pastor Craig Jan McMahon from the Swiss United Church of Christ to conduct the sermon was approved.
Marty and Beal met with Sue Stevens regarding the Swiss Historical Village ad in the Hidden Valley magazine. For $100 more, we could have a photo and the ad on their web-site. Arn is going to check into this with Sue Stevens and Sue Weiss at the Chamber.
The board decided to place a plaque by the buggy that says, Buggy restored by Daryl Pagel.

Alpine Mountain Goat (Ibex)

Have you ever seen an Alpine Ibex – known in Switzerland as a "Steinbock"? The life sized Ibex carved of Maple is at home in the Entry Building of the Swiss Historical Village. The animal is a big attraction to tourists. The animal weighs about 200 pounds and stands over six feet high, including the two foot imitation rock base. It was craved by an unknown Swiss. Numerous visitors have their pictures taken with the Ibex in the background.
It is a true treasure and we proudly display it.
Following is a letter (1964) from Anne Mannhardt of Chicago, Illinois.
The hand carved Alpine mountain goat (Ibex) was sent to Chicago as the Swiss government's exhibit to the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Arnold Holinger, Swiss Consul at Chicago was also a Commissioner of the World's Columbian Exposition.
Consul Holinger's wife, Elise, gave birth to her sixth child, a first son, on the opening of the Exposition and the Swiss government presented the Ibex to the Holingers at the close of the Exposition in honor of their son, Arnold Holinger, Jr.
The Ibex was in the Holinger home until his death in 1925. When the family home was dismantled, a daughter Mrs. Sophia Holinger Mannhardt removed it to her home and here the children of Arnold Holinger, Jr. played and rode the Ibex they referred to as "Aunt Sosie's goat". It remained in the Mannhardt home until the Chicago World's Fair of 1933 when once again it served its original intent as a Swiss Exhibit.
At the close of the 1933 World's Fair, apartment living being more confined, it was necessary to dispose of the Ibex. Arnold Holinger, Jr. gave it to a Chicago tailor, Ernest Lohse, in exchange for a custom tailored suit and one pair of trousers. At one time he loaned the Ibex to a kennel in a Chicago suburb and it stood out-doors, abused by the elements. Mr. Lohse later established a tailoring business in Neenah, Wisconsin and told the writer he had presented the Ibex to the museum in the City of New Glarus, Wisconsin. It is a fitting place of distinction for this Swiss object d'art.
Footnote: Arnold Holinger was born in Liestal, Canton of Baselland, Switzerland, on July 20, 1849. In 1892 Mr. Holinger was chosen for the position of Swiss Consul at Chicago and he held this post for over a quarter of a century. He was a prominent mortgage banker of Chicago and founder of the firm A. Holinger & Company.

Insights…

Such a charming, lovely tour – thank you so much,
Couple from Ontario, Canada
What a special place for us!
Couple from Switzerland.

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

Chavez Ceasar Elementary School Tour

June 7th was a great day at the Museum. Learning could almost be heard in the air! There were 200 4th and 5th grade students from Chavez Ceasar Elementary School visiting for the afternoon, and they filled the grounds. The trip was coordinated by Mary Brand, who hails from New Glarus, and understands the importance of learning about heritage and the past.

Throughout the spring and fall, we host many school classes, so that was not new for us. But this was our first time having so many at once, so we had to use a system that would accommodate 8 groups of 25 students within a couple of hours. It turned out to be as exciting and fun for the guides as it was for the students.

Ten guides were stationed in the buildings, and the groups of students moved from one site to another when the church bell rang. The guides then talked about the individual buildings to each classroom group as they rotated around. In keeping with our recent show of aprons, the guides wore aprons that reflected the building they were presenting. For example, the guide in the church wore a "church lady" apron, and infused information about the church ladies and their importance to the early church society. And the storekeeper guide wore an apron that would have been used in the early general stores. The guide in the cheese factory wore the white apron that was common to cheese makers, and the blacksmith building guide wore the heavy leather apron that was needed to protect the blacksmith while he was working.

A special thanks to Brad Beal, who was our blacksmith. And to Andy Beal, who even brought his firefighting equipment to demonstrate in the Fire House. They both volunteered their afternoon to enrich student understanding of history. And thanks to all the guides who took part, and went above and beyond for the event.

Even the weather was historic; perhaps as hot as August 15, 1845 might have been when the original settlers got here. A good time was had by all, and learning was going on all over the place!

School Days!

Amy Legler (Miss Streiff) held her summer school in the Oak Shade Schoolhouse on the grounds of the Swiss Historical Village the week of June 13th. The children had fun and our visitors enjoyed seeing them enacting school as it was in the past.

Pauline Boss' Donation

Copies of ***Ambiguous Loss*** have been donated to the New Glarus Historical Society to be sold in the gift shop of the Swiss Historical Village by Pauline Boss. Pauline is a graduate of New Glarus High School and Professor of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, past President of the National Council on Family Relations, and a psychotherapist in private practice.

Written on the back cover of *Ambiguous Loss* is: Frozen sadness: this is what we have when we cannot really know what we have lost. And this is what Pauline Boss illuminates, and helps to ease, in ***Ambiguous Loss***, an original and humane account of the ravages of uncertainty faced when we lose a loved one through divorce, adoption, addiction, chronic mental illness, immigration, or Alzheimer's. With sensitivity and lucidity, Boss explores the tumultuous emotions stirred up by such losses, especially the wide fluctuations between hope and hopelessness. Drawing on her research and clinical experience, Boss suggests strategies that can cushion the pain and offers heartening narratives of those who cope with ambiguous losses and manage to move on.

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Pauline's parents, Paul and Verena Grossenbacher, were active volunteers at the Swiss Historical Village for many years.

ORDER FORM

Ambiguous Loss, Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief, is written by Pauline Boss.

You may order one or two copies as you wish.

Mail to:

Swiss Historical Village
c/o Gail Beal
P.O. Box 745
New Glarus, WI 53574

Please mail _____ copies of *Ambiguous Loss* @$15.83 (tax included) plus $3.00 postage and handling per book ordered. Enclosed is $_____

Mail books to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 4 (68) August 1, 2011

Leaders Line

August Service at Log Church
The Annual worship service in the Log Church will be held Saturday, August 13, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Guest minister will be Pastor Craig Jan McMahon, Swiss United Church of Christ. The Maennerchor will sing and Rosalie Huntington will play the 1900 pump organ. This is the 52nd year of the Commemorative service in the Log Church located on the grounds of the Swiss Historical Village.

Attendance
The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of July was 1,072, which included visitors on two buses. Guests from three states visited the museum in July and five countries were represented.

Volksfest Celebration
Each year, in tribute to the traditions brought by Swiss settlers in 1845, New Glarus residents celebrate Swiss Independence Day – the birth of the Swiss nation on August 1, 1291.
The Volksfest is an annual event held the first Sunday in August at 1:00 – 4:00 pm (dancing 4:00-6:00) at the Wilhelm Tell Shooting Park located on the north side of the Village of New Glarus.
The New Glarus Yodel Club and the Maennerchor will be among the program entertainers. Board members on one or both of the singing groups are John Marty, Peter Etter and John Colstad. Guide, Steve Gmur, sings with the Maennerchor.
The Maennerchor New Glarus, the official sponsor of Volksfest, is a Swiss men's choral group established in 1928 to preserve traditional Swiss and German four-part men's music.

Historical Society Board News
President John Marty called the meeting to order at 7:07 at the Historical Village meeting room.
The secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. The Historical Village signs on Hwy. 69 look bad so new ones were discussed with the artist at Bell in Monroe. He suggested keeping it simple in black and white with the red logo. After a discussion and vote, two signs will be ordered, one for north side of town and the other will be placed on Hwy 39 in front of the Historical Village.

Three Trees
The poplar is a French tree,
A tall and laughing wench tree,
A slender tree, a tender tree,
That whispers to the rain –
An easy, breezy flapper tree,
A lithe and blithe and dapper tree,
A girl of trees, a pearl of trees,
Beside the shallow Aisne.

The oak is a British tree,
And not at all a skittish tree;
A rough tree, a tough tree,
A knotty tree to bruise;
A drives-his-roots-in-deep tree,
A mighty tree, a blighty tree,
A tree of stubborn thews.

The pine tree is our own tree,
A grown tree, a cone tree,
The tree to face a bitter wind,
The tree for mast and spar-
A mountain tree, a fine tree,
A fragrant turpentine tree,
A limber tree, a timber tree,
And resinous with tar!
-- Christopher Morley

The Spirit of the Birch
I am the dancer of the wood.
I shimmer in the solitude.
Men call me Birch Tree, yet I know
In other days it was not so.
I am a Dryad slim and white
Who danced too long one summer night;
And the Dawn found and prisoned me!
Captive I moaned my liberty.
But let the wood wind flutes begin
Their elfin music, faint and thin,
I sway, I bend, retreat, advance,
And evermore – I dance! I dance!
-- Arthur Ketchum

Life is an exciting book, and every year starts a new chapter. *-- Anonymous*

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

GAPP TRIP – JUNE 2011
German American Partnership Program

In June of 2011 I had the opportunity to travel to Germany with a group of New Glarus High School students and Mrs. Hiland their German teacher.
We have been a part of the GAPP (German-American Partnership Program) since 1985-86 so this year marked the 25th anniversary of student exchanges with Bad Arolsen and Belleville and New Glarus. Our students attended school for about two weeks while living with families and I stayed with Marianne and Hans-Peter Wagner. Mr. Wagner was the administrator of the Christian Rauch Schule when our exchange began.

While staying with families we took day trips to Kassel, Fritzlar, Marburg and Giessen. One day we even took a bus full of students to my hometown of Lauenstein where we were welcomed by the mayor and everyone received a Lauenstein bag! I also had the chance to show students where I went to school, my home, the cemetery, the church and the WW II memorial. We also stopped at Hameln (the rat catcher town), Hermann's Denkmal (Herman the German) and Externsteine. Hermannsdenkmal is a huge statue commemorating the Battle of the Teutoburger Wald where the Roman legions were stopped by the Germanic tribes in 9AD. There is also a smaller Hermann statue in New Ulm, Minnesota.

After our home stay we traveled south in two vans and stopped at Rothenburg ob der Tauber a beautiful walled city. We traveled on to Munich (Munchen) where we stayed two nights and saw the Olympia Stadium, Hofbrauhaus, City Square, Frauen Kirche, Viktualien Markt and Dachau. Dachau is very sad but the museum there is excellent and the message is very clear. The next day we traveled to Oberammergau, Linderhof, Garmischpatenkirchen, Neuschwanstein and Fuessen. We stayed at youth hostels and traveled along the north shore of the Boden See (Lake Constance). Stops were made at Lindau (Bavaria's port), Closter Ettal, Friedrichshafen and many other interesting places. We had a great time at Wiesbaden the capital of Hessen where we had a tour and dinner. We also took a two hour cruise on the Rhine where we saw the Lorelei, Mauseturm and many castle ruins. We had a special gondola ride across the Rhine to the Deutsche Eck (Joining of the Mosel and Rhine) Here, close to the Kaiser Wilhelm Statue was a large American flag on a pole commemorating the victims of 9/11. We also talked to a lot of people, both tourists and Germans who were very helpful whenever we had questions.

We also stopped at Bonn, the city that was the capital of West Germany and Beethoven's birthplace. We toured the Bundes Museum which showed the history of Germany from 1945 to the present. This was my favorite stop because the museum clearly showed what influence the United States had in the rebuilding of Germany after WW II. Life was tough after the war and the Marshal Plan certainly did the job in rebuilding Germany. Thank goodness the Morgenthau Plan was defeated or things might have been totally different. The reason I chose to write this article is to let folks know there is a lot more to Germany than its long history. Most, if not all of those castles we saw were built by the sweat of the poor peasants who had no more rights than slaves. Germany did not become a country until after Bismarck's wars of unification in 1871. Those small kingdoms that controlled the area that is Germany today were always arguing or fighting with each other. This did not make life there very pleasant. There is a reason why all of those German immigrants came over to America in the 1800's. People don't leave a place if life there is good! American was the land of opportunity where one could own land, practice one's own religion and get ahead through hard work.

My own family came over in 1950 when I was still in grade school. I lived the immigration experience and have profited by it. I believe that America still offers these opportunities and you can take advantage of them if you work hard and learn English.

I was proud to be a part of taking high school students "over" to Germany and show them around. Germany is also looking to make changes. They are looking at our education system because it does not separate students at an early age on the basis of vocational and college bound. This often creates a class system because they go to different kinds of high schools. There is now a movement in Germany to bring these students together by adopting our "American" model. We could also learn something from the German system by offering more vocational opportunities. My only concern is that we do not do this by physically separating students but keep it all under one roof so we don't encourage the built in "class system".

I was impressed with the high school students who participated on this trip. They learned a lot more than just German. They also learned how to get along with others, they learned what multicultural is good and most of all I think they learned to appreciate what we have here in the U.S.A.

Special thank yous to Mrs. Hiland and Herr Bernd Radeck for all of their work organizing these exchanges. Let's hope it continues for a long time.

Peter Etter – Tour guide and retired school administrator.

Insights...

Wonderful – thank you to all those that have helped with Village. A person form Minnesota

Very interesting tour – well presented.
A couple from Maryland

Interesting museum of old times.
A gal from Switzerland

It was very nice.
Couple from Germany

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 5 (69) September 1, 2011

Leaders Line

Harvest Fest

Many special crafters and demonstrators will be present October 9, 2011 for the Harvest fest event held each year the Sunday before Columbus Day. The hours are 10:00 to 4:00. That is the only day of our season cheese is made in the Cheese Factory and sausage made in the Sausage Shop!

John Marty and Gail Beal are scheduling activities for the annual festivities. Re-entry is possible. There will be guides in every building to answer questions as guests move freely among all the crafters that participate. Harvest Fest is the highlight of our season with many presenters demonstrating their crafts.

Guests can watch cheese being made, watch the sausage makers make sausage, listen to the smithy demonstrate the tools of his trade, learn about spinning, weaving, quilting, wood carving, etc. Civil War enactors will be present in costume to answer questions regarding our cannon, their blacksmith wagon and the civil war days (1861-1865).

We welcome new members to the New Glarus Historical Society and to those who are current members; you can attend this super event free! For a small fee, sign up for a genealogy search of Swiss from New Glarus and the surrounding area. In addition to the above, there are presentations by a basket maker, soap maker, beekeeper and Brätzeli maker (samples available). Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends with you!

New Glarus Historical Society Board News

President John Marty called the meeting to order on August 9, 2011 at the Historical Village.

The minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved following a Klassy/Beal motion. A financial report dated July 31, 2011 was prepared by Arn. The comparison from last year to this showed that admissions were up and miscellaneous, Swiss cookbook and Two for America sales were up. Expenses were about the same. The report was approved following a Gehl/Dibble motion.

Marty and Arn reported that the Village of New Glarus is meeting to discuss what to do with the Chalet of the Golden Fleece. Someone will try to attend the next meeting coming up regarding this issue.

Log Church Activities

The 52nd commemorative service held August 13, 2011 was conducted by Pastor Craig Jan McMahon of the Swiss United Church of Christ. There was a good attendance on a beautiful evening and the offerings were donated to the Food Pantry.

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of August was 1018 that included visitors on one bus. One state was represented for a total of 47 this year. States needed are Louisiana, Oregon and Rhode Island.

Four countries were presented in August for a total of 22.

A reminder that the Swiss Historical Village will be closing October 15, 2011 except for buses that planned for tours in advance until October 31st.

Donations - 2011

Bowen family – single seat buggy

Bob Schwartz – saltine cracker box/tin

Al Aslakson – lumber estimator for board feet, yard stick: Fred Ott Furniture," meter stick (Ron Foster), ½ inch square yard stick "Flintkote" (2)

Duane Sherven –60s New Glarus Band Uniform

Sally Keefer – Swiss Army coat -WW II

John Sellers – 1881 Vetterli Swiss Army Rifle

Florence Beutler – framed elongated photo of Soldiers in Washington, framed pictures of crossing Delaware and of Valley Forge and a framed fire insurance plaque

John Oschsner –1922 map of Green County Country Schools

Mary Dibble – standing cupboard, double doors

Ellen Hefty Mister – boxed bouquet of wheat and 18X24 framed "Lords Prayer"

Margrit Lienhard – a complete festival costume with hat, gloves and purse, photograph of Margrit Leinhard and Margrit Erne, metal cowbell with strap and black holder, carved Edelweiss expandable book holder, woodcarving of man and woman on bench and framed scissor cutting

Pauline Grossenbacher Boss – colored enlarged photo of Paul Grossenbacher, framed etching and sephia photo of Burgdorf and poster of St. Fridolin

Wm. & Penny Novak -large cowbell with fancy strap

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

Limburger is the misunderstood cheese

When someone says Limburger what is your first response? Is it to say, wow, that is one smelly cheese? But before you take it off your plate; you should know a few facts about this distinctive cheese. It might just become your favorite cheese.

I'll start with the history of limburger cheese. It originated in a small country of Limburg, which is divided between Germany and the Netherlands. The Swiss introduced Limburger to Wisconsin in 1867 when Rudolph Benkert made Limburger in his cellar. By 1880, Limburger was becoming very popular among the local cheesemakers. Over 20 factories were producing the cheese. By 1930 over 100 companies were making Limburger. There were many fans of the cheese all over and the factories were sending the cheese all over the world.

Limburger today is very scarce to find in the United States. So scarce, that many Americans look to Germany for their old favorite. If you live in Wisconsin you are in luck, because in our great town of Monroe there is still one cheese factory left. The Chalet Cheese Cooperative still makes Limburger, and they are the only factory left in the United States that does.

Due to the long process of making the Limburger, it's considered a "specialty" cheese. A great deal of time, effort, and patience go into making these precious little bricks with that special smelling bouquet.

The smell can be unbearable and this is why. The cheese rind is washed with a mild brine solution. The cheese is also fermented with Brevibacterium linens which is the same bacteria found occurring naturally in body odor. But making Limburger is a very long and hard process. They start by heating the milk with rennet and special cultures. The milk then separates into whey. Then they use the curds and put them into brick molds. The curd molds are heated until they ripen. This process takes about 2 to 3 weeks. Then even after the two to three weeks, they lower the heat and let the bricks age for three months washed on a regular basis with brine. After that, it is ready to sell. The texture is very smooth and creamy.

There are many ways to enjoy Limburger. I think the best way to have it is by cutting off the schemer. The schemer is the strong layer of the brick that gives the cheese distinct flavor. Then if you put it on rye bread and top it with strong, thinly sliced onions, it is delicious. You can make dips out of the cheese as well. Use it with a strong flavor cracker or bread. Don't be afraid to experiment.

Now you know the history of Limburger and the long process that it takes to make this specialty cheese. Green County should be proud that we have the only cheese factory left in the United States that makes Limburger. Now put it back on you plate, because Limburger is great.

By Mikala McKee
Past Monroe dairy queen

This article appeared in the Monroe Evening Times sometime ago.

Limburger is an unknown cheese to many of our visitors here at the Swiss Historical Village. Limburger is sold at stores in New Glarus. **Our gift shop** does have a variety of cheese packaged or made by the Alp and Dell, Monroe. Listed below are some of the varieties:

Baby Swiss – A mild, nutty, slightly sweet cheese. Slice on sandwiches, perfect for cooking. Pairs well with fruity white wine.

Butterkäse – A mild buttery German-style cheese. Perfect for snacks and sandwiches, melts beautifully. Pairs well with white wine.

Bergkäse Mountain Cheese, a product of Switzerland An original alpine cheese, hearty nut-like flavor. Slices, shreds and melts well.

Havarti – A mild, buttery cheese, perfect for snacking. Slices and melts beautifully. Pairs well with apples and grapes.

Brick Mild – MILD

Gran Queso – Crafted from cow's milk, this Spanish-style cheese has a distinctive bite and sweet finish. Award winning cheese.

Muenster – A mild, mellow cheese. Slices and melts beautifully. The kid's favorite on sandwiches, burgers and pizza.

Cheddar (Mild) – Firm body makes for a versatile cooking and snacking cheese.

Smoked Gouda – A naturally smoked pasteurized process cheese food.

Insights...

We visited in 1979 and today. Very nice. Thank you for the history. Couple from Oak Park, IL

Amazing, very interesting engaging guide. Thanks. Couple from Cumberland, ME

Wonderful display of your history and courage! Couple from Kansas City, MO

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 6 (70) October 1, 2011

Leaders Line

Harvest Fest

Harvest Fest festivities at the Swiss Historical Village will be held October 9, 2011, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be old time craft demonstrations, real cheese making, sausage making and special foods. Our guides will be available to show you the artifacts and to talk about the unique and interesting history of New Glarus. Time can be spent with the Civil War re-enactors and study the Civil War photos provided by Kim Tschudy.

Corn shocks, pumpkins, gourds and mums decorate the grounds. There will be Swiss music to enjoy. Admission at a reduced price $5.00 for adults and school age children 6-13 at $3.00 does not include AAA or the use of credit cards. If you are a member, this is a chance to use your membership card. Harvest Fest is the highlight of our season and the biggest fundraiser.

Please pass the word to your friends about this exciting event and we hope you can join us!

New Glarus Historical Society Board News

President John Marty introduced a guest, Roger Clark, who was invited to estimate the cost of repair of the three buildings before we paint.

After a discussion which included the estimated cost, the board elected to have Clark repair all three of the buildings this year.

President Marty then called the meeting to order on September 13, 2011 at the Historical Village meeting room. The minutes of the August 9, 2011 were reviewed and approved following a Gehl/Beal motion.

The financial report will be sent by email to all board members.

Plans for the Harvest Fest are progressing well.

Denise Anton Wright said the New Glarus Library will have available micro-film copies of the New Glarus papers from 1925 to 2008. Each reel costs $89 and on a new computer and printer, copies can be made for 20 cents a copy after five free ones.

Donna Douglas of Monroe Cheese Museum proposed that before the 2012 season starts various museum board members of Green County meet for lunch and then tour all the museums. Pres. Marty will let her know that we are interested.

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of September was 956, which included visitors on 6 buses. We had guests from 2 states and we need Rhode Island yet for the year. Six countries were represented.

Recent Donations

Michael Bovre – A cookbook, "Casper & Katharina Anna Rhiner Family Recipes 2011"

Dick Zentner – wringer for washing machine, large metal logging hook and glass jar-kerosene stove tank

ORDER FORM

Two for America by Gloria Jacobson

Please mail ____ copies of "Two for America" @ $12.66 (tax included) plus $2.50 postage and handling per book ordered. Enclosed is $_____

Ambiguous Loss, Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief, written by Pauline Boss

Please mail one or two copies of "Ambiguous Loss" @ $15.83 (tax included) plus $3.00 postage and handling per book ordered. Enclosed is $_____

Mail to:

Swiss Historical Village
c/o Gail Beal
P.O. Box 745
New Glarus, WI 53574

Mail books to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Insights ...

What a great reminder – how good we have it today!
Family from Winter Haven, FL

What a Treasure of Memories!
Couple from Franklin, WI

Wonderful display – great history
Couple from Gaylord, MI

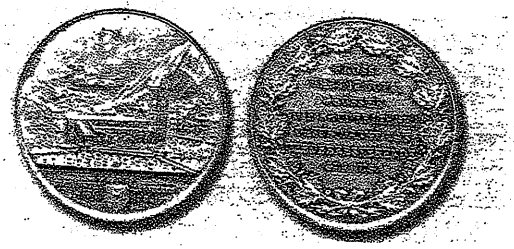
Thanks very much for having me and telling me all about New Glarus.
Alon Renner, Zurich, Switzerland

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

Glarus Brennt (Glarus Burns)
150 Years after the fire in Glarus
From the commemorative Thanks Coin (1862) to the Solidarity Dollar (2011)
"Glarus burns" was known all over Switzerland 150 years ago 600 houses burned down on May 10, 1861. More than 2,300 people became homeless.
This fire did not cool Switzerland. It created an unparalleled wave of solidarity far across all borders. This helped and comforted the Glarners to overcome this catastrophe and to rebuild their ruined city according to new plans.

Glarner Commemorative Thanks Coin 1862



The community produced metals from silver, copper and zinc to serve as symbols of thanks to be given to those who helped.
The one side shows the Pfarrkircke (church) in front of the ruin landscape above the canton shield. The other side has the following text surrounded by an oak leaf wreath:
"The need was great, brother love greater! The rebuilt Glarus gives thanks."
Above is the translation from a bookmark John Colstad brought back from his visit to Glarus.

October (from the World Book Encyclopedia)
October is the tenth month of the year. Its name comes from the Latin word for *eight*. October was the eighth month in the Roman calendar. The Roman Senate tried to name the month "Antoninus" after a Roman emperor, "Faustinus" after his wife, and "Tacitus" after a Roman historian. But the people continued to call it October. From the time of Julius Caesar, October has had 31 days.
In the North Temperate Zone, the first frost usually occurs in October. Farmers must finish harvesting most crops, but the cold weather does not come to stay. Days of warm, hazy sunshine come later, with a fresh autumn tang. They inspired poets to sing the praises of October and Indian summer. Leaves change to brilliant crimson, russet, and gold. Wild asters, goldenrod, and fringed gentians bloom at this time. The frost kills many insects, and most birds have left for the South, but sparrows are fond of October. They are seed eaters, and the fields and meadows are rich with seeds. Farmers should welcome sparrows at this time, because the birds eat millions of weed seeds that could otherwise damage the next crop.
Activities. Farmers bring in the fall crops and store them or ship them to market. A few fruits, such as apples and grapes, are still on trees and vines in some areas. Many apples are harvested at the end of October. The excitement of the football season dominates the sports scene, even though the World Series steals some of the spotlight early in the month. Hockey teams also begin their schedules in October.
Special Days. On the second Monday in October, schools and various organizations celebrate Columbus Day. This holiday honors Christopher Columbus' arrival in America on October 12, 1492. In Canada, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the second Monday of the month. On the evening of Halloween, the last day of October, children disguise themselves with masks and costumes and go from door to door asking for a treat.
October Symbols. The calendula is the special flower for October. The birthstones for this month are the opal and the tourmaline.

By Grace Humphrey

Important October Events (Excerpts)
1. James Lawrence, the American naval officer who cried "Don't give up the ship!" born 1781.
Free rural delivery of mail began in the United States, 1896.
First "Model T" Ford put on the market, 1908.
International Atomic Energy Agency's first general conference opened, Vienna, 1957.
5. President Harry S. Truman made the first presidential telecast address from the White House, 1947.
8. Chicago fire began, and burned for about 30 hours, 1871.
12. Columbus landed in America, 1492.
13. White House corner stone laid, 1792.
18. The United States flag was formally raised over Alaska, 1867.
19. Thomas Edison began first successful demonstration of his electric light, 1879.
24. First transcontinental telegram sent, 1861.
United Nations formally established when necessary number of members ratified charter, 1945.
28. Statue of Liberty dedicated 1886.