Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 1 (71) May 1, 2012

Leaders Line

Swiss Historical Village - Season 2012.
The 2012 tourism season at the Swiss Historical Village has several bus tours scheduled. The workers' schedules have been organized by Jo Gehl. The Swiss Historical Village is open May 1 to October 15 for visitors and the bus tours will be given through October 31, 2012. 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 features a great selection of gift items, including a new book, "Sauerkraut, Suspenders, and the Swiss: A political history of Green County's Swiss colony 1845-1945." by Duane Freitag.
The two big events of the season at the Swiss Historical Village are the Commemorative service in the Log Church, August 11, 2012 and **Harvest Fest** held the Sunday before Columbus Day, October 7, 2012.
We're looking forward to another great year. Please visit us and bring others with you!

Historical Society Board News
The first order of business at the March 13, 2012 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
Peter Etter announced that he and Katie Elmer will get the Chalet of the Golden Fleece ready for the 2012 season and operate it until a Museum Coordinator can be found. The position is very job specific, such as being able to write grants and working weekends.
Etter confirmed that Andy Elkins and the Monticello/New Glarus Boy Scouts will stain the fence around the museum grounds.
The Historical Society board wants to participate in the Blue Star Museum program that gives active military members with their families a free pass to a tour of the Swiss Historical Village from Memorial Day to Labor Day again this year.

Janis Merkle of the New Glarus Public Library spoke at the Historical Society's annual meeting held March 3, 2012. Janis knew that Federal Grant money was available for digitization. She knew the Library had a small historical collection so she contacted the New Glarus Historical Society for photos and the Swiss United Church of Christ of New Glarus for early genealogy records that were hand written. The focus was to be on the first hundred years.
Earlier, Janis looked at about 20 books/maps of New Glarus, surrounding area and some Green county, and about 200 photos (don't know the names on some) at the Historical Society. She looked at two volumes that recorded the Swiss from 1850 to early 1900's at the Swiss Church. Volunteers tried to identify people and buildings. If anyone knows of errors they are to contact Janis.
Janis is going to put together a handout on how to use the website in time for the Swiss Historical Village to open. Grant money paid for the digitization and storage/maintenance is paid by UWDCC.
Photos can appear in different sections, can change the size of image, the detail is amazing and can search using person's name, etc. For the books, there is a list of titles. Some books have maps which can be zoomed in.
Access to the collection is available at the New Glarus Library that has Internet service.
For personal research – use in Copyright Laws.
Contact Janis.
New Glarus Historical Society will make a decision on theirs.

Insight ...
Fabulous. Our grandchildren enjoyed the museum.
Couple from Albuquerque, NM

A place with a very rich history, enjoyed it very much. A person from Brookside, NJ

Reminded me of my childhood in Belgium.
Lady from Hebron, IN

I never dreamed it would be this interesting!
A person from Fitchburg, WI

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

New Glarus Historical Society Annual Meeting (excerpts)

The annual meeting and dinner was held March 3, 2012 at the Chalet Landhaus.

Board members in attendance were John Marty, Peter Etter, Doris Arn, Judy Reuter, Mary Funseth, Gail Beal, Larry Klassy, Denise Anton Wright, John Colstad and Mary Dibble. Board member absent was Jo Gehl.

Guests introduced were: Emy Gartzke, Dan Gartzke & Tracy Schwalbe, Esther Disch, George & Linda Albright, Craig & Sue Weiss, Jane Martinson, Barbara Streiff, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Anderegg, Rene' & Kathy Vanoni, Patty & Art Marty, Kim Tschudy, Don & Sonja Fjelstad, Dr. Fred & Miriam Blum, Silvan & Jane Blum, Janis Merkle & Bob Suchor and Barbara, Marian & Elliot Sweet.

President John Marty called the meeting to order and called for the secretary and treasurer reports.

The terms of board members John Colstad, Gail Beal, Jo Gehl and Larry Klassy were expiring and all have expressed an interest in staying on the board for another three year term. President Marty asked if there were any additional nominations and there were none. The unanimous ballot for the four candidates was approved.

A certificate of appreciation to Ernie and Therese Jaggi will be delivered to them for their years of hard work and dedication planting flowers at the Swiss Historical Village.

Marty asked for a moment of silence in the name of Margaret Duerst who was very dedicated to the Historical Society and the Swiss Historical Village. Margaret died on November 11, 2011 at the age of 92. Margaret was on the Historical Society's Board of Directors for 30 years and was the president for 10 years.

Mary Funseth announced that the Historical Society is working to create events around Labor Day weekend to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Wilhelm Tell Pageant. If anyone has ideas or contributions they are to contact Mary at funhouse@tds.net or call 608-527-2662.

Duane Freitag spoke about his forthcoming book, "Sauerkraut, Suspenders, and the Swiss: A political history of Green County's Swiss colony 1845-1945." He expects the book to be out in late spring and it will be available through the gift shop at the Historical Village. He discussed some of the themes in the book, how the Swiss voted and who ran for and was elected to political office, as well as what was going on around them that might have affected how they voted. He noted that a big part of the story involves Sol Levitan, the Jewish peddler who settled down in New Glarus and went on to become state treasurer in the 1920s and 1930s. As an example of some of the historical detail in the book, he noted that Levitan's first store was across from the bank where the Primrose Winery now has a shop. His second store was where Puempels Olde Tavern is today. Then Fritz Tschudy's old store building was moved across the street and Levitan and Henry Steussy built a new two-story building north of the New Glarus Hotel.

Kim Tschudy thanked the Historical Society for letting him scan photos for the book commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Wilhelm Tell Play. Some photos are not all Swiss. Kim told how one early December, Ed Klassy and he toured the Tell grounds and suddenly Kim could repeat all his lines as a fisherboy in 1957 when he was 10 years old.

Mary Funseth thanked Kim for bringing back the photos all organized and in binders.

Bob Schwartz displayed wonderful photos of his trip to Washington, DC with other WW II Veterans from Wisconsin. The trip on the Badger Honor Flight was November 12, 2011 starting at 4:30 at the Madison airport and ending with the flight returning at 10:00 p.m. All the veterans had to have an escort and Paul Rieder of Monticello volunteered to be Bob's. All escorts had to pay their own way. Ninety veterans plus a full medical crew made the trip, 50 of them in wheel chairs. All veterans wore red jackets and the escorts were in blue. Senator Bob Dole, who was responsible for starting the Honor Flights, met the veterans at the WW II Memorial. Bob Dole made sure he shook the hands of each veteran there.

Bob got out of the Navy in 1946 after serving four years first as a Gunner in Australia then as a Mine Sweeper in the Pacific. He was one of the youngest veterans attending.

The veterans received a surprise mail call on the flight home and Bob's step daughter, Patty Marty arranged to have many letters of congratulations given to him. Many of Bob's family and friends were among the 5,000 people that welcomed the veterans home.

All in all, Bob found this trip to be a life-time memory.

President Marty thanked everyone for coming.

It was a very pleasant evening!

Judy Reuter, Secretary

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 2 (72) June 1, 2012

Leaders Line

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of May was 559, which included visitors on two buses. Guests from 27 states visited the museum in May and 12 countries were represented.

Historical Society Board News

Vice President Peter Etter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Historical Village.

Peter Etter and Katie Elmer completed a video for the Chalet of the Golden Fleece. Harold Lasley, Belleville, has been named the new museum coordinator. Etter reported the Chalet will be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of each week for the season. Hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. A trolley has been hired for May to September by Deborah Carey to run every fifteen minutes from the Chamber to the Fat Cat to the Chalet and then to the NG Brewery. Deborah Carey invited the Historical Society to put a sandwich board on the Chalet's lawn to direct visitors to the Swiss Historical Village.

The Historical Access and Use Policy has been finalized and approved by the board. The policy will be on our web-site, *www. swisshistoricalvillage.org*

A Titanic article from the 1912 Deutsch Schweizerische Courier (New Glarus Post) has been copied and laminated for display in the Print Shop. This is the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking. Peter Etter translated the article from German to English.

Peter Ott's program on the Civil War given May 2, 2012 was very informative and nicely done. It was suggested by many that this was a great way to start off the season.

Duane Freitag donated 25 of his new book, "Sauerkraut, Suspenders, and Swiss: A political history of Green County's Swiss colony 1845-1945" to be sold in the Swiss Historical Village's gift shop for the cost of $19.00 plus tax.

Insight...

Keep going to maintain this nice tradition.
Gentleman from Chile

Sturdy Swiss Joined Willingly in Conflict

By Millard Tschudy
Monroe Evening Times
Friday, June 2, 1961
Civil War Scrapbook

In the finest tradition of their ancestors who fought with pike and battle-ax at Sempach and Morgarten and Murtem, the Swiss of Green County, 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.

Most of those soldiers of a hundred years ago, had never heard of those small but bloody streams whose name gave title to a battle; they never heard of those mountains up whose walls they fought; they never heard of those villages whose limits marked the end of many a life.

But the farmers and mountaineers who had come from Switzerland less than a lifetime before left their mark on the battlegrounds we hallow as shrines of American History.

Only a few were fighting in the land that gave them birth. Many had come here a decade or so before 1861 and one or two had not been here long enough to learn the language of the land they served.

But they did go off to the war and most of them were assigned to either the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment or to the 9th regiment.

The 9th was unique in that it was composed of men of German or Swiss descent. Because many of its soldiers had had previous military experience in Europe, this regiment was considered one of the finest that Wisconsin sent into battle.

The regiment left Wisconsin in January, 1862 and saw only limited service until December when it raided Van Buren, Arkansas, after a two-day march of 60 miles.

During the remaining years of the war, the 9th fought in the Arkansas area, participating in the Red River expedition, along White Oak Creek, against General Kirby Smith's 20,000 man force at Jenkin's Ferry and Little Rock.

Green County's contribution to the 9th was about half a dozen Germans and 45-50 Swiss. The later

Around the Corner

Sturdy Swiss Joined Willingly in Conflict

continued.

One of them, Thomas Schmid of Co. D, 9th Regiment whose birth date was December 12, 1845, was the first Swiss child born in New Glarus. His parents also buried the first Swiss child in New Glarus, a son who died coming here with the first colonists, somewhere between Galena, Illinois and New Glarus.

Another, Jacob Kundert, came to New Glarus in 1854 and enlisted in Co. K of the 9th in 1862. He fought for three years at Van Buren, Oak Creek, Prairie Grove and Red River. On his arrival in America Kundert was $100 in debt, but eventually became one of Green County's largest landowners with 1,100 acres, made his own Swiss cheese from the milk of his 140 head herd of cattle.

The 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment along with the 6th and 7th Wisconsin regiments plus one regiment each from Indiana and Michigan made up the famed Iron Brigade whose history is filled with exploits.

Of the 30 Green County men who fought in the Iron Brigade, eight of its members were of the 6th and 7th regiments. The 2nd regiment had a 22-man contingent from Green County, and of this group 19 were Swiss from New Glarus.

Before the Iron Brigade was formed, the 2nd Wisconsin had already proved its ability and courage by being the last Northern regiment to leave the field at the defeat of the first battle of Bull Run.

As part of the Iron Brigade, the 2nd regiment fought in Virginia at Gainesville, Laurel Hill and Fredericksburg; in Maryland at South Mountain and Antietam; in Pennsylvania at Gettysburg, where the total American casualties topped 40,000 and General Robert E. Lee was forced to retreat with his shattered columns into Maryland.

One of the most colorful soldiers to ever go to war from New Glarus was Fridolin Streiff, a sergeant in the hard fighting 2nd Wisconsin Infantry.
Streiff came to New Glarus from Switzerland in 1861, volunteered before learning the language and left for the fighting front on October 15 of the same year.

He was wounded three times in a career that took him to Gettysburg, down into Virginia at Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, Laurel Hill and the second battle of Bull Run where the confederates under Stonewall Jackson lost 9,500 men and Union forces under General Pope lost 24,500.

John I. Streiff, one of the Sergeants' four children who still lives in New Glarus recalls that once his father arrived in Madison late in the afternoon on furlough.

"Dad spent the whole night walking home to New Glarus"

Another incident, one which nearly cost the sergeant his life, was related by his son.

"Dad told us of the time on the battlefield when he came face-to-face with a huge Irish Confederate. Dad said he realized that neither he nor his enemy had time to shoot so each drew his sword. Dad figured if he didn't draw fast, he'd never see home again. So the Irishman became a war casualty."

That exciting encounter won a new name for Sergeant Streiff.

From that day on his comrades in the 2nd Wisconsin and the Iron Brigade called him, "The Iron Dutchman."

Thank you, Kim Tschudy, for sharing this article.

New Gate for the Swiss Historical Village

Brad and Andy Beal made a new log gate to replace the broken one. It's longer than the original one to allow easier access to the grounds. They designed it split in the middle; therefore it's not going to sag as the old one did. It's also trimmed to match the existing fence.

Thank you, Brad and Andy! We appreciate the time and hard work you put into the project.

Wedding in the Log Church

On May 20, 2012, Rory Klossner and Nicole Franks were married in the replica of the first log church in New Glarus. Their daughter, Olivia age 21 months, carried the rings on a white teddy bear. Scott Everson, a long time friend of Rory's, performed the ceremony. Brian Franks, brother of the bride, and Kristin Klossner, sister of the groom, were the witnesses. The immediate family and close friends attended and the weather turned out perfect!

Margaret Duerst Family Donation

Gail and Brad Beal traveled to Deerfield, WI to order 2 five and 2 six foot benches. One has the saying "Bitte sitz und ruh" in bold on the top and "In memory of Margaret Duerst" in a smaller font on the line below. The benches are tan with black legs. The bench with the saying is just outside of the Entry building. The Duerst family was delighted with the purchase.

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 3 (73) July 1, 2012

Leaders Line

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of June was 838, which included visitors on two buses. Guests from 41 states visited the museum since May 1st and 17 countries were represented.

Historical Society Board News

President John Marty called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. at the Historical Village.
Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.
Two new members are Michael Czys, Springville, UT and Robert Luchsinger, Belleville, WI.
Etter reported the Chamber still takes bus reservations for the Chalet of the Golden Fleece and there is a charge. There is no fee for the walk-ins however there is a collection box for donations.
A cemetery tour, led by Duane Freitag and Bob Elmer, will be held in August. They received the board's permission to include the monuments placed in front of the Log Church on their tour and would go through the gate. It would start at 9:30 a.m. and there would be no charge.
A visitor inquired if the Log Church was available for weddings during the season only or could it be available for a December wedding. After a discussion, the board determined the Log Church would be available only during the season for safety reasons.
Mary F. Johnson, Waupaca, brought a picture of a scroll clock to the museum for Beal to see. She would like to have in her Will that the clock would go to the New Glarus Historical Society when she passes. The board voted to accept the scroll clock.

Insights...

Fantastic History. Well done for keeping it.
Couple from Stirling, Scotland

People had it very hard back then!
Gentleman from Kenosha

Fantastic, Great History Treasure
Couple for Paw Paw, IL

Memorial Tree for Margaret Duerst

A Red Blaze Maple, 2 1/2 inches in diameter and 12 feet tall, was ordered from Sullivan. It was planted the week of June 18th between the Pioneer Cabin (Margaret's favorite) and the Cheese Factory. Margaret's niece is having a plaque made in her memory.

2012 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 11th. The children had fun and our visitors enjoyed seeing them enacting school as it was in the past. Amy's father, Dennis Streiff, spoke to the children on their first day and Marie Pagel, a retired New Glarus teacher, was invited by Amy to speak to the children on their last day. Their graduation from the week of study was held Friday afternoon and many family members attended.

Surprise Visit

Ed Hauser, a retired Swiss Historical Village tour guide of 12 years, paid a visit to the museum on June 7th. Ed was very interested in the museum's artifacts and wrote many articles for the newsletter over the years. He was especially interested in the history of the farming equipment having growing up on a farm. Ed looks good and may he continue in good health.

Black Hawk War of 1832

"If we have come to fight, we are too few, and if we have come to die, we are too many." These words could well have been spoken by Chief Black Hawk, but weren't. The words come from Black Hawk War historian, Crawford Beecher Thayer, but no doubt these thoughts crossed Black Hawk's mind many times as he led his people on a chase across northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin in his plight to escape the ultimate slaughter of his band of Sac and Fox Indians at Bad Ax, WI on August 2, 1832 after he attempted three times to surrender, bringing to a bloody end four months of hit and run battles.
For those of us living in southern Wisconsin, this forgotten last war fought in Wisconsin was fought in our backyards. And a very small part of that war played itself out in the Monticello and New Glarus area on June 29, 1832, when Col. Henry Dodge's militia passed through what is now

Around the Corner

Black Hawk War of 1832 continued:

New Glarus Woods on their way to the Fort Atkinson area for the final push of the war.

Dodge's troops, on their way to the Fort Atkinson area, ended the day encamped in or near what was at that time, the Village of Exeter, a village which today consists of three remaining foundations of buildings and Exeter Union Cemetery. Now a ghost town, Exeter at its pinnacle boasted 150 residents. One of Dodge's soldiers, Peter Parkinson Jr., wrote of Dodge's Milita's trip in his diary, "the first night at Wiota; the next night at Argyle; the third at Sugar River Diggings, at or near what is now called Exeter."

The first white settler in Green County, William Deviese, born in Pocahontas County West Virginia in 1793 came to Exeter in 1827 to mine the lead which the area held. Deviese quickly became friends with the Winnebago Indians who inhabited the area for hundreds of years prior to white settlement. The Winnebago people were officially neutral but depending upon the day their loyalties went either way. But as the drums of war were beating in late winter, early spring in 1832 it was the Winnebago's who came to Exeter to warn the white settlers that war was imminent. The settlers quickly left for Fort Blue Mounds where they stayed until the war ended on August 3, 1832 at Bad Ax, WI.

Dr. John Schindler along with the New Glarus American Legion post was instrumental in getting a monument erected at the New Glarus Woods commemorating this event of Henry Dodge's militia passing through New Glarus. A well attended two day event on May 30-31, 1930, dedicated that monument which still stands near the visitor contact station at the park was written up in articles in both the Capitol Times and Wisconsin State Journal.

Imagine if you can, the large encampment near Fort Atkinson where for several days 1000 or more soldiers gathered for the final push to catch what was known as "the British Band" because of the Sac and Fox people's alliance with the British in the War of 1812. The "Indian War," which the Black Hawk War of 1832 would be known as is inscribed as such on the Veteran Administration's veterans' grave markers.

At this encampment near Fort Atkinson were three men who would eventually become president, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln and Taylor's future son-in-law, Jefferson Davis. Also included in this group were future Confederate generals, Joseph E. Johnston, Albert Sidney Johnston. One man who aspired to be president, Winfield Scott, missed this muster as his 800 troops were enroute from New York to Chicago. By the time they arrived there were only about 150 surviving troops as they had been decimated by cholera while on the boat from the east. There were also numerous other soldiers serving side-by-side in the Black Hawk who took part in the Civil War and had been in the same classes at West Point but ultimately faced each other in the battle some wearing blue and their classmates wearing gray. But such is war. This war also saw the sons of Daniel Boone and Alexander Hamilton fighting side by side.

Another soldier who played out an important part in the Civil War was Major Robert Anderson. Anderson had the distinction of mustering into service, Captain Abraham Lincoln and later Private Abraham Lincoln. Years later Lincoln and Major Anderson were talking and Anderson apologized to Lincoln, telling him " Mr. President I am sorry but I don't remember you at all from the Black Hawk War". Lincoln responded, "Oh, but Major Anderson, I well remember you, you mustered me in several times."

Major Anderson was Lincoln's Major in charge at Fort Sumter and once it was captured by the Confederates. Former brother-in-arms, and now President Jefferson Davis, sent a message to his general who captured Fort Sumter, "should you per chance see Major Anderson, will you give him my kindest regards."

Abraham Lincoln who was mustered in for his first 30 day enlistment was given the rank of captain by the people of his community. The next time he mustered in he went in as a private and fulfilled his final enlistment while at the gathering of troops near Fort Atkinson. It was also near there, at Cold Springs, where Lincoln had his horse stolen and had to walk and paddle a canoe the 230 miles to his home in Illinois. Lincoln would return to Wisconsin in 1859 when he appeared in Beloit, Janesville and Milwaukee for campaign speeches. As you walk the grounds of Camp Randall today you will find a well done Wisconsin Historical Society sign describing Lincoln's second and final visit to the Wisconsin communities of Beloit, Janesville and Milwaukee.

Major William Deviese returned to the area from the Black Hawk War where he served as an aide-de-camp to General Henry Atkinson, and at times had carried messages from future Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, who in 1832 was a young soldier in service to Atkinson. Deviese made his home just into Dane County where he lived until his death in 1885. Deviese's grave in the Montrose Cemetery still carries an "Indian War" marker and the grave is each Memorial Day decorated with an American flag.

In the end, in some ways Black Hawk gained a bit of satisfaction from his defeat. After the Black Hawk War ended and Black Hawk had been captured, Jefferson Davis was charged with taking Black Hawk to Fort Monroe, VA where he was locked up for about one month to show him the power of the American government. On that trip east at each town where the boat carrying Black Hawk stopped, the piers were lined with people wanting to see this brilliant man. He was greeted as a hero at these stops. And at the conclusion of the Civil War after he was captured, Jefferson Davis spent time in the same prison, Fort Monroe, VA as he had imprisoned Black Hawk in.

Years later Jefferson Davis commented on the Battle of Wisconsin Heights' tactical plans that Black Hawk laid out as a holding action that allowed his old people and children time to cross the Wisconsin River near Wisconsin Heights, "If Black Hawk were a white soldier he (Black Hawk) would be regarded as the most brilliant tactical mind in the history of this country." And for many years Black Hawk's holding action was taught to all cadets at West Point.

Chief Black Hawk became a hero to an ever growing white America, which saw in Black Hawk a proud leader of his people who had been done wrong by bad public policy and broken agreements. And there were some very good white people, Indian agents, who tried their best to prevent this American disgrace.

In his autobiography spoken and translated in 1833, Chief Black Hawk dedicates his book to Gen. Henry Atkinson, the man who slaughtered Black Hawk's people.

"Sir,-The changes of fortune, and vicissitudes of war, made you my conqueror. When my last resources were exhausted, my warriors worn down with long and toilsome marches, we yielded, and I became your prisoner. I am now an obscure member of a nation that formerly honored and respected my opinions. The path to glory is rough, and many gloomy hours obscure it. May the Great Spirit shed light on yours--and that you may never experience the humility that the power of the American government has reduced me to, is the wish of him, who, in his native forests, was once as proud and bold as yourself."

BLACK HAWK

10th Moon, 1833

Thank you, Kim Tschudy, for this article!

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 4 (74) August 1, 2012

Leaders Line

August Service at Log Church

The Annual worship service in the Log Church will be held Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Guest minister will be Reverend Klink, retired Catholic priest, Belleville, WI. The New Glarus Yodel Club will sing. This is the 53rd 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 1171, which included visitors on four buses. Guests from 43 states visited the museum since May 1st and 24 countries were represented.

Volksfest Celebration

The Volksfest is an annual event held in tribute to the traditions brought by Swiss settlers in 1845 to celebrate Swiss Independence Day – the birth of the Swiss nation on August 1, 1291. It is held the first Sunday in August at 1:00 – 4:00 pm (dancing 4:00-6:00) at the Wilhelm Tell Shooting Park in New Glarus.

The New Glarus Maennerchor , 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

Members of the New Glarus Library Board met with the Historical Society Board before the regular meeting to discuss possible ways of partnering. President John Marty called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. in the Historical Village meeting room. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

New members are Lydia Davis and Shaun Flinn, New Glarus, WI. The summer issue of Family History Notes has been distributed.

Correction: It's been brought to our attention that the cemetery tour is being sponsored by the Swiss Church cemetery committee under the direction of Dale Hustad. Bob Elmer helped with the research and Duane Freitag will be talking briefly about the pioneer cemetery and the tombstones at the Historical Village.

YODER vs. WISCONSIN

Brief Overview of Case by Kim Tschudy

Little did anyone expect that the arrival of the Amish to New Glarus in January 1964 would ultimately lead to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, Yoder vs. Wisconsin, delivered on May 15, 1972.

January 1966 brought the Adin Yutzi family to New Glarus from Hazelton, Iowa, where the family was embroiled in a legal fight with county officials pertaining to sending their children to public school after the age 14. Later this winter the Wallace Miller and Jonas Yoder families would arrive from Plain City, Ohio and settle just east of New Glarus.

Adding to what became Yoder vs. Wisconsin was the strange collection of attorneys who were willing to take on the Amish case against the New Glarus School District. This group included many diametrically opposing conservatives and liberals. Conservative attorney William Ball, of the National Committee for Amish Religious Rights, and his opposite, Tom Eckerle, a self-proclaimed bleeding heart liberal Catholic, teamed up to, in the Amish term, "go to law." Also involved were conservative Kenneth Merkel, the only open member of the John Birch Society in Wisconsin legislature who teamed up with Representative Fred Kessler, a Milwaukee area liberal democrat. And it didn't end there. Future Wisconsin governor candidate in 1974, 1976 vice presidential candidate and current Iowa County Judge William Dyke made a financial contribution to the National Committee for Amish Religious Freedom.

That act by Dyke set off a light in Eckerle's head, "My God, if he's (Dyke) for them, it must be that this wasn't the liberal cause I thought it was!"

Initially Jonas Yoder was opposed to his daughters having to wear the gym uniforms required by the New Glarus Schools. Eventually Yoder worked out an agreement with the schools and this ceased to be an issue. But the issue of compulsory education to age 16 did become an issue. An issue that wouldn't go away.

The Amish argument was centered around the idea that if their children went to school beyond age 14 they might become too worldly and at some point leave the Amish religion. The school argued the point that Wisconsin law requires that children stay in school until age 16. The Amish also stated that they were opposed to the teaching of evolution. Numerous attempts at compromises failed. When it became clear that a compromise was not going to happen the Amish community decided to open their own schools. One of these schools was operated in the Wallace Miller home on Argue Road. A second school, Plainview Parochial School, was to be built just into the Town of Primrose.

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

Yoder vs. Wisconsin continued.

The Amish went to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and learned from Archie Buchmiller that they need not have indoor plumbing or a certified teacher but they had to follow the required number of school days and provide clean drinking water, which the Amish readily agreed to. They advertised for a teacher and hired Minnie Weaver, a young Amish woman from Ohio.

School started as planned but not without deep concerns from New Glarus School Superintendent, Ken Glewen. Glewen tried to pull a fast underhanded stunt that the Amish were not about to play into. Glewen wanted the Amish to keep their children in public school until after the third Friday of September, the day that the official school population is taken statewide to determine state aid for the school year. The New Glarus School District was going to lose approximately $18,000 with the Amish students no longer enrolled in the public school. Reuben Hershberger commented on Glewen's stunt, "It would not have been right to sit in their schools, just so they could collect the money. Jonas Yoder joked, "Glewen already had the money spent."

In another attempt to stave off problems Wisconsin Legislature members Merkel and Kessler introduced a bill to exempt the Amish from gym class if they could demonstrate that participation, "conflicts with their religious practices." A 1967 Wisconsin Legislature bill called for exempting Amish and Mennonites from the compulsory attendance to age 16 law. Glewen promptly decried the measure stating that the bill would, "open the way to many other such bills which would make school administration difficult if not impossibly legal."

Once Glewen's, stay in school until after the official yearly census was conducted stunt fell flat, Glewen, acting as the Truant Officer for the school district, audited the Amish school attendance books and found that seven students were not in school that should have been and he filed a truancy complaint with the Green County Courts. On August 15, 1969 Judge Roger Elmer found the three defendants, Jonas Yoder, Adin Yutzi and Wallace Miller guilty as charged and fined them each $5.

But it didn't end there. The case was appealed by the Amish' lawyers and they went to the Green County Circuit Court where Judge Arthur Luebke ruled for the state against Yoder, Yutzi and Miller.

This set up a case bound for the Wisconsin Supreme Court which heard oral arguments on December 1, 1970. The court rendered their opinion on January 8, 1971, ruling in favor of Yoder, Yutzi and Miller. That action set up a case for the Wisconsin Department of Justice to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Wisconsin Legislature passed a resolution asking Wisconsin Attorney Robert Warren to drop the case which Warren chose not to do. Warren, it was said wasn't trying to punish the Amish but instead argued that this could open the door to more suits of a similar nature from many other religious and secular groups.

On December 8, 1971 the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of Yoder vs. Wisconsin. Two days later on December 10, 1971 the court held a conference to discuss the oral arguments on Yoder vs. Wisconsin.

On May 15, 1972 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-0 on the case and found in favor of Yoder. Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote the opinion with Justices Thurgood Marshall and Harry Blackmum concurring with the Burger opinion. Justice Byron White wrote his own concurring opinion with Justices Potter Stewart and William Brennan joining this concurring opinion. Justice William O Douglas concurred with the majority but wrote a concurring dissent on not allowing the children to have their opinions heard. Justice William Rehnquist and Louis Powell did not vote because both had joined the court too late to participate in the decision.

Madison's two daily newspapers opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Yoder vs. Wisconsin were vastly different. The State Journal proclaimed the decision, "to be a victory for religious freedom and proof that the bill of Rights is indeed a living, vital document." The Capital Times decried the decision deeming it, "legal mischief. It is not easy to take sides against the God-fearing Amish."

Adin Yutzi and family moved to Missouri before the case was completed. Wallace Miller and family moved to the Evansville area and Jonas Yoder and family moved to Missouri shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down their decision. *Thank you, Kim Tschudy*

Insights...

A wonderful preservation of a simpler time.
Couple from Watertown, WI

Awesome history lesson.
Couple from Janesville, WI

Lovely learning about my ancestors.
Couple from Boca Ratan, FL

Order Form

Sauerkraut, Suspenders, and Swiss: A political history of Green County's Swiss colony 1845-1945 is written by Duane Freitag. To order this soft covered book, mail to: **Swiss Historical Village, c/o Gail Beal, P.O. Box 745, New Glarus, WI 53574.**

Please mail _____copies of Sauerkraut, Suspenders and Swiss @$20.05 (tax included) plus $4.50 postage and handling per book ordered.

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Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 5 (75) September 1, 2012

Leaders Line

Harvest Fest

The Harvest Fest event held each year on the Sunday before Columbus Day will be October 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Re-entry is possible. AAA and credit card usage will not be available.

This is the only day that cheese is made in the Cheese Factory and sausages are made in the Sausage Shop in addition to the many presentations provided by special crafters and demonstrators.

John Marty and Gail Beal are scheduling the many activities.

There will be a guide in every building to answer questions as guests move freely among all the crafters that participate.

Civil War enactors will be present in costume to answer questions regarding our cannon, their blacksmith wagon and the civil was days (1861-1865).

We welcome new members to the New Glarus Historical Society and to those who are current members; you can attend this event free!

There will be Brätzeli and baked goods for sale.

Please enjoy the day with us and bring your friends.

Historical Society Board News

President John Marty called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. at the Historical Village.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

New members are Eugene and Maureen Theiler, Milwaukee, WI and Rev. Kenneth Klink, Madison, WI.

Plans are being made for the celebration of Harvest Fest on October 7, 2012. John Marty and Gail Beal are in charge.

A thank you letter and a family pass to the 2012 Harvest Fest will be sent to Mr. Baus of Baus Refrigeration and Heating, Monroe, for donating a new air conditioner in the storage shed. The original one had a faulty compressor.

Donna Douglas, National Historic Cheesemaking Center, requested three photos for a scavenger hunt. Jo Gehl chose three appropriate photos; our 1890' buggy, our Firehouse surrey and a photo of the original cemetery monuments.

August Service at Log Church

Reverend Kenneth Klink, retired Catholic priest, Belleville, WI gave the sermon for the 53rd Commemorative service in the Log Church on August 11th. The New Glarus Yodel Club sang three wonderful numbers and Shirley Lueschow played the 1900 pump organ. Renee' and Kathy Vanoni, Minnesota, attend each year since being married in the Log Church a number of years ago. Several descendents of the original settlers were in attendance. The collection of $160 was given to the Green Care Food Pantry.

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of August was 1,056 that included visitors on three buses. One state was represented for a total of 44 this year. States needed are: Alaska, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island and West Virginia. Two countries were represented in August for a total of 26.

A reminder that the Swiss Historical Village will be closing October 15, 2012 except for buses that planned for tours in advance until October 31st.

Donations – 2012

Vreni Naess – Child's backpack.

Lynette Ivey – 2 framed pictures, black satin buggy coat.

Bernadine Beutler – framed picture, floral memorial wreath.

Lynette Ivey for Margaret Duerst – 1938 Handbook, commemorative plate – 700 year Switzerland.

Penelope Kubly – 32 doilies (assorted sizes), pair of arm chair covers, 4 round pot holders, 2 sets pillowcases, 5 round table covers, and 6 table runners.

Bud and Rosie Wieser – Choirboy Alb – Wm Tell Play – Swiss Miss Factory.

Lori Grinnell – Englers Cash Store Plate.

Insights...

Very nice and educating. Love the German signs every where.
Lady from Prague, Ckech Republic.

Enjoyed the history, nicely done.
Couple from Woodland Hills, California

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

Excerpts from Tell Through the Years:
This story dates back to the first production of the play in 1938. There were to have been 2 old goats and 4 young kids in the scene with the cows. But on Sunday, no amount of coaxing and pushing could persuade them to join the procession. On Monday, however, their stage fright apparently forgotten, they were willing participants, to the delight of all attendees. Paul Grossenbacher's costume in that first production was not quite what he had expected. It was red velvet and was part of a St. Nicklaus uniform. A heavy rain was part of that first performance, and when Paul removed the costume following the performance, he realized that the red in the velvet had stained not only his under clothes, but his skin as well. It took two weeks of scrubbing to lose his reddish highlights!

During another performance some years later, Walter Tell (Wilhelm's son) is supposed to announce the arrival of his father in the last scene by saying, "Der Vater!" But in this particular instance, Tell did not appear on cue. So young Walter tried again by shouting "Der Vater" slightly louder. Still no Tell. So he tried a third time, with no success. Then, to the amusement of the 3,000 people watching, he blurted in English and a very loud voice over the amplifiers, "Where the hell is Tell?"

And actually, Tell was up in the woods enjoying a good cigar and completely forgot about his entrance.
Verna Grossenbacher told this story:
"Once I played the part of Armgard, the poor woman who throws herself, with her children, in front of Gessler's horse and begs him to release her husband from prison because her children are starving. Gessler threatens to run her over if she does not get out of the way. The little children with Armgard were our grandchildren, and Gessler was being played by their grandfather, Paul. They looked at Gessler with big eyes and said "This can't be Grandpa, he is not that mean." At that moment, Tell shoots Gessler through the heart with an arrow. The littlest child thought his grandpa had really been shot and started to cry. He was about 5 years old at the time."

The scene in which Wilhelm shoots the apple off his son Walter's head is perhaps the highlight of the play for many people. The scene is staged by having an apple with an arrow through it on the ground near Walter's feet. When the arrow is shot, Walter is supposed to tip his head, making the apple on it fall to the ground. He then bends and picks up the apple with the arrow through it to the delight of the audience. Except for the time when Walter picked up the wrong apple and it appeared that Wilhelm had scored a clean miss! Oops! And finally, the Attinghausen death scene was just about over, and the monks carried the dead nobleman off in a very solemn funeral procession. Henry Schiffman, a retired farmer and newspaper man had done an outstanding job of playing the part. To reward his effort, the audience burst into applause. After hearing the response, Henry could not resist. The dead baron sat up form his deathbed and took a bow. The spectators broke out in hilarious laughter!

Please note: These pieces came from Wilhelm Tell, a book printed for the 50th year of the Tell Play in 1987. It is on sale in the Swiss Historical Village Gift Shop.

Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 6 (76) October 1, 2012

Leaders Line

Harvest Fest

Harvest Fest festivities at the Swiss Historical Village will be held October 7, 2012, 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 studying the Civil War photos provided by Kim Tschudy. Also present will be the 1st Brigade Band. The grounds are decorated with corn shocks, pumpkins, gourds and mums. There will be Swiss music, Alphorn playing and Flag throwing 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 tell your friends about this exciting event and we hope you can join us!

New Glarus Historical Society Board News

President John Marty called the meeting to order on September 11, 2012 at the Historical Village meeting room. The minutes of the August 14, 2012 were reviewed and approved following a Klassy/Dibble motion.

The financial report dated August 31, 2012 was prepared by Doris Arn. Comparing income and expenses to 2011, both are about the same. Report was approved by a Reuter/Funseth motion.

Plans for the Harvest Fest are progressing well. All board members are to bring baked goods for the bake sale. This year the meal for the demonstrators and workers will be catered by Pam Burke.

Rev. Mary Gafner, Monticello, thanked the New Glarus Historical Society for the Log Church service donation of $160 for the Green Care Food Pantry.

The board members decided that Mary Dibble should tell Fox TV that we are not interested in paying for an advertising spot for the Harvest Fest. That avenue and others will be considered next year.

Attendance

The Swiss Historical Village attendance for the month of September was 827, which included visitors on 3 buses.

We had guests from 44 states and we need Alaska, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island and West Virginia for the year.

Twenty nine countries were represented.

Insights ...

Great country, really interesting things and very friendly people.

Gentleman from Switzerland

Enjoyed it very much as my husband was a cheese maker and parents came from Switzerland.

Couple from Argyle, WI

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 $_____

Sauerkraut, Suspenders, and Swiss: A political history of Green County's Swiss colony 1845-1945 is written by Duane Freitag. Cost of the soft covered book is $20.05 (tax included) plus $4.50 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 _____

"Today is our future's past."

Around the Corner

The Railroad come to New Glarus

Contributed by Kim Tschudy

This past August marked the 125th anniversary of the railroad arriving in New Glarus. The first railroad into Green County arrived in Brodhead in 1856 and extended to Juda and Monroe in 1857. New Glarus and Monticello were two of the last villages of any size to gain railroad service in 1887.

The Illinois Central Railroad had expressed an earlier interest in bringing service to New Glarus but never acted on it. In late 1886 a number of New Glarus businessmen traveled to Milwaukee to try and convince the Milwaukee Road to bring service to New Glarus. In February 1887 public meetings were held to see if or not there was sufficient interest. The railroad said that if the people of New Glarus were to give them $20,000 they would bring rail service to New Glarus. New Glarus residents were willing to put up the necessary $20,000. As it ended up the railroad decided not to charge New Glarus the full $20,000 asking them only to pay for the cost of the depot which was $10,000.

In March the railroad surveyors laid out the line from Albany, which had obtained rail service in 1880, to Monticello and New Glarus with construction beginning the following month. Just four months later the first train arrived in New Glarus, the exact date is unsure but was probably August 4,5 or 6. In a period of four months 16 miles of grade and rail were laid through many miles of lowlands and 16 bridges had to be built.

Imagine what a thrilling day this must have been when that first train arrived in New Glarus. No doubt people came from miles around for this grand event which meant that New Glarus would now have a much better link with the outside world. Travel and transportation of much needed goods would now be easily accessible.

The railroad brought a new prosperity to New Glarus. Each week the Monroe Sentinel told of new businesses setting up in New Glarus. Probably the most welcome was a lumber yard which ensured a good and regular supply of pine lumber with which to build new barns for the rapidly growing dairy business that area farmers were building following the collapse of the wheat growing that they had been engaged in for their first two decades.

The depot was typical of many small rural towns across the Midwest, a second story two bedroom apartment for the depot agent and his family to live in. The Milwaukee Road said "that providing good housing for their employees ensured a better quality employee." But the railroad had an ulterior motive, having someone in the depot 24 hours a day and they had to pay for only 12 hours. This acted as a great fire protector as many depots went up in flames when hot sparks from the steam locomotive boilers would drop on the dry wooden shingled roofs of the depots.

In addition to freight service New Glarus had three passenger trains each day arriving and leaving New Glarus. For New Glarus' 50th anniversary the railroad put on special excursion trains to New Glarus. At another anniversary the crowd brought by the railroad was so large that the passenger cars were parked in the railroad yard to provide overnight accommodations for the thousands of people attending the gala event.

The arrival of the Helvetia Milk Company to New Glarus added yet another boost to the New Glarus economy with their several daily box cars of condensed milk to be shipped across the country. During WW2 many area GI's saw each can of Pet condensed milk as a tiny but very welcome gift from home. Some of these men until their eternal rest would not use anything in their coffee but Pet Condensed milk.

In 1913 the Milwaukee Road built a stock yard and leased it to the Farmers Stock Cooperative for $1 per year. The stock company shipped New Glarus livestock all over the country. Pet Milk contracted with Frick,Hoesly and Kundert, a livestock buying and selling company, to provide them with several hundred good Wisconsin dairy cattle to be shipped to Tennessee where Pet had a factory. The cows were sent there to improve the milk production and genetic lines for dairy herd improvement

Fred Heller once talked of riding the trains from New Glarus to New Jersey with dairy cattle purchased in this area to rebuild the dairy herds in northern New Jersey after they had been wiped out from some type of cattle health problem. These New Jersey herds provided the fluid milk for New York City. Heller had to milk the cows twice each day on his three day trips. For this he got $5 per trip.

In a January 15, 1999 letter Robert Adams relates having ridden the last passenger train to New Glarus and Mineral Point in May 1958. He and a friend walked into the Janesville depot and asked for tickets to Mineral Point. "Mineral Point, you don't want to take this thing to Mineral Point. There's a bus that will get you there in two hours." He (depot agent) would only sell us a ticket as far as Brodhead. Normally the battered old coach they rode in was unhooked at Brodhead and picked up on the return trip. But this day they took the coach to New Glarus. "We got to New Glarus and the depot agent came out and exclaimed to the conductor, what did you bring this thing up here for? We got passengers" the conductor laughed. "Passengers, the agent shouted, "we haven't had any passengers up here since, let me see, maybe it was about 1918."

The final bell for rail service to New Glarus was rung on March 30, 1972, when the last locomotive hooked up the last of the freight cars and as they say in railroad circles when someone or something dies, "caught the westbound."

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Around the Corner continued

Brief look at New Glarus Railroad History through the years.

1887 The first depot agent was a Mr. Wilkerson. The engineer on locomotive #86 was Billy Wilkerson. An 1888 New Glarus business directory lists J. E. Collins as the railroad, telegraph and express agent

.

1891 Switzerland celebrates its 600th anniversary. New Glarus decided to help celebrate this anniversary and put on a celebration that drew over 6,000 visitors. Pullman cars were added to the train to provide additional overnight lodging for the visitors.

1907 Robert Streiff began a livery business delivering freight from the depot to local merchants. Strieff continued in business until he retired in 1962.
1918 –November 11. The train pulled into town whistle blowing announcing that WW1 had ended.
1929 The Babler Auto Sales Company will sell Oakland-Pontiac automobiles. They will arrive by flatcar.
1939 A record 22 car loads of stock were shipped in one day from Farmers Cooperative Stock Company.

1945 Pet Milk announced that 36,774,033 pounds of milk was delivered to the factory during the year. The bulk of it was shipped out by rail for use by the armed forces.
1948 A boxcar load of milk from Pet Milk was shipped overseas by CROP.

1952 Well respected New Glarus depot agent John Dahnke died suddenly shocking the entire village. The Dahnke family was a multi-generation Milwaukee Road family and John's wife, Alma, served as depot agent in Monticello during WW2.

1954 In March the Milwaukee Road switched from steam to diesel power on the New Glarus line.
1955 A March 21 fire burned the Milwaukee Road trestle about 1.5 miles from New Glarus causing a derailment.

1962 Pet Milk announces on January 15th that they were going to close the New Glarus factory.
1966 Depot agent Ben Eller announces the end of telegraph service by the end of the year.
From "The Swiss Endure" by Elda and Linda Schiesser

Our First Trip to New Glarus by Rail
From the Monroe Sentinel, September 21, 1887

Last week Mr. Streiff, the first leader of the colony of New Glarus and myself, his assistant, made up our minds to make our first home in this then far and wild north-west a visit over the now finished railroad, by way of Brodhead and Albany, which was extended since spring to New Glarus, with remarkable decision and quickness, as the survey and work were completed inside of five months. The building of the Northern R.R. (Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul RR) through Monroe which had a branch to New Glarus in prospect, no doubt, opened the eyes of our old company and she make up her mind to do the job – and did it according to her promise made to New Glarus – in a real honorable manner, to the great joy of that burgh.
After waiting four hours at Brodhead, the cars started with freight and passengers, and carried us to Albany and Monticello over the smooth and well ballasted road to New Glarus, where we arrived at 3 P.M. They ran about 20 miles per hour, and we were astonished to find the new road from Monticello so well made after we had heard that the work was done so lightly and poorly. True, the season was very favorable for such workmen and as to the bed is laid and built on low lands it may experience hard times in wet seasons, but no doubt it will improved steadily with time.
We were very interested in our trip-looking at the country which we knew so well years ago, and through which we now, against all expectation, were carried with such speed to our old home. It was just 42 years, by a few days that Mr. F. Streiff arrived with the first 15 families, and built the first hut for them a short distance from where the depot now is built, and one year after the writer arrived, and was received by the men, then building the third or fourth log cabin a few rods further away. So the times change. A rich and thriving village covers the wildness now and civilization benefits a large community, where the Indian passed, yet where we first arrived to found our new home. We feel happy that God spared our lives to witness this blessing and joy of railroad to our first home – New Glarus. May it prosper forever!

J.J. Tschudy (copyrighted material)