New Glarus Historical Society, Inc.
Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 5 (99) **September 1, 2016**

Board and Committee Updates

Log building restoration and finalizing plans for advertising next season were the priority points of discussion during the August Board of Directors meeting. In addition, Board members worked to obtain a new cash register and orient cashiers about how to use it during the month of August, after the machine used for many years was retired.

The Board moved forward with recommendations made by Denise Anton-Wright for seven advertising contracts for the current and 2017 seasons. We renewed the AAA listing and the advertisement in the Uplands area travel booklet. We rejected the iHeart radio advertising proposal at this time due to cost and the short remaining time associated with the current season. In addition, we chose not to advertise in "specialty" yellow pages books circulated in our area due to cost and limited access by tourists seeking information for their visits to our area.

Discussion related to advertising led to a decision to include the word "museum" in advertising materials in order to ensure that visitors do not believe our advertising is general and applying only to New Glarus as a "Swiss Historical Village" as a community.

We also agreed to limit references to the beginning and end dates for our season in advertising to allow flexibility in scheduling in the future. Instead, we will include our website link in advertising. We are able to change content on the museum website about the season dates and hours at any time.

The Collections Committee recently accessioned the following items: Pet Dairy Chats, NGHS Class of 1941 photo, Swiss Church confirmation picture 1939, Swiss scarves and a Greater Green County Farm Photo book from Julia Landmark; a french ivory button hook, a Canton Bern Rumisberg Certificate of Origin 1906 and a 1774 German Language Almanac from Dale Jeglum. Mary Jo Freitag Kilpatrick donated a children's toy/salesman sample cast iron stove with accessories.

From the Ralph Elmer estate we received a scrapbook and trophies related to award winning cows and from Margaret Meythaler Donnelly, a wooden spinning wheel brought from Switzerland along with a postcard scrapbook featuring early pictures of New Glarus. Bob Elmer offered items for our "nice, but gently used" corner in the gift shop along with some Glarner "Tuechli" or scarves and a Ground Observer Corps pin for our collection.

Log Buildings Assessment and Restoration

During August, the Board received a bid for services to restore the settler's cabin on the grounds of the museum. The contractor is one noted on the Wisconsin State Historical Society's list of experienced preservation builders. Because the contractor's bid lacked some details about methods and materials, the Board voted to request a site visit with the contractor to review the bid and learn more about the contractor's approach to restoration to ensure understanding.

The Board would prefer to have more than one estimate to consider prior to making a decision, and as a result intends to make additional contacts with another local area expert to determine if that individual has interest in participating in the restoration project.

In addition, the Board reviewed plans to remove a log bench in front of the settler's cabin to prevent further deterioration from water exposure.

The Board received responses from members following last month's solicitation of input. Responses encouraged the Board to review the Quagliana report and implement suggestions that do not require the skills of an expert, such as removing the bench and removing foundation plantings and trimming trees which would change the landscape to promote better circulation around the building, a common preservation technique. Another member suggested seeking assistance from experts who broadcast programs about log building restoration on cable television. Our project may prompt special interest given its historical roots.

BOOKS THROUGHOUT THE AGES

By Stephanie Janssen

I'm sure everyone, young and old, remembers what books they were required to read in high school. This was more enjoyable for some than others. One thing is common, teachers love picking the classics.

In the 1940s, teachers picked classic novels of adventure for their students such as: *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*. Both novels were written by Mark Twain. *Tom Sawyer* was written in 1876 and *Huckleberry Finn* was written in 1885. Teachers also chose novels with themes such as: Christmas, industry, agriculture, nature, animals, Native Americans, family and home-life.

ON THE RAFT.

In the 50s, teachers continued to select the Twain classics, but also chose more family and home-life novels including: *Swiss Family Robinson* and *Little House on the Prairie*. *Swiss Family Robinson* was written by Johann David Wyss in 1812. *Little House on the Prairie* was written by Laura Ingalls Wilder in 1935.

During the 60s, teachers picked classics written by Edith Wharton, Margaret Mitchell, Jane Austen, Emily Bronte, Louisa May Alcott, George Eliot, and Thornton Wilder. Some of the classics were: *Our Town*, *Silas Marner*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Ethan Frome*, *House of Mirth*, and *Little Women*. These novels were published between the years of 1813-1938. However, one novel in particular, published in 1960, written by Harper Lee would be chosen for years to come by teachers. *To Kill a Mockingbird* would become an amazing classic.

During the 70s, most novels chosen were written after 1900. Authors commonly chosen were: John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, Harper Lee, John Knowles, William Golding, Edith Hamilton, and Willa Cather. Novels from these authors include: *Of Mice and Men*, *Old Man and the Sea*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *A Separate Peace*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Mythology*, and *My Antonia*. These novels were published between 1918 and 1960. The novels had very different themes such as: *Of Mice and Men*'s major themes are dreams, loneliness, and fate while a few of *To Kill a Mockingbird*'s major themes are racial injustice, class, and gender roles. Most of the authors chosen by the teachers have become legend."

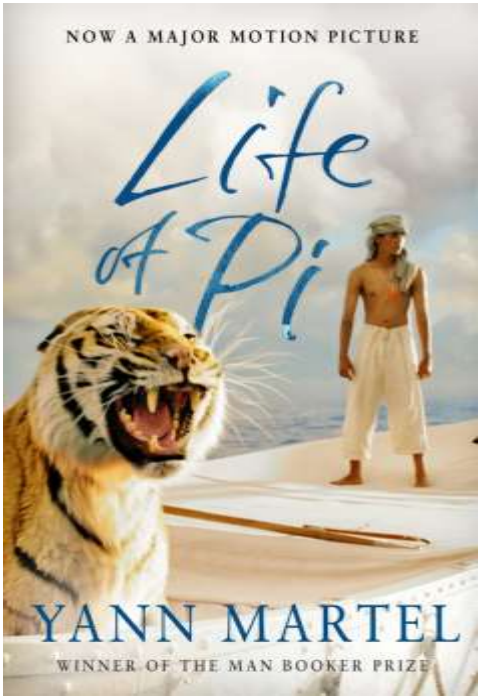
During the time of the 80s, we see some of the same novels chosen by teachers in the 70s. Some of the other selections were: *The Great Gatsby*, *Emma*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The novels' themes are very different from one another. For instance, *The Diary of Anne Frank* is about Anne Frank's life during World War II and *Pride and Prejudice* is about life in high-class British society in the early 1800s.

During the 90s, there was a mix of classics, dystopian, coming-of-age, ethnic, classic plays, and science fiction that were selected by teachers. The year gap for when these novels were published is humongous, hundreds of years.

The authors are very well known, such as: Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, Emily and Charlotte Bronte, Toni Morrison, Kate Chopin, Harper Lee, Sandra Cisneros, Mary Shelley, and Margaret Atwood.

Their famous novels and/or plays are: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Romeo and Juliet* (among many others), *Wuthering Heights*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Song of Solomon*, *The Awakening*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The House on Mango Street*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*. There was heaps of variety for their students.

Last, but certainly not least, we come to modern day. This era has the most variety. Teachers nowadays select classics, plays, memoirs, historical fiction, adventure stories, stories with emphasis on different cultures, fantasy, science fiction and new novels. Some teachers also allow students to pick their own novels to read and analyze. Novel genres normally picked by students are: dystopian, fantasy, and different genres within the "Young Adult" genre. Few students pick classics. An example of a "new" novel teachers like to select is *Life of Pi*.



Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel written by Yann Martel published in 2001. It tells of Pi Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry, exploring major issues of spiritually, practicality and survival. Pi manages to survive 227 days after he was shipwrecked and stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific with a Bengal tiger he names Richard Parker. Teachers want their students to pick up on two major themes in the novel: believability and as PBS states "personal growth through adversity".

There are a lot of famous authors and novels to choose from for teachers. Teachers could also choose from popular novels of this generation. Teachers' picks are inspired by the underlying themes of the novels. Past or present, Shakespeare or J. K. Rowling, classic or new-age, it doesn't matter as long as the theme of the novel teaches a life lesson. One thing is common, teachers love picking the classics.

About the author of this article

Stephanie Janssen is a 17 year old senior at New Glarus High School. Born in Lansing, Michigan, she has lived in New Glarus since she was a young girl. As an incoming senior, she is required to acquire 20 hours of community service, in order to graduate in the spring of 2017. Stephanie contacted Board members of the New Glarus Historical Society seeking an opportunity to volunteer. Given Stephanie's love of reading and writing, she was asked to write an article for the newsletter and she chose *Books Throughout the Ages* as her topic. Stephanie reports that writing has become her passion since she was in seventh grade.

School Opens September 1, 1930

Just like in 2016, the school year opened on September 1 in 1930! The New Glarus Post featured a half page advertisement announcing the start of the school year.

The advertisement reported that school would open on "Monday, September 1 for all children 4 years of age and on." Perhaps you have thought that 4 year old Kindergarten was a modern model of education. In addition, in bold type, the school was identified as "an accredited school in high standing" and that "graduates of New Glarus Schools would be admitted to any university in Wisconsin or elsewhere without examination."

Of particular interest for this school year, the public was notified that an "attempt to organize a school band this year with a part-time music teacher" was being made. The public was encouraged to contact the principal or school board members at that time. Board of Education members identified in the advertisement included: Fred Tschudy, President, Fred Ott, Secretary and Mrs. E. F. Kaeser, Treasurer.

A "School News" article published shortly after the beginning of the new school year reported a positive response to the school band recruitment!

"The newly started band now boasts 52 pieces with the following instruments listed: 10 cornets, 13 clarinets, 5 trombones, 7 sax's & 2 altos, 2 baritones, 2 basses, 2 mellophones, 1 piccolo, 2 snares, 1 bass drum, 1 symbol (sic) and 1 oboe. Two more mellophones and one flute would be welcome additions as the other sections are well filled. " How would our very own, Mr. Daehn the music man feel about this balance of instruments?

A high school play named "Skidding" was being planned for presentation around the time of Thanksgiving.

Also, due to the small numbers of A and B Kindergarten enrollees, the classes were combined into one morning session which allowed Kindgergarten teacher, Fay Zentner to assist the first and second grade teacher in the afternoon.

Annual Commemorative Church Service

Reverend Kim Moeller, the new minister called to serve the Swiss United Church of Christ led the service to commemorate the arrival of the first settlers of New Glarus on Saturday evening, August 13, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Nearly 50 attendees, including six descendants of original settlers, viewed the log church and tombstones of the early settlers from the outdoor seating on the veranda of the Hall of History, while Reverend Moeller reminded them of the pioneer spirit found among so many immigrants that came to the United States. The commemorative church service has been a long standing tradition of the New Glarus Historical Society.

Even before the log church was built and dedicated, which started the annual service tradition, Esther (Streiff) Stauffacher was quoted in the New Glarus Post, in May 1941: "I believe our forefathers could feel proud if they could know that we are honoring them . . .We must not forget all the hardships these pioneers suffered."

Those attending the service this year gave generously and a little over $200 was collected and donated to the Green Cares food pantry.

Attendance, Tours and Events – August 2016

Residents of the following WI counties, not previously identified, signed our guest book in July: Adams, Oneida and Polk counties.

Visitors from all but five states in the U.S. have visited the museum this season. We are looking for visitors from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah and West Virginia to make our states list complete. In addition, we welcomed more visitors from Switzerland, along with tourists from Brazil.

A special Swiss visitor was noted during the month of August. Ursula Stüssi-Walter, the designer of the governmental flag for the Glarus or "middle" region of the government of Canton Glarus, toured the Historical Village Museum. The flag she designed hangs above the outdoor patio in front of the Hall of History along with the flags representing the north and south regions of Canton Glarus.