New Glarus Historical Society, Inc.
Swiss Historical Village

Newsletter Issue 7 (101) **November 1, 2016**

Board and Committee Updates

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on October 11 and focused on a variety of topics.

Two key items related to finance were prioritized this month: investment and financial reporting. Gary Cutler, an independent representative of Jackson National Life Insurance Company, met with the Board and provided an overview of the Historical Society's annuity. Following discussion, Mr. Cutler will seek additional information for the Board about investment options to maximize our return while maintaining the principal associated with the account. Follow-up discussion is scheduled for the November meeting. An inquiry from a New Glarus Historical Society member about public disclosure of wages and salaries paid to Board members was addressed. The correspondence included a reference to IRS Form 990 – (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax 501 (c) 3). This form has been filed annually, but has not been presented at the annual meeting of the membership. Following discussion, the Board affirmed its commitment to compliance with all requirements for public disclosure for non-profit organizations by a unanimous motion and will provide additional information at the annual meeting.

Plans were made to complete the many, necessary tasks associated with closing the museum for the season, including bringing temperature sensitive artifacts indoors, to the degree possible. In addition to completing the annual task list, all portable artifacts and the original pews will be removed from the Log Church as well as items from the Settler's cabin to support restoration efforts.

The State of Wisconsin conducted a routine audit of food sales in our gift shop and we met all requirements.

We enjoyed beautiful weather for Harvest Fest and attendance close to 2015 totals. Suggestions from attendees to enhance the event in 2017 included increasing focus on children's activities, creating a Bingo or scavenger hunt game; offering Pet Milk condensed milk tasting and recipes, and adding lunch items to the menu.

Log Buildings Assessment and Restoration

Michael Yaker, doing business as *Wood Joiners,* submitted a second bid to replace the rotting logs and replace the chinking in the settler's cabin at a cost of $12,000 - $15,000. The contract cost, reflects a modified approach and is approximately one third the cost of the estimate cost documented in the consultants' report. The Board agreed to accept his bid. Mr. Yaker is named on the list of restoration craftsmen provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society. He has done work at both Old World Wisconsin and Pendarvis. Restoration will include replacement of rotted logs underneath and surrounding the north window and on starter courses on east wall as necessary, in order to restore the structural integrity of the cabin. Logs of same species will be hand-hewn to match the existing logs. Also included is to repair water damage occurring at joist and floor above fireplace, and to build a crick on roof directing water away from chimney. Exterior chinking will be replaced with a flexible lime based mortar, as recommended by the consultant's report; existing masonry mortar does not allow the logs to "breathe." Work will begin immediately and is expected to be completed by the start of the 2017 museum season, May 1.

The Board will seek a $2000 grant from the New Glarus Community Foundation and also intends to apply for a Scholl Foundation grant. Approximately $350 in donations has been placed in the donation jar for log building restoration by visitors during the season.

As a member of the New Glarus Historical Society, please consider making a contribution to this important renovation project. Donations may be mailed to the New Glarus Historical Society at P.O Box 745, New Glarus, WI 53574. Please include a note designating your contribution for the Settler's Cabin.

". . . these old buildings do not belong to us only; that they have belonged to our forefathers, and they will belong to our descendants..." William Morris

Harvest Fest 2016

Harvest Fest was a big success with over 500 attendees coming to the grounds of the Swiss Historical Village Museum on a bright and beautiful October day. Adult admissions were reduced from $9.00 to $5.00 and children were able to enter the grounds for just $3.00 for a day full of fun. Historical Society members enjoyed free admission to the annual special event. A wide variety of demonstrations took place throughout the day including cheese making, quilting, basket making, wood carving, shelling and grinding corn, spinning and weaving as well as making sauerkraut. Bratwurst with and without sauerkraut was popular fare sold by Hoesly's Meats at the sausage shop. Sweet treats were offered at the bake sale which raised almost $400 for the Historical Society as a result of the generous donations of local bakers.

Children were able to make corn husk dolls, tic tac toe bags with seeds and pebbles for markers, and practice cursive writing in the school house throughout the day. A new feature this year was pumping water using an old fashioned, hand pump, donated by Jane Brauer Wahl, and adapted for the event by Brad Beal. Board member Larry Klassy and members of his family made many children happy by helping them make a jump rope to take home, using a vintage roper maker, the old-fashioned way!

The day included Swiss entertainment by Damion Babler demonstrating flag throwing and playing his accordion, performances by local alphorn players and the Civil War Brigade Band performing musical numbers using antique instruments.

For those interested in history, representatives of the Green County Genealogy Society provided resources for researching family history and Peter Ott, the great, great grandson of local resident Fridolin Streiff, a civil war soldier and member of the Wisconsin Iron Brigade, told stories of Fridolin's war experiences.

On hand in the Feuerwehr Haus (Fire House) was honorary officer-in-charge, 96 year old Herman Pfund. Children received junior firefighter badges as a souvenir of their visit.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank many volunteers for sharing their time and talents in 2016 and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Winter Travels

The beautiful November weather has us spending lots of time outdoors this month, but those of us who have lived here for even a short while know that winter is just around the corner and we may not be as interested in spending time out in the cold and the snow. If you are unable to escape to a sunnier and warmer climate, consider a journey into your past and spend some time on family or New Glarus history research.

One doesn't need to subscribe to heavily advertised Ancestry.com to learn about your past; consider visiting or joining the local Green County Genealogy Society! Organized in 2001, the purpose of the group is to bring together individuals for networking and to promote preservation of heirlooms and documents. The Society focuses on helping others learn about genealogy research and finding their ancestors. To accomplish this goal, the Society operates a Research Center located on the lower level of the Monroe Public Library.

Resources, such as birth, death and cemetery indexes, township records and other materials from Green, Rock and Lafayette Counties are well represented along with resources from several other counties, states, countries and ethnic groups. The Research Center is open on Tuesday & the third Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In addition, you may visit the Center on the first Saturday of the month from 1:00 - 3 p.m. Extended hours until 5 p.m. are offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month.

Our genealogy ties to and information about Canton Glarus, Switzerland is extensive due to the efforts of our Swiss colleague, Patrick Wild. He has provided support to local genealogy research across the Atlantic and recently announced the launch of his website, the Glarus Family Tree project. The website information and associated materials represents more than 30 years of family research conducted by Mr. Wild. His personal announcement about the website noted, "The aim of the website is to provide to interested parties a research platform with a lot of information, links and tools for their family research. I am able to take criticism and I would like to prompt you to give me feedback, hint me to mistakes or missing topics, links, information etc. All your input will be welcome!"

The link to the new website is:
www.glarusfamilytree.com

Because a majority of Mr. Wild's contacts represent English speaking countries, his website has been published in English; a German translation of the text will follow at a later date.

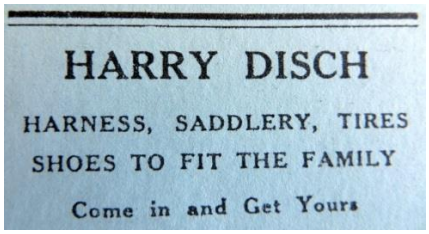
The website provides a wealth of information about New Glarus' ancestors and the communities from which they departed to come to America. Read about the history of Glarus back to the Middle Ages. And do you know about the patron of Glarus, Saint Fridolin? If not, you'll find it here! Artistic drawings and photographs complement the text as you take a journey into the past. Review the list of the 200 family names of Glarus and you will likely see the name of one or more individuals that you know in your neighborhood. Mr. Wild's website also credits the written research and work of New Glarus natives and published authors, Duane Freitag and Bob Elmer.

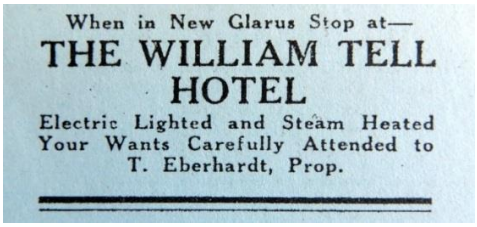
To support your further reading and history adventures, Mr. Wild has made the New Glarus Historical Society aware of the online publications of the Almanac of the Historical Society of Glarus. At this website you will find more interesting articles about the history of Canton Glarus. The date range of these scanned yearbooks is from 1865 through 2014. In order to take advantage of these periodicals, you will need to have your German dictionary at hand or partner with a German student or native speaker because currently they are published only in the German language:
http://www.e-periodica.ch/digbib/volumes?UID=hvg-001

Enjoy your journey!

New Glarus 95 Years Ago

It is 1921. The Great War is over, the devastatingly deadly flu pandemic that relentlessly stalked the globe has finally burned out, and New Glarus is looking to the future. It is a time of transition from struggle to hope. It is also a time of transition to a more modern era, as can be seen in the following advertisements.





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The above ads appeared in the "1921 Pocket Directory of New Glarus, Wisconsin". The Pocket Directory, printed and offered free by area businesses, gave useful information, such as the railway timetable and fares (65 cents to Monroe). It also listed the city officials, the two churches and the "New Glarus Lodges ─ Masonic, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Rebeccas, Woodmen of America, G.U.G.G., E.F.U., Beavers, Beaver Queens". And it enthusiastically promoted New Glarus with the following write-up.

"New Glarus Today

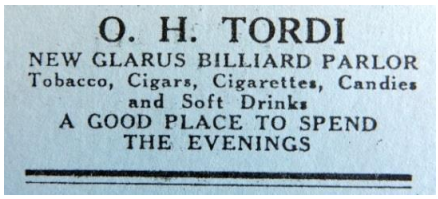
In the Cow and Cheese Belt Where the Blue Grass Grows

Population 1000. A thriving and industrious incorporated village on the Little Sugar river, and on the C.M.& St. P. railway which intersects Brodhead on the same road. In New Glarus township, Green county, 18 miles north of Monroe, the judicial seat, and on highway No. 42. Has a municipal light and power plant, a sanitary sewerage system and a municipal water plant. Has two churches of different denominations, two well organized banks, two hardware stores, three general stores, two shoe stores, a harness shop, theater, bottling works, two jewelry stores, a druggist, two meat markets, a furniture, three restaurants, two barbers, a weekly paper, the New Glarus Post, two hotels, two doctors, veterinary, three garages, a farm implement store, three cigar factories, a lumber and coal yard. Has paved streets and cement sidewalks throughout the city; the buildings and homes are up-to-date. Otherwise a splendid representative list of all other business houses where the wants of the community are amply well supplied.

New Glarus is situated in one of the finest agricultural and dairy regions of the state, the soil being of high grade clay and loam and well adapted to raising all kinds of small grains, corn, potatoes, clover and hay. Dairying and livestock raising are extensively practiced and a great deal of thorobred livestock is raised. Dairying, livestock raising and potato growing are the chief industries.

Improved farmland is worth $150 to $200 per acre and is rapidly increasing in value. New Glarus has direct market facilities with Chicago, the world market, and a crop failure is unknown in this section. The room is here for thousands of people; those who are just starting out in life or desire to change their location; some with limited means and a laudible ambition to possess a home; others with capital who desire to get in on the ground floor and secure property which must of necessity increase greatly in value will find this the ideal spot for investment.

The business men are wide awake and energetic and of wide business acumen who are ready at all times to lend assistance, and can be depended upon for their cooperation with any individual desiring to locate in this prosperous community.

In educational advantages the town is on a par with towns of many times its size and the children are given the benefits of a four-year high school course combining a commercial course, agriculture, music and manual training."

And for fun, you could hang out at the local pool hall.