New Glarus Historical Society, Inc.
Swiss Historical Village Museum

Newsletter Issue 8 (109) **November 1, 2017**

October Board of Directors Meeting

At the October Board of Directors meeting, the primary focus for discussion was building maintenance and tasks associated with closing the museum for the season.

Following a meeting with Michael Yaker, the craftsman that did the Settler's cabin restoration, action was taken to contract for stabilization of the log church walls. The stabilization process will align with recommendations made by the structural engineer who participated in the overall assessment of all of the log structures several years ago. Following completion of the work we will once again be able to allow visitors to enter the structure for tours. Mr. Yaker is also preparing an estimate to repair the chimney surround on the Community Building that has deteriorated. In addition, we are seeking an estimate for repairs from an alternate contractor that are needed to address minor damage to the roof of the School House as a result of a summer storm. The roof has not leaked since the storm and the cost will be covered by insurance. The last major maintenance task scheduled for 2017 is the painting of the Hall of History. The painting work will be done by Coplien Painting of Monroe with the cost reduced by a Coplien donation of $500.

Two days are scheduled for closing the buildings for the winter months. Tasks include removing display panels from the Hall of History, removing all textiles from buildings for cleaning and indoor storage as well as covering other artifacts in all of the buildings for which there is no available indoor, climate controlled storage space. Flowers will be removed or cut back in beds, pots and boxes including the prairie plot established for us by the Green County Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Board has scheduled a half day planning meeting in November to specifically discuss the Board of Directors vacancies as well as overall museum operations and staffing for 2018.

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Board of Directors Member Loss

For the second time this year, the New Glarus Historical Society lost a dedicated and long-standing Board of Directors member and volunteer, Judy Reuter. Her full obituary can be viewed on the Beal Funeral Homes website at: bealfuneralhomes.com.

Judith C. (Anderson) Reuter, 83, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Judy was born on July 27, 1934 to Milo and Berdine (Ahrensmeyer) Anderson in Primrose Township, Dane County. Judy attended Nessa Rural School and New Glarus High School.

Her involvement in 4-H began at a young age. She excelled at showing cattle in 4-H and the Holstein Friesian Association, winning numerous awards in showmanship, including the inaugural Howard Clapp Memorial Award in 1949. As an adult she continued her participation as general and sewing leader for New Glarus 4-H Club.

Judy united in marriage to Robert E. Reuter on June 28, 1953, at the Primrose Lutheran Church, rural Belleville. Judy and her husband Robert shared their love of dairy farming, Holsteins and 4-H with their children through years of farming and participation in 4-H. She retired in 1997 after years of working for the Department of Natural Resources. After retirement, she began working at the Swiss Historical Museum as a tour guide and cashier. She was a member of the Swiss Historical Society Board serving as secretary and newsletter editor. She is also well known for providing the much loved bratzelis. She was a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

She was a strong and beautiful woman and will be deeply missed by all.

Museum Visitors

We reviewed and updated our Wisconsin map to reflect visits from these Wisconsin counties, not previously reported in the newsletter this season: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Lafayette, Marinette, Pierce, Richland, Sauk, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Waupaca, and Waushara. Visitors from all but six states toured the museum this summer. The only state not represented on our list this season was Mississippi. We enjoyed welcoming two bus groups from Ohio and Tennessee to Harvest Fest. Foreign visitors at the end of the season came from Austria, Thailand and Mexico.

Harvest Fest 2017

October's bright, blue weather arrived on schedule for the 2017 Harvest Fest. More than 450 individuals attended the event, including a number of members taking advantage of their free admission membership benefit, and enjoyed the myriad of craft persons and activities throughout the buildings and on the grounds. The sounds of alphorns playing reminded attendees of our Swiss ancestors.

George Albright & Heinz Mattman entertain Harvest Fest visitors

New individuals demonstrating their skills and talents this year included: Jenni Curtin, woodcarving; Scott Johnson, shake shingle making; Todd Fleming, traditional timber frame joinery and Swiss chip carving; Stuart Helwig and his children's log cabin building set; Ted Sponem, blacksmith with help from Brad Beal helping children use a drill press to make penny necklaces; Michael Jackson, weaver; Eric Schlehlein, author of Civil War novel, *Black Iron Mercy*; Amanda Smith and Erin Matchan, campfire cooking; Carrie, Tim, Charlotte and Eloise Czerwonka, schoolhouse and other children's hands on activities; Kim Tschudy, business manual printing press; and the Green County Historical Society Barn project coloring pages. The Green County Genealogy Society representatives offered opportunities to retrieve family history information using the internet.

Traditional chair caning and broom making demonstrators

The bake sale area offered many home-baked delicacies for sale, with volunteers demonstrating the art of making bratzelis and offering samples of this traditional Swiss cookie. Baked goods and cider sales receipts support the New Glarus Historical Society. Hoesly's Meats offered their Swiss style bratwurst and hot dogs to those looking for lunch during their visit.

Scott Johnson, *Low Technology Institute* making shake shingles

Blacksmith working with portable forge

Demonstrators and volunteers gathered at the end of the day to enjoy a pizza party celebrating the successful event!

Membership and the Newsletter

This issue of the newsletter is the last edition scheduled for 2017. Newsletter publication will resume April 1, 2018. No foolin'! If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically to save printing and postage costs for the Historical Society, please send an email to our Board Secretary, Ann Marie Ott, at: amott@tds.net.