NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 4/Issue 4/July 2021

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vacancy as of June 23

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board of Directors is making progress in establishing a checklist for routine building maintenance as well as planning for building painting and repairs in the coming years. In addition, the Board is working on a list of possible exhibit changes in various buildings on the grounds of the museum.

Mary Dibble has resigned from the Board of Directors and the Board will take steps to recruit and appoint a replacement to complete Mary's term which expires in Spring 2022.

The Board is pleased to introduce two new volunteers to our membership. Alan Stauffacher is a retired social history teacher. He is going to share his knowledge and experience to help the museum create meaningful exhibits that are consistent with learning theory and particularly as it pertains to history. Abigail Biank will be entering New Glarus High School in the fall. She has begun the following project: compiling a comprehensive list of the original immigrant group - names, ages, professions, etc. from primary sources. If time permits, she may also begin a list of the immigrants who came to New Glarus during the first 10 years of the settlement. The intent is to make this info available to those who contact the Historical Society and want to find out if their ancestor might have been part of the original group or part of the early settlement. Abigail is also interested in public speaking and may train to become a guide later this summer.

RECENT DONATIONS HALL OF HISTORY

New exhibits representing our Swiss roots are in place as a result of contributions of time, talent and collectibles from others. Sharon and Steve Streiff, original members of the New Glarus Swiss Dancers had the maypole the dancers used for one of their most popular dance performances and donated it to the Historical Society. Richard Arn, another Swiss Dance group member, helped to set the pole up in the Hall of History along with costumes worn by the dancers during their performance days. Esther Zgraggen and Gail Beal lent assistance with dressing mannequins with authentic Swiss "Trachten" or costumes. Dwight Truttman loaned the museum a Schwyzeroergeli (pictured above left) for the 2021 season. The beautiful handmade instrument made by the Eichhorn Company in Canton Schwyz belonged to Dwight's grandfather and the instrument is on display in the Hall of History.

The Swiss Diminutive

As we approach the 175th "plus One" Anniversary of New Glarus Celebration, consider practicing your Swiss and sprinkle in a few Swiss diminutive words to honor our ancestors. The following article was originally published in the Fall 2014 issue of Bob Elmer's Family History Notes and has been updated and reprinted here with his permission. Thanks, Bob for recording this information and allowing us to share it with the Historical Society members.

The Swiss-German language has a feature where everyday nouns are often expressed as diminutives. This is demonstrated by the "li" ending commonly found in Swiss words.

A Swiss miss may be called a Meiteli and a Swiss lad is a Büebli. A small animal or pet is a Tierli such as Chätzli und Hündli (cats and dogs). Remember the goats Schwänli (little swan) and Bärli (little bear) in the story of Heidi? How about those well-known throat-challenging Swiss words Chuchicäschtli und Chäschüechli (kitchen cupboard and cheese pie)?

Swiss cookery is full of diminutives such as Brötli (bread or roll), Knöpfli or Flädli (dumplings), Müesli (granola), Fastnachtküchli (pre-Lenten cookies), Guetzli (more holiday cookies), and the melt-in-your mouth cookies known as Luxemburgerli (pictured; Swiss version of the French macaron) made famous by the Confiserie Sprüngli.

You may own a Guggerzytli (cuckoo clock) hanging on your Stübli (living room) wall. Your activities may include taking Föteli (photographs), picking a Strüssli (bouquet) of Blüemli (flowers) or drinking a Gläsli Schnäppsli (a glass of schnapps).

From Canton Glarus we know of Glarnertüechli (kerchiefs), Zigerstöckli (cones of Schabziger) and Vrenelisgärtli (a summit of the Glärnish known as Verena's garden). In New Glarus we have the Vorderstädtli (front town) and the Hinterstädtli (back town) and have known (or heard of) folks named Vrenli, Fridli, Bartli and Bäschli. The Hofer house bears the saying "Us' Stückli Heimat" (a little piece of the homeland) sort of a Swiss "Home Sweet Home". Ann Marie Ott recalled how her grandmother, Dora (Streiff) Ott, would use the diminutive Swiss-German word Strubeli describing someone with a tousled or uncombed head of hair.

Loni (Geiger) Oliver, a Belleville native, remarked on the diminutive form of pet names. She shared the following terms of affection which demonstrate the Swiss "li" diminutive: Anke-Flöckli (little butter flake), Böhnli (little bean), Chnuschperli (little crunchy thing), Chröttli (little toad), Dickerli (little fat one), Dummerli (little stupid one), Herzchäferli (little heart bug), Murmeli (little groundhog), Müüsli (little mouse – and not to be confused with Müesli mentioned above!), Schnäggli (little snail), Seelewärmerli (little soul warmer), Stinkerli (little stinky one), Zuckerschnäuzli (little sugar moustache), and Zwergli (little dwarf). (By the way, isn't Zwergli, or little dwarf, redundant?)

Loni recalled the way her Swiss-born grandmother, Louise (Baertschi) Eggimann would add an "li" to names. Loni became Lonili and her brother Tom became Tomili. New Glarus native Otto Puempel recalled his Swiss-born grandmother calling him Ottili.

Such fun and colorful words!

PATENTS FROM NEW GLARUS

An individual from Iowa recently wrote to the New Glarus Historical Society to share copies of patents associated with New Glarus that he discovered while working on a different, personal, research project. His findings include six patents filed between 1875 and 1924 by individuals residing in New Glarus. The images below are from the earliest patent found in this collection. The patent documented an improvement to door bolts to be used for barns and sheds. It was filed by Thomas Hoesly in 1875 and granted on June 6, 1876. According to Bob Elmer's Family History Notes published in Winter 2009, Thomas J. Hoesly, was the nephew of Andreas also known as Andrew Hoesly. Thomas was born in Barcelona, Spain in 1851, orphaned at age 13 and it was at that time that he came to the United States to live with his uncle Andreas. According to Thomas' death notice, which appeared in the July 4, 1913 edition of the New Glarus Post, Thomas moved to Wood County around 1900 and died in Stratford, WI. Bob Elmer found another patent registration for the year before Mr. Hoesly passed away; this patent was for a "shaft for vehicles."

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS HOESLY, OF NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN DOOR-BOLTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **178,239**, dated June 6, 1876; application filed December 29, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS HOESLY, of the town of New Glarus, in the county of Green and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Door-Locking Bolt, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of my invention is to provide a door-fastener and locking-bolt for barns and outbuildings, at once so simple, cheap, strong, and convenient as to do away with the trouble and expense attending the use of the ordinary hasp lock and key; and for this purpose I form a metallic slide or bolt, A, of sufficient strength and dimensions, which, with a reciprocating motion, works upon a plate in loops *b b* or their equivalents, attached to the plate which is fastened to the door. The extreme end of bolt A enters a keeper, C, attached to the door-post, the rear end of which has a knob or handle for working it on the outside. A post, D, with a loop on one end and a thread cut on the other, is passed through a slot in the door and the aforesaid plate from the inside, and enters the slide or bolt A about midway, being screwed into the same, which looped post D furnishes a means of working the slide or bolt A, and locking or unlocking the door from the inside, the locking of the same being accomplished by means of catch E on the inside engaging the looped post D, so that the same cannot be moved until the catch is raised by the hand. The sliding bolt A is thus easily operated from the inside or outside, and locked by means of locking-catch E upon the inside, and may be padlocked on the outside, looped post D answering the several purposes of a handle by which the door can be pulled together from the inside, the sliding bolt A reciprocated, and a stop for locking-catch E.

I claim as my invention—

The sliding bolt A, provided with and riding upon a metallic plate with its longitudinal slot and loops *b b*, combined with keeper C, looped post D, and locking-catch E, to form a door locking-bolt for doors and gates, substantially as described and set forth.

THOMAS HOESLY.

Witnesses:
EZRA DUTTON,
H. N. COMSTOCK.

T. HOESLY.
DOOR-BOLT.
No. 178,239. Patented June 6, 1876.

Fig. 1.

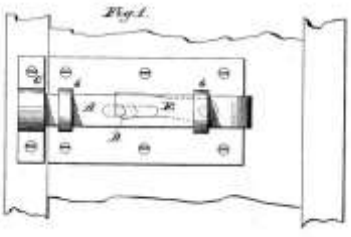
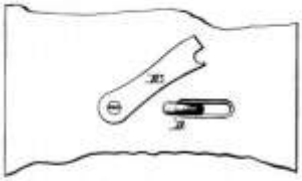


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
Ezra Dutton
H. N. Comstock

Inventor:
Thomas Hoesly

DID YOU KNOW?

The Swiss Historical Village will help launch New Glarus' 175+1 anniversary weekend with a book signing by Duane Freitag from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 30. Freitag's book, "A Common Treasure," details the first ten years of the Swiss Colony of New Glarus. It was published in 2020 in advance of the original plans for the 175th anniversary that were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Freitag, a retired journalist who lives in Greendale, grew up in New Glarus and has written a number of books and pamphlets about the history of the community. He has been a museum tour guide and served on the board of directors of the New Glarus Historical Society.

Freitag will be at the Historical Village gift shop where hard bound copies of the book will be sold at a special reduced rate of $20 that weekend. The book makes an ideal gift for friends or relatives interested in the story of New Glarus and the sale provides an opportunity for anniversary celebration visitors to obtain a signed copy.

The gift shop also is now selling copies of a new translation of pioneer Joshua Wild's diary about the early years of New Glarus. The book was produced by August Berlinger, of Canton Glarus, Switzerland, for the anniversary celebration.

We thank The Bank of New Glarus for their support in publishing the New Glarus Historical Society newsletter.

Contact Us

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