NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the government of Kanton Glarus has donated 20,000 ($21,500) Swiss francs to use to update and replace panels on the Hall of History that depict life and customs in Old Glarus. Beth Zurbuchen, CEO of the Swiss Center of North America accepted the donation on behalf of the Historical Society. The Swiss Center received a 30,000 franc donation from the Stiftung (Foundation) zur Erforschung der Auswanderungem Kanton Glarus to support genealogical research. Both grants were in recognition of the 175th anniversary of the founding of New Glarus.

Mary Dibble served for ten years on the Board of Directors and in honor of this volunteer service, according to our membership policy, Mary will receive a membership in the Historical Society.

We are pleased with the response to our requests for demonstrators to share their time and talents at the 2021 Harvest Fest scheduled for Sunday, October 10th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We hope Historical Society members will take advantage of their free admission membership benefit and bring along family and friends. The admission price for adults is reduced to $5.00 for adults and remains at $3.00 for children age 17 and younger. In addition, Historical Society members will receive a 10% discount on all gift shop purchases.

RECENT DONATIONS

A group of German speaking tourists recently visited the Swiss Historical Village and were pleased to learn that a German speaking guide was available to provide them a tour. The group was so happy to receive this service that they made a $100 donation to the Historical Society. This donation made it possible to replace a large print of a photograph that depicts the ice-cutting process using a horse and large ice plow. The photo had faded since its original installation. The photo and an ice plow, like the one pictured, can be found in the Farm Implement building.

Last month we reported the acquisition of a Talerschwingen bowl. This month we thank Historical Society member Hans Lenzlinger for donating a five Franc silver coin for the display. In addition, we extend our appreciation to life member Brad Beal, who served on the Historical Society Board for many years, including in the role of President of the Board of the Directors. Brad set aside time and used his talents to build a display case for the Talerschwingen bowl. His efforts saved the society a significant sum by eliminating the need to purchase a similar case for the exhibit.

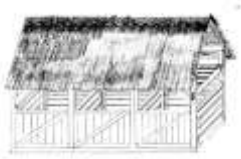
JACOB RIEDER ARCHITECT

Among the documents in the archives of the New Glarus Historical Society are architectural drawings done by Jacob Rieder and photographs of buildings he designed and built in New Glarus. Rieder, pictured at the left, was a Swiss immigrant from Canton Graubunden, which borders on Canton Glarus. His birthplace was the Canton's capital city of Chur, where he lived before attending the St. Gallen Polytechnic school in 1910 to study Swiss building styles and techniques. Later he emigrated to the United States, bringing his early sketches and drawings with him to his newly adopted country. In 1933, Rieder won a Juror's Prize from the Yale Chicago Century of Progress Exposition. Shortly thereafter, Rieder received his first commission from Edwin Barlow, who asked Rieder to design and help build the Chalet of the Golden Fleece. A Bernese style chalet was chosen for Barlow's home in 1937. This boost helped him to secure additional building projects in New Glarus, though most would not reflect his interest in Swiss architecture.

Ten years later, Ernest Thierstein asked Rieder to build him a retirement home. Again, Rieder chose a Bernese Emmental style, more elaborate than the Chalet of the Golden Fleece (pictured at the right). It is reported that Rieder did much of the carpentry work himelf, including interior paneling and built-in furniture seen in the photos below. Thierstein's home was filled with local and newly arrived Swiss. Ernie held Maennenchor and Yodel Club practices here and his hospitality welcomed anyone arriving from Switzerland. Today the Emmentaler Chalet is the home of Historical Society members Kris and Penny Kubly.

Between the time of these commissions from private individuals, Rieder was asked to design and build the first log structure for the Historical Society. Rieder's approach to log building construction was unique according to the architectural consultant's assessment done several years ago for the Historical Society. Rather than the typical notched logs used in many America structures, Rieder took a "lincoln log" approach, much like laying one picture frame atop another. The community building was unveiled in 1942 and served as the only structure on the grounds of the museum until the Log Church was built in 1952 with funds donated by the Wilhelm Tell Guild.

COMING TO HARVEST FEST



Here's a list of just some of the demonstrations and volunteers you'll see when you come to Harvest Fest 2021: Scott Johnson of the Low Technology Institute demonstrating the process of thatching roofs (drawing at the right, courtesy of Scott); representatives of the Green County Genealogy Society, Duane Freitag, author of several books about New Glarus History, including his most recent, *A Common Treasure*; Jesse Brookstein the author of *A Perfect Pair, the History of Langjaegers in Green County*, author Carol Showalter author of *My Grandparents, My Idols (Carl and Verena Marty)*, musical performances by the New Glarus Maennenchor and Yodel Club; Cheri Weix demonstrating soapmaking; Tom and Carla Wolf beekeeping and honey sales; quilters and Green County Barn Quilt Project coordinators Kris Winkler and Lynn Lokken; rope making with Larry Klassy; sausage making, Green County cheesemakers making cheese in the large copper kettle (come early to view this demonstration);blacksmith Michael Kazmerski; Linda Uttech weaving baskets; and Rebecca Forbes will demonstrate painting Canton shields and provide opportunities for children to make their own paper shields, too.

In addition a number of our guides and Board members will be on hand to provide information about exhibits and answer questions about New Glarus history and early pioneer life in our community.

A MESSAGE FROM GLARUS, OCTOBER 31, 1960

New Glarus Yodel Club

This letter was sent to the Village of New Glarus by the President of Glarus following the New Glarus Yodel Club's visit to Switzerland and was published in the New Glarus Post: "Honorable mayor and citizens of New Glarus: In answer to your message which your honorable mayor, Gilbert Ott, has brought to our city and to the people of Glarus we would like to take the opportunity to extend our heartfelt greetings. We are more than thankful for the wonderful colored photograph of the city of New Glarus and we assure you that this will have an honorable place at your homeland museum.

There is a special satisfaction to tell you how great the joy has been in our citizens' hearts to welcome our countrymen from New Glarus. We were especially proud that your people have chosen Glarus as the first place to stop and give a concert. I am sure that the day of Sept. 9, 1960, in Glarus will be unforgettable for anyone participating. The big surprise was that no one had lost their mother language thus assuring a hearty friendship and an understanding contact.

We are thinking with gratitude of our ancestors during the great catastrophe by fire at Glarus on May 10 and 11, 1861. At New Glarus there was only one feeling, the desire to help. In great haste a committee was elected to organize assistance and only two days after the message was received this had been done. Four weeks after the night of the first a purse of 6,000 francs was received at Glarus. Next year when we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of this catastrophe we well again be grateful to you for the deeds of your ancestors. We hope that neither you in New Glarus or we here will ever have to endure a shock like this again.

We know we will always feel close to our daughter city across the ocean, but we are sure that this visit tied the bond of friendship tremendously. We believe that you can look back with great satisfaction to the days in Switzerland and your visit to Glarnerland because of this experience of honorable friendship. We wish for your city's future prosperity and hope you will always retain your heritage and remain the center of Glarner culture.

Mit aufrichtigen Glarnergruessen. Stauffacher, president of the city of Glarus.

DID YOU KNOW?

Todd Klassy, son of Historical Society President Larry Klassy, has been publishing a popular local history quiz on Facebook over the past several months. Routinely a list of trivia questions based on New Glarus and Green County facts are posted on the "You Know You are from New Glarus if.. . ." Facebook page. Page members may post their responses to the questions and Todd posts the answers to the questions about a week later. So if you love trivia, or reading anything about New Glarus, join the approximate 1500 group members and test your skills: https://www.facebook.com/groups/591257990954443/

Contact Us

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The Bank of New Glarus
Powering Growth in Our Community

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