New Glarus Historical Society

Volume 6, Issue 3 : June 2023

2023 Board of Directors

Larry Klassy, President

David Hustad, Vice President

John Freitag, Treasurer

Carol Hassemer, Secretary

John Colstad

Rebecca Forbes

Jackie Judd

Al Lienhardt

Tim Pauli

Kelly Ruschmann

Dwight Truttmann

Contact Us

New Glarus Historical Society
& Swiss Historical Village Museum

PO Box 745
612 7th Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

608-527-2317
admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org

Erica Loeffelholtz, Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors Update
By Carol Hassemer

The Board met on May 2nd, with the next meeting on June 13th, and continues to focus on getting the Historical Society and its Village and Museum ready for the 2023 season. Grounds clean-up on May 5th included an outstanding group of New Glarus High School students, board members, and the Beals. On May 10th several Board members worked diligently for several hours to continue to get the grounds in shape for the season.

The first school group, from Oregon, visited on May 18th with 46 students and 7 teachers attending! A home-school group visited on May 24th. The public opening was Saturday, May 27th.

The Board voted to have Kelly Rushman fill the Board vacancy as John Eglsaer needed to step down. Welcome, Kelly! And again, thank you, John, for your dedicated service.

The Gift Shop is set up, including with new vendors and products, and a new P.O.S. management system has been installed. Additional cashiers are still needed.

The Hall of History's five new murals are getting close to fruition. Thank you to the Swiss for their generous donation, and to Jackie Judd-Scheurer for her efforts to make this happen. Watch for future updates.

The Board is getting internet set up for future enhancements, as well as planning for long-range strategic planning.

The Board is also working on several grant submissions to support collection archiving and historic preservation of our aging buildings. Members are asked to spread the word on our amazing Village & Museum. It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a strong, committed membership to ensure the long-term survival of our organization. The Society welcomes new members, including the younger generations and families.

Meet Kelly Ruschman

Hi, I am Kelly Ruschman and I'm honored to be able to serve on the Board of Directors for the New Glarus Historical Society, to assist in preserving the rich history of New Glarus. I am a graduate of Michigan State University, which led to a very enjoyable 40-year career in food marketing. My wife Pam is a professional artist who grew up surrounded by the beauty of Green County, and yearned to return which we were able to do once I retired. We have now lived in New Glarus for about two years, which has been a breath of fresh air. I serve on the Parks and Recreation Board for the Town of New Glarus and sing in the Jodelklub, Mannerchor and Bel Canto choirs. Previously I served on the Board of Directors for the American Institute for Food and Wine, the International Food Editors Council, and the Milwaukee Public Market.

Historic Homes

In recent years, the New Glarus Public Library has seen increased interest in the historic homes of New Glarus and the surrounding area. The library frequently gets requests from local homeowners, looking for information about the history of their homes.

We are interested in curating a collection of historic photographs of local houses, so that we can better respond to these requests. If you have interior or exterior photographs of local homes, please consider sharing them with us. You can send digital copies to admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org or bring hard copies to the New Glarus Public Library to have them digitized (free of charge).

Attention all Subscribers!

Are you a lifetime member of the New Glarus Historical Society? Please help us keep your contact info up-to-date by sending any address changes to PO Box 745, New Glarus, WI 53574 or emailing admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org.

Something Borrowed, Something Blue

"Oh, they say when you marry in June
you're a bride all your life,
and the bridegroom who marries in June
gets a sweet-heart for a wife.
Winter weddings can be gay like a Christmas holiday,
but the June Bride hears the song
of a spring that lasts all summer long."

-Johnny Mercer*, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*

There is much tradition and folklore surrounding weddings and brides. June has long been a traditional month for weddings, in part because the weather tends to be lovely at this time of year. But did you know that the tradition of June weddings dates all the way back to Roman times? The word "June" is derived from Juno, the Roman goddess of love and marriage. The Romans believed that to marry in June meant the couple would be blessed by Juno with happiness and prosperity.

One of our favorite old-time wedding traditions is the "society column." Wedding announcements in newspapers came into fashion in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and focused primarily on high-society couples. But as time went by, even more modest weddings began to get the "society" treatment in small-town papers, bringing attention to the delicate details that made each wedding beautiful and unique. Consider this write up in the June 25, 1924 edition of the *New Glarus Post*:

"...Miss Alma Vogeli, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Mathias Vogeli of Monticello, became the bride of Edward J. Gmur, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gmur of New Glarus.... The bride wore a pretty gown of white stain charmeuse and Spanish silk lace, with a veil of Spanish white tulle draped gracefully over her head. She carried a shower bouquet of butterfly roses, pink sweet peas, and lilies of the valley."

Such attention to detail can turn even the humblest of weddings into front-page news.

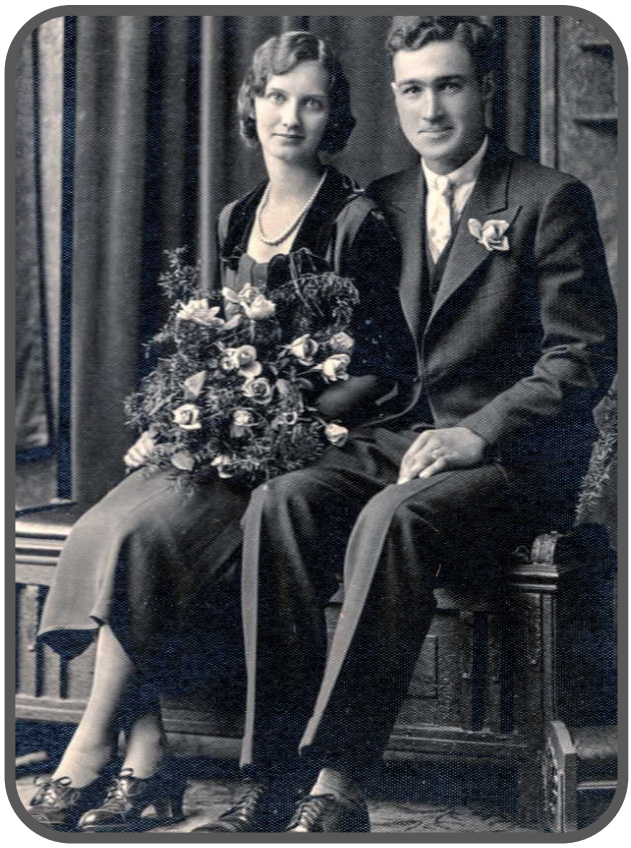
Wedding Bells

June has long been a traditional month to celebrate weddings. We hope you enjoy this collection of wedding portraits of New Glarus couples throughout the years. Some of the photos come from our archives, and others were shared publicly on Ancestry.com.

Anna Catherine Streiff (1881-1965) married Nicolaus Conrad Marty (1875-1902) on October 20, 1898.

Dr. Walt Kammer (1913-1969) married Grace Clem (1916-1999) on July 12, 1940. (Grace & Walt pictured in center of photo.)

Verena Rhyner (1894-1920) married David Zimmerman (1892-1944) on March 2, 1916.



Aslaug Berge (1912-1992) married Elmer Hoesly (1909-1985) on September 20, 1932.

Wedding Bells

Waldo Kempfer (1906-1989) married Anna Hefty (1907-2001) on August 11, 1927.

Hulda Anna Ingold 1903-1989) married Anton Ott (1903-1985) on December 14, 1922.

"The marriage of Miss Kathryn Stauffacher and Arthur Theiler was solemnized Thursday, June 26th. The ceremony was performed at the home of Rev. G.D. Elliker in the presence of only immediate relatives. They were attended by Miss Meta Theiler and Werner Stauffacher."

New Glarus Post
July 3, 1919

Music in New Glarus
By Abigail Biank

From the beginning of its Swiss heritage, New Glarus community and culture have been shaped by music. Polka, the Mannerchor, dances, local events, the school music program, and others have all contributed to a lively music scene in New Glarus, well-documented throughout the years in the newspaper. The papers are full of notices over the years advertising many different musical performances and thanking various groups for providing their music for town functions. Certain names are repeated often, including “Olson’s 6-Piece Orchestra”. While details about this group are nearly impossible to find, Olson’s 6-Piece Orchestra is credited with performing at dances and parties in paper after paper, mainly in the early 1930s.

Another music name that shows up over and over is J.A. Hughes, the school band director for many years. What the J and A stand for are not provided, nor are many details about this man available. But he is clearly one of the heroes of New Glarus Music. The first notice I could find about J.A. Hughes directing the New Glarus school band was the August 17, 1932, Post, stating that Hughes would be directing the band again. While I could not find start or end dates for Hughes’ career as New Glarus High School Bandmaster, his name shows up continuously through the 1930s as heavily involved in New Glarus music. The Ball Club thanked him for his community support in the October 14, 1931, Post. He appears to have been socially active in Green County and is listed as participating in various local happenings, such as when he, his wife, and several other couples attended an outing at Lake Kegonsa in the Spring of 1932, duly noted in the June 1, 1932 paper. The newspaper even described the bandmaster’s Silver Wedding Anniversary in the August 3, 1932 Post edition. The couple was presented with a silver tea set. J.A. Hughes took the High School band to state in the spring of 1931. The next spring the band headed to the Waupun District Tournament in WI Rapids under Hughes’ leadership. The April 4, 1932 Post informed New Glarus that the band invested in new uniforms for this important occasion. The new uniforms were royal blue and lined with red silk. Hughes took the band to various contests and directed their many concerts, regularly advertised in the Post. Year after year J.A. Hughes was declared to be the bandmaster for the school year and complimented on the efficiency and success of his previous years. Hughes was not just involved in New Glarus, but worked with bands all over Green County, sometimes even bringing them together for group performances and helping to lead Green County Fair music. Simply from references in the newspapers, it is clear that J.A. Hughes was something of a local music celebrity and was extremely dedicated to the advancement of music in New Glarus and Green County. Mr. Hughes should be remembered as a hero of Green County music in the 1930s.

Did you know that historic issues of the *New Glarus Post* have been digitized and are now available online?
Digitized papers are available through the Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers, and can be accessed through the New Glarus Public Library's website. For more information, or to get a library card, contact the library at 608-527-2003 or staff@ngpl.org.

(Years 1912-1933 are currently available online.)

The Bank of New Glarus
Powering Growth in Our Community

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

Ancestry Corner

This photo was taken around 1906 or 1907, and features the New Glarus Graduating Class. We don't have all of the students identified.

In the front row, the girl on the right is Alda Ott Kubly. Middle row, far left is Clarence Hefty. And in the back row, the girl on the far left is Bertha Schindler.

Sylvia Hoesly and Fannie Ott are also in the picture, but have not been identified.

(Photo from the Historical Society Archives)

New Glarus Historical Society &
Swiss Historical Village Museum
PO Box 745
612 7th Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

Recipient Name
Mailing Address
City, State, ZIP Code