New Glarus Historical Society

Volume 6, Issue 4 : July 2023

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Erica Loeffelholtz, Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors Update
By Carol Hassemer

The Board met on June 13th and continues to focus on getting the Historical Society and its Village & Museum's 2023 season up and running smoothly. The buildings and grounds are cleaned and maintained on an ongoing basis.

The four new Board members are being mentored and are learning much about the Society and the Village & Museum.

The public opening on Saturday, May 27th, had a good turn-out. Tour groups and individuals are attending each week.

The Gift Shop is doing well. The new point of sale management system has been installed and system set-up bugs continue to be worked out. Additional cashiers are still needed.

The Hall of History's five new murals are still in development, with hopes of finalization and installation soon. Watch for future updates.

The internet installation is progressing. The vendor has the Historical Society on its schedule.

Plans are starting for the Church Service on Saturday, August 12th, and Harvest Fest on Sunday, October 8th. Mark your calendars!

Rails and Records: Exploring the Milwaukee Road Archives

On August 5th, the Green County Genealogical Society will be hosting a presentation by Greg Comly of the Milwaukee Public Library.

Join Mr. Comly for an introduction to MPL's extensive historical collections on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, commonly known as the Milwaukee Road. This collection includes a treasure trove of railroad records and memorabilia.

For more information, visit https://www.greencogenealogywi.org

Library Offers Digitization Equipment

The New Glarus Public Library is pleased to announce that they now have an Epson Perfection V850 professional scanner. This equipment allows users to turn their old photographs, slides, and negatives into high-quality digital scans, with resolutions up to 1200 DPI! The scanner also features a color-correction feature, so those old photographs that have turned red or faded with age can be restored to their original colors.

This equipment is available for use in-library during regular business hours. If you would like to digitize *your* old photos, please contact the library to set up an appointment. They can be reached at 608-527-2003 or staff@ngpl.org.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 12th!

Beginning at 4 PM, the Historical Society, in partnership with the New Glarus Public Library, will be hosting an old-fashioned pie & ice cream social!

Join us on the museum lawn for some classic summertime fun. We'll have homemade pie, vanilla ice cream, and cold drinks, along with games for the kids, and music. (Bring your own picnic blanket!) A donation of $5 per person or $10 per family is suggested, with donations supporting museum programming.

Following the social, our annual commemorative church service will begin at 6 PM. This ecumenical service honors the journey and arrival immigrants from Glarus, Switzerland to Green County, Wisconsin in 1845. Traditional music will be provided by the New Glarus Jodlerklub.

Swiss Fruit Pie

A homemade pie, bursting with fresh summer fruit, is a treat that can't be beat! Especially when topped with a scoop of rich vanilla ice cream.

This recipe for Swiss fruit pie was shared with the Historical Society in memory of Verena Grossenbacher. To make it you will need:

- Single pie crust
- 1 1/2 cups fresh fruit, cut in equal pieces
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk or half-and-half
- 1/2 to 1 cup of sugar (depending on tartness of fruit)
- 2-3 Tablespoons flour

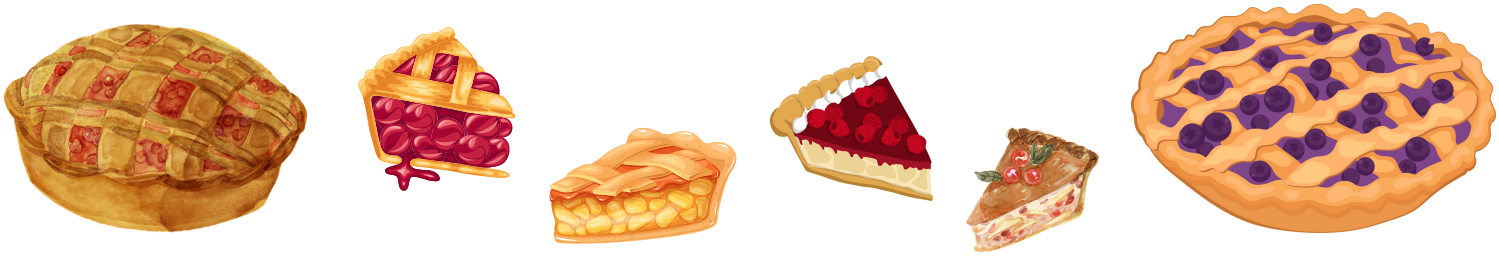
Preheat oven to 400 degrees and place a cookie sheet in over to heat. Line pie pan with single pie crust.

Cut fruit into pieces and arrange in an unbaked single pie shell. Use apples, peaches, rhubarb, cherries, or blueberries - whatever is in season.

Beat 2 eggs until foamy; add milk or half-and-half. Mix sugar with flour for thickening fruit juices and stir into beaten eggs. Pour this custard mixture over fruit and arrange in unbaked pie shell.

Place on hot cookie sheet in preheated oven. Bake 15 minutes at 400 degrees, then turn oven down to 325 and bake for an additional 50 minutes.

You can find this and more great local recipes in our cookbook: *Past & Present Recipes: Swiss Historical Village.*



Art & Artists in New Glarus
By Abigail Biank

“Miss Merle Hoesly wins scholarship” proudly announced a headline of the July 14, 1933, *New Glarus Post*. The article explained how Miss Hoesly won a scholarship to the Layton Art School in Milwaukee, which she was currently attending. Merle was apparently socially active in New Glarus as a teenager, with her name appearing in many social function participants' lists. According to a July 27, 1932, *Post* article about her future plans, Merle graduated from New Glarus High School in 1932 and enrolled in Layton Art School, which offered three-year courses in several artistic areas. The newspaper reminded the community that the “famous Layton Art Gallery” was “visited each year by many New Glarus people." The town was very proud of their local artist, including notices about Merle’s continued education and visits back home during her years in Milwaukee. The September 21, 1932, newspaper shared that the Chicago Tribune had published a “large picture” of Merle “at work at a drawing board in the Layton Art School."

Merle Hoesly was not the only New Glarus citizen to pursue education in art. An article in the November 13, 1929, newspaper advertised free art classes to the community. This class was offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-5 pm and evenings from 7-10 pm, starting on November 13, 1929. Since Merle Hoesly was likely a high school student in 1929, it is entirely possible that she would have been in attendance. The article invited locals to “Instructions in Dennisons Art work, Crepe paper Novelties, Latest in Lamp shades, Basket weaving, Wax molding, Flowers and plaque work” and was signed by Furhmann’s Drug Store.

The *Post* also found artists outside of the immediate New Glarus area worth mentioning. One story featured Platteville artist Harry Siemers. Siemers “suffered injuries in an automobile accident … that crippled him for life” but became “a successful painter in oil, pastels and watercolors." The article went on to say that the Platteville painter did well in fairs and did his artwork over the winter, running a popcorn wagon over the summer. The fact that a Platteville headline made the New Glarus news in 1929 means that Siemers’ dedication must have been very impactful.

The *New Glarus Post* also occasionally noted famous art from New Glarus’ Swiss homeland. One notable Swiss sculpture still standing today is the Lion of Lucerne in Lucerne, Switzerland. The sculpture is the work of artist Albert Thorwaldsen and commemorates the “heroism and devotion of nearly 800 Swiss guards” who died fighting in August 1792 to defend French King Louis the 11th during the French Revolution. The sculpture depicts a dying lion crouching over a shield of France. Who was heroic during the French Revolution may be controversial, but the fact that an article about this sculpture is featured in the December 31, 1924, *New Glarus Post* demonstrates the continued close ties between America’s Little Switzerland and its Swiss heritage in Europe.

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

(Photo from the Historical Society Archives)

It just wouldn't be summer without baseball! Pictured here is the 1947 NG home talent baseball team.

Front row: Norman Haegele, Chuck Zweifel, Leon Fiez, Erling Erickson, Earl Erickson, Cloyance "Noisy" Zweifel. **Middle**: Bud Phillipson, Fritz Neuenswander. **Back row:** Duane Erickson, Sylvan Erickson, Elmon "Pete" Ott, Coach Selmer Syftestad, Ervin Sarbacker, Roland Hustad, Harold Kubly.

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