# New Glarus Historical Society

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Erica Loeffelholtz, Newsletter Editor

## Board of Directors Update
## By Carol Hassemer

The Board met on August 8th and focused on the old-fashioned Pie & Ice Cream Social, which was co-sponsored with the New Glarus Public Library, as well as the 64th annual ecumenical commemorative church service that was held after the social. Both were wonderful successes, with over 150 attendees at the Pie & Ice Cream Social, and almost 70 individuals at the church service, 21 of whom represented original families who settled in New Glarus. There was one descendant couple who was married in the old log church 50 years ago. Music was provided by Emily Hefty-Dieckhoff and Savannah Bettin during the Social, and the Jodlerklub during the church service.

The Board is also busy working on the annual Harvest Fest, which started back in the late 1970's.This year's event will be held on Sunday, October 8th. Many exhibitors will be on the Village grounds demonstrating old crafts, from cheese making to wheelwrighting, to spinning, and much more. This will continue to be a family-oriented event with activities for kids. There will also be a bake sale, and brats and bratzeli for sale. Watch for more information in the paper and flyers.

The Society's finances continue to stabilize after three COVID years. The number of visitors is steadily increasing, and limited tour groups are coming. The gift shop is doing well.

The Hall of History's new murals are still in development, with the target installation date pushed back to spring 2024 as final vendors are being selected to finish the design, and to construct and install the murals.

The Society and New Glarus Public Library will be co-sponsoring a book author talk on Thursday, October 12th, at the Swiss Historical Village. The guest author is Susan Apps-Bodilly who will discuss her book, *One Room Schools*. It will be a free event. Mark your calendars!

**Harvest Fest is Sunday, October 8th!**

## Author Event

Join us on Thursday, October 12th at 6 PM in the log church as Susan Apps-Bodilly shares an informative and entertaining presentation of her book *One Room Schools*!

This presentation returns you to a time when Wisconsin's rural children attended a school with all eight grades in one room with one teacher. This talk will celebrate the days when brothers and sisters went to school together; children put a jar of soup in a pot on the wood stove to warm for lunch, played recess games like anti-over, and practiced saying their "piece" for the annual Christmas program. Susan will talk about how she researched and gathered stories for the book. With many photos and engaging items from school days of the past, she will describe a typical day for students of the past. She will encourage the audience to think about ways to share their stories about the past with their family. There will be time for questions and story-telling at the end.

Susan is a retired educator and writer, and the daughter of Wisconsin author Jerry Apps. She taught elementary and middle school students for 34 years. She holds a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction. When she is not reading or writing, Susan enjoys spending time with her family, traveling to visit her children, hiking at the family cabin, kayaking, and trying new recipes.

This author event is held in cooperation with the New Glarus Public Library, and is made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Books will be available for purchase after the presentation. All ages are welcome!

(In the event of inclement weather, this event will be held in the Village Hall Community Room at 319 2nd Street in New Glarus.)

## The Old Guard

Those of you who attended New Glarus High School probably have fond memories of the school newspaper, *The Old Guard*. *The Old Guard* recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. The first issues of the paper were published during the 1922-1923 school year. Each issue ran to eight pages, and contained news of student achievements, concerts and plays, sporting events, essays, letters, and of course, gossip & jokes.

Reading through past issues serves as a reminder that while times and fashions may change, people do not. Consider some of the items to be found in historic issues of *The Old Guard*:

*"Fred Luchsinger informed the physiology class that he at one time went out to get a turtle to make oyster soup." (December 1922)*

On the subject of New Year's Resolutions:
*"Floyd Schuler - I resolve to come to school on time at least 3 days a week."*
*"Viola Langacher - I resolve not to powder my nose more than once every period."*
*"Clara Pierce - I resolve not to whisper in class. Writing conversations is less disturbing."*
*"Gertrude Katz - I resolve not to make my work so neat. The teachers expect too much of the rest of the class." (January 1923)*

*"The grade report cards have been slightly changed. On the back of the cards there is an explanation of what A means and what F means. Last year some of the grade pupils went home and told their parents F was fine, and A was awful." (October 1927)*

*"We know that our freshmen are exceptionally green this year, but we didn't expect any to be quite as green as that boy that carried all his books out with him, at the recent fire drill." (October 1932)*

Do you enjoy reading past issues of the school newspaper? The school district has digitized a number of issues, and they can be found in the alumni section of the school website: https://www.ngsd.k12.wi.us/district_information/district_information/history_and_alumni/old_guard_articles

# School Days in New Glarus
# By Abigail Biank

"Plenty of joyous lung-building can be heard about our play ground these days." Thus read the "School Notes" section of the October 10, 1913, newspaper. New Glarus School Notes were published regularly in the old *New Glarus Post*, painting lively pictures of school days over the years. The School Notes included lists of students who had not been absent or tardy for a significant stretch of time, and occasionally called out absent students. The November 22, 1917, School Notes describes fun and games with, "Leap frog among the boys is quite popular the past week. The fine weather of the past week makes it an interesting stunt for the boys." Apparently, the 1913 school year started off a little too lively in the middle school, as the September 5, 1913, newspaper school notes proclaimed, "The seventh grade resembles a mob rather than a class." The sixth graders also had some rough play in 1913, with the October 10, 1913, *Post* telling the community that, "One of the sixth grade boys was hurt at while at play." All ended well, however, as "We trust nothing develops from these boyish accidents which recalls to us vivid memories of days gone by and we rejoice with them in their warm red blood." With the exception of occasional mishaps, the schoolyard seems to have been a pleasant place to play.

In 1913, Wisconsin schools dealt with a problem in the form of dangerous agents. The November 7, 1913, New Glarus Post issued a general warning for Green County schools "against an agent who is attempting to sell to the districts a high priced atlas and some high-priced charts. It seems that it is necessary each year to warn school officials against such purposes."

In 1917, the high school cracked down on whispering. The October 25, 1917, *New Glarus Post* announced that, "The High School students are subject to a new whispering rule which went into effect Tuesday morning. Any student whispering with out permission is requested to stay after school and work a partial payment problem." It is unclear if the rule was effective in permanently eradicating whispering in class. The New Glarus High School has had successful news for the newspaper to share over the years, such as many excellently performed musicals and fiercely fought sports seasons. The 1916 basketball season has particularly competitive coverage in the New Glarus School Notes, with articles intensely chronicling various wins and defensively explaining away different losses. The 1916 school performance, *The Deacon*, is also mentioned in several *Post* editions.

1916 is notable for another reason. COVID-19 was not the first illness to shut down the New Glarus school district. In 1916, scarlet fever prompted New Glarus to temporarily close school. The May 19, 1916 *New Glarus Post* included the notice that, "As several more cases of scarlet fever have developed, the school has been closed until next Monday." Thankfully, "The disease is only in a very mild form, all the patients having it, being able to be up, but as it was spreading, it was thought best to close the school."

The New Glarus school district was soon back in action, with school days rolling by as they continue to do today.

**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

Just look at those sweet little faces! Pictured here is the New Glarus kindergarten class of 1954-55 with teacher Mrs. Wegener. Front row, left to right: R. Erickson, C. Kubly, J. Gilbertson, R. Stauske, W. Kuenzi, J. Zweifel, K. Kubly, R. Purcell, and R. Schroeder. Second row: C. Johnson, M. Schneider, T. Reuter, C. Streiff, B. Erb, J. Hoesly, M. Hartman, J. Manwiller, S. Hoesly. (Absent class members were C. Blumer and J. Elmer.)

*(Photo from the 1955 Glarian yearbook)*

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