New Glarus Historical Society

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2024 Board of Directors

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Erica Loeffelholtz, Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors Update
By Carol Hassemer

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, June 6th. The Board approved and welcomed Daniel Wyttenbach as a new board member to assume John Colstad's vacancy. There is still one Board vacancy left to fill.

John Freitag, treasurer, reported that the financials through May are not completed as he recently purchased web-based QuickBooks. While this will be a positive upgrade, there is still more work to be done. He reports that the Balance Sheet should be comparable to April's numbers. Year-to-date net income will be about -$17,000. A more complete financial summary will be presented at the July Board meeting. The Historical Society has received a small number of donations and memorials and the Board would like to thank those who donated. They are much appreciated!

The Historical Society's insurance agent presented information on the estimated replacement costs for the seventeen buildings, including bathrooms and the storage shed, and the premium increases to add additional insurance coverage for the buildings. At this time, the Board approved increasing insurance coverage on the Hall of History, Entrance Building, and Storage Shed. In 2021, the Board started establishing a checklist for routine building maintenance, as well as planning for building painting and repairs. The current Board will continue to review, update the list, and actively plan for the preservation.

The Swiss Historical Village has been fortunate to have had the Green County Master Gardeners and several volunteers supporting the pioneer garden. The Historical Society is now responsible for ensuring the ongoing maintenance and has approved a standing budget line to provide the needed resources each year.

Long-time Society and Board member, Peter Etter, who passed away in June 2022, had his memorial tree (a linden tree, his favorite) planted along the sidewalk on Seventh Avenue from the parking lot to the Entrance Building. The Society is appreciative of all of Mr. Etter's diverse contributions.

Save the Date! Saturday, August 10th
Pie & Ice Cream Social and
65th Annual Commemmorative Church Service

Board of Directors Update, continued

Membership and attendance at the Swiss Historical Village are still challenged and the Board continues to explore ways to increase both.

Membership (paid) is at 46, with half living within easy driving distance. The assumption is that all current members will renew in 2024. There are eighteen “couples,” seven “families,” nineteen “single,” and one new “lifetime.”

Year-to-date in 2024 there has been a net increase of one membership. There are also 70 memberships that are now in non-paying categories.The Board encourages members to recruit new members.

Attendance at the Swiss Historical Village is still well behind what it was in 2018 and 2019. In 2021 the Board voted to close on Mondays.

- 2023 Season was just under 3,400 with 7 bus tours and a couple of schools
- 2022 Season was 3,400 from 46 states and 25 countries
- 2021 Season was 4,171 with 175 adults on bus tours and 1 school group of 21
- 2020 Season cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2019 Season was 5,259 with 491 adults on bus tours and 162 school children
- 2018 Season was 4,624 with 491 school children

The murals for the Hall of History, highlighting Canton Glarus, have been well-received by visitors to the Swiss Historical Village. Remaining funds from the restricted donation of 20,000 francs from Canton Glarus, which was given in honor of New Glarus’ 175th Anniversary, will be used to replace and repair other murals in the Hall of History. The Swiss people made a generous donation in 1969 to build the Hall of History.

The Historical Society did not receive a Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) mini-grant to purchase photography equipment for the PastPerfect archiving of collectibles, documents, and photographs. Only 18 of 59 applications (30.5%) were granted due to limited WHS funding. The Board will seek other grant opportunities as the photographing of collectibles and archives is critical to the Society being able to share photos on the website and for community education and other exhibits. We are still waiting for word on a Community Foundation of Southern WI grant to cover costs related to replacing badly needed cedar shake shingles on several Historic Village buildings.

Meet Daniel Wyttenbach

Daniel was approved by the Board of Directors at the June Board meeting to assume the position vacated by John Colstad, effective April 1st. Daniel’s term will run through March 31, 2027.

I live on County Road D in Belleville WI. I was born in 1955 in Monroe to Frank and Ruth (Streiff) Wyttenbach. I attended Farmers Grove Country and New Glarus Public Schools, graduating in 1973. I married Ruth E O'Connor in 1979 and farmed on my home farm for nine years. We moved to Milwaukee in 1988, Ruth working for Mayor John Norquist and I as a union carpenter for an export packing company. I retired from the same company as a logistics coordinator in 2023.

In 2005 we moved back to Belleville and in 2010 we moved to Ruth's family farm near Dayton, where we currently live. We have three children: Christopher, 43, is married with three children and lives in Boston, MA. Catherine, 39, is married with one child and lives in Elk Grove Village, IL. Rachel, 31, is married with two children and lives in Hartland, WI.

Peter Etter memorial linden tree

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 20th @ 11:00 AM
Village Hall Community Room
Silvan Blum Presents:
The Early History of Cheesemaking in Green County

Silvan Blum is a retired cheesemaker of 37 years. He worked at the Chalet Cheese Cooperative and Deppler Cheese, and learned the craft from masters like Albert and Fritz Kopp. Over the course of his career, Silvan made Swiss, Baby Swiss, Cheddar, Brick, and Muenster cheeses!

Silvan is currently a docent at the National Historic Cheesemaking Center in Monroe and has been a member of the New Glarus Historical Society for almost 15 years. He and his wife live between New Glarus and Monticello in the original cheese factory on land settled by his Hefty ancestors. His Swiss roots in the area and ties to cheesemaking go back to the mid-1800s.

Marty-Eichelkraut Cheese Factory, ca. 1900

Tuesday, July 30th @ 6:00 PM
Village Hall Community Room
Genealogy Quest:
Telling Your Family's Story

This month's Genealogy Quest will focus on sharing the stories of your ancestors. We will explore various free resources and talk about how education, church membership, military service, occupations, and social activities shaped the lives of people in past generations.

Open to all interested adults, as well as children 8+ who would like to learn more about creating their own family tree.

Cooking Yesteryear

In late autumn of 1976, reporter Carol Rasmussen from the *Chicago Tribune* made a visit to New Glarus in search of a story about Swiss pastries. She met with local ladies Verena Grossenbacher and Lily Burkhardt for a chat, and made some surprising discoveries.
In particular, Verena and Lily spoke about how the Swiss weren't that big on sweets, preferring to focus on simple, hearty meals, and saving fancy desserts for Sunday dinners and special occasions.

Just because they didn't reach for candies and pastries at every opportunity didn't mean they couldn't bake with the best of them, though! After all, the Swiss are known for their chocolates and decadent tortes and kuchens. In honor of one of our favorites summer treats - fresh, sweet, juicy peaches - we thought we'd share this delicious recipe for you to try at home.

Verena Grossenbacher's Swiss Custard Peach Pie

6 fresh peaches
Unbaked pie shell (9 inch)
2 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. butter, melted and cooled slightly
1/4 cup evaporated milk

Cut fresh peaches into slices and put in pie shell. Beat eggs with electric mixer until thick and lemon-colored. Gradually beat in sugar and salt until sugar is dissolved and mixture is fluffy. Beat in butter well, then beat in milk. Pour over peaches.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, then reduce temperature to 325 degrees and bake for another 40 minutes, or until custard is firm. Serve warm or cool.

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 picture shows Jost "Joe" Hoesly (1850-1915) with his second wife, Barbara Anna Zweifel (1853-1947), and was likely taken around the time of their marriage in 1907.

Joe was born to Jost Hosli & Anna Freuler, who came to the colony at New Glarus in 1849.

Joe was a well-known member of the community. He served two years as Village President, operated a hardware and implement business with his brother Rudolf for 37 years, and was vice president of the Bank of New Glarus at the time of his death.

Photo shared publicly on FindAGrave.com by Wendy Fjelstad.

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