

Family History Notes

Winter, 2009

Hoesly – A Common Family Name from Canton Glarus

There have been people by the name of Hoesly in New Glarus since its origin. Among the original settlers were several Hoesly families and Hoesly families continued to arrive in subsequent years. By 1962 the New Glarus telephone book listed 24 households with the Hoesly name attesting to its status as a common local surname. Spelled Hösli in Canton Glarus, the name has generally been anglicized to Hoesly in the New Glarus area, although Hösli branches are occasionally known as Hasley or Husley elsewhere in the U. S.

Hoeslys in the original New Glarus colonist group included 67 year old widower Marx Hoesly of Ennetbüchli, Canton Glarus. Marx accompanied two daughters and their families – Christina Hoesly (Mrs. Fridolin Hefty) and Barbara Hoesly (Mrs. Matheus Hoesly). Marx's grandson, Civil War soldier Jost Hoesly, son of Barbara and Matheus, was serving in the Wisconsin 31st Infantry Regiment when he died of disease. His tombstone is in the museum cemetery. Fridolin and Margaretha (Durst) Hoesly of Diesbach, Canton Glarus were in the original colonist group. These people lived for a time in New Glarus and after Fridolin's death here in 1853 the widow Margaretha and sons Heinrich and Samuel moved on to the state of Oregon. Also in the original group were Heinrich and Barbara (Zwicki) Hoesly of Diesbach. Heinrich was involved in the establishment of the Evangelical Association congregation their country church was constructed on his land in 1859. In 1846 Heinrich's brother and sister-in-law Peter and Sabina (Zweifel) Hoesly and Heinrich's sister Elsbeth (married Caspar Hefty) immigrated to New Glarus.



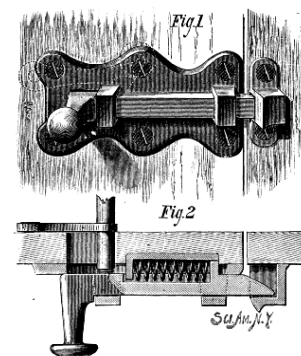
Other Hoeslys in New Glarus included immigrant Andreas (Andrew) Hoesly who married Barbara Duerst. (The Andreas Hoesly family was pictured in the Winter 2006 Family History Notes.) They homesteaded the Hoesly farm where Dwight Hoesly and family live today. Andrew's half-sister Barbara Hoesly was married to Johann Heinrich Durst, also early New Glarus residents with a large number of local descendants. Arriving in 1864 was Andrew's nephew, Thomas J. Hoesly. Born in Barcelona, Spain in 1851, Thomas was orphaned by 1864. Parentless, he came to America to live with the Andrew Hoesly family.

More Hoeslys found their way to New Glarus including the brothers Fridolin and Sarah (Trumpy) Hoesly and Balthasar and Elsbeth (Trumpy) Hoesly from the village of Ennetbüchli. Heinrich and Anna (Hoesly) Hoesly were from Haslen. Anna's brother, also named Heinrich Hoesly, was a Civil War vet who married Agatha Duerst. Living north of New Glarus just across the Dane County line were Samuel and Salomea (Hoesly) Hoesly. Salomea Hoesly had a brother and two sisters who lived locally – brother Heinrich Hoesly (married to Euphemia Baumgartner), and sisters Anna Barbara (Mrs. Fabian Hefty) and Katharina (Mrs. Andreas Strebi). Jost and Anna (Freuler) Hoesly (pictured; photo courtesy of Dorothy (Heller) Abendroth) were early farmers in Spring Valley. Jost was from Riedern, Canton Glarus and was a *Metzger* in the old country. Johann Caspar and Magdalena (Stuessi) Hoesli of Haslen were New Glarus residents from about 1849 until 1870 when they moved to Clarno, WI. Their grandson Samuel Hoesly became a newspaper editor of the weekly German newspaper *Volksblatt* of Postville, Iowa. Other Hoeslys from Haslen who were early residents of this area were Louisa Christina Hoesly (Mrs. Johannes Figi) of New Glarus and her brother and sister-in-law Rudolf and Katharina (Knobel) Hoesly of Monroe. Baltz and Anna Maria (Oertli) Hoesly originally from the village of Ennenda farmed near Brodhead, WI.

Of the several Hoesly families who still live around New Glarus -- brothers Ed, Gifford, Rex and Bret Hoesly are descendants of immigrants Peter and Sabina (Zweifel) Hoesly as well as Louisa Christina (Hoesly) Figi; Doris Hoesly's late husband Gilbert M. was a descendent of Fridolin and Sarah (Trumpy) Hoesly; Jim Hoesly is a descendent of Jost and Anna (Freuler) Hoesly; and Dennis Hoesly and Dwight Hoesly are descendants of Andreas and Barbara (Duerst) Hoesly.

Hoesly Innovations

Two local Hoeslys invented and patented innovative devices. The first goes back to 1879 when Thomas Hoesly (presumed to be the Thomas J. Hoesly born in Barcelona) invented a door bolt (pictured right). Hoesly had been a harness maker until he retired from that trade and built a store and residence in 1880. His building still stands at 102 Second Street. He and his family moved to Wood County and later Stratford, WI prior to 1900. For many years the Thomas J. Hoesly Building housed Engler's Store and following that the Disch Furniture Store. One could speculate that Hoesly's 1879 patent was lucrative enough for him to build this large store building the following year. In 1923 Henry G. Hoesly, a young Swiss immigrant patented a method for cooling milk by immersing the milk cans in a cold water bath while agitating the milk. Hoesly married Hermina Grossenbacher and after living in this vicinity, they moved to Orangeville, IL. In the 1930s the Hoesly family returned to live in Switzerland.



And A Hoesli in the Movies

If you are a movie buff and have a sharp eye you may notice the name John Hoesli in the credits for the films The African Queen, Swiss Family Robinson and 2001: A Space Odyssey. John Hoesli (1919-1997) had Canton Glarus roots being the son of a Glarner father and a British mother. Hoesli was employed by British film studios as a set designer and art director.

Wurster and Bräm – Uncommon Family Names from Canton Glarus

Two surnames associated with the village of Engi, Canton Glarus are Wurster and Bräm. Unlike the name Hoesly, neither Wurster nor Bräm was commonly found in New Glarus. But there were people in the area with these family names. The Glarner branch of the Wurster family had its origins in Eschelbronn, Württemberg where Adam Wurster (1749-1811) was born. He established his residence in Engi where worked as a tailor and married a local girl, Barbara Baumgartner. Their Wurster descendents include grandson Adam Wurster (born 1811) who left Switzerland in 1833. In 1840, he bought land in what was to become Greenfield, Milwaukee County, WI, making Adam one of the earliest Glarner to have settled in Wisconsin. Adam's sister and brother-in-law, Salome and Peter Marti, came to Greenfield around 1844. Judge Niklaus Dürst wrote about meeting this Peter Marti in June of 1845 as Dürst and Fridolin Streiff were passing through southern Wisconsin on their quest to find land for the new colony. Another Wurster sibling, Martin Wurster and his wife Anna Maria Marti immigrated to the New Elm settlement near Oshkosh and later moved to Monroe, WI. Another sister was Barbara Wurster who married Martin Bräm (Bram in America). Barbara and Martin immigrated to Wisconsin in 1853 and they settled near Middleton, WI where they raised a large family. The Bram name is still found in the Middleton area and there is a Bram Street in Madison. Barbara (Wurster) Bram's grave can be found in Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery. The origin of the Bräm family in Canton Glarus was *Stammvater* Gorius (or Gregorius) Bräm (died 1607) who was a native of Splügen, Canton Graubünden. He established citizenship in Canton Glarus in 1584 and married a local girl, Regula Zopfi. All Glarner Bräms descend from this couple.

Burkhard Bräm (Bram in America) was born in Engi in 1861 and was distantly related to Mathias Bram (mentioned above) who settled near Middleton. Burkhard married and had a son but apparently the marriage was not harmonious, for Bram left Switzerland for Wisconsin leaving his wife and son behind. By 1882 he was the farm hand for husband and wife Heinrich and Margaretha (Ruegg) Stuessy of New Glarus. Burkhard Bram and Margaretha Stuessy developed a relationship and conceived of a plot to kill Heinrich Stuessy. They first tried to poison Stuessy but the poison in his coffee proved to be too bitter and he tossed it out. The next day (5 November 1882), Stuessy and Bram went into the woods ostensibly to hunt when Stuessy was killed with a bullet to the back of his head. Justice was swift and both Bram and Mrs. Stuessy were found guilty and received life sentences. Margaretha Stuessy died in prison shortly thereafter but Bram served time for over thirty years. He became a model prisoner at Waupun and was eventually pardoned by Governor Emanuel Philipp in 1916. Bram married again (his Swiss wife had divorced him) and had a child by his second wife. The murder victim Heinrich Stuessy was buried in the Swiss Church cemetery. Margaretha (Bräm) Altmann, the mother of the late Roy and John Altmann of New Glarus, was a niece of Burkhard Bram.

Bäl di and Göldli Families: Players in Swiss History

Two more uncommon family names -- Bäl di and Göldli -- are found in many Glarner family genealogies by going back 500 years. Numerous New Glarus area families descend from Joachim and Elsbeth (Göldli) Bäl di. Joachim Bäl di served as Glarner *Landammann* from 1548 to 1553 and is primarily remembered for his role in establishing the *Freiberg Kärpf* in Canton Glarus. The *Freiberg Kärpf* (see below) is Europe's oldest game preserve which began in 1548 while Bäl di was Glarner *Landammann*. The surname Bäl di died out in Canton Glarus in 1768.



Joachim Bäl di married Zurich native Elsbeth Göldli in 1527. Elsbeth was the daughter of Georg Göldli and the granddaughter of Heinrich Göldli. The Göldlis were considered the second wealthiest family of Zurich during their time. Heinrich Göldli was the mayor of Zurich from 1475 to 1483. In 1476 he was a *Hauptmann* in the Battle of Grandson, Canton Vaud in the Burgundian War. And just 23 years later in 1499, Heinrich Göldli had a leadership role in the Battle of Schwaderloh, Canton Thurgau in the Swabian War.



Two of Heinrich Göldli's sons Kaspar and Georg were present at the second battle of Kappel (*Zweiter Kappelerkrieg*) in October of 1531. The foremost reason they are remembered is that they fought on opposing sides. Kaspar Göldli fought with the Catholic Cantons (Zug, Uri, Schwyz, Unterwalden, Luzern) while brother Georg led some of the Zurich (Protestant) forces. The Catholics were victorious. Reformer Ulrich Zwingli was killed in battle while both Göldli brothers survived.

Hercules Göldli, the son of Georg, was a member of the Papal Swiss Guards. On 6 May 1527, the Vatican came under attack by troops of the Holy Roman Emperor in what is known as the Sack of Rome. Of the 189 Swiss Guards, 147 were massacred on the steps of St. Peter's, while only 42 survived. These survivors were placed under the command of Hercules Göldli and they led Pope Clement VII to safety via an 800 meter secret passageway linking the Vatican with nearby Castel Sant'Angelo. (This above-ground passageway, known as *Il Passetto*, is featured in Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons".) In tribute to the Swiss heroism displayed on that day in 1527, the Swiss Guard still takes their oath of allegiance on May 6.

The Freiberg Kärpf

As mentioned above, the Freiberg Kärpf is the oldest game preserve found in Europe dating from 10 August 1548. This Canton Glarus preserve lies in the mountainous region between the Linthal and the Sernftal and can be easily accessed by way of the *Mettmenalp*. Only appointed hunters were allowed to hunt here. They sought the "wedding chamois" -- those animals roasted at weddings between July and November (chamois pictured above right). Also found high in the rocky crags of the *Freiberg Kärpf* is the elusive *Steinbock* (pictured above left). The preserve boasts a variety of alpine creatures large and small. In addition to the horned *Gemse* (Chamois) and *Steinbock* (Ibex) there are two types of deer -- the *Rothirsch* (red deer or hart) and the *Reh* (roe deer). Predators found within the preserve are the *Fuchs* (fox), *Dachs* (badger), *Wiesel* (weasel), and the *Steinmarder* and *Baummarder* -- types of martens. There are *Schneehasen* and *Feldhasen* -- types of hares. And there are rodents -- the *Murmeltieren* (marmots) and *Eichhörnchen* (squirrels).

Courting Candles

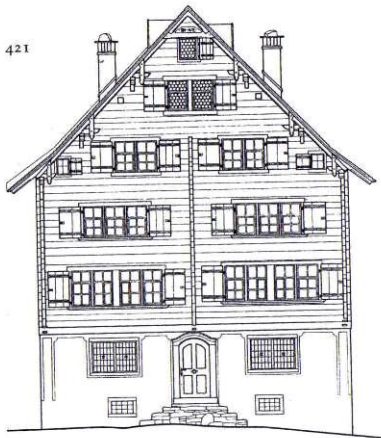
An artifact found in the collection of the Swiss Historical Village museum and as well as in that of the Chalet of the Golden Fleece is what is often called a courting candle or sometimes a Pennsylvania candlestick (a notched version of the courting candle). Courting candles are found in various configurations but the salient feature of this type of candlestick is the ability to raise or lower the candle to allow for more (or less) burning time. The narrative told by tour guides in historic sites across the country is that if the father approved of his daughter's suitor, the candle was raised to allow for more burning (i.e. courting) time. If her beau was considered less than desirable the candle's burn time could be minimized.



The candlestick found in the Historical Village collection belonged to the Abraham Schindler family. Abraham Schindler was born in Schwändi, Canton Glarus in 1846. He was the son of Fridolin and Elsbeth (Schiesser) Schindler, 1853 immigrants to New Glarus. Fridolin Schindler's tombstone is in the museum cemetery. Abraham married a Swiss native, Menga Montsch (or Mantsch), and they farmed south of New Glarus. They were the parents of seven children all who lived in the New Glarus area. These children were Elsbeth (Mrs. Joseph Haegele), Marianna (Mrs. Albert Legler) – who donated the candlestick, Fred A. (married Katharina Klassy and later Katie (Eichelkraut) Zimmermann), Katharina (Mrs. Jacob Zweifel of Montrose), Agnes (Mrs. John Adank and later Mrs. Matt Wild), Emma (Mrs. Caspar Hefty), and Peter (married Lydia Disch). Grandchildren of Abraham and Menga who died in the recent past included Sadie (Zweifel) Sandridge, Alma (Legler) Zentner, Garnet (Schindler) Arnes, Walter Schindler, and Lucille (Hefty) Walden Anderegg. Everett Wild, the last surviving grandchild of Abraham and Menga Schindler, died in March, 2008.

Brumbach

Lying on the southern edge of the Canton Glarus village of Matt is the locality named Brumbach (also seen as Brumbach). At the center of this cluster of homes and farm buildings is the large chalet known as *Haus am Brumbach bei Matt* or more simply the "big house". The house was built for Johann Ulrich Elmer (1766-1835) and his wife Regula Wohlwend (1770-1831). Johann Ulrich was born in Elm and married Regula of nearby Matt in 1788. He purchased the *Tagwenrecht* (citizenship) in the village of Matt in 1789 where they build their home in 1807. This 200 year old structure is an ancestral home of many Green County residents.



The house at Brumbach is an imposing structure of multiple levels. In the lowest level are vaulted cellars with 10 foot ceilings. These cellar areas were used to store wine, fruit and vegetables, cheese, and preserved foodstuffs. Above that is the basement level. The dark rooms on the mountain side of the house were used to store meats such as smoked hams. There was an area for harnesses, bells, tools and a small repair shop. Basement rooms facing the valley with windows were used for servants' rooms and the laundry. Above the basement on the front side of the house is the primary parlor which boasted an inlaid floor of oak, walnut and maple, as well as a stove covered in blue and white Flemish tiles (*Kachelofen*). The kitchen with its slate oven (*Schieferofen*) and two other drawing rooms were also found on the main floor. Going up an imposing staircase, the next level contained four bedrooms. A less imposing staircase leads to the next level of children's bedrooms and the library. An even smaller staircase leads to smaller and darker attic rooms. (Brumbach sketch at left.)

Despite living in a large home with many bedrooms, Johann Ulrich and Regula (Wohlwend) Elmer had only one daughter Barbara (1789-1836) and one son Conrad (1792-1851).

The daughter Barbara Elmer married Johann Jacob Freitag the youngest son of Werdenberg *Landvogt* Rudolf Freitag of Elm. Barbara and Johann Jacob had only one child, Johann Ulrich Freitag, before they divorced. Local descendents of this Freitag family included J. U. Freitag the long-time head of the New Glarus Historical Society (and whose name comes from the aforementioned Johann Ulrich Freitag and Johann Ulrich Elmer), Albert Schlatter, Orso Duerst, and Ralph Freitag. Another descendent was Dietrich Freitag whose picture is in the museum cheese factory and on whose farm Green County's first Swiss cheese factory was built.

The son Conrad Elmer married Barbara Stauffacher and they had 14 children, two of whom died in infancy. Of the surviving children, most immigrated to the United States and most of them lived here in Green County. (Others lived near Renwick, IA and Columbus, NE.) Descendents on the Elmer side who resided in New Glarus included Mrs. J. U. Freitag (née Verena Stauffacher), Katharine (Babler) Tollefson, and Jocelyn (Saether) Elmer.

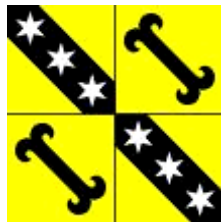
This Elmer family owned property around Brumbach as well as an alp above Matt known as the *Argen Boden*. But Conrad Elmer lost much of their land around the 1830s due to a game of Jass. (Jass, pronounced yass, is a popular Swiss card game played with a special deck of 36 cards.) According to family legend, Conrad Elmer had taken cattle over the mountain passes to sell in *Lauis* (Lugano). But many of the cattle died and the remaining were sold at a loss. In a vain attempt to return home with some funds, Conrad engaged in a Jass game but suffered even greater set-backs resulting in the loss of Elmer's land. It was said that his opponent could see Conrad's cards in a mirror which hung on the wall behind Conrad. Utterly humiliated, Conrad did not contest the game. Due to the loss of the Elmer land, the majority of Conrad Elmer's children immigrated to the United States. Descendents of these people recalled an acute aversion to card playing which lasted in the family for several generations.

And Speaking of Jass . . .

An online, interactive version of Jass can now be played with your computer. This game is found at: <http://gast.jass.sf.tv/?uid=gast>

Three Families from Niederurnen: Steinmann, Stüssi, and Schlittler

Niederurnen is a small village at the mouth of the great Linth Valley in Canton Glarus with a population of approximately 3800 people. Overlooking the village is the Schlössli, a restaurant built on the foundations of the former Oberwindegg Castle. This historic castle was breached by Glarner troops in July, 1386 – an offshoot of the battle against the Habsburgs at Sempach. Lying on the south-facing slope between the castle and the village is a vineyard. These grapes are used to produce one of the few vintages made in the Canton. The Niederurnen flag is depicted to the left. Families whose lineage comes from Niederurnen include Steinmann, Stüssi and Schlittler.



Johann Caspar Steinmann was born in Niederurnen in 1854 and immigrated to America in 1861 with his mother Magdalena. J. C. Steinmann worked his way up from a farmhand on the Caspar Blum farm southwest of New Glarus to a prominent Monticello businessman. The Queen Anne-style home that he and his wife, the former Barbara Legler of New Glarus, built in Monticello is on the state and national historic register. (Barbara was the granddaughter of Fridolin and Elsbeth (Schuesser) Schindler mentioned elsewhere in this issue.)

The Stüssi families have their roots in various Canton Glarus villages one of which is Niederurnen. Melchior Stuessy (whose picture hangs in the museum's log cabin) was a native of Niederurnen. Melchior, his brother Jacob, sister Anna Dorothea, and later their widowed mother Anna (Schlittler) Stuessy were early immigrants to New Glarus. Melchior married Katharina Legler in 1853. They farmed 264 acres of land southeast of New Glarus along the Exeter road. Melchior served as Town of New Glarus Chairman for many years. His brother Jacob married three times -- first to Katharina ZumBrunnen and after her death to Verena Marty. Late in life and again a widower, Jacob married Magdalena Baumgartner, the widow of Johann Jacob Zwicky. Jacob Stuessy farmed 340 acres near brother Melchior. Their sister Anna Dorothea Stuessy married New Bilten farmer Fridolin Blum. Area descendants of this Stuessy branch include Fred G. Blum and Mary Shanahan of New Glarus, Lowell Stuessy of Monroe, and Bill and Sam Stuessy of Belleville.

The Schlittler families who lived in this area also originated in the village of Niederurnen. The Schlittler coat of arms (shown at right) depicts a sled – *Schlitten* in German. Early Schlittler immigrants included Jacob and Barbara (Schlittler) Schlittler as well as Barbara's brother and sister-in-law Melchior and Elsbeth (Zweifel) Schlittler. Schlittler descendants include the late Harland Babler of New Glarus and Karen (Schlittler) Brugger of Monticello. Two websites which offer searchable, on-line information on various members of the Schlittler and Stuessi families of Niederurnen are found at:

<http://www.familiehaas.ch/familien/schlittler/index.html> & <http://kd6lvw.snarked.org/genealogy/search>



Dietland Thomm

Johann Jacob Dietland Thomm (1820-1879) was from the village of Benken, St. Gallen. In 1841 Thomm married Anna Maria Steinmann of Niederurnen (aunt of J. C. Steinmann of Monticello) and in 1842 their first child, also named Johann Jacob Dietland Thomm, was born. The family immigrated to the Town of Washington where they farmed. Son Dietland Thomm enlisted in the Wisconsin 2nd Infantry in 1861 and was killed in action at Gainesville, VA (second battle of Bull Run) on August 28, 1862. To this day, he is recorded in Wisconsin and U.S. Civil War rosters as Tom or Thom Dietland. In 1868, Dietland and Anna Maria Thomm had another son who they once again named Dietland Thomm. This second son Dietland Thomm married Rosa Schmid of Monroe and died in 1926. The name Thomm has been spelled and misspelled numerous ways – Thumm, Thom, Thoma and even transcribed as Townes in the 1880 census. According to the parish records of Benken, the original surname was spelled Thümm.

Also from Benken

Another native of Benken was Joseph Alois Steiner born in 1806. Benken lies in Canton St. Gallen, only a mile or two beyond the northernmost point of Canton Glarus. Steiner emigrated to America in 1845 and lived in New Orleans. Among his children was son Aloysius Steiner (1855-1919). Aloysius had a daughter Aloise Steiner (1895-1985) who married a Texan, William F. Buckley. Aloise and William Buckley were the parents of ten children including U. S. Senator James Buckley, noted conservative author and commentator William F. Buckley, Jr. and Patricia (Buckley) Bozell, mother of L. Brent Bozell founder of the Media Research Center.

Glarnerbier and New Glarus Connections

Visitors to Canton Glarus may sample some of the local beer brewed at Schwanden's Brauerei Adler. This family-run brewery makes a variety of beers such as their lager Adler-Bräu, the dark Fridolin Kundert-Bräu, Panix Perle, and an ice beer named Tödi-Bräu.

The brewery has existed since 1828. The founder of the brewery was wine merchant and *Adlerwirt* Fridolin Tschudi (1771-1847). Tschudi, a direct ancestor of Jim McGuire of New Glarus, and his sons ran the brewery until 1885 when they sold it to a Luzerner by the name of Kauth. That same year Paulus Kundert (1861-1917) of Schwanden became associated with the brewery. And in 1925 Paulus' son Fridolin (Fritz) Kundert (1895-1960) took over the operation. After Fridolin's death the brewery was run by his son-in-law and currently by his grandson. The Fridolin Kundert-Bräu is named for this Fridolin Kundert.

In the Winter, 2007 edition of these Family History Notes, mention was made of the descendants of Paulus and Susanna (Zentner) Schrepfer of Elm and of four of their children who emigrated to New Glarus. It was also noted how the name Paulus (Paul) existed within the Schrepfer descendants. Living in New Glarus were first cousins Paulus Disch, Paulus Kubly, Paulus Schneider and Paulus Schrepfer. The Adler brewer Paulus Kundert was also a grandson of Paulus Schrepfer and thus a first a cousin to all these New Glarus men having the name Paulus.