

Family History Notes

Spring 2013

History of the people of Canton Glarus

By Duane H. Freitag

Since many of our Swiss ancestors immigrated from Canton Glarus, one can get a feel for both our genetic makeup and hereditary aspects of our psyche by looking at the span of history of the canton. This is the first of six parts. Sources will be cited at the conclusion of the series.

Part 1: Who Are We?

Canton Glarus is in a somewhat remote part of eastern Switzerland, consisting primarily of the deep, 25-mile-long Linth River valley and two side valleys as well as a northern area bordering the *Walensee* [Lake Walen] and a once-marshy area along today's Linth canal. The canton is not far from lakes where it is known that prehistoric people lived in wooden homes supported by pilings along the lakeshores. Recent discoveries of well-preserved materials provide a link between the hunter-gatherer peoples of pre-history and the first European civilizations.

The fact that Canton Glarus was on the border of various socio-economic divisions as modern civilization developed had a profound effect on our ancestors. It was a dividing line of the Celtic Helvetians and Rhatians, of the Roman provinces of *Rhaetia* and *Germania Superior*, of Ostrogoths and



This stylized, modern look at the entrance to the Linth River Valley is from the student version of the *Glarner Heimatbuch*. The *Walensee* is at the left, the blue line at the bottom is the Linth Canal on which the original colonists of New Glarus began their journey, and the *March* is at the lower right. The building is the Freulerpalast in the village of Näfels, which is the canton's history museum.

the Tuscany area of western Italy), but by the time the Romans appeared on the scene many were of Celtic origin.

The Celts were a tribal, Iron Age people [1200 B.C.E. to 400 C.E.] that were slowly migrating across a wide area of Europe (east to west, with some ending up in Scotland and Ireland). To the Romans, an area that includes eastern Switzerland became known as *Rhaetia*. While there are different theories for the name, it most likely was based on the Celtic word *rait* [mountain land]. By 15 B.C.E., there were Roman sentry towers along the *Walensee* and the area that became the village of Ziegelbrücke was a trading site. One of the chief towns of *Rhaetia* was Chur, now the capital of Canton Graubunden. Chur is east of Canton Glarus in the Rhine River valley. It was there that the region was connected to northern Italy by a Roman road running from Bregenz on Lake Constance through Como and on to Milan. Key mountain passes, already in use during Roman times, were the Splügen, which divides the watersheds of the Rhine and Po rivers; the Julier, a link to the Engadine valley and the Danube watershed, and the Septimer, once important for the bishop of Chur to control his vast territory.

Franks, of the Christian dioceses of Chur and Constance and of areas controlled by cloisters at Säkingen and Schänis, of newly emerging Switzerland and the Holy Roman Empire, of Protestant and Catholic cantons, and of the German and Romansch languages. Indeed, adjacent to the northwest portion of Canton Glarus is an area historically referred to as the *March*, which is an old term for a border territory where defenses against marauding tribes occurred. The march district is now part of Canton Schwyz. (The Klausen Pass to the south also was called a *march*.) Located as it is, Glarus remained economically poor for much of its history.

The earliest known inhabitants of the region in the modern era supported themselves by breeding cattle and cutting timber. Little attention was paid to agriculture. It is possible that some of those early people were Etruscan in origin (from

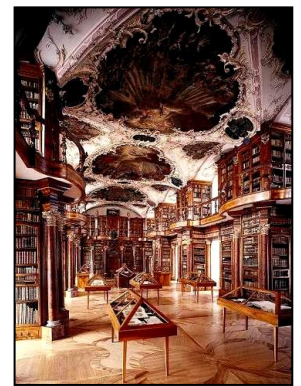
To the west of *Rhaetia* was the Roman province of *Helvetia*, a name that lives on in the formal Latin name of Switzerland [*Confoederatio Helvetica*]. That land was inhabited by the Celtic tribe that the Romans knew as the Helvetii. At one point there was a huge outmigration of the Helvetii from central Switzerland towards southern France. The exact reason is uncertain -- it may have been in response to Germanic invaders. The exodus was brutally stopped by the Roman army and the survivors were forced back to their homeland. Today there are many remnants of the Roman occupation in this area.

Over the years some Roman merchants and military veterans settled in Switzerland. To some extent Latin replaced the Celtic and Rhaetian languages. However, as times got harder for the Roman overlords, they became more ruthless and demanded much from the rest of the population.

In late Roman times [2nd through 4th Centuries], a Germanic tribe known as the Alemanni migrated into areas along the Rhine River in what today would be Alsace and northern Switzerland. The Romans first made note of them in 260. The word Alemanni means “all men,” and would seem to indicate that they were a combination of various German tribes. Their legacy survives as the word for Germany and Germans in some languages, such as the Spanish *Alemania* and the French *Allemagne*. The Alemanni were continuously fighting with the Romans, and in 256 invaded Italy and Gaul [France]. A decade later, Roman troops returned to Switzerland in force and repelled the Alemanni.

After Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380, small churches began to appear in Switzerland. Bishops were posted to some of the main administrative centers, including at Chur. Archeological remains of an early Christian church from the late Roman era have been found near the courthouse in the city of Glarus.

The Alemanni made several attempts to cross the Rhine again and in 406 were successful, establishing some territorially defined districts along the river. Their land was known to have been divided into farms and community property, with a *Landesgemeinde* [public assembly] deciding issues. Remote Glarus remained lightly populated and was not fully settled by the Alemanni until after the year 500. The Alemanni, like the Romans before them, preferred to settle the major river valleys and plains of west-central Switzerland. When the Alemanni did arrive in Glarus, they lived side-by-side with the earlier Celtic-Roman population. As a whole, the people were fiercely independent. The German language finally became dominant by the 11th Century.



The Abbey Library at St. Gallen contains many early Swiss records.

Like much of the area, Glarus was not a geographically defined state but a collection of people. The Latin name *Clarona*, which morphed into the German *Glarus*, was not recorded until around 820 in an account of the legend of Saints Felix and Regula. They were a brother and sister who had survived the massacre of the entire Christian Theban Legion along the Rhone River (in what is now Canton Valais) in 302 for refusing to sacrifice to the Roman emperor. Felix and Regula had supposedly traveled through a barren area that they called *Clarona* on their way to Zurich, where they and others were captured and beheaded. The document containing the legend is in the famous Abbey Library at St. Gallen. The oldest records seem to designate generally that *Clarona* referred to the valley wall during Roman times. Under Alemanni influence, the plural *Claronum* changed to *Claruns* and eventually *Glaris* and *Glarus*.

At the advent of the Middle Ages, our Glarus ancestors were a mixture of cultures: Primarily Alemanni, but with traces of Celtic, Roman, and perhaps Etruscan blood. Those people, like all of the Glarners down through the centuries, were wary of a special feature of their mountain home: the *Föhn* wind. The phenomenon caused by moist southern air flowing over the mountains and then compressing on the dry northern side, at times is violent and causes sudden changes in temperatures. The wind has often ruined homes, crops, and orchards and is an ever-present danger in spreading fires. Illnesses ranging from migraines to psychosis, as well as a higher level of suicides, have been blamed on the *Föhn*.

Next Chapter: The Dark Ages

Ulrich Zwingli Descendants in New Glarus

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) was the leader of the Swiss Reformation. Newly documented research shows that direct descendants of Zwingli are living in New Glarus and the area.

Zwingli came from humble beginnings in the village of Wildhaus, the highest village in Switzerland's Toggenburg district. The family home (pictured) still survives in Wildhaus and is considered among the oldest wooden homes yet standing in Switzerland. Zwingli was ordained a priest and served at Glarus and Einsiedeln before accepting the position at Zurich's *Grossmünster* from which he launched the Swiss Reformation. He married a widow, Anna (Reinhard) Meyer and they were the parents of four children – two daughters, Regula and Anna, and two sons, Wilhelm and Ulrich Jr. Anna and Wilhelm both died young and had no issue. Daughter Regula Zwingli married Rudolf Gwalter who had been raised in the Heinrich Bullinger household (see related article in this issue). Son Ulrich Zwingli Jr. married a daughter of Bullinger. Both the Gwalter and Zwingli families had several children however the Zwingli male line died out in the early 1600s with the death of last Zwingli male.



In 1937 W. H. Ruoff published research under the title "*Nachfahren Ulrich Zwinglis*" which documented the first five generations of Ulrich Zwingli's descendants. It was estimated that by the 1930s, when Ruoff published the Zwingli information, that Ulrich Zwingli's direct descendants numbered in the tens of thousands. The majority of the descendants were from the offspring of Regula Gwalter.



Regula and Rudolf Gwalter had a daughter, Magdalena, who married Josias Simmler, a Swiss theologian and the author of the first book written solely about the Alps. The Simmler's descendants included a great-granddaughter, Magdalena Simmler whose name is found in the Ruoff material. It noted she had married *Pfarrer* Stephen Zeller. The Ruoff report contained no further information on the Zeller descendants.

Stephen and Magdalena Zeller moved to Canton Glarus where Rev. Zeller served the Betschwanden congregation from 1552 to 1570. Their daughter Barbara Zeller married a man from Schwanden by the name of Hans Peter Fluri. The descendants of Barbara and Hans Peter Fluri are well-documented in the family books held in the *Landesarchiv* in Glarus.

And so it is possible to study the succeeding generations down to several New Glarus area families (see chart at end of newsletter). Ulrich Zwingli is at the top of the chart and below him selective descendants. As previously mentioned, the first five generations of descendants are documented in the W. H. Ruoff material and subsequent generations are found in the Glarus records. It is believed this is the first time this link has been made of Glarner families directly to Reformer Zwingli himself.

Another Zwingli family link has been known in New Glarus for decades. However this link was not to Ulrich Zwingli himself, but rather to his sister (or niece) named Anna Zwingli. This Anna Zwingli and her husband, Claus Wilhelm, were the progenitors of the Canton Glarus Wild families. Thus anyone of Wild descent can claim a direct connection to Anna Zwingli.

Pictured above is the statue of Zwingli, one hand holding the Bible, the other on the sword, at the rear of Zurich's *Wasserkirche* on the Limmat River.

Gettysburg Anniversary

This July marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg --the largest and deadliest single battle fought in the Civil War. Wisconsin was represented at Gettysburg by over 2100 men fighting for the Union in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Infantries as well as the 1st Sharpshooters Company G. Several men from New Glarus fought in this pivotal battle. Among those New Glarus men were Friedrich Geiser (or Geisser), an immigrant from Langenthal, Canton Bern. Geiser lost his life at Gettysburg. He left a widow and nearly 2 year old son, Friedrich Jr. who died in 1884. Geiser's widow, Susanna née Scheron, remarried in 1864 to Jacob Blum, an 1847 New Bilten immigrant. Wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg were Jacob Figi and Jacob Trumpy. Also wounded was Fridolin Luchsinger. These men were members of the Wisconsin 2nd Infantry, Co. K, part of the famed Iron Brigade.

Adam Marty, a volunteer in the First Minnesota Infantry, was wounded in the hip at Gettysburg. He was an 1840s immigrant from Engi, Canton Glarus who settled in Stillwater, MN. Marty served in the war with his best friend and cousin Samuel Bloomer (originally Blumer), also an immigrant from Engi. Sam was wounded at Antietam and his lower leg amputated due to his injuries. The photographs are from the Minnesota Historical Society are of Adam (1864) and Sam (in gold frame).



Wikipedia captures the importance of the First Minnesota role at Gettysburg writing, "At a pivotal moment and position during the 1863 conflict at Gettysburg, Major General Winfield Scott Hancock ordered the First Minnesota to charge into a situation where it would be outmanned by odds of at least 5:1. The General's purpose was to buy minutes of delay with human lives. The Regiment fully and instantly executed the order, received at least 82% casualties among those making the attack, and contributed significantly to the preservation of a key Union defensive position on the heights of Cemetery Ridge." This 82% casualty rate is the highest of any Union group in the entire Civil War.

After the war, Marty returned to Stillwater where he was employed as a carriage painter. He was a charter member of the Stillwater volunteer firemen, he was elected Washington County Sheriff for two terms, and was local Commander of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). He eventually was named Commander of the Minnesota's GAR organization.

In 1887, Adam Marty and Sam Bloomer, along with their remaining First Minnesota Co. B Civil War comrades, formed what they called "The Last Man's Club". The group would meet annually on the anniversary of the Battle of Bull Run. As the years went by, the aged veterans passed away. At the annual reunion the empty chairs of those deceased were draped in black. Sam passed away in 1917 and Adam followed in 1923. The final meeting of the Last Man's Club occurred in 1930. Charles Lockwood, 87, was the last of the First. He opened a bottle of wine set aside by the group for the last man. Lockwood sobbed as he toasted the 33 empty chairs of his comrades.

Adam Marty and Samuel Bloomer are still honored in Stillwater. Both men wrote dozens of letters during the Civil War and these letters have become treasured pieces of history in Minnesota. Recently, the Washington County [Minnesota] Historical Society has published the book "In Their Own Words; the Civil War as Seen by Washington County Soldiers". Among the quotes used in the book are several by both Marty and Bloomer.



Peg Meier, a Minnesota author, read the Bloomer correspondence as well as his diary. She wrote, "Sam's story unfolded like a good novel. And this wasn't fiction. Sam Bloomer was real. He lived in this state, fought in actual Civil War battles, suffered real pain and had real people worried about him. Because of Sam, I cared about the Battle of Antietam. No history textbook had done that for me."

In 2012 Adam Marty's name appeared in an unlikely article in the St. Paul "Pioneer Press". A Stillwater antique dealer had come across a water pitcher and tray "as black as soot" which he purchased for \$30. After weeks of painstaking polishing, an ornate silver pitcher and tray emerged from under the tarnish. Found engraved on the silver was the inscription "Presented to Adam Marty, By G. A. R. of Minneapolis, Jan 10, 1884". The silver set was a gift to Adam Marty and his bride on their wedding day. The set is now owned by the Washington County Historical Society.

Swiss Alpine Club at 150 Years

Another 150th anniversary this year is that of the Swiss Alpine Club (*Schweizer Alpen-Club*) formed in 1863. The SAC was formed to promote mountaineering within Switzerland as climbers and scientists, many from Britain, were ascending the Alps for sport and research pursuits. Today the SAC organization boasts over 135,000 members with 300 huts (*Hütten*) scattered throughout the mountains providing food and shelter for today's intrepid climbers.

The SAC is said to have begun in the mind of Dr. Rudolf Theodor Simler (1833-1873) in 1861 as he was ascending the Tödi, Canton Glarus' highest peak. Simler was in the company of Glarner *Bergführen* Johann Heinrich Elmer of Elm (the great-grandfather of Henry Elmer and Verena (Elmer) Grossenbacher) and Gabriel Zweifel. Two years later Dr. Simler and a few dozen others founded the SAC with Dr. Simler being elected the first President. The *Grünhornhütte* in Canton Glarus, located on the route to the Tödi, became the SAC's first mountain hut. Incidentally, Dr. Simler, was a direct descendant of Josias and Magdalena (Gwalter) Simmler mentioned in the Zwingli article.

The SAC's second hut was the *Trifthütte* above the village of Gadmen, Canton Bern. This remote



mountain hut was likely built by the von Weissenfluh family of Gadmen. The von Weissenfluhs were mountain guides with an established history of leading scientists and adventurers into the Bernese Alps. Indeed John Ball commented in his "The Alpine Guide" (written between 1863 and 1868) "the family of von Weissenfluh was long considered the only competent guides for this region." In 1863 Johannes von Weissenfluh wrote to Dr. Simler proposing that the Trift hut become a SAC hut and the following year the SAC took over the hut management.

The historic *Trifthütte* (pictured) has been modernized in recent years. One unique aspect of the hike to this hut is crossing the Trift Bridge, a narrow suspension bridge for hikers, 300 feet high and nearly 600 feet long, hanging over the Triftsee and in view of the Trift Glacier (photo below).

The von Weissenfluhs of Gadmen were expert mountain climbers and served as guides on many historic ascents. In 1841 Johannes von Weissenfluh was among the first group to scale the 11,493 foot



Sustenhorn. In 1842 he accompanied Swiss mountaineer Gottlieb Samuel Studer in the fourth ascent of the famed Jungfrau. In 1864 Johannes' son Andreas von Weissenfluh was among the first to reach the summit of the Dammastock, Canton Uri's highest peak at just under 12,000 feet. That same year he was the first to climb the nearby Diechterhorn.

Bergführer Andreas von Weissenfluh and his wife Magdalena née Schlaeppli had a daughter Katharina (1878-1972) who immigrated to our area in 1904. The following year Katharina von Weissenfluh married Swiss immigrant cheese maker Albert Kaech. The Kaechs made cheese near Blanchardville, then Postville, and later moved to New Glarus where Albert was employed by the Pet Milk Company.

Albert and Katharina Kaech had seven children: Albertina, Albert Jr., Ida, Frida, John, Lina and James. Son Albert lived in New Glarus and was employed by Erb Implement and later by Disch Hardware. He was an avid bicyclist and was honored with the New Glarus bicycle license plate #1. Albert was an unassuming man and it is probable few knew of the leading role his family played back in their native Gadmen in opening up the alpine peaks and glaciers to scientists and adventurers.

A Seminal Moment in Genetics

Yet another anniversary in 2013 is that of Frosty the calf born in 1953. Frosty was born in May of 1953, the first calf born in North America using frozen semen. Frosty's "father" was a man named John Rockefeller Prentice, known as "Rock". Rock Prentice was a visionary who believed in the concept of improving the quality of livestock through genetics. He began a company named American Breeders Service (ABS now headquartered in DeForest, WI) and it was in-house research which led to the birth of Frosty. Incidentally, J. Rockefeller Prentice was the grandson of Standard Oil tycoon J. D. Rockefeller. Prentice did not patent the new technology – he considered it a gift to the dairy industry.

Elm Mystery

A question was posed in the last issues as to why the sun did not shine through Elm's famed Martinsloch despite the clear sky on October 1, 1989. Barbara Kuehni, a reader from Virginia, was intrigued and discovered the correct answer. That year the village people of Flims had devised a practical joke on their over-the-mountain neighbors in Elm. They hung a curtain over the hole to prevent the sun's rays from passing through. This must have been a considerable effort considering the size and altitude of the Martinsloch hole. The photo at right shows two climbers approaching the natural tunnel.



Medieval Popes and Ancestral Uncles

With the recent election of Francis I, the 266th pope, it is an opportune time to reflect on our medieval ancestry once again. Through our gateway ancestor, Baron (*Freiherr*) Johann Christof von Hohensax, it is possible to trace our ancestry back many generations to medieval ancestors who had brothers chosen popes of the Roman Catholic Church. There are at least eight, possibly nine, popes who were "ancestral uncles" of Baron von Hohensax. And since Hohensax was a direct ancestor of many New Glarus families, these nine men become "ancestral uncles" of ours.

- Pope Gregory V: born Bruno of Worms, the son of Salian Duke Otto I. Gregory V succeeded to the papacy at age 24 and served from 996-999. His royal ancestors included his great grandfather Holy Roman Emperor Otto I and great-great grandfather King Edward I of England.
- Damasus II: born Poppo of Bavaria, he served as pope for less than a month in 1048. The reign of Damasus II was one of the shortest in papal history. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Damasus II were both Bavarian-born.
- Leo IX: born Bruno of Eguisheim in today's Alsace region of France. He succeeded Damasus II and served from 1049 to 1054. Leo had a strained relationship with the Byzantine church and just months after Leo's death the Eastern Orthodox Church split from the Roman Church in the Great Schism of 1054. Leo IX is also considered a Roman Catholic saint.
- Victor II: born Gebhard of Calw, he was pope for only two years, 1055-1057. During this time he maintained peace and strengthened the papacy. The Calw family tree of 1000 years ago is somewhat sketchy. The Hohensax link to Gebhard is assumed by some but not entirely proven.
- Stephan IX: born Frederic of Lorraine, he was the grandson of Berenger II, King of Italy. Stephen was pope from 1057 to 1058.

- Urban II: born Odo of Chatillon-sur-Marne, Urban served as pope from 1088-1099. He is remembered for having sponsored the First Crusade in 1095. Pope Urban was responding to the request of Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos (another Hohensax ancestor) for assistance in repelling the invading Turks.
- Calixtus II: born Guy de Burgundy he served from 1119-1124. It was during his years as pope that the Concordat of Worms of 1122 (also referred to as the Pactum Calixtinum) was settled. This agreement between church and state helped define those powers of the church versus those of the state.
- Innocent IV: born Sinibaldo de Fieschi of the powerful Fieschi family of Liguria. He served from 1243-1254.
- Adrian V: born Ottobuono de Fieschi, the nephew of Sinibaldo. He served as pope in the year 1276. Ottobuono had powerful connections through his sister Beatrice, the wife of Tommaso II Count of Savoy. Tommaso's siblings included Boniface Archbishop of Canterbury, Count Peter II of Savoy (builder of Switzerland's Chillon Castle and London's Savoy Palace), and Beatrice of Provence, the mother of four queen consorts – Margaret, Queen of France; Eleanor, Queen of England; Sanchia, Queen of Germany; and Beatrice, Queen of Sicily.
- Conrad Cardinal Urach: was chosen to serve as pope after the death of Pope Honorius III in 1227. Urach declined the position.

Perry History

The history of the Town of Perry in Dane County was documented in an award-winning local history book from 1994 entitled "The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement". The book is now available online with the link provided below. This history includes a farm-by-farm and house-by-house listing of the residents of Perry (including Daleyville). While mostly Norwegian, the Town of Perry was also home to a pocket of German Catholics, as well as Swiss cheese makers. The book's first chapter -- Chapter 1: The Area and Its People -- is a concise history of our land from prehistoric days, glaciation, Indian settlement to the days of the European immigrants. [Link to Historic Perry Book](#)

Officers Down

Tom Mitchell of Monroe has researched and written a book entitled "1919 Triple Homicides". Mitchell chronicles the murder of farmer Dick (Dietrich) Marti by his Swiss immigrant hired hand named Gottfried Voegeli. In addition to the murder of Marti, Voegeli also gunned down Green County Sheriff Matt Solbraa and one other by the name of Spencer Morton. The players in this tragic drama had New Glarus connections. Solbraa's wife was Margaretha Luchsinger of New Glarus, daughter of John Paul and Katharina (Disch) Luchsinger. Dick Marti, a native of Canton Glarus, was a first cousin of Marie (Marty) Haldiman also of New Glarus.

In 1930 Monticello Police Officer Fred Jordan was killed by 17 year old Gottfried Gottier of Footville. Gottier, the grandson of Heinrich and Ursula (Blumer) Freitag of Monticello, was pulled over by Jordan in response to an early morning complaint made by Monticello physician Dr. Edward Blumer. Dr. Blumer observed Gottier racing through Monticello, blowing the car horn and shining a light into Monticello residences. Blumer watched as Gottier shot Jordan and fled the scene. An unintended tragedy of Jordan's murder was the death of Dr. Blumer. Blumer had rushed out of his own home into the cold night air to assist Jordan. Blumer was improperly dressed, caught pneumonia and died 12 days later.

Fred Jordan was the grandson of early immigrants from Mollis, Canton Glarus Fridolin and Rosina (Winteler) Zwicky. Ironically, Dr. Blumer was a first cousin of Gottfried Gottier's mother. And Dr. Blumer's wife, Wilma née Zwickey, was a first cousin of Officer Jordan.

In 1973 Brown County [Wisconsin] Sheriff Wayne Truttman was inspecting a car which had been pulled over. The driver unexpectedly shot and killed Truttman just 5 minutes before his shift was to end. Sgt. Truttman was a husband and father of four. He had served our county in Korea and had contributed 18 years to the police force. His hearse was accompanied by 100 squad cars en route to the cemetery. Truttman was the grandson of Joseph and Margaret (Hefty) Truttman of New Glarus.

Harry J. Stussie, a police officer with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department was killed in 1931. Officer Stussie died from injuries received when he was struck by a truck while crossing the street at Sixteenth and Locust in downtown St. Louis. The driver of the vehicle was charged with felonious wounding. Officer Stussie had been with the Police Department for five years. He was survived by his wife and five sons. Stussie was the grandson of Heinrich and Margaretha (Ruegg) Stuessy of New Glarus.

All four of the men above are listed at the “Officer Down Memorial Page” website honoring fallen heroes of law enforcement. Additionally, the names of the three Wisconsin officers are engraved on the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial on the Capitol Square in Madison.

Spelling of Family Names

The above item “Officers Down” provides several examples of how many New Glarus families used different spellings of their last names. Gottfried Voegeli’s victim Dick Marti used the original Canton Glarus spelling of his surname while most of his relatives spelled their names Marty. In the case of the Canton Glarus surname Zwicky, it was generally spelled Zwicky or Zwickiey in this area. Truttman and Truttman and Haldimann and Haldiman can both be found within those families. And Stuessy, a Canton Glarus name originally spelled Stüssi, can be found as Stuessy or Steussy in New Glarus and elsewhere where it deviated to Stussy, Stussie, Stuesse and even Steecy.

History Detective Question

Cheese is an important feature of our local history and current economy. Green County once had 208 cheese factories – that is one factory every 2.8 square miles. In 1890 a small cheese factory was started (in another state) by the father of a future President of the United States. Can you name that President?

Ancestors in the Swiss Reformation and the Anabaptist Movement

(The following article is updated from the Summer, 2008 issue. New Glarus residents are not only descended from Reformer Ulrich Zwingli, but also descended from such men as Heinrich Bullinger who was Zwingli’s successor, Ludwig Lavater, the fourth *Antistes* of the Swiss Reformed Church, and Conrad Grebel, founder of the Anabaptists and Zwingli’s nemesis.)

Several historical figures who played prominent roles in either the Swiss Reformation and/or the Anabaptist movement are direct ancestors of numerous New Glarus families. These men were Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575), Hans Rudolf Lavater (1491-1557) and his son Ludwig Lavater (1527-1586), and Jacob Grebel (~1460-1526) and his son Conrad Grebel (~1498-1526). According to Rübel-Blass genealogical information provided by Patrick Wild of Egg bei Zurich, all have direct descendants among New Glarus residents past and present through brothers Johann Heinrich Elmer (1737-1780) and Johann Balthasar Elmer (1743-1815) of Elm, Canton Glarus. These Elmer brothers came by their historic Zurich roots via their grandfather Johann Balthasar Zwingli (1689-1757). Johann Balthasar Zwingli, a native of Canton Zurich, was the minister of Elm’s Reformed church from 1710 to 1737. Reverend Zwingli was the descendent of the Bullingers, Lavaters and Grebels. It is unclear from genealogical data what, if any, link he has to Ulrich Zwingli.

Area families with direct links to these historic figures include the descendants of Wernet and Anna Maria (Elmer) Elmer, Niklaus and Verena (Elmer) Elmer, Albrecht and Barbara (Hauser) Elmer, Johann Ulrich and Anna (Geiger) Rhyner, Paulus and Margaret (Zentner) Schneider, and Niklaus and Anna Maria (Elmer) Hefty.

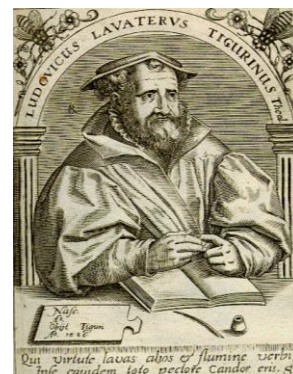
Heinrich Bullinger (pictured) was Ulrich Zwingli's successor (*der Nachfolger*) at the Zurich *Grossmünster*. Bullinger was born in Bremgarten, the fifth son of parish priest Heinrich Bullinger and Anna Wiederkehr his common-law wife. Church celibacy laws were loosely enforced and such clerical "marriages" were tolerated. The Bullinger home still stands at 22 Marktgasse in Bremgarten. Heinrich



Bullinger (the son) was educated in Emmerich (then in the Duchy of Cleves; now in the Netherlands) and the University of Cologne. While a student, he became acquainted with the teachings of Luther, Melanchthon, and then Zwingli. Soon he renounced his intention of becoming a Carthusian monk and in 1528 became a parish minister. After Zwingli's death at Kappel (1531), Bullinger, was elevated to succeed Zwingli in Zurich and served in that capacity until his own death in 1575. In 1529 there were two Bullinger marriages. Heinrich Bullinger (the son) married a former nun, Anna Adlischwiler, and they were to become the parents of 11 children (including Margaretha: see below). Heinrich Bullinger (the father) accepted the Reformed faith and married his common-law wife of 40 years.

About 12,000 letters exist from and to Bullinger, the most extensive correspondence preserved from Reformation times. Bullinger was a personal friend and advisor of many leading personalities of the reformation era. He corresponded with Reformed, Anglican, and Lutheran, theologians, as well as with King Henry VIII, King Edward VI, and Queen Elizabeth I of England, Lady Jane Grey, King Christian II of Denmark and Philipp I Landgrave of Hesse.

Hans Rudolf Lavater was said to have been the most powerful man in Zurich. His mother's family, the Kamblis, led the Tanner's Guild (*Zunft zur Gerwe*), one of the 14 medieval guilds of Zurich. In 1525 Lavater was named *Landvogt* at the Kyburg Castle near Winterthur.¹ While serving as the *Kyburger Landvogt*, Lavater had 15th century religious murals plastered over in keeping with Reformation zeal to minimize church decoration. Today the castle has been completely restored (including the murals) and is a popular museum. Lavater was commander at the second battle of Kappel in 1531. He led a contingent of Zurich forces to Kappel on 11 October 1531. Ulrich Zwingli accompanied the forces as chaplain and was killed that same day. These Zurich troops arrived mid-afternoon and were quickly defeated by the forces of the Catholic cantons. Despite Lavater's leadership failures associated with Kappel, he later went on to become the mayor of Zurich in 1544 and served until his death. Hans Rudolf Lavater's son **Ludwig Lavater** (pictured right) was born at Kyburg and married Margarethe Bullinger the daughter of Heinrich Bullinger. Ludwig, a clergyman, was the pre-eminent authority on ghosts, spirits and angels of his day. His work, *Das Gespensterbuch* (1569) was translated into English in 1572 with the title *Of Ghostes and Spirites walking by Nyght, and of strange noyses, crackes and sundry forewarnings* -- the first book in English to discuss the subject of poltergeists. Ludwig Lavater briefly served as the fourth Antistes of the Swiss Reformed Church succeeding Rudolf Gwalter.



Felix Lavater, the son of Ludwig and Margarete (Bullinger) Lavater, married Regula Grebel. Regula was the granddaughter of Conrad Grebel. **Conrad Grebel** was another learned man of his time and has come to be known as "the father of the Anabaptists." Grebel studied at universities in Basel, Vienna and Paris, living a carefree student life. But that changed when he returned to Switzerland in 1520 and became an enthusiastic student and ardent supporter of Ulrich Zwingli. But within a few years Grebel was challenging Zwingli's views particularly those supportive of church/government alliances and the establishment of state religions. Grebel felt matters of religions should be outside the realms of government control such as those of Zurich's city council. Another core disagreement between Grebel

¹ In the 12th and 13th centuries, the historic Kyburg Castle was the home to the influential Counts of Kyburg. When Kyburg dynasty died out in 1264 the castle was inherited by the Habsburg dynasty. In 1424 Kyburg Castle was acquired by Canton Zurich.

and Zwingli involved baptism. Grebel and others believed infant baptism invalid since a newborn could not understand the implications of Christ's teachings. Despite not having a biblical basis, infant baptism was supported by the Reformed movement as well as in the Roman Catholic Church.

On 21 January 1525 Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, and Georg Blaurock baptized each other (the first adult baptisms in Reformation times) and began a new church set apart from the state. They called themselves the Swiss Brethern but were quickly nicknamed the *Wiedertäufer* or Anabaptists -- meaning rebaptized since they all had been baptized as infants and again as adults. The Mennonites, Amish, and Hutterites can trace their origins to the Anabaptist movement and the historic 1525 baptisms by Conrad Grebel and his fellow Swiss Brethren. A fervent missionary zeal had overtaken the Anabaptists, much to the displeasure of Reformers and their allied city and cantonal officials. Soon Zurich's city council forbade the Anabaptists from meeting, teaching or socializing. The persecution of the Anabaptists commenced. Special police forces known as the *Täuferjäger* (Anabaptist Hunters) were formed. The punishment in Zurich for adult baptism was drowning in the Limmat River – an ironic death by a “third baptism”. Felix Manz was drowned in 1527 -- the first casualty of the Zurich edict. Two years later Georg Blaurock was burned at the stake in Klausen in the Tyrol. Conrad Grebel had been imprisoned but escaped. He removed himself to less hostile environs of Maienfeld, Canton Graubunden. But Grebel died shortly thereafter of the plague in 1526, likely cheating the Zwingli forces of another victim. Grebel's friend and brother-in-law was **Joachim Vadian** (1484-1551) of St. Gallen, another esteemed Swiss intellectual from that period. (Grebel and Vadian had climbed the Pilatus together in 1518.) Despite his family connection to Grebel, Vadian rejected the Anabaptists but embraced the Reformation and was a correspondent and ally of Zwingli.

Jacob Grebel, Conrad's father and Vadian's father-in-law, was a powerful political figure in Zurich and a Zwingli supporter. While Jacob did not espouse his son's Anabaptist beliefs, he led a minority in the Zurich Council arguing for religious tolerance. Zwingli strongly opposed the accomodation of any competing religious practices, and soon saw Jacob Grebel as a potential enemy. The Zwingli forces had Jacob Grebel sentenced on spurious charges. Jacob Grebel was beheaded at Zurich's fish market on October 30, 1526, a victim of the complexities of religious, political and personal relationships of those transformational Reformation times.

