

Family History Notes

Fall 2014

Canton Glarus Labor Laws – 150 Years Ago

Many of our ancestors were still living in Canton Glarus in the mid-1800s at a time when factory labor standards were first being established. Glarus was one of the most heavily industrialized cantons in Switzerland with scores of spinning, weaving and fabric printing mills lining the valley floors. These factories employed men and women, young and old. Acknowledging abusive practices, Canton Glarus took the lead in social reforms aimed at controlling the exploitation of factory labor including women and children. One hundred and fifty years ago, in May of 1864, the Glarner *Landsgemeinde* (the annual assembly of citizens) voted against the wishes of the Canton Glarus government and established 12 hour working days and banned night shifts.

The following steps took place during this period:

1846: Prohibition by the Cantonal government of the employment of children under 12 years in mechanical spinning mills. At the same time night shifts were limited to 11 hours and day shifts at 13 hours.

1848: Confirmation of these rules by the *Landsgemeinde*.

1856: Extension of the work ban for children under 12 years in all factories.

1858: Prohibition of Sunday work.

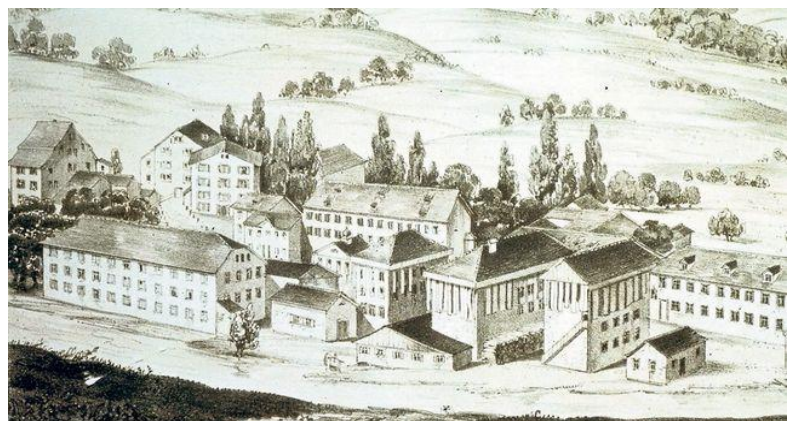
1864: Limited the working day to 12 hours with prohibition of night shifts. Women were provided with six weeks of time off before and after childbirth. This was dictated by the *Landsgemeinde* against the will of the Glarus governmental authorities.

1872: The *Landsgemeinde* set the working day at 11 hours.

1878: Federal laws, largely based upon the Glarus standards, set work days at 11 hours with restrictions for women and children. Federal factory inspectors were established to oversee compliance to laws.

On September 11-13, 2014, the *Glarner Wirtschaftsarchiv* (Glarner Industrial Archives) at Schwanden held a meeting dedicated to the understanding of the circumstances and consequences of the 1864 decisions.

Pictured is a sketch of the Blumer & Jenny textile factory complex of Schwanden. Notice the three *Hänggitürme* (textile drying towers) at the lower right. A short video (in Swiss-German) describing the Glarner *Wirtschaftsarchiv* and with a focus on the textile industry can be viewed by clicking on this link: [Glarner Wirtschaftsarchiv Video](#)

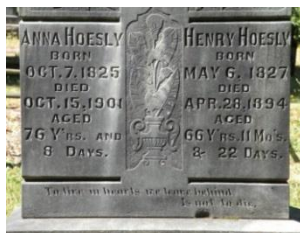


Grave Matters – Five Years Later

The Spring 2009 “Family History Notes” featured a short item entitled “Grave Matters” regarding a genealogical website called Find A Grave. Find A Grave is a useful tool when searching for U.S. cemetery information. At the time of the 2009 newsletter article there were 32 million grave memorials in the Find A Grave database. The site has flourished and today there are over 121 million graves listed. Approximately 1 million new memorials are created about every three weeks! What’s more the database has gotten more robust with additions of vital statistics, photographs and obituaries of the individual listings. Many of the listings now provide links to spouses, parents, children, and siblings.

The Find A Grave memorial at right for Peter Jenny can illustrate the information and linkages featured on Find A Grave. His son, John Jenny, is listed as a family link. By clicking on the name John Jenny, his memorial is then shown on the computer screen. You can then click on John’s wife, Ursula Baumgartner, or his children. And again by doing so, you will be taken to that individual’s memorial.

Find A Grave is an interesting tool but it is a work in progress. While the information is generally reliable, there are the inevitable misspellings (e.g. like Freuler not Freuller above) and likely incorrect linkages.



But the tool continues to get better thanks to the volunteer efforts of the tens of thousands of contributors with a genuine interest in local and family history.

In 2013 the 46 gravestones at the Swiss Historical Village were listed on Find A Grave along with a photograph of each. Thanks go to Ted Beckman for these additions. According to Find A Grave statistics, Ted has added 728 memorials and 769 photographs to their database.

Peter Jenni

Memorial Photos Flowers Share Edit

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Birth: Sep. 10, 1811
Death: Jan. 9, 1858

Family links:
Children:
John Jenny (1839 - 1908)**

*Calculated relationship

Inscription:
Husband of Sarah Freuller Jenni

Note: Gravestone was removed and placed at the Swiss Historical Village

Burial:
[Swiss Reformed Church Pioneer Cemetery](#)
New Glarus
Green County
Wisconsin, USA

Created by: [Ted Beckman](#)
Record added: Apr 05, 2013
Find A Grave Memorial# 107852822

Helen Keller’s Wisdom

Helen Keller was an inspiration. She graduated with honors from Radcliffe College despite being deaf and blind from the age of 19 months. She became a worldwide lecturer on behalf of the physically disabled. Keller once remarked, “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” Her remains rest in the columbarium of the National Cathedral in Washington D. C. Helen was the great-great granddaughter of eighteenth century immigrants Hans Conrad and Barbara (Glaar) Keller of Bassersdorf, Canton Zurich.

Familiar Names Capture Montana's Beauty

If you flew on Delta Airlines in August you may have seen their in-flight magazine article about Montana. You may have even stopped to look at the striking photograph of the fisherman on Montana's Big Hole River. But you probably didn't notice the small print identifying the photographer as Brian Grossenbacher.

Brian is the son of New Glarus native John Grossenbacher and was the grandson of New Glarus residents Paul and Verena (Elmer) Grossenbacher. Brian and wife Jenny live in Bozeman, Montana where they operate a fly-fishing outfitting and guide operation. Surrounded by over 700 miles of trout streams and rivers the Grossenbachers lead their clients to remote areas to fish for trout. Their most acclaimed patrons were likely Oprah Winfrey and her friend Gayle King (see photo below from the Grossenbacher website). Brian's love of the big rivers under the big skies of Montana is perhaps ordained – the Swiss name *Grossenbacher* means one from the big river.

For the past five years, Brian has become an accomplished photographer, mostly featuring Montana's outdoor scenery. He and Jenny were in the process of writing a fishing guide book and needed photographs. Brian bought a camera and took the needed photos . . . and started a new avocation in the process.

New Glarus native Todd Klassy has moved to Havre, Montana to pursue his passion with the camera. Todd explains that he considers "the gravel roads of Montana my home as I travel from one corner of the state to the other seeking interesting stories to capture with my camera."



Todd started photography as a hobby, taking shots of Wisconsin's scenery. People started taking notice of his artistic sensibilities. Todd can find the beauty in random pastoral scenes as well as finding more artistic expressions in patterns which he can spot and which are mostly overlooked by everyone else.

Todd's eye for patterns was perhaps inherited from his grandfather Arnold Wieser. Wieser owned and operated

the New Glarus factory which manufactured colorful Swiss embroideries, intricate laces and whose Swiss Miss Textile Mart sold countless yards of patterned fabrics. Todd is the son of Larry and Zenda (Wieser) Klassy.

Take a moment to enjoy the beauty found in the Grossenbacher and Klassy photographs. Just click on these links:

[Grossenbacher Photography Website](#)

[Todd Klassy Photography Website](#)

[Grossenbacher Guides Website](#)

George Hartman POW

For the American airmen interned during WWII at Switzerland's vile Wauwilermoos prison, the letters POW were less likely to mean "prisoner of war" than they were to mean "period of waiting" or "period of wondering". For until 2014 these men were never classified as prisoners of war due to the fact that Wauwilermoos prison was located in Switzerland, a non-belligerent country during the war. By military definition, a POW was an American held in an enemy country.

But after a toughly fought campaign the U. S. Department of Defense has relented and has at long last granted POW status to the airmen held at Wauwilermoos. The tenacity of Army Major Dwight Mears finally proved successful. It was Mears, an instructor of history at West Point and a grandson of a Wauwilermoos internee, who lobbied for years to get the POW status conferred upon those held at Wauwilermoos. Supporting Mears' arguments was the fact that conditions endured by the Americans in Wauwilermoos were equally as bad as or worse than those POW camps run by the Nazis. And on April 30, 2014 the 143 verified Wauwilermoos internees were granted POW status at a Pentagon ceremony. Eight of the dozen or so survivors were present.

Among those prisoners of Wauwilermoos was Uriah George Hartman (1921-2003; commonly known as George). Hartman, a Brodhead, WI native, married Lucille Disch of New Glarus after the war. They raised their family – Barbara, Mary, George, Margaret "Peg" and April – in New Glarus where he was a managing partner of Disch Hardware. Pictured is George Hartman (left), then serving as local Legion Commander, Florence Marty, President of the local Auxiliary, and Jake Bruni who was serving as County Commander at the 32nd anniversary of the Stuessy-Kuenzi Legion Post in 1951.



Those airmen who experienced damage to their plane or had run low on fuel while on bombing missions over southern Germany, often chose to land in neutral Switzerland rather than being forced down in enemy territory. Hartman and his fellow airmen guided their damaged aircraft into Swiss territory landing at the Swiss military base at Dübendorf near Zurich. At that point they became prisoners of the Swiss and sent to low

security internment facilities created from hotels in such Swiss resort towns as Davos and Adelboden.

Often these prisoners would attempt an escape. If re-captured by the Swiss these airmen were sent to a federal prison such as the one at Wauwilermoos, Canton Lucerne. Wauwilermoos was under the control of a sadistic man by the name of André Béguin said to be a Nazi sympathizer.

Hartman wrote the following regarding his Swiss confinement:

My name is Uriah George Hartman. I was a second Lieutenant in the 44th Bomb Group, 506th Squadron during World War II. We were flying B-24s. Our mission was a Friedrichshafen, Germany, right across the lake from Switzerland. We were shot down over the target and managed to nurse our plane into Switzerland, and landed at Dübendorf. We were interned at Adelboden and kept there for 4 months, after which we were transferred to Davos.

The first place we stayed at Adelboden was a resort hotel. Our food was just adequate, lacking protein and consisting more of greens than anything. We all lost weight. I personally lost 35 pounds. It was cold, and we slept in tents for a while. We borrowed mattresses that weren't in use and used them as blankets to keep warm at night.

Davos was in the Canton of Graubunden and we could hear the Allies bombing Austria. Our food there was fair, but no quantity. We all lost weight. There was medical care, but we had to go to them – no house calls. Five of us escaped from Davos but were caught at the border. We were put in Wauwilermoos, a prison camp similar to the camps in Germany. We were given a little pile of straw to put on the floor of the barracks to sleep on, and one blanket. The food was bad and inadequate. Medical attention was available only in town and they had to take us there, so it was pretty much nonexistent.

Uriah George Hartman

According to his children, George never talked about his war experiences.

Several years before he died, George asked his children to read the book “Black Hole of Wauwilermoos: An Airman’s Story” in an attempt for them to understand the treatment he and his fellow airmen had endured. This book written by fellow-internee Dan Culler

provides detailed accounts of the horrific conditions endured by the Americans. Culler’s body was covered with boils, he bled from every orifice, was severely malnourished, and endured insufficient heat and the lack of any hint of sanitary facilities. Treated more like an animal, Culler had wished he would die. Pictured is the camp gate leading into Wauwilermoos.



Ironies abound. It is ironic that Switzerland, the home of the International Red Cross, did not allow Red Cross food parcels to be given to the U.S. airmen so desperately in need of nourishment. The Swiss turned a blind eye to the mistreatment of the American airmen – again ironic given that the Geneva Convention was signed on Swiss soil. And it is ironic that one of the 143 Wauwilermoos internees made his home for over 50 years in America’s Little Switzerland.

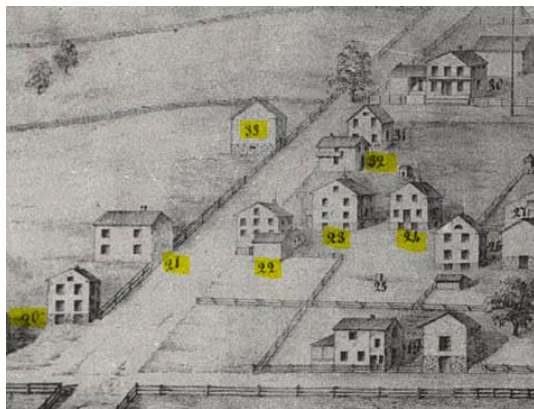
The shame of Wauwilermoos is a reminder that in all corners of the world there are chapters of history where a few bad actors operate with impunity resulting in unspeakable crimes against humanity. Peace to those who yet survive and peace to the memory of those deceased.

Hartman and Hartmann

George Hartman was not the first person with that surname to reside in New Glarus. In the early 1860s there was a family by the name of Vidal (sometimes spelled Fidal) who lived in a small frame building immediately north of the New Glarus Hotel. Mrs. Vidal was born Emma Hartmann (some sources say von Hartmann), the daughter of Ludwig Hartmann and Carolina Troxler of Lucerne. Emma Hartmann had married Eugen Vidal, an Austrian-born apothecary. The Vidal residence can be found on the early 1860s drawing of the village shown below.

It was reported in the “Family History Notes” of Spring 2010 that the Eugen and Emma Vidal were the great-grandparents of the late Gore Vidal. It now appears that Gore Vidal’s grandfather, Felix Vidal, was born during the brief period in which the Vidals lived in New Glarus. Felix was born in 1862. We know from the 1860 census that the Vidals lived in New Glarus. An 1863 Civil War list of persons subject to military duty recently compiled by Duane Freitag includes the name of peddler Eugenius Nidall (Eugen Vidal). An amusing note: the 1860 U.S. census for New Glarus includes the Vidal family and incorrectly lists Eugen’s birthplace as Australia not Austria!

The circa 1860 sketch of New Glarus shows 6th Avenue cutting across the image from the bottom to the top. Located approximately in the middle is the New Glarus Hotel (#23 on the illustration). Next door is the Vidal residence (#24). Across the street is the Mark Luchsinger blacksmith shop (#22) at the site of today’s Maple Leaf shop. Above the New Glarus Hotel is the Dr. Samuel Blumer residence (#32) and barn (#33). Dr. Blumer and Mark Luchsinger married Legler sisters, Katharina and Regula. The Legler residence is shown as #20 on the lower left of the sketch. And living at #21 was painter Thomas Voegeli.



Still standing today are the New Glarus Hotel, the Dr. Blumer house, and the log house directly west of Blumer’s.

A Nazi Connection -- Rudolf Hess

Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler’s Deputy, was an Egypt-born German with a quarter Swiss blood. Hess’ great-grandparents, Johannes and Agatha (Jenny) Bühler were Swiss. And Agatha was from Canton Glarus, the daughter of Johannes and Susanna (Blumer) Jenny of Sool.

The Nazis seized power in Germany on January 30, 1933. And just months later an article appeared in the July 4, 1933 “*Neue Glarner Zeitung*” apparently relating the news of Hess’ position in the new German government and his connection to Canton Glarus.

By his Jenny roots, Hess was related, albeit distantly, with several Jenny branches who settled in New Glarus. Peter Jenny, whose gravestone is in the Swiss Historical Village cemetery was the first cousin of Hess’ great-grandmother, Agatha Jenny. (See Peter Jenny grave marker photograph on page 2 in this issue.)

Rudolf Hess died in 1987 of an apparent suicide in Berlin’s Spandau Prison

Berne Swissfest

Keeping ethnic traditions alive is a challenge particularly as population demographics change. In Manhattan the area known as “Little Italy” was once the home to a sizeable Italian population known for their restaurants, delicatessens, festivals and social clubs. The 2000 census indicated that only 6% of Little Italy was Italian-American with only 44 Italian-born individuals. Today a handful of Italian restaurants and shops struggle to hold onto the one-time heritage of the area.

In Berne, Minnesota, the Zwingli United Church of Christ has ended the 58 year run of its Swissfest. This annual summer event was the major fundraiser for the church. At its peak the festival drew more than 10,000 people, including numerous busloads, to enjoy the foods and music of Berne’s Swiss.

But declining attendance led to less festival revenue. And a declining work force to plan and run the event has caused the Zwingli members to take a new and innovative approach to fund raising. The congregation has constructed a brick wood-fired oven for pizza. During the summer months, every Wednesday night is “wood-fired pizza” night. Pizzas are served picnic-style and a variety of entertainment is provided. One of the Berne wood-fired pizzas is shown at left.



And to celebrate and maintain the Swiss roots of the Berne area, the first pizza night in August features Swiss entertainment, a “Swiss” pizza, and *Brätzeli*. The Swiss of Berne have managed to retain a piece of their ethnic past while charting a new path into their future.

Although Berne, MN was named after the homeland of many of the early Berner immigrants to that area of Dodge County, Minnesota, there were also many Glarners who settled in this area. And many of them came from New Glarus. Oswald and Margaretha (Hefti) Baumgartner and most of their children left New Glarus and made Dodge County, MN their home. The Baumgartner family built the New Glarus Hotel in 1853 which they operated for several years. Across the street, Marcus (Mark) Luchsinger operated New Glarus’ first blacksmith shop. Mark Luchsinger and his wife, Regula Legler (pictured), also moved from New Glarus to Dodge County, MN. Regula was an original 1845 colonist of New Glarus arriving at age 6 with her parents, Johann Caspar and Agatha (Speich) Legler. The Baumgartners and the Luchsingers are buried in the Berne church cemetery. Numerous other Glarners residing in the Berne area bore such well-known names as Streiff, Wichser, Schindler, Schiesser, Knobel, Kubly, Durst, Stuessy, Figi, Babler and Kundert.



A Stern Admonition

Johann Caspar Legler and family were among the first settlers of New Glarus in 1845. Their small frame home (seen as #20 on the sketch on page 6) stood until the 1930s when it was razed in order to build the Knobel Garage -- Brenda’s Blumenladen today. In 1850 Legler received a stern admonition from newly arrived Reverend Wilhelm Streissguth of the New Glarus Swiss Reformed Church. It seems that the Legler’s teenaged daughter, Katharina was living unmarried with Dr. Samuel Blumer. Blumer was New Glarus’ first doctor, a widower, and a man fourteen years her senior.

Rev. Streissguth wrote to the Church Commission back in Canton Glarus in September of 1850.



Included in his report was the Blumer/Legler case. *“We have a critical case in the notorious Dr. Blumer who, after having been away for quite some time, has suddenly settled here again. For two years now he has been living in sin and also in discord with a very young daughter [the girl Katharina Legler] even though this is punishable by law here with a fine of \$300 or a two year jail term. Although he is not a member of the parish, I have just the same, because of the open scandal, sent a friendly reminder and a stern warning to his father-in-law [Johann Caspar Legler] that the legal, civil marriage must be consummated.”*

It is not certain that a marriage, whether civil or religious, ever took place. The Swiss Church records do not cite a definitive marriage date for Dr. Blumer and Katharina Legler. But their relationship was most certainly consummated – they had 8 children born between 1849 and 1868. Dr. Blumer died in 1871 and Katharina (pictured) died in 1904.

Swiss Steak Revealed

Did you ever wonder where in Switzerland Swiss Steak originated? Well, it's not Swiss. The named Swiss Steak is more accurately “Swissed” Steak. Swissing is a rolling process used in the textile industry to yield a smooth and compact cotton texture. Similarly a piece of meat like inexpensive round steak is pounded and flattened (i.e. Swissed) to yield a more tender piece of meat. The Swiss Steak is braised which also helps break down the tough connective tissue. A tough piece of steak can also be tenderized by running it through a set of blades which cut through the tough connective tissue. This is generally known as cube steak or minute steak.

According to “American Century Cookbook: The Most Popular Recipes of the 20th Century” by culinary historian and author Jean Anderson, the recipe for a rudimentary Swiss Steak first appeared in print in 1915. Anderson points out that this 1915 recipe does not closely resemble what we have come to recognize as Swiss Steak. However a 1934 recipe, attributed to radio’s “mystery chef” John MacPherson, does.

The Swiss Diminutive

Loni (Geiger) Oliver, a Belleville native, sent an interesting and amusing email recently which highlighted the everyday Swiss use of the diminutive form of words and pet names. Loni recalled the way her Swiss-born grandmother, Louise (Baertschi) Eggimann would add an –li to words. Loni became *Lonili*. Brother Tom became *Tomili*. Fortunately, brother Hal remained Hal (not *Halili!!*). In another email, Otto Puempel recalled his Swiss-born grandmother calling him *Ottili*.

Loni listed various pet names which demonstrate the Swiss –li diminutive: *Anke-Flöckli* (little butter flake), *Böhnli* (little bean), *Chnuschperli* (little crunchy thing), *Chröttli* (little toad), *Dickerli* (little fat one), *Dummerli* (little stupid one), *Herzchäferli* (little heart bug), *Murmeli* (little groundhog), *Müüsli* (little mouse), *Schnäggli* (little snail), *Seelewärmerli* (little soul warmer), *Stinkerli* (little stinky one), *Zuckerschnäuzli* (little sugar moustache), and *Zwergli* (little dwarf). Such fun words!

These lists of Swiss diminutive words go on and on. A Swiss miss may be called a *Meiteli* and a Swiss lad is a *Büebli*. A small animal or pet is a *Tierli* such as *Chätzli* und *Hündli* (cats and dogs). Remember the goats *Schwänli* (little swan) and *Bärli* (little bear) in the story of Heidi?



How about those well-known throat-challenging Swiss words *Chuchicäschtli* und *Chäschüechli* (kitchen cupboard and cheese pie)?

Swiss cookery is full of diminutives such as *Brötli* (bread or roll), *Knöpfli* or *Flädli* (dumplings), *Müesli* (granola) and not to be confused with *Müüsli* (see above!), *Fastnachtküchli* (pre-Lenten cookies), *Guetzli* (more holiday cookies), and the

melt-in-your mouth cookies known as *Luxemburgerli* (pictured; Swiss version of the French *macaron*) made by the *Confiserie Sprüngli*.

You may own a *Guggerzytli* (cuckoo clock) hanging on your *Stübli* (living room) wall. Your activities may include taking *Föteli* (photographs), picking a *Strüssli* (bouquet) of *Blüemli* (flowers) or drinking a *Gläsli Schnäppli* (a glass of schnapps).

From old Glarus we know of *Glarnertüechli* (kerchiefs), *Zigerstöckli* (cones of *Schabziger*) and *Vrenelisgärtli* (a summit of the Glärnisch known as Verena's garden). In New Glarus we have the *Vorderstädtli* (front town) and the *Hinterstädtli* (back town) and have known (or heard of) folks named *Vrenli*, *Fridli*, *Bartli* and *Bäschli*. The Hofer house bears the saying "*Us' Stückli Heimat*" (a little piece of the homeland) sort of a Swiss "Home Sweet Home".

By the way, isn't *Zwergli*, or little dwarf, redundant? Time for a little break . . . *ufs Hüsli gaa!*

Voegeli Family

Even Swiss family names often take the diminutive form. In Canton Glarus you will find families by the name of Vögeli, Hämmerli, Hösli and Fischli. Elsewhere in Switzerland (and Green County, Wisconsin) you will encounter people by the name of Brauchli, Zimmerli, Kehrli, Stampfli and Schlafli. The name Vögeli means little bird and the family crest (pictured) depicts the same. The Vögeli name in Canton Glarus is linked most often to the villages of Linthal and Rüti and it is also found in a number of different Swiss cantons. In America the name is generally spelled Voegeli. However, given that the German pronunciation of "v" sounds like "f" there are various American spellings of the Vögeli name which begin with "f" such as Fegley and Figley.



Perhaps the best known of the Voegeli immigrants to the New Glarus area were Jost and Barbara (Obrecht) Voegeli. Jost and Barbara married in Switzerland in February of 1853 and arrived in America on the ship Siddons in May of the same year. The Voegelis were in the company of many Rüti families including Schindlers, Heitzs and a large contingent of Kunderts. They began a farm south of New Glarus in 1854 and that farm – perhaps one of the most famous in Green County – is now in the fifth generation of Voegeli stewardship with a sixth generation already in training.

Jost and Barbara had a large family of 16 children with only one dying as a small child. The farm passed from Jost and Barbara to son and daughter-in-law Jacob and Verena (Freitag) Voegeli. It was Jacob who began the tradition of Brown Swiss cattle on the farm beginning in 1895. In the following generation the farm passed to brothers Walter and Jake Voegeli and their wives Lydia Blum and Lillian Weiss. Jake's son Howard and his wife Alice Lien continued the family tradition with their Brown Swiss. The farm took a decidedly entrepreneurial turn when the Voegelis started shipping cattle, embryos and semen throughout the world.



Beside the family farm, Howard Voegeli's legacy includes his role in the formation of the World Dairy Expo held annually since 1971 in Madison, WI. He was a tireless proponent of the Expo dedicating hours to making the event even bigger and better. For many years he served on the Expo's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Howard was able to witness the World Dairy Expo become what he had hoped – a worldwide exchange of ideas and marketplace of technologies to help sustain family dairy farms.

Today, Howard and Alice's sons Jimmy and Bryan operate the 180-head dairy operation and have made a serious commitment toward continuing the stewardship of the land and love of the animals. Pictured above is the Voegeli farm taken from Hefty Road in August of 2014.

Other descendants of Jost and Barbara Voegeli included son William Voegeli who married Regula née Voegeli. They operated a Monticello saloon around the turn of the last century (see photo). Grandson Leon Voegeli began the Voegeli automobile dealership in Monticello.



Great-grandson Richard (Dick) Voegeli operated the Swiss Maid Cheese Shop in New Glarus. Another great-grandson Frederick Voegeli operated the Voegeli Funeral Home in Monticello. And yet another great-grandson Don Voegeli was a musician connected for many years with the Wisconsin School of the Air where he accompanied students all over the state during their over-the-air music classes. Don also originated the theme for the NPR's "All Things Considered" -- a theme heard daily across America since the radio show debuted in 1971.

Another Voegeli briefly mentioned in New Glarus history was a scoundrel. Mathäus Voegeli of Rütli married Barbara Duerst in 1848. Later that same year a pregnant Barbara immigrated to New Glarus with her recently widowed father, Johann Jacob Duerst of Diesbach. Barbara had a promise from her husband that he would follow shortly. Her husband, despite his promise, didn't follow Barbara. He remained in Glarus and later married his mistress, Rosina Elmer. The following is the notation from the Glarus records regarding Barbara and her husband: *"1848 wanderte [Johann Jakob] Dürst nach Amerika aus, mit ihm auch die verheiratete Tochter Barbara alliée Vögeli, deren Ehemann hätte nachfolgen sollen, da sie in gesegneten Umständen war. Er blieb aber trotz seinem Versprechen in Glarus, wo er dann seine Meisterin heiratete."*

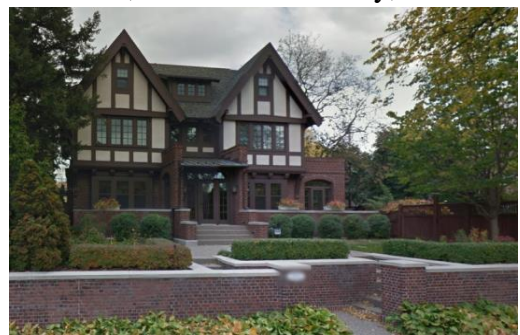
Barbara's name is found in the New Glarus census of 1850. There is no indication of a Voegeli baby so it is assumed the baby died. Barbara received a divorce in 1852 and married Andreas Hoesly the following year. The Swiss Church records make no mention of a previous marriage or baby. Barbara and Andreas were married for 46 years when Barbara passed away.

Other Voegeli families who immigrated from Canton Glarus to this area included Johannes and Regula (Schindler) Voegeli, Fridolin and Sara (Kundert) Voegeli, Josua and Katharina (Schiesser) Voegeli, Balthasar and Regula (Kundert) Voegeli, and Balthasar's sisters Elsbeth Voegeli (Mrs. Johann Thomas Kundert) and Salome Voegeli (Mrs. David Schindler).

Balthasar Voegeli, son of Fridolin and Sara, died at the age of 20 in a Frederick, MD hospital during the Civil War. Also serving in the Civil War were brothers Tobias and Gabriel Voegeli originally from Linthal and the sons of Thomas and Elsbeth (Elmer) Voegeli. They were likely the brothers of painter Thomas Voegeli who lived in New Glarus (see house #21 on the 1860 sketch on page 6). None of these Voegeli brothers remained in New Glarus. Tobias (pictured) went to Fountain City, WI where he served as postmaster. Gabriel and Thomas left for South Dakota.



Tobias Voegeli of Fountain City had two sons, Thomas and Henry, who were pharmacists in Minneapolis. At one point the brothers had four drug stores including one at the corner of Hennepin and Washington in downtown Minneapolis. Thomas paid a record high price of \$20000 for a lot in the well-heeled Kenwood section of the city. The handsome home (pictured) of pharmacist Thomas Voegeli is located at the corner of Logan and Douglas Avenues southwest of downtown Minneapolis.



Bernhard Vögeli and the Tödi

The following was taken from "The Alpine Journal", Volume X, edited by W. A. B. Coolidge. London, 1882. Here is a link to the [online Alpine Journal](#). See pages 303-306 for more detail.

"The first ascent of the Tödi [highest peak in Canton Glarus] from the north is one of the most plucky feats in Alpine climbing performed by a party of peasants of their own impulse.

On August 12, 1837, three peasants came to the Stachelberg [a hotel and spa at Linthal] and declared that on the preceding Thursday (August 10) they had reached the summit. These were Bernhard Vögeli, an active man in spite of his three score years and bearing the reputation of a bold hunter and climber; Gabriel Vögeli, his son; and Thomas Thut, a cousin of the guide of that name who had taken part in many previous attempts, both accounted skillful hunters and good cragsmen.

When they were doubted, Bernhard Vögeli, in simple but earnest language, told the story of the ascent. From his earliest youth, he said, he had desired to ascent this mountain, which was touched first by the rising and last by the setting sun."

Bernhard Vögeli (1778-1847) was the father of New Glarus/Monticello farmer Jost Voegeli. The elder Vögeli was a chamois hunter (*Gemsjäger*) and wild hay cutter (*Wildheuer*) and thus possessed intimate knowledge of the mountains above Linthal.

Melchior Thut – The Glarner Giant of Ludwigsburg

(Note: The subject of the following story, Melchior Thut, was the great-uncle the aforementioned Tobias Voegeli and the great-great uncle of farmer Jost Voegeli. This tale also serves as a counterpoint to the item regarding Swiss diminutives.)

Melchior Thut was born in 1736 in Tierfehd at the extreme end of the Linthal valley in Canton Glarus, the son of Heinrich and Magdalena (Knobel) Thut. His first 16 years took a decidedly diminutive form. It was said that even at age 16 Melchior's stature was so slight that the minister did not want to confirm him. But a subsequent illness changed everything. The doctor treated Melchior with what was probably mercury. And immediately Melchior grew and grew. He eventually attained a height of 7 feet 7 inches. (Former NBA player Yao Ming is 7 feet 6 inches.)

Thut was enticed by a man named Vögeli to go to Holland and let the curious Dutch pay to see his gigantic stature. Thut's parents approved of this scheme with an offering of money and the prospect of one less (giant) mouth to feed. Vögeli promised that Melchior would receive a percentage of the income and further predicted that Melchior would return to Tierfehd a wealthy man. In Holland Thut was put on display in Rotterdam followed by various fairs and carnivals. But the money didn't follow. Business was disappointing and Vögeli "sold" Thut to a Berliner who shortly thereafter released Thut to his own devices.

In the course of seeking employment, it had been suggested to Melchior Thut that he might contact the eccentric Karl Eugen Duke of Württemberg. The Duke collected oddities and it was felt Melchior might appeal to the Duke. And so he did. For 12 years Thut was employed by the extravagant Duke and lived in the fairy-tale world at Karl Eugen's baroque palace of



Ludwigsburg. There Thut became known as the "Giant of Ludwigsburg". Duke Karl Eugen brought Thut into his closest circle of servants. In fact, Thut served as *Kammertürk* (perhaps defined as valet) to the Duke. Today visitors entering the *Märchengarten* at Ludwigsburg are greeted by a statue of Thut (pictured).

Due to severe back pains, Thut left the service of the Duke in 1777. He returned home to Tierfehd and to the hard physical labor demanded of the Glarner farmers. As a "giant" Thut was expected to do more of the heavy work. However his bad back got worse. Thut returned to the world of side shows in London and Bristol, where he finally achieved a measure of financial success. Upon learning of the impending death of his mother Melchior Thut returned to Tierfehd. He arrived too late – finding only her grave. In 1784 Thut traveled to Vienna where he became ill and died. He was only 48 years old. It has been reported that his skeleton has been preserved in Vienna.

The 1988 historical novel "*Der Riese im Baum*" (The Giant in the Tree), written by Glarus author Eveline Hasler, told Thut's story, and has helped preserve his unique place in Glarner history.