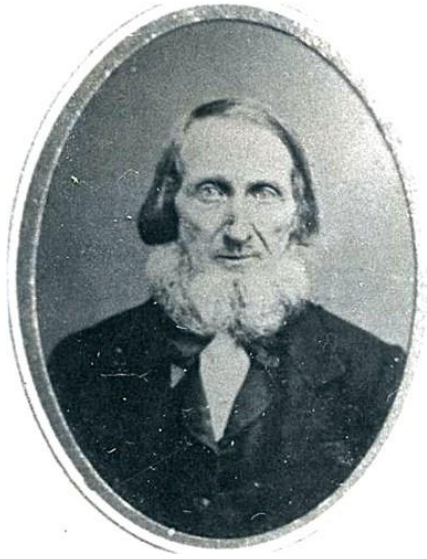


Family History Notes

Fall 2015

Staley Family

Around the mid-1850s the family of Jonas S. and Hannah (Cronn) Staley arrived in the Town of Exeter from their native New Jersey. An 1861 map of Exeter shows that J. Staly (sic) owned the northeast quarter (160 acres) of Section 21. This location today is at the southeast corner of the



intersection of County CC and Tunnel Road. (Tunnel Road is so named as it is the closest public road to the Illinois Central's Stewart Tunnel.)

According to Staley family records on Ancestry.com, Jonas and Hannah had 11 children over a span of twenty years.

Several of their little children died and several others married and moved away from Exeter. But three sons, Jeremiah, Charles and Jonas, remained in this area. Jonas S. and Hannah (pictured above) are buried in the Montrose Cemetery.

Jonas S. Staley's ancestry is possibly Swiss. Swiss immigrants by the name of Stähli or Stehli became Staley in America. Several Ancestry.com family trees show this Staley branch originating in Maschwanden, Canton Zurich. Unfortunately, the Ancestry.com trees are largely unsubstantiated and less than definitive.

Jeremiah (Jerry) Staley was born in New Jersey in 1843 and served with the Wisconsin 42nd Co. F in the Civil War. He married French-born Leona (or Leonia) Laroque in 1866, the daughter of François and Julia (Carteret) Laroque. Jeremiah was a farmer who owned the land to the west of his father. (The 1902 Green County plat book mis-transcribed Jeremiah Staley as Jenny Italey!) Jeremiah and Leona's children were George, Francis (Frank), Jonas, Della and Eugene, who all married into the Swiss community – George married Amanda Barbara Kundert, brothers Frank and Jonas married sisters Lillie and Martha Schwander, Della married Jacob S. Disch, and Eugene married Clara Reuter. Jonas Staley has a curious legacy courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The WHS owns a 1947 image of Jonas holding a shovel. Today, if your WHS online search is in error, a webpage appears featuring Jonas and his shovel stating "Error: File Not Found. We dug around and couldn't find the page you were looking for . . .". See screen shot on next page.

Jonas S. and Hannah Staley's son Charles Staley was born in Wisconsin and married Hannah Hamm (or Ham) the daughter of early Exeter residents William and Clarissa (Tourdot) Hamm. Their children included Fred G. (married Rosina Becker), George (married Anna Frelin) and Pearl Staley (married William Klassy).



404 Error: File Not Found

We dug around and couldn't find the page you were looking for ...



Jonas Staley Holding Shovel, 1947

But we can help you get to the right place.

- [Search the website](#)
- [Email us your question](#)
- [Go to the home page](#)

Jonas Staley, son of Jonas S. and Hannah, was born in Wisconsin and married Margaret Wallace. The Wallaces were among the Irish and Scots Irish who settled in Exeter. (Margaret's aunt, Elizabeth (Moore) Wallace wrote of the early Irish settlement.) Jonas and Margaret's grandson Charles became Major Chuck Staley, a WWII hero who flew 74 escort and ground attack missions. On June 6, 1944 – D-Day – Staley was in the air and saw the sun rise over Normandy. Jonas and Margaret Staley's granddaughter, Theresa, married Raymond Duerst of New

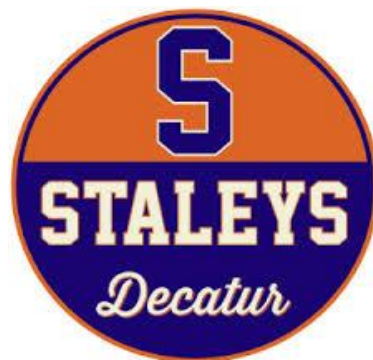
Glarus.

Exeter's Ace family are also Staley descendants. Jonas S. Staley's sister, Mary Staley, married Jacob Ace in 1832. After Mary's death in New Jersey, Jacob Ace and son Elijah relocated to Exeter. In 1902, the Staleys and Aces owned all of the farms located at the intersection of County CC and Tunnel Road as well as two Ace farms at County CC and County W.

Augustus E. Staley and the "Decatur Staleys"

Another Staley with likely Swiss Stähli roots was Augustus Eugene (Gene) Staley the founder of the A. E. Staley starch company. Staley had a hardscrabble boyhood in North Carolina, growing up on a farm picking tobacco worms, shucking corn and picking cotton. At most he attended school for two months a year. As a young man, Staley sold grocery items including starch. He began buying the starch in bulk and repackaging it in consumer sizes. His sales were so successful that he feared his competitors would see to it his starch supply was cut off. So Staley bought a defunct Decatur, IL plant and began manufacturing his own starch supply. Staley saw a bright future in consumer and commercial starch products. His company flourished becoming a world giant in corn and soy products.

Perhaps Gene Staley's most unlikely role in history was his 1919 formation of the company football team, the Decatur Staleys. Staley hired George Halas in 1920 and Halas took the Staleys to Chicago the following year where they became the Chicago Staleys. Halas purchased the team rights from Staley for \$100 and renamed the team the Chicago Bears. And the rest is history.



The A. E. Staley's ancestry is also documented by several trees posted Ancestry.com. These trees also show a Swiss origin from Stehli or Stähli families.

Stähli from Canton Glarus

Stähli is a family name found in the village of Netstal in Canton Glarus. In fact one of the most handsome homes in the canton is the *Stählihaus* found in Netstal. Its half-timbered design known as *Riegelbau* is uncommon for Canton Glarus -- more often seen in Canton Zürich. The builders of the *Stählihaus* were politically-connected brothers Christian and Johannes Stähli. The 1728 structure is protected under Swiss law as a historical landmark.



Today the charming *Stählihaus* is offered as a short term rental on the Airbnb website. The *Stählihaus* accommodates 4 people and costs \$131 per night. The *Gastgeber* (innkeeper) is Peter, an artist and collector, whose art and collectibles decorate the home's interior.

The surname Stähli was not a common Canton Glarus surname found here in Green County. But at least one Stähli did immigrate here. She was Maria Magdalena Stähli (1857-1946), the daughter of Caspar Josef and Maria Afra (Freuler) Stähli. She had married Johann Peter Kubli of Elm in

1882. They immigrated in 1885 to a farm in the Town of Clarno where they raised three children – John Peter, Magdalena (Lena) and Rudolf Kubly. Daughter Lena was a domestic servant for the Henry and Sophia Kubly family (no relation) and in this household (per the 1910 census) was 9 year old Raymond R. Kubly who would later found The Swiss Colony. Lena Kubly married Henry Kubly's brother, Martin Kubly in 1914.

A descendant of this Green County Stähli and Kubly connection is William (Bill) Kubly, a Monroe native and resident of Lincoln, NB. Bill Kubly is a landscape architect who has built one of the most prestigious golf course and recreational construction firms in the nation. Kubly's Landscapes Unlimited has participated in the construction and planning of some of the most famous courses of the past few decades such as Sand Hills and Sutton Bay. Sand Hills was an unlikely proposition situated in remote Nebraska. But it has become one of the most desirable golf destinations in the country. Sutton Bay lies along the Missouri River in South Dakota and has developed a strong reputation as another premier Midwest golfing destination. Kubly has partnered with Arnold Palmer and Palmer's Signature Design course at Arbor Links in Nebraska and currently they are building the Hasley Canyon project near Los Angeles.

Swiss-American Stehli Connections with Silk Fabrics, the Ship Titanic and Hollywood

Rudolf Stehli-Hausheer was a silk industry pioneer in his village of Obfelden, Canton Zurich. He began a Swiss silk empire which has been carried on by successive generations of Stehli. Their silk holdings later extended to the United States where the Stehli were silk importers and silk manufacturers. At one time their plant in Lancaster, PA was the largest such silk plant in the world. The massive Stehli plant stands idle today, a promising but as of yet unsuccessful target of historic preservationists.

Margaretha and Emil Stehli Jr. were the grandchildren of silk pioneer Rudolf Stehli-Hausheer and the children of manufacturer Emil Stehli-Hirt. Emil Jr. worked for the family firm along with Margaretha's husband Max Frölicher. In April of 1912, Margaretha, Max and daughter Hedwig were traveling in a first-class cabin on the maiden voyage of the White Star Line's RMS Titanic. The family survived the famous disaster, having been put into lifeboats and then rescued by the Cunard Lines' RMS Carpathia.

A different Emil Stehli was a Swiss-born silk importer of Montclair, NJ. He was a cousin of



Margaretha Frölicher-Stehli. Emil Stehli's son Edgar did not desire a career in silk. Rather, Edgar became a stage and film actor. While he never achieved a great deal of notoriety in the acting profession, he has one of those character actor faces which many film viewers will recognize. Pictured is Edgar Stehli and another actor with Swiss roots, Yul Brynner, in the film "The Brothers Karamazov". On the stage Stehli originated the role of Dr. Einstein in the dark comedy classic "Arsenic and Old Lace." Stehli was not offered in the film role – that role went to Peter Lorre.

Actor Edgar Stehli also started a Christmas tree farm on some property which the family had purchased as a weekend getaway.

The Stehli Christmas tree farm still operates today on 15 acres. Coincidentally, this tree farm is located in Sussex County, NJ – the same location as the birthplace of Exeter pioneer Jonas S. Staley.

Kienholz near Brienz

There is a section of the village of Brienz, Canton Bern called Kienholz from which a legend emanated and a family originated. A local Brienzler tale describes an event which took place many centuries ago and of which there are numerous variations. Here is an adaptation of one of the versions published by Albert Streich of Brienz:

WHEN THE TOWN KIENHOLZ WAS BURIED

On a warm summer Sunday many hundred years ago, a man came down from the alps and into the Berner Oberland village of Kienholz. He told the people to be watchful of the mountains above. Towards the evening, thunder and a dark grey cloud appeared in the blue sky. Everyone who lived in Kienholz fled from their houses. One of the mountains collapsed and an avalanche filled the valley. Kienholz had been buried underneath the uncontrolled mudflow of the Lammbach River. The castle Kien was crushed, and mud and stones covered the town so completely nothing more could be seen. It now looked like a desert. Nothing more indicated that there ever was a town there, so great was the devastation.

A merchant wagon arriving in the region of Brienz passed through Kienholz after the town was buried. The merchant and his dogs travelled over the rocks and mud that covered Kienholz. One of the dogs started to dig on the side of the road. On the return trip the dog started digging at the same spot. Every time they passed in the next few days the dog repeated this act. Finally the owner of the dog reported the dog's behavior to the officials in Brienz. Hearing of this the Brienz officials sent some men to Kienholz to excavate. Toward evening they dug out a brick house. It was the cellar of the Kienholz pub. Within the cellar they found an old man and little boy who were still alive!

The old man was brought to Brienz where he explained how he and the boy were taken unaware, and how they survived off cheese and wine stored there and drinking the water which had dripped down through the stones. It seemed to the old man as if they had been buried for many years. They would have had food for only three more weeks. Three days later the old man died. Some surmised it was because he couldn't stand the daylight anymore. The little boy recovered. As a memory of the strange happenings, the city officials changed the boy's family name Schneitter to Kienholz. The little boy married, raised a family and from that time the family name Kienholz was established in Brienz.

In the mid-1850s various Kienholz families of Brienz immigrated to America. Brothers Ulrich and Peter Kienholz and families settled in the vicinity of Berne, Dodge County, MN. Another Peter Kienholz and family settled in Wisconsin, in what is known as Mormon Coulee just south of La Crosse. There were several other families from Brienz who settled in Mormon Coulee including family names such as Schild, Amacher, Eggler, Michel, and Flick (Flück). All of these names can still be found on Brienz's main street today. Incidentally, immigrant Peter Kienholz was the son of Peter Kienholz of Brienz and Anna Stähli of Interlaken. There is that Stähli name again, this time of Canton Bern origin.

High School Faculty

Julia O. Hauser
History and German
LaCrosse, Wis. — High School.
LaCrosse, Wis. — State Normal
School.



Elizabeth Kienholz of Mormon Coulee, the daughter of Peter and Magdalena (Schild) Kienholz, married John E. Hauser, the son of Emanuel and Maria (Lanz) Hauser.

The Hausers were also of Berner origin hailing from the village of Wiedlisbach. The Hausers farmed immediately north of La Crosse near Onalaska and their farm remained in family hands for several generations until it was swallowed up by the construction of Interstate 90. New Glarus High School teacher a century ago was Julia Hauser (photo from the 1917 NGHS yearbook) the daughter of John E. and Elizabeth (Kienholz) Hauser. Julia did not remain in New Glarus. She married Swiss native John (Hans) Zumstein and they later lived in Tillamook, OR.



University of Wisconsin Meat and Animal Science Professor Edward R. Hauser (pictured) was the grandson of John and Elizabeth (Kienholz) Hauser. Ed Hauser, proud of his Swiss ancestry, was a devoted guide at the Swiss Historical Village in New Glarus after his retirement from academia. It was his wise counsel and encouragement which led me to write down history rather than pass it along conversationally. Ed passed away in 2014 at the age of 98.

While the Swiss communities in the La Crosse area are mostly memories there are two tangible links to the Kienholz and Hauser families. Each family began a small cemetery. The Kienholz Cemetery is located in Mormon Coulee on Highway 14 one mile east of Blumer Mill Road. The Hauser Cemetery, where Ed Hauser was interred, is located on Domke Street (just off of Oak Street) in Onalaska, WI.

Matt Blumer of Mormon Coulee

Mentioned in the Kienholz family article was Blumer Mill Road. Miller Mathias (Matt) Blumer, a native of Engi, Canton Glarus was born to Mathias and Katharina (Baumgartner) Blumer in 1832. It was said he went to the California gold rush in 1849 and later arrived in La Crosse in 1854 where he operated the City Hotel and later the American Hotel prior to becoming a miller at Mormon Coulee. Matt Blumer was an inventor and in the 1890s, shortly before his death in 1898, he was awarded a patent for a vegetable slicer. This slicer held commercial promise and was actually manufactured for sale to hotels and restaurants for the in-house production of Saratoga chips. Saratoga chips were a popular novelty of the time. We call them potato chips today!

World's Best Pumpkin Pie Is Made With Pet Milk

This story is a bit of culinary history harkening back to the days when housewives began their pumpkin pie-making process with an actual pumpkin. They also reached for a pantry staple – evaporated milk. The canned evaporated milk (also referred to as condensed milk) was an indispensable ingredient in the days before refrigeration. And canned milk was a memory of war days when the product was known to soldiers as the “tin cow”. Canned evaporated milk and sweetened condensed milk were also widely used in the tropics (think key lime pie and Cuban or Vietnamese coffee) where it provided shelf-stable solution to an otherwise perishable product. And the evaporated milk was made at condensing plants such as the ones in New Glarus, Monticello, Belleville, Albany and Monroe. Pet Milk operated its condensery in New Glarus from 1910 until 1961.

Two of the favorite uses of Pet Milk were for homemade fudge and pumpkin pie. The pumpkin pie recipe reprinted from the 1933 Pet recipe book used steamed pumpkin, a variety of spices, and was sweetened with molasses and sugar. The November 10, 1956 recipe printed just prior to Thanksgiving in the “Afro American” newspaper suggested either form of pumpkin – cooked or canned. In a more modern recipe the steamed pumpkin was replaced with canned pumpkin, the mix of spices replaced with a pumpkin pie spice blend, and the molasses and sugar were replaced with brown sugar.

1933 Pet recipe:

1 egg
¾ cup sugar
2 T molasses
½ t salt
½ t cinnamon
¼ t nutmeg
¼ t ginger
1 ½ cups steamed pumpkin
5/8 cup Pet Milk diluted with equal amount water

Contemporary Pet recipe:

1 large egg
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
½ t salt
2 T all-purpose flour
2 ¼ t pumpkin pie spice
1 15 oz. can pumpkin
1 can PET Evaporated Milk

World's best pumpkin pie is made with Pet Milk

By LOUISE R. PROTHRO
Pet Milk Home Economist

How would you like to make the world's best pumpkin pie? I know it sounds like a mighty big claim, but believe me, you can!

And here's the recipe to help you do it—Pet Milk's recipe for pumpkin pie.

This is the recipe that gives you a delicate, rich, custardy filling—full of delicious pumpkin flavor and spiced just right—every single time you make it!

Of course, it's not hard to see why this pumpkin pie is extra good, because it's made with Pet Evaporated Milk. And that means you get twice the richness that you'd get with ordinary milk.

You don't even need extra egg richness when you use double-rich Pet Milk, so this recipe calls for only one egg.

EVEN THOUGH Pet Milk's pumpkin pie is easy to make, your results will be a creamier, smoother, better-textured pumpkin pie than any you ever tasted.

So don't wait for a special occasion; treat your family to a perfect, old-fashioned pumpkin pie real soon!

PUMPKIN PIE

¾ cup brown sugar
1 tbsp. flour
¼ tsp. salt
2¼ tsps. pumpkin pie spice
1½ cups cooked or canned pumpkin
1½ cups Pet Evaporated Milk
1 slightly beaten egg
1 9-inch unbaked pastry shell

Mix in a bowl the brown sugar, flour, salt and pumpkin pie spice. Add pumpkin, milk and egg. Stir until smooth. Pour into a nine-inch pie pan lined with unbaked pastry. Bake on center rack of 375 degree oven (high moderate) about 45 minutes, or until firm.

Ga. 4-Hers ok plans for \$200,000 edifice

Les Paul's Friend Harley

(From a story shared by Jen Weinstein) "I was probably in my early twenties when my friend and band director, Harley Streiff, told us of a small concert that Les Paul was playing at McDougal's Restaurant in Ramsey [New Jersey]. I did not have a lot of money at the time, so I took a chance there would be space that evening at the door. When I arrived, there were no tickets left. I did what any gal would do in this predicament. I begged . . . "but my friends are all going to be there . . . Charlie, Paul, Harley."

"At that moment a kind old gentleman said, "What name was that?" I said, "Harley. Harley Streiff". The old gentleman then told the guys to let me in and waved me off when I presented my money for the ticket. I told all my friends when I got in what had transpired in the lobby with the nice old guy who let me in. Imagine my surprise when the old guy was Les Paul himself! We all got a pretty good laugh from that!"



It is safe to say that music was a central focus of Harley Streiff's life. He was born into a musical New Glarus family. Harley was active in local school and church musical groups, including a barbershop quartet in 1947 made up of Streiff, Wayne Duerst, William Argue and Rodney Wittwer. Streiff sang professionally with a group called "The Noteworthy's". This group sang regularly on the Jimmy Dean Show. Streiff so often mentioned his Grandpa Figi in conversation that in 1959 Dean invited Grandpa Figi (J. J. Figi of New Glarus) to appear on the show. Harley served as musical director of his church for nearly 60 years, he was the conductor of the Saddle River Valley Concert Band, and had served as choral director of the famed historical outdoor drama "The Lost Colony".

Harley Streiff passed away on May 15, 2015 at the age of 85.

The Schützenvereine

Organized marksmanship contests were first recorded in Switzerland in the 14th century. The painting at left shows a 1458 shooting match – with crossbows – held in Konstanz. These competitions were held throughout the Swiss Confederation; however the Reformation-era hostilities between the cantons slowed the marksmanship contests. Local competitions continued but it was not until the 19th century that federal shooting matches were scheduled on a more-or-less biennial basis in rotating Swiss



locales. In 1847 the Swiss national competition (*Eidgenössisches Schützenfest*) was held in Glarus. On that occasion, a 40 *Batzen* coin (pictured) was minted. That coin is valued at as much as \$4300 today. In July of 2015 the *Eidgenössisches Schützenfest* was held in Raron/Visp, Canton Wallis. Around 40,000 "*Schützinnen und Schützen*" (female and male shooters) as well as Swiss youth took part in the contests.



New Glarus was home to a local shooting club (*Schützenverein*) known as the Wilhelm Tell Rifle Club (also seen referenced as the William Tell Rifle Club). There were dozens, perhaps hundreds, of other Swiss and German communities around America who also had such clubs. By 1880 Milwaukee boasted 10 shooting clubs. A permanent exhibit in the Milwaukee Public Museum is devoted to the subject of the *Schützenfest* and the role it played in sport, leisure activities and cultural celebrations. The Swiss Historical Village museum in New Glarus has a shooting rifle and historic photo displayed to acknowledge the role the shooting club held locally.

It is curious to examine the following two photographs of the local shooting club -- circa 1900 and circa 1910 respectively -- from the New Glarus Historical Society collection. What may not be apparent from a casual glance is that the men taking part in the *Schützenverein* of this period do not represent a cross-section of the New Glarus community. The club was somewhat a “gentlemen’s club” made up of primarily New Glarus businessmen. It seems few, if any, farmers or cheesemakers took part in these sporting activities. It is likely the farmers and cheesemakers had little free time to devote to evening target practice and weekend shooting matches. And perhaps the businessmen had more disposable income for their leisure pursuits.



Identified among the sharpshooters are (back from left) Marcus Hoesly of the Wilhelm Tell Hotel, newspaper publisher John Theiler, merchant S. A. Schindler, wagon maker Jacob Bruni, hardware dealer Melchior Schmid, Robert Theiler, saloon keeper Henry N. Aebly, unidentified Theiler, mason Fred Stuessy. Identified in the front row are merchant and later undertaker Werner Zentner (second from left), hardware dealer Matt Schmid (third from right) and Matt Hoesly of the Wilhelm Tell Hotel (second from right). In the background is the *Schützenhaus* which was replaced in 1907 with the present structure (shown on the following page).

New Glarus' rifle club was by all newspaper accounts one of the top groups of marksmen in the state. And how appropriate our local team of marksmen was named for the most famous Swiss marksman of all time. The local team competed against teams from such cities and villages as Milwaukee, New Holstein, Chilton, Monticello, La Crosse, Wausau, Davenport, IA and Highland, IL. In 1906 New Glarus had the largest delegation of shooters in the matches held in La Crosse – particularly impressive given that New Glarus was one of the smaller villages represented. They routinely won competitions, both as a team and individually, with dentist Dr. Henry Hoesly and S. A. Schindler particular good shots. Schindler had the distinction of being crowned “king” in 1912 in Chilton and again in 1915 in Davenport. New Glarus was chosen as the site of the 1908 competition. In anticipation of the event, the Wilhelm Tell shooters built a new *Schützenhaus* (pictured below).



In addition to the shooting associations meets, the sharp shooters also held a Kilbi shoot on the Sunday afternoon of Kilbi weekend. (Kilbi or Kilby is an annual religious and secular event held on the last Sunday of September. More on Kilby in an upcoming article.) The shooters also embraced a technology of the day, telegraphy, to hold what were referred to as “telegraphic” or “wire” shoot. Teams would not travel to a common location, but rather they held local events. The shooting scores of the participating teams were wired to the association headquarters in New Glarus. The results were tabulated and the scores wired back to the participating teams.

Identified shooters in the above photo are local newspaper publisher John Theiler (on left), merchant S. A. Schindler (second from left), hardware dealer Albert Schlatter (second from right) and Dr. Henry Hoesly (on right).

Brett Favre and his L'Adnier Family Ancestry

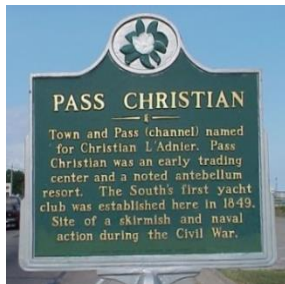
Brett Favre was warmly welcomed back to Lambeau Field in Green Bay in July, 2015 at which time he was inducted into the Green Bay Packer's Hall of Fame. Favre routinely ranks as one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time, holding the NFL record for starting quarterback having the most wins (186). But the intent of this article is not to review Brett's football career but to take a look at his ancestry. Brett hails from the little town of Kiln, MS not far from the gulf towns of Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian. This area has a strong French heritage with an undercurrent of Spanish. Favre's ancestry includes both. It has also been stated that among those French and Spanish ancestors that Brett Favre has Swiss-German ancestry.

The family name Favre comes from the Latin word *faber* meaning iron worker, and thus is the French equivalent of English Smith or German Schmid/Schmidt. Variations of this French surname are plentiful – Favre, Faivre, Fevre, Favres, Febvre, Febvres, Favers, Lefebvre, Lefebvres, Lefevres, Lefabre, Lefabvres and many more. There are six people with the name Faivre buried in the Frenchtown Cemetery north of Belleville, including Jacques François Faivre (pictured), the great-grandfather of the late Orville Colney of New Glarus.



A name which appears in Brett Favre family tree multiple times is Christian L'Adnier (born 1698). The name looks and feels French but in fact Christian L'Adnier is the individual responsible for Brett Favre's Swiss-German blood. Christian L'Adnier was actually born Christian Ladner in Seewis im Prättigau, Canton Graubunden. (Seewis is only about 20 miles as the crow flies from Elm, Canton Glarus.) He arrived in the Mississippi gulf coast area about 1719 where he married Marie Brunel. Their son Nicholas Christian Ladner married Marianne Paquet (or Patier) and according to legend they became the namesakes for Pass Christian (the Mississippi city and gulf channel) and Pass Marianne (a gulf channel). A daughter of Nicholas and Marianne married the Spaniard Juan Cuevas, a distinguished hero in the War of 1812.

It seems the early marriages in this region were largely limited to marriages within the small circle of local families. And Brett's ancestry provides ample evidence of this practice. Brett's paternal grandparents, Alvin and Mary (Spikes) Favre, are each descended from Christian Ladner in six different ways. And while Brett's maternal grandfather, Bennie French, is descended from Christian Ladner in only two ways, Brett's maternal grandmother, Izella (Garriga) French, is descended from Ladner in 10 different ways. In all Brett Favre can claim descendancy from Christian Ladner in 24 different ways! But despite Brett's numerous connections to Swiss German Christian Ladner, Favre's Swiss blood represents only about one-half of one percent of his ancestry. (Ancestry source: Susan Higgins Hutchinson)



Descendants of this Cuevas/Ladner family are numerous including Favre, Cokie Roberts, Laura Dern, Pete Fountain and Diane Ladd (born Rose Diane Ladner). The name Ladner continues to exist in Pass Christian. Ron Ladner, who had had enough of city life in Atlanta and the fast-paced software business, bought an old waterside bait shop in "The Pass" and converted it into a burger, seafood and beer shop called Shaggy's. He now owns three such restaurants along the gulf coast.