

Family History Notes

Winter 2015

A Hike up the Sernftal with J. J. Tschudy

In 1878, Johann Jacob Tschudy of Monroe, WI traveled to his native Switzerland for a visit. Since coming to America in 1846, he had served as colony manager in New Glarus, Green County Register of Deeds and County Clerk, and was then operating a shoe store on Monroe's square. After he returned home, he wrote an extensive travelogue for the German-language *Green County Herald*. In one of the segments, published in 1879, Tschudy described hiking from his Canton Glarus hometown of Schwanden to Elm along the river Sernf in the "little valley" or *Sernftal*. He noted that he had spent "two merry years" as a student in a private institute at the parsonage in Matt. Since many of our readers have family connections to that region and many have visited there, Duane Freitag has provided the translation below of Tschudy's travelogue.

When Tschudy stopped for a break in the village of Engi, he went to the *Gasthaus Sonne*. In 1878 this Engi inn had already been in operation for over three centuries. The *Sonne* is still in operation today run by *Engler* Peter Wirth and his wife Gunda. Tschudy uses the delightful word *z'Nüni* – dialect for a nine o'clock snack. This term is based on *Niin*, the Swiss-German word for nine.

The watercolor below dates to July 13, 1811 and was painted by the eminent Swiss scientist, artist and politician Hans Conrad Escher von der Linth. The view is looking south toward Matt. The historic church in Matt is the oldest in Canton Glarus with a part of it dating to 1261. The peak at the distant right is the *Zwölfhorn* (9000 feet) which looms high over Elm.

As the post coach drove off from Schwanden, I started on my way on foot. With Schwanden already behind, the valley narrows rapidly. Once beyond the large fabric plant in Blattenau and its workers, I wandered along the foot of the Sool mountain, with the high road pulling me ever forward while the Sernf

[river] roared in the depth below. As the mountains approached, only space for the road and the river remained. There are wide sections where all of the wood is cut down and countless rivers and streamlets plunge from the mountains. The danger is great from earth and stones that tear away and plunge with great



force into the deep, especially at times of rain, often shutting the road and endangering lives. The walk is immensely refreshing and pleasant for me as I am not in a hurry.

After about two hours I get to the old resting point, where there now is a new inn – the old, well-known one having been displaced. It is about where the Sernf makes a beautiful water fall and before where the rocks make a corner and the valley widens towards the village of Engi. Here one can get a good view of the houses of the village and the huts scattered in the mountains, while the road approaching the community passes fields of potatoes and carrots along the flowing Sernf.

The stranger notes the many small stalls that serve as a place for the goats to stay. In every village, the goats are collected by the goatherds and driven to the common pasture in the mountains every morning. These are the jobs of the poor man and the poor families, but a great help to them, although the young being alone in the forests is often to their detriment. When I first heard the morning horn of the goatherd in Schwanden, I again remembered my youth so vividly, where the herdsman joyfully drove the flock along and in the evening when they came back the goats would hasten to their stalls to get their salt and preferred milking spot – that was fun for the little ones.

To the left on the mountainside stands the beautiful new school building of Engi, a true construction of luxury and fame for this poor valley. It clearly demonstrates that the people are willing to sacrifice for good schools. Further ahead by the mill stream is a big factory of merit; there are several more in the valley. Soon we are in the village itself, where we rest in the universally known [Gasthof] Sonne and quickly enjoy a good z’Nüni.

On both sides of the mountains are the famous slate mines, which have been exploited since ancient times. The world-famous slate tiles go through the whole of Switzerland and the Rhine. The operation is now even more important and in summer employs a large number of people – both sexes, young and old, working and earning. The oldest plant belongs to the public. The others, if I am not mistaken, belong to private companies. The mountains on both sides of the valley are mostly slate and rich in fossils, particularly fish structures.

Later we went on to Matt, with its old parsonage where I gainfully studied under Pastor Heer. It is the home of the Marty family that has lived in Monroe for 12 years, who at times examine their homesickness for their first home and would travel back, expecting to be received with joy and love.

In the afternoon I went on towards Elm, the last village in this little, narrow valley where the high mountains close the valley and the Panixer pass makes travel possible to other cantons. Only in the warm summer months is the pass free from the yoke of snow. In spring and autumn, it is often quite dangerous for travelers and cattle drivers. Some even found their terrible end by falling into the abysses.

In Elm, as in Matt and Engi, we found many friends and relatives of the families Elmer, Freitag, Zentner, Stauffacher, Baumgartner, Disch, Hauser, etc., and we had the pleasure to bring your greetings from distant America. The welfare of the people has improved in the last 30 years and there are new residents, but many of the old ones are still present and it was with gratitude and joy that they received the truth that we could bring.

Unfortunately, the weather turned to rain and clouds bedecked the mountains, delaying the drive home. We could not see the famous Martinsloch in the Tschingelhörner, through which the sun

appears twice a year and shines on the village. Elm is the highest village in the Canton and beyond the last houses begin the Alps, which I visited in my youth.

The whole Sernf valley has many beautiful and rich alps [pastures] in the mountains and some interesting canyons, but the wet weather stopped any subsequent visits.

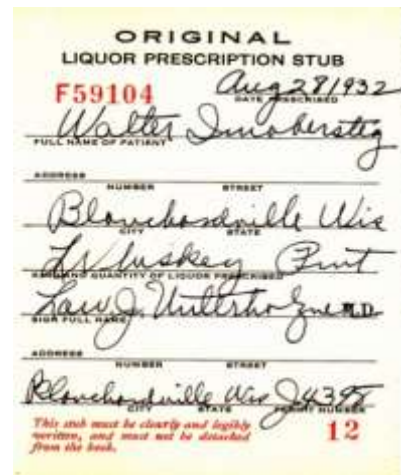
I planned to return in a friend's carriage, but he'd rather that I went in nicer weather on those narrow, often dangerous roads along the abyss. So I stayed in Matt with the friendly sister of the Marty family until late in the next morning. In the mountains there was snow and that hinted at danger, so I waited until the mail coach was going out of the valley.

A later visit fared no better and spoiled us from going to the high alps. Since the weather, with few exceptions, remained wet and there were a lot of complaints about the damage it was causing, I went back to the Zurich area where I remained more or less banished to the house."

According to a comment in Wikipedia, the name Sernf is only one of five genuinely German words which end in the letters "nf". The others four words are *Fünf* (five), *Senf* (mustard), *Genf* (Geneva), and *Hanf* (hemp).

Two Imobersteg Family Stories

Do you recall the old saying "just what the doctor ordered"? The image below is literally just that. It is a liquor prescription stub written on August 28, 1932 by Dr. Lawrence J. Unterholzner of Blanchardville for his patient Walter Imobersteg. The prescription is for one pint of medicinal whiskey. While this prescription form does not have a line to indicate the "ailment for which prescribed", many other such forms did. The ailments cited by doctors ranged from bronchitis to gripp (i.e. *la grippe* -- French for influenza).



The Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution became effective on January 17, 1920. It made the production, transport and sale of alcohol illegal. Excluded from the ban were limited amounts of homemade wine as well as that alcohol used for religious and medicinal purposes. It has been said that the demand for sacramental wine sky-rocketed during Prohibition!

It is not known if Imobersteg's need for whiskey was medicinal or recreational. But according to author Daniel Okrent, "the doctors were doing examinations and diagnoses, but it was mostly bogus." The prohibition of alcohol was in effect until its repeal by the Twenty-first Amendment effective December 5, 1933.

Walter Imobersteg lived in the Green County area for nearly fifty years. His life story was not a happy one. He immigrated to America in 1901 at the age of 17, returning to Switzerland only a few years later. He married and had three children. In 1908 he once again immigrated to America with the plan to bring his wife and children to Wisconsin when he was financially stable. Years passed and his family never immigrated. Walter continued to live in the area where he was employed as a farm hand, butcher and factory employee.

In the late 1940s Walter learned that his son had immigrated to America and was living near Port Angeles, WA. Walter contacted his son hoping they could re-unite. But the son communicated that he was unable to come to Wisconsin. And Walter's son also informed him that the small size of his dwelling did not permit Walter to move in. Walter was devastated by this news and the possible implication that his son was not interested in establishing a relationship. Shortly thereafter Walter entered the Green County Home, where just days after his arrival, he was found dead (February 6, 1948) of a self-inflicted gunshot. Imobersteg was buried in the Swiss Church Cemetery in New Glarus in a grave, apparently unmarked, and which is not recorded in Swiss Church archives.

Walter Imobersteg (1908-2002) who lived in Port Angeles, WA was likely this son. Walter Jr. had a Swiss-born wife and they were involved in various community activities in Port Angeles. In a 1963 interview with the "Port Angeles Evening Times" Walter Jr. talked of his love of the mountains and of mountain climbing. He mentioned learning mountain climbing from his father. But Walter Sr. had left Switzerland about the time that Walter Jr. was born. Walter Jr. also claimed that his father had died while climbing in the Alps. "All we found of him was a broken rope," claimed Walter Jr. recalling his father's final climb. Perhaps Walter Jr. invented a more sensational end of a father he never knew.

Alfred and Anna Imobersteg were a Swiss immigrant family who settled on a dairy farm just south of the Wisconsin/Illinois border near Oneco, IL. Their dairy farm included a small cheese factory where milk from their cows and that of neighbors was made into Brick, Swiss and Limburger cheese.



This cheese factory was tiny – just 20 by 20 feet – and could boast of no electricity nor running water. It contained the cheese making equipment of the day – an intake wheel, copper kettle, and press table with press bars. This small factory operated until the days of WWI when the milk from the Imobersteg farm and surrounding farms was sent to the Borden

condensery in Orangeville. This canned milk was sent to supply the military where WWI troops referred to their condensed milk as the "tin cow". The Imobersteg cheese factory never made cheese again. It served as a laundry/wash house and as storage shed all the while retaining the original cheese making equipment.

Around 2010 the existence of this historic building and equipment became known to cheese enthusiasts in Monroe. Arnold Imobersteg, dairy farmer and son of Alfred and Anna, donated the original building (pictured above) and equipment to the National Historic Cheese Making Center in Monroe. It has been refurbished and makes cheese once again the old-fashioned way.

[Link to National Historic Cheese Making Center](#)

The Imobersteg family name is of Canton Bern origin associated with the Simmental villages of St. Stephan, Zweisimmen, Erlenbach and Boltigen.

Two Hundred Fifty Years of Marriage



In December of 1950 five New Glarus couples celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries. The five couples were (from left) Henry and Ellen (Elsbeth Kundert) Steussy, John and Lena (Angelika Legler) Streiff, Jacob B. and Rosina (Becker) Hoesly, Albert and Mary (Hustad) Nesheim, and Herman and Barbara (Hoesly) Becker. Henry Steussy was a New Glarus merchant in partnership with Solomon Levitan. John Streiff was a local blacksmith. The Hoeslys, Nesheims and Beckers all farmed. The Nesheims were of Norwegian stock living on a farm north of New Glarus which straddled the Green/Dane County border. Ellen Steussy, John Streiff and Barbara Becker were first cousins -- all grandchildren of Joshua and Barbara (Speich) Wild.



Pictured from 1900 is the Streiff-Steussy double wedding. Top from left: John Streiff, groom; Mary (Legler) Zentner, witness for her sister Lena; Cora (Jordi) Elmer, witness for Ellen Steussy; Henry Steussy, groom.



Bottom from left: Fred Streiff, witness for his brother John; Lena (Legler) Streiff, bride; Ellen (Kundert) Steussy, bride; Edwin R. Kundert, witness and brother of Ellen. Photographs courtesy of Ann Marie Ott, great-granddaughter of the John and Lena Streiff.

Also pictured from 1900 is the wedding photograph of Herman and Barbara Becker. Becker photograph courtesy of Esther Disch.

Tuesdays and Thursdays were the preferred days for a wedding. The Beckers were married on Thursday, December 6, 1900. The Steussys and Streiffs were married in a double wedding ceremony on Tuesday, December 18. And the Nesheims and Beckers both were married on Thursday, December 20.

John Luchsinger wrote the following about weddings in his 1879 article “The Swiss Colony of New Glarus”: *“Weddings are for the most part solemnized by the ministers; seldom by a Justice of the Peace. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the only days on which a Swiss will be married; the latter is the favorite day. The other days of the week are not regarded as fortunate; Wednesday is especially considered the most unlucky. Persons about to enter matrimony, some time before the ceremony takes place, go together to the houses of those whom they wish to invite as guests to the wedding, and verbally request their presence. Wedding feasts are of late mostly arranged at a hotel; but formerly at the home of the groom or bride. After being pronounced man and wife, at the church or in the minister’s house, the couple, with the invited guests, partake of the wedding dinner, after which dancing is indulged in till a late hour. Before and after the marriage ceremony, the lads and young men salute the bridal party with a profuse discharge of fire-arms. The more noise, the greater the honor. Very rarely do the Swiss here intermarry with people of other nationalities; almost without exception, they marry among their own country folk.”*

Pro Football’s Ben Utecht

News reports about sports-related head trauma have become more common in recent years. In June of 2014, Ben Utecht was featured on nationally televised programs speaking out about traumatic brain injury. The NFL has now acknowledged that they anticipate that one third of retired football players will develop long term cognitive problems, with the onset of symptoms at ages earlier than the general population.

Utecht played professional football as tight end with the Indianapolis Colts and the Cincinnati Bengals. His 2006 Colts team won the Super Bowl LI earning Utecht the coveted Super Bowl ring. Now at age of 33, Utecht fears that head injuries may already have affected his memory. With his family in mind, Ben has ended his sports career. He has re-focused his energy and talents to his love and passion for music. He has recorded three albums and is a frequent musical guest at venues ranging from philharmonic orchestras to prayer breakfasts.



Ben is a Minnesota native, married to wife Karyn, a former Miss Minnesota, and father to three daughters. And Ben has a Glarner connection. Ben is the direct descendant of Jacob and Elsbeth (Speich) Stauffacher, original New Glarus colonists of 1845. This Stauffacher family left New Glarus by the late 1840s and settled in the Town of Sylvester in an area which became known as Dutch Hollow. Their little enclave included a host of other Glarners bearing the family names like Elmer, Norder, Zentner, and Luchsinger. Ben’s grandmother, Donna (Stauffacher) Utecht, was a family historian – not just for their particular branch of the Stauffacher family but for any of the Stauffacher lines that came to America.

History Detective Question

Who recalls the name of the New Glarus High School student newspaper, its motto and the backstory of that name and motto?

Caspar Wild and Johann Caspar Wild

In the summer of 1845 when the New Glarus colonists were passing through St. Louis on their trip to their new Wisconsin home, the immigrants were briefly acquainted with a man by the name of Caspar Wild. Wild was a native of Mitlödi, Canton Glarus and had resided for a short time in St. Louis. He had intended to be of aid to the immigrants but his family circumstances precluded this assistance.

Mathias Dürst recorded the following in his 1845 diary: *“We arrived this evening at St. Louis, and many Glarus people who lived there greeted us kindly, C. [Caspar] Wild, Henry Hosly [Hösli], Fr. Blesi, Paulus Kundert; Fr. Schesser [Schiesser] most interested me. On the 24th [of July]. This morning there were lively times on the vessel, everything was packed into trunks and boxes and we put on our best clothes and I went with my family to visit C. Wild, but as we came into his house we found this wife was sick unto death and he could therefore in no way entertain us, so full of grief was he. He owns a new house in a fine part of the city and has a fine fountain with good water.”* Canton Glarus records note the death of Caspar Wild’s wife Anna (née Hermann) on that very day of Mathias Dürst’s visit -- July 24, 1845. Caspar Wild later remarried and moved from St. Louis to New Orleans where he was employed as a horticulturist. He died in 1889.

Living at the same time just up the Mississippi River from St. Louis in Davenport, IA was another Caspar Wild. This other Caspar was born Johann Kaspar Wild (1804-1846) a native of Richterswil, Canton Zurich. He trained in Paris as an artist and immigrated to America in 1832. Wild captured images of 1830s and 1840s America – from Philadelphia to the river towns of Cincinnati, St. Louis and



Davenport. Two of Wild’s images were used in Dr. Leo Schelbert’s “New Glarus: 1845-1970”. Those two images depict Cincinnati and St. Louis as the original New Glarus settler may have viewed these two cities. Wild’s painting shown here portrays 1844 Davenport and again depicts a river town view as the settlers would have seen as they passed between St. Louis and Galena.



John Caspar Wild’s illustrations were compiled in a 2006 book entitled “John Caspar Wild: Painter and Printmaker of Nineteenth Century Urban America” by John W. Reys. The book coincided with a retrospective exhibit of Wild’s works at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis.

Wild died in Davenport in 1846 and was buried in Davenport’s City Cemetery likely in an unmarked grave. On September 28, 2014 a five foot high granite obelisk honoring Wild (pictured) was dedicated in the City Cemetery by the German American Heritage Center of Davenport. Their efforts to honor and recognize Wild were noteworthy considering Wild was Swiss and not German. Wild’s works remain a valuable source of imagery of American cities in those decades preceding the advent of photography.

Die Pantenbrücke: The Double Bridge of Canton Glarus



At the far end of the Linthal valley is a place called Tierfehd, mentioned in the past issue as the birthplace of Melchior Thut -- the “Giant of Ludwigsburg”. A small path from here leads over the Glarner Alps from Canton Glarus to Canton Graubünden. This route was used in days past for commerce, especially in the livestock trade.

This route also leads to various summer grazing alps such as Nüschen-,

Mutten-, Baumgarten- and Sandalp -- the latter two which are owned by the community of Betschwanden. The trail climbs up and over the Glarner Alps using two remote passes – the Kisten Pass (8661 feet) or the Sand Pass (9138 feet). The climb over these passes to the Canton Graubünden villages below takes eleven hours.



About one half hour after beginning the climb from Tierfehd the stone bridge known as the *Pantenbrücke* is crossed. There are actually two bridges – the older single arch bridge dating from 1853-1854 and the upper bridge built on top of the older dating from 1899-1902. The *Pantenbrücke* is hundreds of feet above the raging river below.



There were a series of stone spans across the Linth gorge (*Linthschlucht*) – the earliest dating to 1487. A second bridge had to be built in 1560 to replace the earlier bridge which had been damaged. Again in 1750 a third bridge had to be built. An 1851 avalanche destroyed that bridge and was replaced by the single arch lower bridge on the photo and then topped with an upper bridge about 50 years later. The bridge was well-known by 18th and 19th century travel writers and landscape artists. The copper plate etching (*Kupferstich*) above right features a dramatic look at the *Pantenbrücke* dating from 1735. The watercolor by Rudolf Bodmer (brother of artist Karl Bodmer) dates from around 1828.

The *Pantenbrücke* can also be considered a double bridge based upon the etymology of its very name. “*Panten*” is believed to be derived from the Latin “*pontus*” for bridge. And “*Brücke*” is German for bridge. Therefore “*die*

Pantenbrücke” may mean “the bridge bridge”.

Notable Gorges of Switzerland

The *Pantentbrücke* crosses high above the gorge (*Schlucht*) of the headwaters of the Linth River. The Linth gorge is not a particularly well-known or visited gorge as Swiss gorges go. Better-known are the gorges such as *Taminaschlucht* of the Tamina River, the *Via Mala* on the *Hinterrhein*, and the *Aareschlucht* on the Aare River near Meiringen. All of these gorges have similar characteristics – narrow chasms carved from rock by the never-ending force of the mountain rivers.



The *Taminaschlucht* (pictured right) is located near Bad Ragaz (and just over the mountain to the east of Elm). The gorge is so narrow that tunnels and walkways had to be carved out of the solid rock. Thermal waters from beyond the gorge are piped to the famous Bad Ragaz spas.

The *Via Mala* (which translates as the “evil way” or “bad path”) was a narrow impediment on the approach to two of the earliest routes over the Alps to Italy --- the Splügen Pass and the San Bernardino Pass. Both passes were known in Roman times, but the *Via Mala* presented these trade routes with a formidable obstacle. It is believed the Romans overcome the narrow and deep gorge by cutting galleries out of the solid rock and building a wooden bridge in order to traverse the mountain river. This Roman route fell into ruin. In 1473 Count Georg of Werdenberg-Sargans (a cousin of our Hohensax ancestor Albrecht von Hohensax) decreed that the route through the *Via Mala* be upgraded in order that it could be again used as a trade route. He had a



stone bridge built over the *Via Mala*. Subsequently, the villages along the route to the Splügen and San Bernardino passes prospered.

The *Aareschlucht* near Meiringen (pictured above) has metal and wooden walkways hanging out over the swirling water of the Aare River with tunnels burrowed through the rock. The Aare River is Switzerland’s largest river which begins and ends within its borders.

Sharing History beyond Museum Borders

The Wisconsin Idea is sometime expressed as “the boundaries of the university are the boundaries of the state”. Similarly, it can be argued that the Wisconsin Historical Society’s boundaries are not merely the confines of their museums, libraries and archives, but the boundaries of the state. This past year saw the “Wisconsin History Tour: Sharing Wisconsin’s Stories one Community at a Time”, an outreach program in which the WHS partnered with several communities across the state to present history on a local level and to local audiences.

This outreach to the various corners of the state is not new. In the 1950s and 1960s a small mobile home, pulled by pickup truck, was christened the “Historymobile”. It crisscrossed the state to bring history from the WHS in Madison to residents throughout Wisconsin. The curators of that roving Historymobile were Jacob (Jake) and Irene Tschudy of New Glarus. [Control + Click here to go to a 1957 WHS photograph of the Tschudy's and the Historymobile.](#)

The original Historymobile was a fire engine red structure, 59 feet long and 8 feet wide. The exhibit of 1956 was entitled “Sawdust and Spangles” – a circus-themed exhibit. That year saw 132,000 visitors in 159 Wisconsin villages and cities. By 1962 the Historymobile had logged 32,000 miles and had over one and a quarter million visitors. It was replaced that year with a new and larger 70 foot long vehicle. A new Historymobile exhibit beginning in 1962 was dedicated to newspapers entitled “Newspapers Make History: 1833-1962”.

The Historymobile received a great deal of local press. As the trailer made its way around the state, local newspapers would cover the story. Many of the articles featured Jake and Irene and included the human side of living in such small accommodations. In the first Historymobile, a very small area in the rear served in the evenings as the Tschudys’ living quarters. In the new and improved mobile, the living quarters were more spacious – a 9 by 12 foot room served as living area, kitchen and bedroom.

Irene Tschudy recalled once hanging laundry in the exhibit area during off-hours. An unexpected visit by some historians from the Smithsonian found the professional historians face-to-face with the Tschudys’ pajamas. One early morning the Tschudys awoke to a line which had formed outside of the Historymobile. The people had lined up to donate blood thinking the Historymobile was a blood donations site!

The Tschudys retired from their curator duties in 1964 returning to New Glarus. In his retirement years, Jake Tschudy reconstructed the Kundert-Heitz log cabin, discovered on the Harold Hoesly farm, at the Swiss Historical Village. Tschudy was a grandson of Fritz and Amalia (Blumer) Tschudy, both natives of Schwanden, Canton Glarus, and early New Glarus merchants. A scrapbook documenting the Tschudy years with the Historymobile can be found in the archives of the WHS (Call #M95-272). The scrapbook was the work of their son Bernard James (Jim) Tschudy.

News from Canton Glarus

The death of Mathias (This) Jenny, 62, was recently reported. Jenny, along with Pankraz Freitag, served as the two Glarner representatives to the Swiss *Ständerat* -- the federal Council of States and the smaller of the two houses of the Swiss Federal Assembly. Freitag died suddenly at his Haslen home in October of 2013. Jenny was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died in his home on November 15, 2014.

In an April of 2014 interview with Switzerland’s “Blick” magazine, Jenny talked about his terminal cancer. He explained that he had chosen to use the Swiss euthanasia firm, Exit, to assist him in his passing. “*Wenn es Zeit ist, nehme ich den Cocktail. Ich gehe mit Sterbehilfe.*” – “When it’s time, I will take the cocktail. I will depart with euthanasia.”

This Jenny (pronounced “Teece Yenny”) was the great-great grandson of Peter Hefti of Leuggelbach. Peter was the older brother Mrs. Paulus Figi and Mrs. Gabriel Schindler (Katharina and Barbara Hefti) of New Glarus.

Thomas Hefti, a Schwanden lawyer, and Werner Hösli, who is employed in senior care management, were elected in 2014 to replacing Freitag and Jenny.

News from Canton Glarus (continued)

A new book recently published in Switzerland is entitled “*Glarneralpbuch – Zwischen*



Nebelwand und Föhnmauer” – Glarner Alp Book – Between the Wall of Fog and the *Föhn* Wall.

The book documents the over 90 alps found in the canton. These alps serve as a summer grazing areas for milk cows, goats and sheep, and where the milk is made into cheese (*Alpkäse*) and butter in simple mountain cheese factories. And these same alps were tended by many of our Glarner ancestors centuries ago. This book project was championed by two young *Glarnerrinnen*, Maya Rhyner and Stephanie Elmer, with the collaboration of many others from Canton Glarus.

Two of the 90 alps visited in this book are the *Hinterschlattalpli* and the *Vorderschlattalpli* – the *Schlatt* alps located at different locations on the Glärnisch massif. The *Hinterschlattalpli* includes pastures at altitudes ranging from roughly 4000 to 7000 feet above sea level with about 18 milk cows, 33 head of cattle and 4 pigs. Profiled in the book are Marco Huser and his family who operate this summer alp. Their life on the alp (*Äplerläbe*) is described.

The *Vorderschlattalpli* pasture lies far about the Klöntalersee and is pictured here. This alp was once the realm of Félix Stüssi. Félix, a native of Canton Glarus and contributor to this book,

spent summers in his youth herding goats and sheep in this lofty world. If you look very closely at the lower left portion of the photo you can just make out a trail clinging to the steep mountainside. This is the perilous footpath leading to the *Vorderschlattalpli*.



Today Félix Stüssi is half a world away from that remote Glarner aerie. He is now a well-known jazz pianist in Montreal where he lives with his wife and two children.