

Family History Notes

Spring 2016

New Glarus Architectural Survey

Homes, commercial buildings, schools, churches, farm buildings, and those few remaining country cheese factories can be tangible links to our local history and family histories. A new research tool for New Glarus history is found in the “Architectural and Historical Survey of New Glarus, WI”, which contains the information gathered in a recent survey of New Glarus buildings. The report includes a general history of the development of the village, architectural styles (e.g. Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman), possibilities of two historic districts (one commercial and one residential), possibilities of homes and buildings which may qualify for historic status, and the criteria used to determine eligibility for obtaining historic registry. The aim of the survey was to document historic homes and buildings in the village and determine if any are eligible for historic status. While several may be eligible for historic registry, there are many, many more which would be ineligible due to remodeling (including Swiss-style remodeling) which has erased traces of the buildings’



architectural past. The report was prepared for the New Glarus Historic Preservation Commission and was partially funded by a National Park Service grant. A link to this very interesting report is here: [New Glarus Architectural and Historical Survey](#)

Pictured is the John D. and Barbara (Duerst) Hefty home which is documented in the survey as well as highlighted in the newsletter item entitled “Duerst Family Homes”.

Oswald Altman

One New Glarus man stands out as the pre-eminent builder of local homes and commercial buildings. That man was Oswald Altman (1876-1964). Altman, a full-blooded Glarner-American, was born in Green County to Jost Altmann (original spelling of family name) and his wife Susanna née Kubli. Oswald’s father Jost was an immigrant from Engi, Canton Glarus where he was recorded as living “*im Höfli*” – an area just outside of Engi on the road to Schwanden. Altman’s paternal grandfather, Paulus Altmann, worked mining slate (*Plattenberger*) and his paternal grandmother, Barbara Kläsi, was a printer (*Druckerin*) in the canton’s fabric industry. His name Oswald comes from his maternal grandfather, Oswald Kubli a native of Elm, Canton Glarus. Oswald Altman’s uncles, Jacob and Paulus Kubly, were local stone masons and according to Kubly descendant Herbert Kubly, the Kubly brothers had constructed most of the basements and foundations of Oswald Altman homes prior to 1930.

Oswald’s career as builder and contractor in the New Glarus village and surrounding countryside was unprecedented. He is credited with the construction of 175 to 200 buildings, including homes, horse barns and garages, commercial and public buildings.

On farms he constructed dairy barns, machinery sheds, chicken houses, milk houses, corn cribs and granaries. At one point Altman employed 11 carpenters. Here is just a small sampling of Altman projects from the period 1908 to 1927 – as documented in the January 11, 1928 “New Glarus Post” – which demonstrates the wide variety of his building projects:

The New Glarus Village Hall	Zwingli House
Fred Stuessy Grocery	Fred Bigler Tavern
Albert Wolf Bakery 1916	Embroidery Factory
Gabriel Zweifel Ice House	Strickler and Maurer Slaughterhouse 1913
Henry Werndli House 1917 (New Glarus Historical Society has the blueprints)	
Emanuel Streiff Dairy Barn 1926	

In 1919 and again in 1921 Oswald Altman was engaged by Dietrich and Barbara (Elmer) Stauffacher to construct two homes. The 1919 home was said to have been a wedding present to Stauffacher daughter Kathryn and her husband Arthur Theiler who married in 1919. And so it is speculated that the 1921 home was a wedding present for Stauffacher son Werner and his wife Esther Streiff who wed that year.

Brothers Nic and Robert Kubly had their cousin Oswald Altman build their homes and barns. Oswald was also the brother-in-law of Robert -- they married sisters Katie and Minnie Figi. In 1919 Nic Kubly had a new barn built and on the adjacent farm the Robert Kublys built a new home. Four years later Nic and Alda (Ott) Kubly had a home built and the Robert Kublys built a barn.

In 1903 Oswald Altman married Anna Katharina (Katie) Figi, daughter of Oswald and Anna Katharina (Zweifel) Figi. The Altman’s family home was, of course, built by Oswald, as was the house next door which was built for Katie’s parents. And Oswald built all of the other six homes on the same block. He served for 10 years on the village board and when Oswald announced his retirement from the building trade, he said he looked forward to tending his gardening projects. The Altmans had one daughter Hilda (Mrs. Lester Blumer) and two granddaughters, Judy and Nancy Blumer.

Duerst Family Homes

The neighborhood where I grew up in New Glarus (see “Family History Notes” Winter 2016) is a proposed residential historic district made up of many handsome homes built in New Glarus in the early decades of the twentieth century. In the southern section of this proposed district are eight homes connected with the Duerst family. These homes were built for the children and grandchildren of Samuel and Barbara (Becker) Duerst. These eight Duerst homes were all built by Oswald Altmann for five Duerst siblings Sam, Henry, John, Edward and Barbara and children of Sam, John and Barbara.

Barbara (Becker) Duerst came from a family of builders. Her father and brother, Johannes and Heinrich Becker, were builders in their home village of Ennenda, Canton Glarus. In New Glarus the Beckers, father and son, were credited (along with stone mason Samuel Luchsinger) with the construction of the 1858 Swiss Reformed stone church. Heinrich (Henry) Becker also constructed the Washington Reformation Church (1876) and the Swiss Church parsonage (1881).

The eight Duerst homes included in the proposed historical district are:



1 – The Samuel G. and Rachel (Geiger) Duerst home located at 1000 First Street and built in 1915. Pictured is the Duerst family circa 1895: Back row left to right is Rachel, Henry H., Samuel Jr., and Samuel Sr. Seated below is Herman Z. Duerst.

Survey researcher Carol Cartwright



Samuel G. Duerst Home

confessed her favorite New Glarus home is this Queen Anne home. This home is one of only a handful of New Glarus homes which she feels could be granted historical status since the exterior has maintained its historic character without being compromised.

2 – The Henry H. and Louisa (Hoesly) Duerst home located at 907 First Street and built in 1930. Henry was the son of Samuel G. and Rachel.

3 – The Henry Z. and Verena (Zentner) Duerst home located at 1006 First Street (next door to brother Sam) and built in 1914.

4 – The John W. and Barbara (Werndli) Duerst home located at 1101 First Street and built in 1917. The home was later occupied by Duerst sons John P. and Leon, and today is the Duerst Guest House.



John W. Duerst Home

5 – The Ernest and Barbara (Duerst) Arn home at 1113 Second Street and built in 1925. Barbara was the daughter of John W. and Barbara.

6 – The Edward W. and Rosa (Werndli) Duerst home located at 1007 Second Street and built in 1927. The home was later occupied by Edward W.'s son Palmer Duerst and family.

7 – The John D. and Barbara (Duerst) Hefty home located at 1018 Second Street and built in 1913. In 1934 this home was purchased by Hobart and Irene (Werndli) Freitag. Irene was a granddaughter of the Heftys. Hobart, Irene and sons Lyle, Harlan and Duane, lived in the home until moving to the Freitag farm between Monticello and New Glarus in 1952.



Edward W. Duerst Home

8 – The John S. and Bertha (Streiff) Hefty home located at 1107 Second Street and built in 1932. John S. Hefty was the son of John D. and Barbara (Duerst) Hefty. The residence was later the home of Emil S. and Esther (Streiff) Duerst.

And a ninth home at 301 Tenth Avenue was built in 1917 for Henry and Barbara (Hefty) Werndli by Oswald Altman. Barbara was the daughter of Barbara (Duerst) Hefty. This home lies in the same neighborhood as the other Duerst homes, but just outside of the proposed historic district.

Those Middle Initials

Perhaps these Duerst and Hefty families best exhibit the curious New Glarus practice of assigning a middle initial to men by using the maiden name of the wife. Examining this Duerst family we find Sam G. Duerst (wife was a Geiger), Henry Z. (Zentner), John W. and Edward W. (Werndli), Henry H. (Hoesly), Herman Z. (Zentner), Emil S. (Streiff), and John D. Hefty (Duerst), and John S. Hefty (Streiff).

Building Character

Like the name Altman, an area family name synonymous with building and construction is Steinmann. And Canton Glarus immigrant J. C. Steinmann is one of three men whose personal stories bear out that difficult life challenges experienced in youth can cause lifelong pain but can also build character. The other two men, Fridolin Knobel and Rudolf Zentner, were also natives of Canton Glarus who came to Wisconsin in the mid-1800s.

Johann Caspar (J. C.) Steinmann (1854-1942) came to the area in May of 1861 with his mother, Magdalena Steinmann, and maternal grandfather, Johann Caspar Steinmann. Their destination was the home of J.C.'s aunt and uncle Dietland and Anna Maria (Steinmann) Thomm of the Town of Washington. Just weeks after arriving in America, Magdalena married Fridolin Zimmerman, a New Glarus farmer and a recent widower with four small children. The Zimmerman farm (on today's County H) was about four miles southwest of New Glarus. Robert H. Naylor II, J. C Steinmann's great-grandson, speculated this marriage may have been driven by practicality – Fridolin needed a mother for his little children and the Steinmanns may have sought financial security.

According to family lore Steinmann's step-father did not like J. C. and beat him. J. C. would run away from home and his mother would talk him into returning. Perhaps as a measure of independence from Zimmermann, J. C. landed a job as a farmhand working for farm neighbors Johann Caspar and Rosina (Streiff) Blum for \$6 a month. In the 1870 Town of New Glarus census J. C. Steinmann has the distinction of being enumerated twice – first in the household of his step-father, Fred Zimmermann, and second (just 7 lines away in the census form) in the household of his employer Caspar Blum.



Another farm neighbor at that time was Albrecht Babler. The Babler farm was the site of Nicholas Gerber's limburger cheese factory (1868) -- Green County's first factory. J. C. hauled milk to this factory and was thus able to attest to its existence in 1939 when a commemorative plaque was placed on the original factory site. He had been a confirmand in Rev. John T. Etter's class of 1871 and as a young man tried his hand at harness making, making limburger cheese, and farming. In 1878 Steinmann married Barbara Legler of New Glarus, the daughter of original

colonist George Legler and his wife Barbara Schindler.

J. C. and Barbara had 5 children who lived to adulthood – Barbara, wife of Herman Karlen, George, Fred H., John C., and Mata, wife of Melvin Lynn. The photograph on the previous page (circa 1895) shows J. C. and Barbara and their four oldest children (Mata had not yet been born.)

In 1883 J. C. Steinmann entered into a partnership with Fred Knobel. They opened a general store in Monticello renting space from Thomas Mitchell, an uncle of Mrs. Steinmann and Fred Knobel. In 1889, Steinmann and Knobel built the first brick building (extant) on Monticello's Main Street at the northwest corner of Main and North. J. C. Steinmann also opened a lumberyard later known as Karlen-Steinmann. His son John C. and grandsons, John W. and Howard, were all successful architects, as is great-grandson John C. Steinmann of Kirkland, WA. It is interesting that J. C.'s maternal grandfather Johann Caspar Steinmann and great-grandfather Fridolin Steinmann were also noted in Canton Glarus records as being builders (*Hausmeister*; *Baumeister*).

But something which J. C. Steinmann concealed was that he was apparently illegitimate. His mother Magdalena was not married when J. C. was born, and in fact, according to Canton Glarus records she had a second illegitimate child, a daughter, who was born and died in 1859. In his 1936 book "The Swiss Cheese Industry in Green County Wisconsin", Emory Odell wrote that Steinmann's father had come to America just prior to the arrival of his wife and son. The father, it was said, had joined the Union forces and had died in battle. This doesn't appear to be true. Robert Naylor, J. C. Steinman's great-grandson, stated there was no Steinmann casualty found in war records. And Naylor also points out that J. C. and his mother arrived in America less than a month after the first shots of war were fired on April 12, 1861.

Naylor also unearthed an intriguing fact about J. C. Steinmann. In 1869 when J. C. was 15 years old, he received a bequest of money from a Swiss man named Melchior Steinmann. Who was Melchior Steinmann? Was this J. C.'s relative, J. C.'s father or paternal grandfather?

There was a Melchior Steinmann of Niederurnen who died in 1868 at the age of 75 followed by his wife of 49 years just 9 days later. Although his surname was Steinmann, there does not appear to be a blood connection to J. C.'s family. This Melchior Steinmann who died had three sons who were about the same age as J. C.'s mother Magdalena. Melchior's oldest son Jacob had married in 1850 but was to divorce his wife in 1859 – the year of birth of Magdalena's second illegitimate child. Jacob left for Spain in 1870 and was declared missing in 1901. Melchior's youngest son Fridolin was unmarried until age 41 in 1872. So perhaps one of Melchior Steinmann's sons was the father of J. C. which led Melchior Steinmann of Niederurnen to remember J. C. thousands of miles away in New Glarus with a bequest of money.

For a more in depth look at the Steinmann family, here is a link to an excellent report including family photos written by Roger Dooley of Monticello: [J. C. Steinmann and Family](#)

Fridolin (Fred) Knobel (1856-1930) was J. C. Steinmann's partner and a cousin of J. C.'s wife Barbara. In addition to his partnership with J. C. Steinmann, Fred Knobel partnered with John Bontly, also of Monticello, in the invention and patenting of a milk heating device in 1896.

Fred Knobel also experienced challenges in his youth. His father Caspar Knobel fought in the Civil War but did not return home having died of disease in New York in 1865. (One wonders if the actual death of Fred Knobel's father in the Civil War played a role in the origin of the story of J. C. Steinmann's father dying in that war.) In 1866 Fred's widowed mother married Caspar's brother Abraham and the family moved from New Glarus to Crawford County, Wisconsin. Fred had difficulties with his step-father/uncle and chose to leave his family and return to New Glarus to live with his grandfather Fridolin Schindler. In 1877 Fred married Cleophea Babler, daughter of Albrecht Babler and a farm neighbor of J. C.

The third individual who faced boyhood challenges was Rudolf Zentner (1846-1903). Rudolf was born in Canton Glarus to Johannes and Katharina (Dürst) Zentner. Johannes was an Elm, Canton Glarus native who taught school in Braunwald, Canton Glarus. The 24 year old teacher married 17 year old Katharina Dürst who had given birth to their son Rudolf about one month before the wedding. The couple apparently did not get along and according to Canton Glarus records they lived apart. In 1854 father and son immigrated to the New Elm settlement in Wisconsin. But the father Johannes returned to Switzerland in 1856 leaving Rudolf in New Elm with Johannes' brother-in-law and sister, Johann Ulrich and Regula (Zentner) Elmer. Rudolf's father Johannes died in 1863. Rudolf's mother Katharina gave birth to an illegitimate daughter prior to marrying Markus Figi in 1865.



And Zentner's obituary, like that of J. C. Steinmann, modified the circumstances of his boyhood. That obituary stated that he immigrated to New Elm with both parents and they had both died leaving him an orphan. But as earlier stated his mother and father lived apart – the mother did not immigrate with her son, and the father had returned to Switzerland without his son.

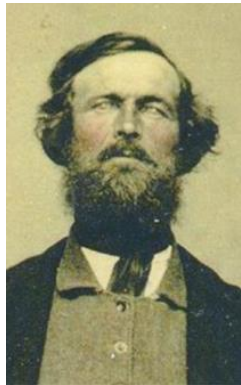
His obituary did note correctly that Rudolf served in one of the most heroic outfits in the Civil War – the Iron Brigade. Zentner enlisted at age 15 in 1861 and mustered out a Corporal in 1865. He served in the Wisconsin 2nd Infantry Company K and the 6th Infantry Company H which is verified in the official state rosters. Zentner's comrades-in-arms during the war included Fridolin Streiff and Fridolin Klassy of New Glarus and Dietland Thomm (first cousin of J. C. Steinmann) who died in battle in 1862. Zentner's obituary also noted that he served as orderly for Colonel (later Brigadier General and Wisconsin Governor) Lucius Fairchild. Zentner was wounded in 1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness and, again, according to his obituary he "lay wounded on the battlefield for five days. The relief came at last, and he was taken to a hospital and placed upon an operating table preparatory to an amputation of the wounded limb. Just at this point, Surgeon Wolcott of Milwaukee, appeared on the scene, took [Zentner] from the table, gave him an incalculable benefit of his personal attention and saved the foot and ankle."

Rudolf Zentner did not settle in either New Elm or New Glarus – both locations where aunts, uncles and cousins lived. Rather he, his wife and family resided in Adams County just north of Wisconsin Dells.

Note: Rudolf Zentner's mother, Katharina (Dürst) Zentner, was the sister of Samuel and Thomas Duerst who immigrated to New Glarus. The farm of Samuel and Barbara (Becker) Duerst was located across the road from the farm of Fridolin Zimmermann, the step-father of J. C. Steinmann. Thus Rudolf Zentner was the first cousin of the Duerst siblings mentioned in the Duerst Family Homes story also found in this issue.

The Reverends Raess

Two Wisconsin clergymen, both Swiss born and both having the name of Raess (originally Räss), had short-term connections with the Glarner.



Jacob Raess (1813-1872; pictured left), a Canton Bern native, was the first Reformed minister for the New Elm settlement just south of Oshkosh. Those New Elm pioneers left Elm, Canton Glarus, in the spring of 1845 just ahead of our own New Glarus settlers. The New Elm group went to Milwaukee where they spent the 1845/46 winter and continued on to their new land in the Town of Blackwolf, Winnebago County in 1846. They organized a Reformed Church in 1850 with 45 members signing their constitution. Rev. Raess preached two Sundays out of three, for which he earned \$26, lodging and firewood. Jacob was married to Verena (or Veronika) Erisman, a Canton Aargau native.

Hermina Paulina Raess, the daughter of Jacob and Verena, was baptized on Sunday, September 19, 1852 at the New Elm church. Her godparents were Jacob Elmer and Barbara (Rhyner) Zentner, both natives of Elm and Regula (Hofmeister) Schinz, a Zurich native.

Paul Roehrig of New Glarus was the great-great-grandson of Rev. Jacob Raess. And baby Hermina Raess, who was baptized in the New Elm church, became Paul's great-grandmother.

Ferdinand Raess (1831-1919), an Appenzeller, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in Chur in 1856. He served in Canton Glarus from 1857 to 1861, and later immigrated to America in 1867. Father Raess served various Wisconsin parishes including Fredonia, New Berlin, Kieler and St. Hubert. It was during his St. Hubert years that Raess proposed to Milwaukee Diocese Bishop John Martin Henni (a native of Canton Graubunden) that a brick church be built on top of Holy Hill to replace an 1863 log chapel. Making bricks locally and getting them up to the top of the hill posed major challenges in those days. But these challenges were overcome and the brick church was built. The site grew to become a major pilgrimage site. In 1926 Milwaukee Archbishop Sebastian Messmer (a native of Canton St. Gallen) laid the cornerstone of the current shrine which was completed and consecrated in 1931.



Holy Hill, whose actual name is Holy Hill National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, is one of only two Roman Catholic churches located in Wisconsin which are honored with the designation of basilica.

The Surname Robinson

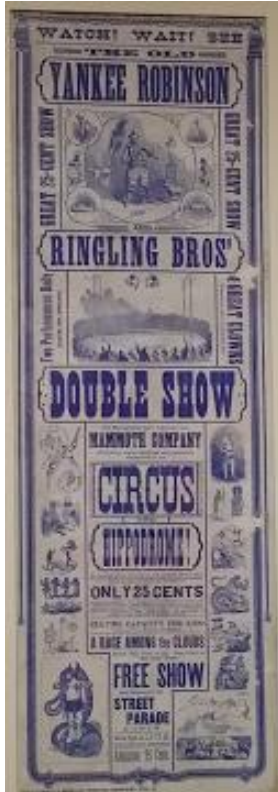
The surname Robinson has often been assigned to the Swiss family in Johann David Wyss' book "The Swiss Family Robinson". But Wyss never used the name Robinson as his Swiss family's surname. Television and movie adaptations have named the family named Robinson. As has been discussed before in an earlier newsletter issue, the original title of Wyss' 1812 book was "*Der Schweizerische Robinson*" or "The Swiss Robinson". He used "Robinson" in the title as a link Robinson Crusoe, the Daniel Defoe protagonist from nearly a century earlier (1719).

The name Robinson was found in Green County in the early settlement years before the Glarner arrived in 1845. Two sisters, Angeline Robinson (1812-1896) and Adeline Robinson (1809-1844), lived in the Towns of Adams and York (respectively) and were true pioneers. Angeline was married to James Biggs, an early lead miner. Biggs was said to have been the first settler of the Town of Adams and is buried in the Green's Prairie Cemetery. Adeline married John Stewart and they were said to be the first settlers found in the adjacent Town of York. An early name of Postville was Stewart, named for this family. It is speculated these people settled along an early route which connected Wiota (Hamilton's Diggings) with Madison and which ran the ridge from Argyle to the Dane County border -- County Roads A, J and JG today.

The Wisconsin Historical Society Archives holds three letters – two written by Adeline Stewart and one written by Angeline Biggs. In an 1842 letter, Adeline writes to her brother George Robinson in Ohio, urging him to settle in the Wisconsin Territory. She writes "seven farmers here now" and "some more talk of coming". The "sooner you come the better". Adeline tells of how they raised pigs, stock and corn. Two years later in 1844 Adeline writes George again. This time she is effusive about the prosperity they have achieved in York. The Stewarts had 160 acres paid for, 60 acres of which were plowed and fenced. They raised 23 sheep, 3 mares, 2 colts, 70 head of hogs, wheat and hay. Adeline had a loom on which she wove several hundred yards of cloth. And once again she urged George to come west to York. "The country is settling very fast" with 25-30 families. "The best thing that you can do George is to move out here. I do not advise you for my interest but your own." Her letter dated July 27, 1844 closed with "I remain your most affectionate sister."

Just weeks later, on September 5, 1844, Adeline died suddenly. In October, 1844, Angeline Biggs wrote to her brother George, "Adeline was taken away so very sudin [sic]." Angeline, like her late sister, then urged George to move to Wisconsin. "People are a flocking to this country from all parts of the world." Before Angeline ended her letter with "Dear brother adieu", she asked him to bring 3 dozen socks and to "dig sasafras [sic] and fetch a long for there is none here." (Note: This was written about 10 months before the arrival of a group of over 100 Glarner settlers who purchased 1200 acres of land about 6 miles to the east!)

In 1884 another Robinson arrived in New Glarus, albeit only for a day. This was circus entrepreneur Fayette "Yankee" Robinson who arrived with his partners, the five Ringling Brothers on the first tented circus show in which the Ringlings participated. Although a double bill featuring Robinson and the Ringlings, it was Robinson who was the draw. The Ringling Brothers were just beginning their circus careers and in 1884 were still unknowns.



The circus tour route had begun in Baraboo and had played in Mt. Vernon on Friday, May 24 and New Glarus on Saturday, May 25. There were no circus performances on Sundays but the circus resumed on Monday, May 27 when the circus played in Albany. According to the original 1884 poster (left) those Robinson and Ringling circus performances of 1884 had two shows a day – 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. rain or shine – in a water-proof pavilion with a capacity of 2000. The shows cost 25 cents and were preceded by a circus parade at 11:30 a.m.

Yankee Robinson, the showman and mentor of the Ringling Brothers, died while on that 1884 tour. The Ringling Brothers set out on another tour in 1885, this time billed solely as the “Ringling Brothers Museum and Menagerie”.

Yankee Robinson and the Robinson sisters, Adeline Stewart and Angeline Biggs, were second cousins, once-removed – all direct descendants of Reverend John Robinson, minister to the Pilgrims and credited as a founder of the Congregational Church. Other notable descendants of Rev. Robinson include the Presidents Bush, Humphrey Bogart and Wild Bill Hickok.

Vevay, Indiana

When you hear the name Vevey you may think of the invention of Swiss chocolate and the world headquarters of Nestlé. Perhaps you think of Charlie Chaplin since Vevey became his home in 1953 after leaving Hollywood. Or closer to home perhaps you have heard of Vevay in Switzerland County, Indiana. Vevay, Indiana lies on the Ohio River and was founded by settlers from Vevey, Canton Vaud, Switzerland. The town in Switzerland is spelled Vevey and pronounced ve-VAY, while the Indiana town is spelled Vevay and pronounced VEE-vee.



Ulysses Schenck Home

It was hoped that this Indiana riverside town would replicate the viticulture practiced for centuries in the Lavaux region found in Canton Vaud. The Swiss DuFour family arrived in 1802 introducing the grape vineyards. The immigrants established the town of Vevay in 1813. Being on the Ohio River was a great advantage to the residents and their goods were shipped to points downriver even as far as New Orleans. Besides grapes, more traditional crops such as corn, wheat, oats and tobacco were grown. Timothy grass was grown for hay which was baled and shipped via the Ohio River.

Enter Swiss immigrants Henry Thiebaud, a native of Vevey and Ulysses Schenck, a native of Canton Neuchatel. Schenck was married to Justine Thiebaud, a daughter of Henry. The Thiebauds and Schencks became involved in baling and selling timothy hay. (The viticulture in the area had not taken hold.) A three-story device known as a Mormon hay press had been developed in which an iron screw which would press the hay into 300-400 pound bales. Horses provided the power to operate the press. The bales could be loaded onto river boats and sold at markets along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. At one time there were 200 hay presses in Switzerland County. Today there are but five remaining. Schenck became a shipper of the hay. Before the Civil War he owned 10 flat boats and 5 steamboats which were used to ship hay as well as any number of consumer goods. In one season, Schenck shipped nine million pounds of hay to river markets. Ulysses Schenck became known as “the Hay King”.



Benjamin Franklin Schenck Mansion

Five important historical buildings remain in Vevay linked to the Thiebaud and Schenck families. Ulysses Schenck’s three story brick store, built in 1838, is home to Danner Hardware and is the longest continually operating business in Vevay. Schenck’s handsome 1844 home in Vevay still stands. It is interesting to speculate that the original New Glarus settlers viewed the then new Schenk home as they passed by while traveling down the Ohio River. Benjamin Franklin Schenck, Ulysses’ son, built an even more imposing home. The 35 room Second Empire Schenck mansion -- reputedly haunted -- is a bed and breakfast today.

The more modest Thiebaud home, built in the 1850s by Justi Thiebaud (pictured), was recently



restored largely due to funds from Janesville’s Jeffries Foundation. The Greek Revival home was restored to its glory days. But perhaps more interesting than the restored home is the work being undertaken in the barn to restore the historic Thiebaud hay press to its original operating condition.

To give this story a Glarner connection, also settling in Vevay were Heinrich and Afra (Steinmann) Stüssi immigrants from Niederurnen, Canton Glarus. In Vevay Heinrich Stüssi became Henry Stucy.

Henry was a stone mason and farmer. He and Afra had a family of 11 children. The Thiebaud and Stucy families became connected by marriage – the Stucy’s granddaughter Lura Tilley married Dr. Hugh Thiebaud. Henry Stucy of Vevay was the uncle of Mrs. Fridolin Zweifel (Regula née Oswald) of New Glarus.