

Family History Notes

Summer 2016

Heinrich Marti of Lübeck

In 1929 the German author Thomas Mann was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. While this prize recognized his many works, the one book which stood out was his 1901 novel “Buddenbrooks”. “Buddenbrooks” told the story of the multi-generational decline of a wealthy Lübeck, Germany family of grain merchants named Buddenbrook. The novel was a fictionalized account of Mann’s own family tree. Mann’s family had lived for generations in a large home at 4 Mengstrasse in Lübeck. This home, which still stands today, has become known there as the *Buddenbrookhaus*.



There is a family by the name of Kröger in Mann’s book. The Krögers are ancestors of the Buddenbrooks. And like the Buddenbrooks, they too are wealthy merchants. Thomas Mann based the character of the patriarch Lebrecht Kröger on his own great-grandfather, Heinrich Marti (pictured). Marti was born in Glarus, Canton Glarus in 1778 to Peter and Elisabeth (Elmer) Marti. He went to Lübeck where he married Katharina Elisabeth Croll, the daughter of another wealthy Lübeck merchant. It was the Croll family who built the house on Mengstrasse and the house where Katharina (Croll) Marti grew up. Katharina’s son-in-law and daughter, Johann Thomas and Elisabeth (Marti) Mann purchased the house in 1842. In 1850, when the Mann’s were living in Lübeck luxury in their 21 room home, Elisabeth (Marti) Mann’s first cousin, Anna Maria (Zweifel) Schindler was living in New Glarus, then a settlement only five years old, with no accommodations which could remotely be called luxurious.

Heinrich Marti did not forget this homeland. In the famine year (*Hungerjahr*) of 1816/17, Marti sent funds to Glarus to help alleviate the food shortages.

The 1759 Schiffmeisterhaus of Mitlödi

It may seem incongruous that an occupation found in times past in mountainous Canton Glarus was that of a *Schiffmeister* or ship master. But there was shipping on the lakes and rivers of Switzerland before the advent of better transportation methods such as rail. Various Glarner men found themselves connected to shipping. Among the names of *Schiffmeister* found in Canton Glarus were Kaspar Becker (#88 Glarus), Dietrich Stauffacher (#31 Matt), Samuel Blumer (#19 Schwanden), and Mathias Zopfi (#16 Schwanden) – all ancestors of various New Glarus residents.



Schiffmeister Fridolin Wild (#6 Mitlödi) built a most beautiful house in 1759 – a house which is still celebrated today as perhaps the finest in Mitlödi and one of the finest in the canton. It is known as the *Schiffmeisterhaus* referring back to Wild. It is also referred to as the *Schönenbergerhaus* referring back to the Schönenberger family who resided in the house after Fridolin Wild.

Schiffmeister Fridolin Wild had a sister Anna Katharina who married Christian Kundert. And descendants of Christian and Anna Katharina (Wild) Kundert include Larry Kundert, Steve Ziltner, Duane Freitag, James Geiger, Nedra Klassy, Tom Hefty, Felix Stüssi, and Loni Oliver.

Mrs. Warren's Profession

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) was born into an Oklahoma family named Herring who believed they were part Native American. In her 2014 autobiography, Mrs. Warren professed "as a kid, I had learned about my Native American background the same way every kid learns about who they are: from family". "Being Native American has been part of my story, I guess, since the day I was born," Warren once commented. Her Aunt Bee had concluded that the high cheek bones found in the family were just like the Indians. But Herring family lore never identified any particular ancestor with Native blood. At some point a genealogist identified a third great-grandmother named O. C. Sarah Smith as the family's Cherokee ancestor. But that link was later debunked. And besides, the Cherokee nation requires at least 1/16 Cherokee blood, not 1/32 as in this hypothetical Warren link. And so it appears that despite those high Herring cheek bones in her family, Senator Warren is unable to verify Native American ancestry.

But Elizabeth Warren can prove 1/8 Swiss ancestry. Her immigrant great-grandmother Herring was born Maria Anna Schären in Switzerland in 1860. Maria Anna's parents were Abraham and Magdalena (Berger) Schären of Spiez, Canton Bern. (One reference places this family in Lattigen, a locale of Spiez.) Mrs. Warren apparently never professed to be Swiss. Perhaps her Swiss ancestry did not possess the cachet of her now discredited Native ancestry at places like Harvard or the U. S. Senate.

A local connection? Also born in Spiez was Emma Schären, daughter of Johann and Anna Elisabeth (Kammermann) Schären. Emma was born in 1867, immigrated in 1892, and married Gottfried Theiler the following year. They farmed in the Town of Washington. Among the Theiler children were Martha (Mrs. Leon Duerst), Elda (Mrs. Otto Rhiner), and Herman (married Berdie Blum).

A Clean Sweep

What we Americans know of chimney sweeps may come from the movie *Mary Poppins*. We learned they are dressed in black, covered in soot and are "as lucky as lucky can be". Indeed, chimney sweeps in Europe have long been associated with good luck. The fireplace hearth and kitchen stove radiate warmth are considered favorite places found in a family home. And the sweeps played an important part in the operation of these heat sources.



In German-speaking areas a chimney sweep is known as a *Kaminfeger*. In Canton Glarus, there are still chimney sweeps today, including Johann (Hans) Tschudi of Näfels and Rolf Elmer of Elm.

Both Tschudi and Elmer have mastered their profession and have attained the status of *Kaminfegermeister*. This occupation has grown to encompass much more than cleaning chimneys. Today it involves the maintenance of various types of furnaces. Tschudi has a retail outlet called the *Ofästübli* (pictured) in which various ovens (*Ofä*) are offered for sale. Tschudi also sells wood pellets, an option for homeowners with wood-burning ovens to burn wood without the mess. Hans Tschudi's father and grandfather (also Johann/Hans) were also chimney sweeps and the family occupation started over 100 years ago in 1908.



Rolf Elmer of Elm is also a chimney sweep whose career, like that of Tschudi, ranges from oil, gas and wood furnaces as well as the control mechanisms of each. As a modern-day chimney sweep, he drives a black van which is often seen on the streets of Elm. He may dress in the traditional black but he is not covered from head to toe in soot as his face and blond hair will attest. A clean sweep!

Ancestors of newsletter readers who were chimney sweeps include Franz Hefti and Sebastian Schmid both of

Schwanden, Canton Glarus. Franz Hefti was the grandfather of Anna Hefti (Mrs. John Baumgartner), Sabina Hefti (Mrs. Gottlieb ZumBrunnen), Therese Hefti (Mrs. Jacob Zimmerman) and Rosina Kundert (Mrs. Oswald Geiger). Sebastian Schmid was the father of Sebastian and Emanuel Schmid, who left Canton Glarus for Syracuse, NY.



Riddle Me This

Why is Bruce Workman's Edelweiss Creamery near Monticello like a split-leaf philodendron? Let me know if you have an answer to this riddle.

Cecily Strong

The name Cecily Strong may not be known to those readers over 30. She is an actress and comedian best known as a current member of the Saturday Night Live ensemble. Cecily, the daughter of Bill and Penelope (Legler) Strong, is a Springfield, IL native who grew up in Oak Park, IL. She is a graduate of the Chicago Academy of the Arts.

Through her Legler ancestors Cecily has a Glarner connection. Cecily's fourth great-grandfather, immigrant Johannes Legler, a native of Diesbach, Canton Glarus died in New Glarus in 1854 and is likely buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. She is the great-great granddaughter of Henry E. Legler and great-granddaughter of Henry W. Legler. Both men have biographical sketches in my book "Glarners in America". Henry E. Legler was a journalist, Wisconsin Assemblyman, historian, and ultimately the chief librarian of the Chicago Public Library. His son Henry W. was an advertising executive who, in his retirement, wrote a book "How to Make the Rest of Your Life the Best of Your Life". Legler's book dealt with not retiring from life when one retires from work.



In recognition of Cecily's comedic talents, she was selected as the host and featured entertainer at the 2015 White House Correspondents' Association dinner where she skewered various politicians in the audience including President Obama. Her 22 minute introduction to the Dinner can be viewed on YouTube. Here is the link: [Cecily Strong at White House Press Dinner](#)

Eighty Years Ago: A Severe Winter and the Hottest Summer

Eighty years ago the winter of 1935/36 was one of the most intense cold spells in North American history. Beginning in November of 1935 and ending in February, 1936 frigid arctic air spread across the country with the Canadian Prairie Provinces and America's Upper Midwest hardest hit.

Ironically, the following summer of 1936 was to bring the most severe heat wave in modern North American History. In Madison, WI the official temperatures hit 104F, 106F and 107F on July 12, 13 and 14. These three days were the height of an unusually hot and dry June to September. The temperatures on these three days still hold the record high temperatures. The all-time state record of 114F was set on July 13 in Wisconsin Dells. The July 13 Wisconsin State Journal's headline exclaimed, "16 Die, 11 Overcome as Molten Mercury to All-Time Record of 106 Above Gasping City".



While many

Madison residents went to the Capitol Square to sleep outside rather than in their dangerously hot homes and apartments, Fred Boss stayed in his apartment. Boss, a Madison hardware merchant located on Atwood Avenue, was found dead on July 12. A neighbor had noticed Boss' newspaper had not been picked up. The Fire Department was called but it was too late. Boss, 50, was survived by his father, Gottfried Boss of Monroe.

Closer to home Albert Duerst, 36, a Basco farmer died of heat prostration. Duerst was survived by his widow and four school-age children. 42-year-old Jacob Halder of Monroe died on July 16. Both Duerst and Halder were buried in the Paoli cemetery.

Despite the tragic deaths, there was a lighter note to that hot summer. A man and a woman at Lake Monona's Brittingham Park took to the waters to escape the heat. The police promptly arrested the pair due to the fact they were not wearing bathing suits.

A Warm Moment in the Cold War

This photograph immediately below is a cropped version of one recently published in the



Südosstschweiz Zeitung -- the Southeast Switzerland newspaper. Incredibly, it shows President John F. Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in the elegant Tapestry Room (*Gobelinzimmer*) at the Hotel Glarnerhof in Glarus in 1961. And serving them is a young Martin Vogel whose parents, Fridolin and Trudi Vogel-Stoll, owned the hotel. (Martin is a frequent visitor in New Glarus, as were his late parents.) Through the open window one can see the fountain in the *Volksgarten* across the street. The Glarnerhof is the finest hotel in the village of Glarus. It opened its doors in January, 1862, having narrowly escaped the great Glarus fire of 1861.



Patric Vogel, Martin's son, discovered a stash of family photographs in a bureau drawer. The bureau had originally stood in the Glarnerhof and had belonged to Patric's grandfather Fridolin Vogel. Patric recognized the tapestry in the photograph as well as the window which opened on the park. And then he thought he recognized JFK. Patric asked his father about the photo. Martin explained that the meeting was top secret and arranged by the Federal authorities in Bern. Kennedy and Khrushchev had met in Vienna but that meeting was deemed a failure. Neutral Switzerland was chosen for a follow-up meeting and the Glarnerhof in Glarus was selected as a good location away from prying journalists. This secret summit (*Gipfeltreffen*) was all but forgotten until the discovery of the photos.

Below is the larger image of the Südostschweiz newspaper in which *eine fast unglaubliche Geschichte aufgedeckt worden* – a most unbelievable story has been uncovered. I have highlighted in yellow the date of this newspaper edition – 01.04.2016 – the European way of expressing April 1, 2016. *Glückliche Aprilscherze! Happy April Fools' Day!*

John F. Kennedy tagte 1961 im «Glarnerhof»

Diese Woche ist in Glarus eine fast unglaubliche Geschichte aufgedeckt worden. Dank eines Beweisfotos ist klar: Der ehemalige US-Präsident John F. Kennedy und der sowjetische Regierungschef Nikita Chruschtschow hielten im «Glarnerhof» ein Gipfeltreffen ab.




1 / 2

Das Beweisfoto zum geheimen Gipfeltreffen im Gobelinzimmer des Glarnerhofs 1961. Privatarchiv Fam. Vogel


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History and Heritage Books in New Glarus

A whole stash of local history and Canton Glarus-themed books are shelved in the staff office of the New Glarus Public Library. Until relatively recently many of these books were not cataloged. Now some of the books can be found on the South Central Library System's online catalog known as LinkCat. It is hoped these books will be fully cataloged by title, author and subject (in English) so that patrons interested in this very special collection will be able to easily locate and access the materials.

Several of the books in this collection which may be of interest to readers:

“*Geschichte der Blumer*” by Walter Blumer. This is an in depth book on the history of the Blumer Families of Canton Glarus. Walter Blumer, a noted Swiss historian and map collector, donated the book in 1961 and sent it to the attention of Village President Gilbert Ott. Blumer included the history of the Blumer name, their various coats of arms, early Blumer branches of Nidfurn, Thon and Schwanden as well as the Blumer families in Engi and Glarus. The comprehensive book contains many illustrations and genealogical tables.

“*Urchtigi Ächti Glarner-Choscht*” is a slim volume of “rustic and authentic” Glarner recipes including such specialties as Glarner *Anggäzältä* (a buttery pastry; aka *Ankezelte*), *Zigerhöräli* (Glarner macaroni and cheese made with *Schabziger*; aka *Zigerhörnli*), *Zöggla* (dumplings similar to *Spaezle*; aka *Zokla*), *Chalberwürscht mit Zwetschgen Kompott* (Kalberwurst with plum compote), *Gämspfeffer* (chamois ragout), *Biräbrot* (pear bread), and *Türggäbrot* (corn bread).



“*Glarner Alpbuch*” takes the reader on a beautiful journey to discover the summer pastures, known as alps, throughout Canton Glarus. The prized *Alpkäse* (alp cheese) is made on the alp using milk infused with the flavors of alpine herbs found on the summer pastures. Readers are introduced to those individuals and families who still tend the cattle and make the cheese on these remote spots.

“*Die Schweizer Frau*” circa 1910 is a book about Swiss women and includes a story of Anna Marty of Canton Glarus.

“*Das Glarnerland im Wandel der Zeit*” contains “then and now” photographs taken throughout Canton Glarus. Each historic image is paired with a photograph taken in more current times. This book was a 1987 gift from the Village President of Glarus Heinrich Aebli to New Glarus Village President Ray Stoiber.

The New Glarus Historical Society sits on an even more expansive collection of books, documents and historical ephemera. Studies of these materials could yield a much more robust understanding of the history of New Glarus. Yet these materials have remained uncataloged and thus underutilized for decades.

Henry Blumer's Skunk Grease

About a decade ago Elda and Linda Schiesser donated an unusual family artifact to the Wisconsin Historical Society (pictured; WHS Museum Object #2006.1.1A-B). It was a jar of skunk grease used by Elda's father, Adolph Strahm, a Farmer's Grove area farmer. The following is taken from the WHS website: "Strahm suffered from pleurisy, an inflammation of the cavity surrounding the lungs, and used this remedy to alleviate its symptoms. [He] used this



skunk grease like we use Vick's VapoRub today. The conventional wisdom of the time claimed that fumes from skunk grease applied to the chest would penetrate the skin into the lungs, helping the sick person breathe. People suffering from whooping cough or croup also rubbed skunk grease on their chests or drank skunk oil to induce vomiting, thereby clearing their lungs and calming their coughs. One way to make skunk grease was to boil the fat from several skunks and add about two tablespoons of an adult male skunk's

glandular secretions before the fat congealed. After the grease cooled, it could be stored in a jar or can, and the mixture would last for years. Some people who used skunk grease for respiratory problems swore that it got better with age."

The skunk grease home-remedy was made by Henry (Hank) Blumer (1892-1968), a farm neighbor of the Strahms. Blumer likely hunted or trapped the skunks to make his therapeutic ointment. Where he learned his medicinal trade is not known. Skunks were not found in Europe so Blumer's skunk grease formula and process did not originate from there. In fact, German and Swiss speaking immigrants did not have a word for skunk. So they came up with names like *Stinkkatz* or *Stinktief* – stinky cat or stinky animal!



But there is a related product found in the Alps yet today. And that is *Murmeltier Salbe* or *Murmeltierfettcrème* --marmot salve or marmot fat cream. This popular product is found in Swiss *Apotheken*. A Zermatt sidewalk display basket

(pictured) contains the product along with a toy marmot. Unlike the skunk grease used for respiratory issues, the marmot fat salve is used to soothe sore and achy muscles.



Blumer's parents, Johann Jacob and Verena (Baumgartner) Blumer, were both 1873 immigrants from Engi, Canton Glarus. Their farm was located on County H about 5 miles southwest of New Glarus, the buildings of which have nearly or completely disappeared from the landscape.

Animal Names in the German Language

The previous article mentioned two animals, the skunk and the marmot. These two animals were given descriptive names in the German language. The skunk to German immigrants became *Stinkkatz* or *Stinktief* describing the stinky cat or stinky animal. A *Murmeltier* is also descriptive since the verb *murmeln* means to mumble thus the mumbling animal. The following page lists other humorous German animal names.

German animal name literal meaning English animal name

Waschbär wash bear raccoon
Faultier lazy animal sloth
Meerschweinchen ocean piglet guinea pig
Gürteltier belt animal armadillo
Schnabeltier beak animal platypus
Maultier mouth animal mule
Trampeltier trampling animal Bactrian camel
Schildkröte shield toad tortoise
Nacktschnecke naked snail slug
Nilpferd or Flußpferd horse of the Nile or river horse hippopotamus
Fledermaus flutter mouse bat
Seehund, Seekuh, Seeschwein sea dog, sea cow, sea pig seal, manatee, dugong
Tintenfisch ink fish squid
Truthahn threatening chicken turkey
Schweinswal pig whale porpoise
Stachelschwein spike pig porcupine
Wasserschwein water pig capybara
Eichkätzchen oak kitten squirrel
Vielfraß eats-a-lot wolverine
Katzenbär cat bear red panda

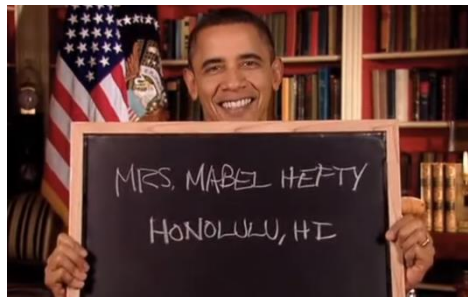
A Favorite Teacher

When Barack Obama wrote his 1995 book “Dreams from My Father” he mentioned Mabel Hefty, his 5th grade teacher at the private college-prep Punahou School in Honolulu. In a public service announcement for teach.gov President Obama stated, “I’ve had so many teachers who had a wonderful impact, but one teacher that stands out is Mrs. Hefty, who was my 5th grade teacher. I was in a new school. [I] had this unusual name. She taught me that I had something to say.” Again in 2016, on the occasion of National Teacher Appreciation Day, the President tweeted “To my 5th grade teacher Ms. Mabel Hefty and the educators who inspire our young people every single day: Thank you.” And a White House tweet echoed with “Ms. Mabel Hefty helped shape the education of a 5th grader named Barack Obama.” Pictured below are Mabel Hefty and her fifth grade class of 1971-72, with Barry Obama in the back row third from the left.



Knowing of his Kenyan heritage, Mabel Hefty took a particular interest in 10-year-old Barry. She had taught in Kenya during a late 1960s sabbatical. And it was during Obama’s year in Mrs. Hefty’s class that his father, Barack Sr., happened to visit Hawaii for about a month. This was the only time the Obamas – father and son – met other than in infancy.

Mabel (Morris) Hefty was born in Brooklyn, NY. She married Milton R. Hefty, a California native and they moved to Hawaii in the 1930s. They had two children, Carolyn (Hefty) Whorff and Scott Hefty, both of whom were Punahou alumni and both who died in 2014. Milton's father, Emil Hefty, was an 1887 Swiss immigrant with a Canton Glarus background.



Emil Hefty's parents were Peter and Anna (Knobel) Hefti of Leuggelbach, Canton Glarus. Emil had two first cousins who lived in New Glarus. They were the immigrant sisters Katharina Hefti (Mrs. Paulus Figi) and

Barbara Hefti (Mrs. Gabriel Schindler). This would make New Glarus natives J. J. Figi and S. A. Schindler second cousins of Mabel's husband Milton Hefty. Many other cousins from this Hefti branch immigrated to America and farmed in the LuVerne and Renwick, IA settlement.

At a 2011 Rose Garden event honoring teachers, Obama remarked, "Ms. Hefty is no longer with us, but I often think about her and how much of a difference she made in my life." And the President was not alone in his assessment of Mrs. Hefty. She was a beloved figure among most of her Punahou students. Mabel Hefty died in July of 1995, the same month that "Dreams from My Father" was published by her now-famous student.

Researching Canton Glarus Roots

Accompanying this newsletter is a separate attachment entitled "The Genealogical Oeuvre of Johann Jakob Kubly-Müller", a document explaining the process used to use the Kubly-Müller genealogical books found in the Canton Glarus Archives. These Kubly-Müller volumes are the single greatest source of family history data for Canton Glarus individuals. And fortunately for those of us with Canton Glarus ancestry, these reference works are perhaps the most easily accessed and easily used genealogy reference works found in Switzerland.

The use of these volumes still requires some basic knowledge to navigate the system. And Patrick A. Wild, a family historian of Egg-bei-Zürich, Switzerland, has written the attached document in an effort to educate those who plan to use these genealogical books. Some basic points regarding researching in the Glarus Archives: permission to access the Kubly-Müller books is now required due to Swiss privacy laws. It is best to obtain this permission via email in advance to avoid surprises. Knowing the ancestral home village of your immigrant ancestor(s) is very helpful as is having the birth date(s) and any other pertinent information.

The case of researching Emil Hefty (mentioned in the previous story) may provide an illustration of how this research can be performed. When the name of President Obama's teacher Mabel Hefty was mentioned on the television, it immediately raised the possibility that she (or her husband) were of Canton Glarus ancestry. The first step was to find out if Mabel Hefty was born a Hefty or if this was her married name. Family Search, the online LDS genealogical database, was the first step. Mabel Hefty was found in the 1940 census, living in Hawaii with a husband Milton Ray Hefty and their daughter Carolyn. Next, the same Family Search database was used to search on the name Milton Ray Hefty. This led to several census entries (1910, 1920 and 1930) which list Milton Ray as the son of Emil and Laura Hefty. The 1910 census listed Emil, age 42 (therefore born around 1867-68) an immigrant from Switzerland.

Once again using the Family Search online database, a search on the name Emil Hefty yielded his birth date of June 22, 1867 and an immigration date of March 14, 1887. Here the online information ended.

It just so happened that Patrick Wild was researching an inquiry about immigrant Hefti sisters Katharina and Rosina (Mrs. Andrew Knobel and Mrs. John Streiff) of Buffalo County, Nebraska. The name Emil Hefty was thrown into this mix and Patrick, who planned to visit the Glarus Archives that week, promised to look into Emil.

The name Emil Hefty has some research challenges. Hefti is a common Canton Glarus name which can be found in various villages (Schwanden, Ennenda, Elm, Luchsingen, Glarus, etc.) and thus Heftis are registered in several different Kubly-Müller volumes. The given name Emil is somewhat advantageous since it is not a common Canton Glarus name (unlike Jacob, Mathias, Heinrich, etc.). And Emil's birthdate was known which was also very helpful. But Emil's home village was not known. Patrick started his search with the Heftis of Schwanden since that village had the most Hefti families registered. And indeed, he found Emil Hefty listed as the son of Peter and Anna (Knobel) Hefti of Leuggelbach, Canton Glarus -- the Leuggelbach families are registered in the Schwanden volumes.

Patrick Wild, whose Wild family ancestry is from the villages of Mitlödi and Schwanden, is also related to area families. Two of his great-great aunts, Barbara and Elsbeth Wild immigrated to this area. Barbara (Mrs. Albrecht Duerst) lived near Paoli and Elsbeth (Mrs. Matt Zentner) lived in the Dutch Hollow area. Albert Duerst, a victim of the "hottest summer" (see p. 4), was the first cousin of Patrick's grandfather Fritz Wild. Thank you Patrick for sharing his useful research tool for with the newsletter readers.

Charlotte's Web

The title of this newsletter item does not refer to E. B. White's children's book, but rather it refers to --believe it or not -- a type of marijuana named for a 5 year-old Colorado girl. Little Charlotte Figi had developed a severe epileptic condition known as Dravet Syndrome. She lost the ability to walk, talk and eat. She was experiencing 300 grand mal seizures a week. Charlotte's parents, Matt and Paige Figi, were desperate for any remedy when they heard about an obscure marijuana-related treatment. Despite apprehensions about marijuana, Matt and Paige pursued the unorthodox approach. The Figis were assured that the therapeutic cannabidiol found in this strain of marijuana was very high while the euphoric, "high"-producing THC portion of this extract was extremely low. Due to the extremely low THC of the Charlotte's Web strain, this unique strain of marijuana is not the "wacky tobaccy" desired by recreational users!

After taking a few drops of the extract, Charlotte's seizures immediately slowed to a level of only a few each week. Her physical development began anew and she is now a happy little girl who can smile, play and feed herself. This Figi family drama was captured in a CNN special entitled "Weed" by Dr. Sanjay Gupta. Here is the link: [CNN Special "Weed"](#)

Charlotte Figi is a descendent of Johann Jacob and Barbara (Kundert) Figi of the Monroe area. She is also the fifth great-granddaughter of Sara (Voegeli) Kundert who is buried in the New Glarus EUB cemetery. Incidentally, Sara Kundert will be featured in the August 6 cemetery walk. Plan to attend and learn more about her family.