

Family History Notes

Winter 2016

Mathias and Magdalena (Durst) Schmid Family of New Glarus and South Dakota

Mathias Schmid and his wife Magdalena Durst (originally spelled Dürst) were both original 1845 colonists of New Glarus. Fifteen year old Mathias accompanied his immigrant parents, Mathias and Anna Katharina (Schmid) Schmid of Nidfurn. And nine year old Magdalena accompanied her parents, Balthasar and Magdalena (Durst) Durst of Diesbach. Mathias and Magdalena married in May, 1854. Later that same year his father was a victim of the cholera epidemic which was fatal to about 20 New Glarus residents.

The name Mathias Schmid occurred over 4 generations in this family. The immigrant Mathias Schmid (1802-1854) was the son of a Mathias Schmid. New Glarus immigrant Mathias's oldest son (the subject of this article) was named Mathias as was his son. And immigrant Mathias Schmid also had five grandsons with the name Mathias – Mathias Schmid son of Thomas, Matt Schmid son of Melchior, Mathias Schmid son of Adam, Mathias Hauser son of Anna Katharina (Schmid) Hauser and the aforementioned Mathias Schmid son of Mathias.



Likewise the name Magdalena was passed down over many generations. Magdalena (Durst) Schmid (the subject of this article) was the fourth generation bearing that name. Named Magdalena were her great-grandmother Magdalena (Mrs. Melchior Streiff), grandmother Magdalena (Mrs. Heinrich Durst), and mother Magdalena

(Mrs. Balthasar Durst). And naming the second Schmid daughter Magdalena (later Mrs. John Messner) made it a five generation occurrence.

Back Row (spouses in parentheses): Magdalena (John Messner), Balthasar (Anna Kundert), Margaretha (Andrew Johnson), Anna Maria (Jacob Voegeli), Mathias (Mary Duerst), Anna Katharina (John Henry Kundert). Front Row: Fannie (John Bovill), father Mathias Schmid, Joshua, mother Magdalena (Durst) Schmid, Henry John (Isabelle Amunson).

Prior to moving to South Dakota, Mathias Schmid operated the New Glarus mill from 1868 to 1873. He had purchased the mill from brothers Samuel and Henry Hoesly who were also original 1845 settlers. The Hoesly brothers left New Glarus to become millers, first in Grasshopper Falls (later Valley Falls), Kansas and then finally settling in Milwaukie, Oregon. Miller Mathias Schmid sold his interest in the New Glarus mill to Fridolin (Fred) Kundert in 1873.

That same year Mathias and Magdalena Schmid left New Glarus for Beresford in the Dakota Territory. Their first eight children were all born in New Glarus and their youngest and last child, daughter Fannie, was born in Dakota. While the Schmidts had arrived after the Indian wars, they did arrive in time for several consecutive years of grasshopper plagues followed by the odd flood, prairie fire or tornado. And the Schmidts survived the seven month winter of 1880-1881, written about years later by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Wilder documented the blizzards and frigid temperatures those early Dakotans had to endure. (The Ingalls family lived in DeSmet, SD during that winter – only about 100 miles from the Schmidts near Beresford, SD.)

An intriguing aspect of this historic family photograph is observed front and center. Joshua Schmid, born in New Glarus in 1859, is surrounded by his family. He appears to be physically disabled and in fact the 1880 Dakota Territory census lists him as an “idiot” suggesting mental disability as well. His parents and two sisters have their hands on his chair.

Mother Magdalena Schmid died in 1893 while on a trip to Wisconsin. Both of her elderly parents were yet living in New Glarus so it is very likely she died while on a trip here. Father Mathias Schmid lived to see the 50th anniversary of the founding of New Glarus in 1895 – in fact it is possible he traveled to New Glarus to attend the local festivities. His five Schmid siblings - John Henry, Adam, Anna Katharina Hauser, Thomas and Melchior -- were all still living in Green County. Mathias traveled to his Canton Glarus homeland in 1899 and stopped in Monroe and New Glarus on his return trip to South Dakota. It would have been wonderful had he recorded his thoughts comparing his 1899 voyage to his 1845 trip which he had experienced as a 15 year old boy. Mathias died in 1915 just months shy of New Glarus' 70th anniversary. He and Magdalena were buried in South Dakota at the Zion United Methodist Cemetery on land which they had donated. They are now surrounded by numerous Schmid descendants including Joshua Rueben Schmid, a great-great grandson who died in 2006.

Nostalgia Ain't What it Used to Be -- Literally

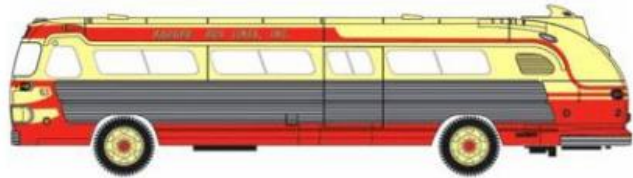
Our notion of nostalgia today – a sentimental remembrance and affection for the past – is quite different from the meaning it had when the concept of nostalgia was developed by Johannes Hofer (1669-1752) in Switzerland in 1688. Hofer coined the word nostalgia from the Greek *nostos* meaning homecoming or returning from a long journey, and *algos* meaning ache or pain. Hofer had observed the melancholy of Swiss soldiers serving in such places as the flat plains of France. He felt that nostalgia reflected an actual malady -- the Swiss homesickness (*Schweizerheimweh*) of those mercenary soldiers. It was felt that the Swiss homesickness could be intensified by the singing of *Kuhreihen*, a particular alpine song often played on the alphorn at those times the cows were being driven to and from the mountain pastures. And so the singing of this tune by Swiss mercenaries was forbidden lest it trigger the *Schweizerheimweh* illness.

But the meaning of nostalgia has changed. Today nostalgia is no longer thought of as a disease. It is a trip down memory lane to the good ol' days. That nostalgic trip is typically an abridged recollection of those happy places which we care to remember. And nostalgia differs from history. The march of a historian into the past is down a road sometimes paved, sometimes full of potholes and often results in a dead end. The historic trip, much more layered, is one which explores the totality of the past. Nostalgia may be a picture of a rustic old barn, while history is an investigation of barn architecture, farming methods, crops planted, machinery used, economic considerations, and the roles played by men, women and children on the farm.

If you have listened to Garrison Keillor, you know he is a populist who attempts to conceal wisdom in humor. The following is one of Keillor's musings in which he comments in general about our cultural shallowness and specifically contrasts nostalgia and history: *"You hear them at the grocery store deliberating the balsamic vinegar and olive oils, the cold-pressed virgin olive oil vs. the warm-pressed olive oil, people with too much money and very little character, people who are all sensibility and no sense, all nostalgia and no history, the people my Aunt Eleanor used to call "a \$10 haircut on a 59 cent head."*"

A Nostalgic Trip Around the Block circa 1960

The late Alvin Streiff wrote a series of columns for the New Glarus Post in which he reflected back on the New Glarus of his youth. In one column he told of the various people he met as a lad who lived in the neighborhood of his grandmother. His recollections told of a variety of New Glarus souls who had touched his young life. The following recollections of mine, inspired by Alvin Streiff, are more nostalgic than historic. These memories are of people who lived in the area where I grew up near the embroidery factory on the south side of New Glarus circa 1960. At that point in my life that village block constituted my world.



The village block on which we lived was bordered by First and Second Streets and 10th and 11th Avenues. State Highway 69, before it bypassed the village, passed along these streets. The



Madison-to-Freeport Badger Bus traveled these same streets on its route. Occasionally the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile would drive by providing a brief and unexpected thrill. And on a few summer evenings the village mosquito sprayer/fogger would slowly pass through the neighborhoods with the putt-putt-putt of the motor belching out

DDT fog. All the neighborhood children ran through the cloud of pesticides. It appears from many postings found on the internet this was a rite of passage and now a nostalgic memory for many baby boomers across the country from those years.

Our neighborhood had many children who played together in the back yards. In the summer that was from morning to dusk. Without a doubt the person most responsible for organizing the neighborhood activities (games, singing, parades, circuses, etc.) was Steve Hoesly. Steve was a creative and dramatic force who possessed a wide repertoire of activities. All of the neighborhood kids (Marsha and Cheryl Hofer, Randy Beckwith, Jim and Marcia Colney, Steve's sister Mary Ellen Hoesly and my sister Barbara) were eager to join him in whatever activities he had up his sleeve. A favorite song of Steve's was "California, Here I Come" and indeed after college that was where he had landed for the rest of his life. During these same years Steve played the role of Walter Tell in the Wilhelm Tell drama. Later he took on the more challenging part of Melchtal. After Steve's death in 2010, his family placed a small stone memorial at the site of the "apple shoot" with Walter's line, "I shall not be bound!"

Across the street from our home was what we called the lace factory. This unique business was actually named the Upright Swiss Embroideries, Inc. and was a manufacturer of embroideries and laces. The factory was owned and operated by Appenzell immigrant Arnold Wieser and his family. The factory also included retail sales of their fabrics. After the Highway 69 bypass was completed the Wiesers build new retail space on the highway called The Swiss Miss which was



to become a major destination for area seamstresses and brides-to-be. In the summer the lace factory windows were opened and the rhythmic sounds of the large embroidery looms could be heard all day long. And at dusk we would gather on our front porch to watch the chimney swifts (we called them swallows) circle the factory chimney before diving into the depths of the stack. The factory employed mostly local women including Louisa Schiess and Bernice Jelle

who are pictured at left next to the Schiffli loom. Various neighbor ladies were cutters and sewers at the embroidery factory, including Alma (Schneider) Wittwer, Mavis (Figy) Duerst, Bertha (Streiff) Hefty, and Elsie Schenkel.

The handsome Duerst home was east of the factory. Living here were Martha (Theiler) Duerst and her bachelor brother-in-law, John P. Duerst. This home had been built by the John P.'s father, John W. Duerst. Living in an upstairs apartment was Sylvia (Schmid) Stuessy. The Duersts and Stuessys had lived on neighboring farms and were cousins – their mothers being Werndli sisters. These people often served as Saturday night babysitters for my sister and me. I remember watching the Lawrence Welk show and hearing about the lives of the Welk entertainers. Treats included a variety of cookies including *Brätzli* and a concoction of soda crackers soaked in milk and topped with sugar. Today the Duerst home is a guest house operated by Martha and Leon Duerst's grandson Don Elmer and his wife Jane.

Across the street from the Duerst home was the neatly kept home of a Norwegian immigrant Andrew Kolstad and his wife Martha (Magnuson). When we went to their home in Halloween costumes and masks, we would be greeted with a treat. Then they would try to figure out who we were, asking in their thick Norwegian accents, "hoo iss dis den?"

Another Halloween stop was at the home of Henry and Lena (Blum) Hoesly. This stop was mandated since the Hoeslys were long time family friends. But it was not a stop we children relished. For Lena Hoesly did not give candy treats. Rather she popped popcorn and put it in a large bowl. Then we had to sit, eat popcorn and visit with Lena. And of course as a child this was not welcome since we felt we were losing valuable trick-or-treating time.

There were various 3 generation households -- neighbors who lived with and cared for elderly parents. Anna (Hefti) Aebly (who was born in Ennenda, Canton Glarus) was looked after by her son-in-law and daughter Ernest and Margaret (Aebly) Hofer. Anna Aebly and Margaret lived in this house after moving from the Aebly farm around 1940. And Margaret Hofer continues to live in this same residence! Howard and Dolores (Barton) Beckwith had an upstairs apartment where various people rented including Dr. Robert and Mary Brauchli and family and Ed and Gerneen Zurkirchen. In later years Dolores Beckwith's mother Esther (Nessa) Barton and Uncle Louis Johnson lived in this upstairs unit. Mert and Olga (Lienhard) Colney lived above her elderly father, Alfred Lienhard. Alfred had a large and very old dog, Buzz, who was as slow and gentle as his owner. The Colneys also had a pet rabbit. And living with Gilbert and Doris (Crossgrove) Hoesly was her mother Jenny Crossgrove. It is interesting how we have largely passed from multi-generational households where families took care of and looked after their own.

Neighbors Gilbert Hoesly and Mert Colney were Pet Milk employees. And so when it was announced in early 1962 that the condensing plant was closing, the news spread quickly in the neighborhood. One neighborhood playmate predicted that the plant closing would cause New Glarus to become a ghost town. In my imagination I envisioned tumbleweed blowing down an unpaved and dusty New Glarus main street.

Verena (Elmer) Legler and her daughter Martha lived in a residence with a somewhat gloomy aura. Verena, known as Fanny, was a thin old lady with wispy white hair. Martha, then in her forties or fifties, had Down syndrome. Martha would appear in their large front window or on the porch clutching her doll and smiling. We were somewhat frightened and yet fascinated with Martha. I don't recall any communication with these ladies. Years later I would learn Mrs. Legler was my grandfather's first cousin and that the gloomy Queen Anne was built by Uncle Werner Elmer.



One of the more interesting neighbors lived next door. Her name was Jeanne Rose Meyer Richard Koprud, a native of Alsace-Lorraine in France. She was known to us simply as Mrs. Koprud. She possessed a cheery temperament and was an expert at crochet. Mrs. Koprud would sit in her south-facing window and crochet for hours. She displayed her hand made doilies in her windows and sold them to visitors to the embroidery factory across the street. More on Mrs. Koprud is planned for an upcoming article.

An upstairs apartment in the Koprud home was rented by Martha Heiden, the mother-in-law of Dr. E. V. Hicks. Martha was an elderly widow and perhaps the only recollection of her was the fascinating fact (to us kids) that her husband had been a steam locomotive engineer.

A block away was a neighborhood institution – the small neighborhood grocery store of Jake and Elizabeth (Whitford) Zweifel. Neighbors would walk to Jake’s for a loaf of bread, some fresh fruit, or eggs. The eggs were candled in the back room by Jake himself as a quality control measure. Cash was not exchanged on every purchase. Families were extended credit, paying off their bill perhaps every few weeks. For the kids of the area Jake’s store was the source of penny candy, gum, and candy bars. The 5 cent Hershey bar was the standard, but if you were short of pennies, Jake also offered a 3 cent chocolate bar. In the back of the store was a coffin freezer with frozen ice cream novelties such as Push-Ups, Drumsticks, popsicles, Fudgsicles and ice cream sandwiches. Jake had a small home-style refrigerator in the back room where the bottles of pop were chilled. The brightly colored bottles of soda were locally produced by another Jake Zweifel -- aka “Pop Jake”.

Others in the area remembered were “whistling” Palmer and Mavis (Figy) Duerst, Clarence and Eva (Ringhand) Zweifel (Eva recently died at the age of 102), Chester and Hulda (Duerst) Stuessy, Herman and Bertha (Hefty) Marty, Peter “Honey Bee” and Henrietta (Zwicky) Klassy, and Swiss immigrants Karl and Elsie Schenkel. Peter Klassy sold honey from his home and Karl Schenkel sold honey and grated horseradish. Elsie Schenkel was a hardworking woman usually dressed in denim and what looked like an over-sized man’s shirt -- never anything feminine. But Elsie was a kind soul and always stopped to chat with the neighborhood kids.

An unusual couple appeared on the scene about this time. Armin and Frieda Zingere lived in a tiny 3 room house behind the embroidery factory. Their entire home was smaller than many of the “great rooms” found in homes today. And I am not sure the tiny house even had a bathroom. Armin was a Swiss immigrant and married Frieda Meier, the daughter of Swiss immigrants. I recall the neighborhood girls knocked on the Zingere’s door, presented Frieda with a small bouquet of flowers and sang a song for them. The girls then claimed “We are the Lennon Sisters” and ran away. Just think, those little girls are now approaching 65-70 years of age!

This area around the block nearly constituted an entire world to a 6 year old. And like the various New Glarus people encountered by Alvin Streiff 50 years earlier, these people were good neighbors and friends remembered some 50 years later.

Three Recent Passings

Thomas Rudolf Hefty, Jr. a Madison native and resident of Hilton Head, SC passed away on December 8, 2014. Hefty was the son of Thomas Rudolf Hefty, Sr., a New Glarus native and



later the President of the First National Bank of Madison. And Hefty Jr. was the grandson of Thomas Hefty, a founder and later president of the Bank of New Glarus. The elder Thomas Hefty was born in Hätzingen, Canton Glarus and immigrated with his family at the age of one to New

Glarus in 1847. The Hefty-Blum Homestead Farm remains in Hefty descendants’ hands now nearly 170 years later. Pictured is a \$20 banknote signed by T. R. Hefty, Sr.

As the son of a Madison bank president, Thomas R. Hefty Jr. grew up in affluent circumstances. When little Tom was about 4 years old the family moved to a new home in posh Maple Bluff – the address of which is 99 Cambridge Road. We know this same house today as the Wisconsin Executive Residence or Governor’s Mansion!

Thomas R. Hefty Jr. left three daughters to mourn his passing, so the name Thomas Hefty, used for three generations in his family, is not found in the fourth generation. But the name Thomas R. Hefty is found in other Hefty families. The late Thomas R. Hefty of Beloit was a Green County native. Dr. Thomas R. Hefty, a Monroe native, is a west coast urologist. Thomas R. Hefty, a Monticello native, is the past CEO and President of Cobalt Corporation. And there was Roger Thomas Hefty, son of Thomas and Bertha (Bruni) Hefty of New Glarus, and who had a son Thomas. And Thomas Hefti of Schwanden, Canton Glarus is one of two canton representatives to the *Ständerat* – the upper house of the Swiss federal government. Hefti has the distinction of being the last mayor of the village of Schwanden and the first mayor of the municipality of Glarus Süd as a result of the *Gemeindereform* (see Glarus map article). These Thomas Heftys all share Canton Glarus origins but descend from various Hefty/Hefti lines of Elm, Schwanden and Hätzingen.

Dean R. Kleckner of Rudd, IA passed away in June, 2015. Kleckner, a farmer, was the past president of the American Farm Bureau Federation and an internationally recognized expert in the field of agriculture. He was a staunch advocate for farmers aimed at improving farm income. He fought for increased trade and new world markets for American agricultural products. Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton all appointed Kleckner to The U.S. Trade Advisory Council. In his pursuit of new international markets, Kleckner traveled millions of miles to 82 different countries. He wrote for the media with his contributions receiving a worldwide audience. In 1988, President Bush appointed Kleckner to the National Economic Commission, a bi-partisan body aimed at long-term budget solutions, where fellow Commission members included Lee Iacocca, Caspar Weinberger, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and AFL-CIO’s Lane Kirkland. During his lifetime, Kleckner received numerous awards and honors such as the Iowa State University’s Dean Kleckner Global Agricultural Graduate Scholarship Award.

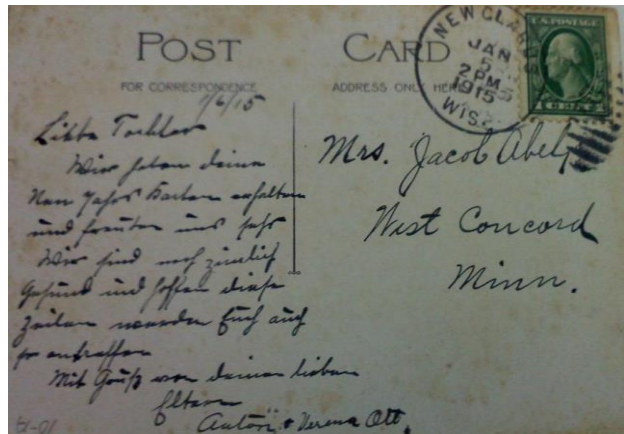


Kleckner’s grandparents, Henry W. and Ida (Wenger) Kleckner were both Green County, WI residents. Dean’s great-grandmother, Sara (Oertli) Wenger, was born in Ennenda, Canton Glarus and his great-grandfather, Karl Wenger, was born in Thierachern, Canton Bern.

Major General Nathan Lindsay was a Monroe, WI native born in 1936 and who graduated from MHS in 1954. He earned degrees in mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin and entered the Air Force in 1959. He enjoyed a long and distinguished military career of 34 years in such areas as the Launch Vehicle Integration Division and the Office of Space Systems. In 1984 he was named Commander of the Eastern Space and Missile Center and later served in the management of the Air Force elements of the space shuttle program. His career dealt largely with classified military intelligence and his family became accustomed to black cars arriving in the middle of the night followed by unexplained absences from home. Lindsay headed the investigation into the 1986 Titan rocket explosion which occurred just months after the Challenger disaster. Lindsay retired from the Air Force in 1993. Major General Lindsay passed away in May, 2015, after suffering from 10 years of dementia-related challenges. His great-grandparents were Swiss immigrants Johannes (John) Wartenweiler of Canton Thurgau and Katharina Blesi who was a native of Schwanden, Canton Glarus. His great-aunt, Florence Wartenweiler, was a New Glarus school teacher for several years prior to becoming the twice-elected Green County Superintendent of Schools.

A Postcard from Home

One hundred one years ago, in January, 1915, Anton and Verena (née Jenny) Ott of New Glarus sent their daughter Barbara a New Year’s greeting with the salutation “Liebe Tochter” or “Dear Daughter”. In 1915 Anton was 86 years old and Verena “just” 79. The card, written in German script, is signed “with greetings from your loving parents”. And formality of the day must have dictated no signature “Dad and Mom” but rather “Anton and Verena Ott.” The postcard appears to have been addressed in a different and more modern hand with the name Aebly misspelled.



Daughter Barbara Ott (baptised Anna Barbara) was the eighth of thirteen children born to Anton and Verena Ott. Barbara married Jacob Aebly in 1888 and they had two sons, Henry and Jacob. The Aeblys farmed in the Town of Exeter at the corner of today’s County W and Argue Road (Al Hefty farm). Around 1908, Jacob Aebly was charged with a crime. The family left their New Glarus farm and moved to West Concord, MN (in the vicinity of Berne). At the same time Jacob’s brother Henry Aebly sold his business block (Puempel’s today) and purchased the largest farm in Eau Claire County. It remains a mystery why these two middle-aged Aebly brother sold their local properties, packed up their families and moved far away. But despite having moved suddenly from New Glarus, both Aebly brothers and their wives were buried locally in the Swiss Reformed cemetery.

Anton and Verena Ott had about 49 grandchildren including Alda Kubly, Alvin Ott, Gilbert Ott, Harvey Ott, Fannie Hoesly, Bertha Hoesly (Mrs. Andrew and Mrs. Joe C.) , Edward C. Hefty, Fred Stuessy, and Tillie Urben. Their youngest grandchild, Maria Lydia (Ott) Rinehart turned 100 years old on October 28, 2014 and is the last surviving of the Ott grandchildren. Marie was the daughter of Anton Jr. and Maria (Schmoker) Ott, and the widow of two husbands, Hazen Isely and Ketchel Rinehart.

The Canton Glarus Map which Predicted the Future

A 1768 map of Canton Glarus is held in the collection of the Chalet of the Golden Fleece in New Glarus. The framed map hangs to the right of the living room fireplace. Divided into three like ancient Gaul, the map shows the canton in three sections -- “*Der Untere Theil*” or the lower section, “*Der Mittere Theil*” or the middle section, and “*Der Hintere Theil*” or the back or rear section.



This map was prescient, for in 2011 the Canton Glarus did indeed divide along lines strangely similar to those found on the 1768 map. Today’s three municipalities – Glarus Nord, Glarus (sometimes referred to as Glarus Mitte), and Glarus Süd – were formed from the previous two dozen or so canton villages. This restructuring was called *Gemeindereform* or *Gemeindefusion*. This restructuring was created out of the need to consolidate the many small governmental units into fewer, but more efficient larger ones.

When Glarus Süd came into being on January 1, 2011, it was the largest municipality (by area) in all of Switzerland. That honor was lost, however, on January 1, 2015 when a newly enlarged Scuol, Canton Graubunden, edged out Glarus Süd and became the largest Swiss village.

Kaelins of Einsiedeln, Louisville and Milwaukee

It was about twenty years ago newspaper headlines and newscasts led with the O. J. Simpson trial. One of the minor characters in the real-life drama was the world’s most famous houseguest Brian “Kato” Kaelin. Kaelin, who possessed a laid-back surfer persona, achieved his 15 minutes of fame. But after the trial he tried his hand at various entertainment venues, none of which provided any degree of sustained celebrity.

Despite Kaelin’s California beach boy looks, he was actually born and raised in Milwaukee. His grandfather and great-grandfather – butcher Adelrich and Franz Kaelin (originally Kälin) – were both early 20th century Swiss immigrants from the village of Einsiedeln, Canton Schwyz. Einsiedeln is best known as the location of the revered Benedictine abbey founded by the ninth century hermit St. Meinrad. The St. Meinrad Abbey in southern Indiana is a daughter abbey of the Einsiedeln Abbey. Nearby Louisville, KY became a major destination of Swiss immigrants from the village of Einsiedeln.

Swiss author Susanne Bosshard-Kälin, who lives in Einsiedeln, has begun research to document the Einsiedeln-to-Louisville immigration. Kato Kaelin's grandfather and great-grandfather were immigrants to Louisville prior to their move to Milwaukee. Another Kaelin story is that of Kaelin's Restaurant of Louisville which claimed to be the birthplace of the cheeseburger.

For centuries Einsiedeln has welcomed pilgrims visiting the baroque abbey's Shrine of the Black Madonna. And it continues to do so. The S-Bahn commuter train network now connects Einsiedeln with Zurich Hauptbahnhof twice an hour with a transfer in Wädenswil.



The village, despite its rural location, has become, to some extent, suburban in character. Einsiedeln's main street leading to the abbey (pictured) attests to the cultural changes taking place throughout Switzerland as evidenced by the New China restaurant and its next door neighbor, the Kabab Hüslì!

I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Lice Cream

Yes, lice cream. *Luusesalbi* is a Swiss word which means lice cream. And what this refers to is not a medicinal salve but a mixture of the Glarnerland's venerable green cheese, *Schabziger* (grated), mixed with butter and a bit of milk. This pale green mixture is spread on pumpernickel or crackers (see photo at left). *Luusesalbi* is mentioned yet today and always generates a laugh. It is also deliciously addictive.



These lice cream treats are mere country cousins compared to the more elaborate *Zigerbrüütli* hors d'oeuvres shown at right. These beautifully constructed appetizers are often the star of a Glarner *apéro*. They are also a mixture of grated *Schabziger* and butter, artfully garnished with fruit or savory toppings.



Glarner *Schabziger* is the subject of a 2014 book, “550 Jahre Schabziger”, published to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the branding of this unique cheese. On April 24, 1463 the Glarner *Landsgemeinde* decreed that all *Schabziger* be manufactured according to strict quality guidelines along with a stamp of origin. It is the oldest branded product in Switzerland and unique to the Glarnerland. The nickname “*Zigerschlitz*” (Ziger slit) has been given to Canton Glarus in reference to its famous cheese and the dramatic mountain valley setting.