

# Family History Notes

Spring 2017

## The Paravicini Family

Agatha Christie's long-running play, "The Mousetrap" opened in London in November of 1952. And it is still playing in London's West End. One of the eight characters in Christie's play is the mysterious Mr. Paravicini – a stranger complete with a foreign accent.

As unlikely as it may sound, the surname Paravicini (pronounced pahr-ah-vi-CHEE-nee) is a Swiss surname and has been a Glarner surname for over 360 years. Pictured is their coat of arms as found in the *Wappenbuch des Landes Glarus*. The Paravicini family of Glarus originated in the village of Berbenno in the Valtellina valley (*Veltlin* in German) in northern Italy. Although part of Italy today, in the 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the Valtellina was part of the "Grey Leagues" also known as the "*Graubünden*". This area of alpine valleys had established a mutual defense pact independent of Switzerland. Over time most of the Grey Leagues formed into the Swiss Canton of Graubünden, while the Valtellina valley became part of Italy.



There were violent conflicts between the Protestants and the Catholics in this region in the early 1600s. Injustices abounded on all sides. Courts issued convictions against Catholics – often in absentia. In retaliation the Catholics rose up and attempted to drive the Protestant families from the Valtellina. What is known as the *Veltlinermord* was the period from July 18-23, 1620 when several hundred Protestants were murdered in an attempt to rid the valley of non-Catholics. The Paravicinis were Protestant and within this one family there were more than 20 murder victims. Family members sought out new locales in which to settle where they could live with peace and security. Paravicini branches left the Valtellina and resettled in various Swiss locations such as Glarus, Basel and Chur.

In 1651 Peter Paul Paravicini de Capelli purchased citizenship in Glarus. Peter Paul was the son of Bartholome Paravicini (#1 Kubly-Müller - Glarus) and Cleophea von Hohensax. Cleophea was the daughter of gateway ancestor Baron Johann Christof von Hohensax. Cleophea had two sisters who had married Glarners – Anna Maria von Hohensax married Hans Elmer, and Barbara von Hohensax married Tobias Tschudi and Dietrich Streuli. And these Glarner connections were perhaps a reason that Peter Paul chose citizenship in Glarus for his family.

Peter Paul married his first cousin Hippolyta Paravicini. Their family home (pictured on next page), built in the 1600s, is still standing at *Oberdorfstrasse 16* in the *Oberdorf* section of Glarus. This area was spared by the great fire of 1861 making the home one of the old and historic homes of Glarus. Peter Paul and Hippolyta had five children including sons Bartholome and Paravicin. The brothers held important positions -- Bartholome served as *Landvogt* of the Werdenberg Castle and Paravicin served as *Landvogt* of the Sargans Castle. Other Paravicini men of Glarus held many important military positions throughout the centuries.

Back to Agatha Christie. How did she come to use the name Paravicini in “The Mousetrap”? It may be due to two different Paravicini lines that ended up living in England and were well known in London society. Both lines originated in the Valtellina and both had immigrated to Switzerland in the difficult times of the post-Reformation. It is possible that Christie was socially acquainted with these Paravicinis or knew of them through the newspapers of her time.



Charles Rudolf Paravicini (of the Basel branch of the family) served as Swiss Minister (Ambassador) to the Court of St. James from 1920 to 1939. In 1936 Charles Rudolf’s son Vincent Paravicini married Liza Maugham, daughter of writer Somerset Maugham. Vincent and Liza Paravicini had a son Nicholas who married Mary Ann Parker Bowles -- sister-in-law of Camilla Parker Bowles, now the Duchess of Cornwall. Nicholas and Mary Ann’s son Derek Paravicini (born 1979) has achieved acclaim for his brilliant musical

abilities. Derek is a blind autistic savant who displays his unique genius at the piano. He delights audiences with renditions of classical pieces performed in alternate styles such as ragtime or jazz, or conversely can instantly play contemporary pieces in the manner of Mozart or Bach. Pictured right are Camilla Duchess of Cornwall and Derek Paravicini in 2016.



Another Paravicini branch found in London was descended from the Chur branch of the family. Men in this branch served as mercenaries fighting for the Kings of France. The most famous was Brigadier General Baron Francois Jean Baptiste de Paravicini who died while in French service in the Seven Year War. Despite his fighting for the French, the general’s son Baron Joseph de Paravicini moved to England and married. Joseph’s grandsons became, by all accounts, “veddy, veddy” British bearing the names Percy John, Harry Farquhar and Prior Frederick Paravicini. Percy and Harry were celebrated for their cricket skills at Eton (Percy) and Harrow (Harry) and known for the fact the fact that they married sisters – Lady Marcia and Lady Eva Cholmondeley (pronounced Chumley) -- sisters of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Cholmondeley.

According to Patrick Wild’s database information, there were Glarner immigrants named Paravicini who came to America. Among these was immigrant Caspar Paravicini who settled in Montgomery, Alabama. The great-grandson of Caspar was Arthur C. Paravicini known in this Alabama family as “Bubba”!

While it appears there were no immigrants to the New Glarus area with the surname Paravicini, there are numerous descendants of Bartholome and Cleophea (von Hohensax) Paravicini. These Paravicini descendants (living and deceased) include Palmer Knobel, Ed Brand, John and Don Schneider, Kim Tschudy, Tom Danner, Betty (Zimmerman) Owen, Gertrude (Mueller) Waelchli, Eldon Schraepfer, Fritz Durst and Albert Mueller.

## **Chilean Tragedy**

A widely reported land dispute in the Araucania region of Chile led to the murder of two elderly Chilean citizens in January of 2013. Werner Luchsinger and his wife were in their home just after midnight when it was under siege and set afire by radical members of the native Mapuche Indians. The Luchsingers died in the arson attack which destroyed their home (pictured). This land dispute appears to be a complex tale of native land appropriated by the federal government in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and subsequently was offered to non-native settlers. Today, over 125 years later the wounds still fester between the Mapuche and the descendants of those non-native immigrants.



Sebastian Luchsinger (1841-1914) and his wife Barbara née Marti (1840-1893) left Engi, Canton Glarus and immigrated to Chile in 1883. They accepted the generous terms provided by the Chilean government to entice settlers to develop the land. Sebastian and Barbara had nine children born in Engi. All five sons and four daughters married into Chile's Swiss-German immigrant community. They had families of their own creating a large number of Luchsinger descendants including the victim Werner Luchsinger who was the great-grandson of immigrants Sebastian and Barbara. The various descendants flourished on this land and became wealthy landowners. Through hard work they turned the virgin land into productive agricultural land centered on ranching, forestry and vineyards. While some territory has been returned to the Mapuche, they continue to fight for more autonomy and for the recovery of more of their ancestral lands.

A German-language article in Zurich's *WOZ Die Wochenzeitung* provides a comprehensive and translatable look at this story. Google "*Luchsingers in Blutigen Streit*" and then click on "translate this page".

Chilean immigrant Sebastian Luchsinger had relatives in the New Glarus area. His niece was Afra Hefty who married Rudolf Kaderli of Juda. And the brothers Jacob C. and Samuel Hefty (married to Katharina Elmer and Amelia Hefty, respectively) who farmed in the Town of Montrose were Sebastian's nephews.

While most immigrant Glarners who came to the Western Hemisphere chose America, there were some who settled in South America – particularly Brazil. And many of the Brazil-bound immigrants were from the villages of Engi and Matt. Immigrants recorded in Glarus records that went to Brazil included families with the names Blumer, Altmann, Stauffacher Hämmerli, and Norder. It was apparently a violent land. Notations in the Glarus records state that a Barbara (Wohlwend) Blumer was murdered in Sao Paulo and a Jost Altmann was attacked with a knife. Henry and Anna Maria (Marti) Wiederkehr were Swiss immigrants who lived in Brazil for about 10 years. Their son Jacob Wiederkehr was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1861. The family returned to Canton Glarus for a short time before again immigrating – this time to Green County in 1863 settling in the Town of Jordan. Jacob was likely Green County's only Brazilian-born resident of his time.

## **The Treaty of Prairie du Chien**

The land on which New Glarus sits was part of territory ceded by the Ho-Chunk to the United States in the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien. This online map (by Kmusser) shows the land ceded by the Three Fires Confederacy (Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi) tribes (in yellow) and the Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) tribe (in orange). The boundaries of these lands were defined mostly by rivers – the Mississippi, Wisconsin, Fox, Rock and closer to home, the Sugar River -- or Sugar Creek as is written in the treaty. The next time you cross the Sugar River in such nearby hamlets as Dayton or Paoli, think about the fact that at one brief point in history you would have been crossing from Winnebago land within the Michigan Territory to government land.



The name Sugar River is said to have been derived from the native word “Tonasookarah” meaning sugar. Helen Bingham cited this in her 1872 history of Green County, noting the many sugar maples along the river banks. In his book “Wingra, A Tale of the Four Lake Country”, Mark Gajewski mentions that Tonasookarah means “flowing through a sugaring place”, but goes on to say that surveyors had named it the Sugar River in 1829 after tasting the sweet water. And then there is Oswald Babler’s tale that the name Sugar River was named when Fridolin Streiff had crossed a swollen river on horseback with saddlebags laden with sugar. The sugar was presumably dissolved by the high river water and, *voilà*, the Sugar River. Alvin Streiff mentioned a similar tale although his version had merchant Joshua Wild returning from Galena when his sugar was swallowed by the Sugar River.

## **History Detective Answer – Follow up from Previous Issue**

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy met with Mary Josephine (Hannon) Fitzgerald on November 6, 1962. Mrs. Fitzgerald was JFK’s maternal grandmother. And President Kennedy was the only U. S. President to have a living grandparent while in office.



Mary Josephine (Josie) Hannon was married in 1889 to John F. “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald. Honey Fitz had served as Boston Mayor and was a U. S. Representative from Massachusetts. And Josie and Honey Fitz were second cousins. Josie’s immigrant grandfather, Edmund Fitzgerald, was the brother of Honey Fitz’s immigrant grandfather, Michael Fitzgerald. Marriages within immigrant communities (as we have seen in early New Glarus marriages) often included unions between relatives by blood or marriage.

It was a Swiss historian, Patrick Wild, who first correctly identified President Kennedy’s grandmother. Barbara Kuehni responded shortly after Patrick and included a copy of the “Boston Herald” report from the day of his visit. The newspaper article provided some interesting tidbits. The President had not seen his 97-year-old grandmother since his swearing-in as president. He greeted her with “Hi Gram” and she called him “Jack”. President Kennedy had started that November day by voting for his 30-year-old brother Teddy for the U. S. Senate. This was the same Senate seat vacated by JFK in 1960. Teddy Kennedy could not be appointed to fill his brother’s seat in 1960 because he was too young at the time. A Kennedy family friend served as a place-holder in the seat until Teddy was eligible to be elected.

### **The Stauffacher Linden Trees at 25 Years**

A few years back a question was posed about the significance of the linden tree at the Swiss Historical Village in New Glarus. And it appeared that the significance of the tree had been lost. However a Stauffacher family book written by Donna (Stauffacher) Utecht in 1991 explains the history of the tree. The linden tree not only symbolizes the Stauffacher family (linden leaves are found on the Stauffacher crest) but it embodies a connection between old and New Glarus.

In May of 1991 (the year of Switzerland's 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary) a worldwide Stauffacher gathering was held in Matt, Canton Glarus drawing 300 guests. Matt is the ancestral home of the Glarner Stauffachers. While most of those attending were Swiss, there was also Stauffacher kin from the United States, Germany, Canada and Argentina. To mark the occasion, the Stauffachers donated two linden trees -- one to be planted in New Glarus in August and the other in Matt in September. Those Stauffacher linden trees have been growing for 25 years and should serve as a reminder of a proud Glarner family and the ties between Stauffachers around the world.

### **The Worldwide Leuzinger Reunion**



A Glarner family which holds biennial international reunions is the Leuzinger family. The name Leuzinger (pronounced LOY-tzing-er in German and LOO-tzig-er in Swiss dialect) is a very common name in with origins in Canton Glarus primarily linked to the villages of Glarus, Netstal and Mollis. The Leuzinger name today can be found with many spellings, often as Leutzinger and Leitzinger, and occasionally as Lusinger, Lutziger, Lutzinger, Leizinger and even Lightsinger. And the Glarus Leuzinger descendants can now be found in many corners of Europe – Austria, German, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Russia. Further afield Leuzinger descendants are found in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Paraguay, Guatemala and Australia.

Past worldwide reunions took place in Netstal and Glarus, Lake Geneva, WI, Boulder, CO, Williamsburg, VA and Lithuania. The 2017 Leuzinger reunion will be taking place in Glarus beginning on July 27 and ending on the 30<sup>th</sup>. A variety of activities are planned including tours of the area and social events. There is even an opportunity for those daring souls to go paragliding accompanied by Glarner Sam Leuzinger. Among those organizing the international reunion are Vreni Schiesser-Leuzinger of Canton Glarus and Antero Leitzinger of Finland.

While the Leuzinger family name is commonly found in many of our family genealogies, there were only a few Leuzinger families in early New Glarus. Barbara Leuzinger of Mollis married Leonhard Hämmerli of Engi and they had two little boys when Barbara died in 1849. Jacob and Rosina (Egger) Leuzinger, also natives of Mollis, lived here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their daughter Rosina married Jacob Wichser. Rosina's blind brother Jacob Leuzinger lived with the Wichsers. Christian and Elisabetha (Schindler) Leuzinger of Mollis farmed in the vicinity of the Voegeli farm south of New Glarus. Their son Fridolin Leuzinger was a member of Wisconsin's famed Iron Brigade assigned to Company K along with several other New Glarus men. Fridolin died at the Second Battle of Bull Run in August of 1862. It appears no descendants of these early Leuzingers live in the New Glarus area today.

Dietrich Leuzinger, a native of Netstal, is buried Monroe's Greenwood Cemetery and has the distinction of being one of the few Spanish-American War veterans in the area. Dietrich Leuzinger was wounded in the Philippines and returned to southern Wisconsin where he was employed as a cheese maker. Dietrich is not a common given name in the Leuzinger clan – his name comes from his maternal grandfather, Dietrich Stauffacher of Matt.

In 1901 immigrants Rudolf and Elsbeth (Zimmermann) Leuzinger settled in this area with their three children Barbara, Johann Jacob and Heinrich (Henry). Rudolf was a native of Netstal and his wife Elsbeth a native of Schwändi. Elsbeth had Zimmermann relatives who had previously settled in Green County. Their son Henry married Minnie Schwartz and they raised a family of 14 children, and thus they were largely responsible for introducing the Leuzinger name back into Green County.

The name Leitzinger is found in the Shullsburg area and these Leitzingers appear to be the descendants of Johann Balthasar Leuzinger a native of Glarus and who died in Galena, IL. Johann Balthasar is another given name not prevalent in the circle of Leuzingers. His name comes from his maternal grandfather Johann Balthasar Elmer of Elm who in turn was named for his grandfather, Elm minister Johann Balthasar Zwingli.

### **Architect Hans Leuzinger**

Hans Leuzinger (1887-1971) was a Glarus-born architect who enjoyed a distinguished career. Leuzinger's style is often described as modern and minimal. Perhaps the most recognized and visited of his buildings is the 1952 Glarus *Kunsthhaus* (art museum), a building which displays Leuzinger's minimalist look. His architectural works found in Canton Glarus have literal "highs" and "lows". He was also known for his mountain buildings – his "highs" – including the *Fridolinshütte* (1922) and the *Planurahütte* (1930). Both of these are Swiss Alpine Club shelters situated high in the mountains near the Tödi. Above the valley floor at Braunwald, Canton Glarus his *Uf dr Höchi* (1927) is his rustic yet modern take on a mountain vacation home. And on the slopes above Braunwald is the *Ortstockhaus* (1932; pictured), a remote mountain refuge which again displays Leuzinger's modernism. And Leuzinger's "low" is the *Gäsi* pavilion (1957) at one of Canton Glarus' lowest elevations. *Gäsi* is the swimming and camping area near the point where the Linth River empties into the Walensee. The pavilion houses changing rooms and offers refreshments.



In 1961, Leuzinger created a 1:250 scale model of the village of Glarus as it looked before the 1861 fire. Leuzinger's model has been on display at various Glarus locations including the *Stadtkirche*. Today a virtual model of "old Glarus" can be viewed online. This virtual model ([Alt Glarus Virtual Model](#)) was developed by Reto Fuchs, Rolf Kamm, August Berlinger and Mathias Lutz based on the Leuzinger model as well as other sources. This new model is a great example of how history can come alive and become widely accessible using new technologies. While Leuzinger's model can only be seen by those visiting Glarus, the Alt Glarus virtual model can be seen 24/7 anywhere in the world.

Architect Hans Leuzinger lived in the historic Paravicini house at *Oberdorfstrasse 16* (pictured in the Paravicini article). His son, Hans G. Leuzinger, also an architect, lives in the home today. The home is also known in Glarus as the Leuzinger-Paravicini Haus.

### **Leuzinger DNA**

A DNA study has been initiated to study the origins of those with the name Leuzinger and other similar sounding names. The Glarner Leuzingers have discovered a rather surprising discovery in their Y-DNA – that genetic information passed down over generations from father to son. The male Leuzinger DNA can be traced back to the J1 haplotype. This J1 haplotype indicates an ancestry which originated in the Mideast and is typically associated with Semitic families, both Arab and Jewish. (The word Semite originates from Shem, son of Noah, who is mentioned in both the Hebrew Bible and in Muslim texts.)

Antero Leitsinger of Finland, has pondered how this Semitic ancestry was passed to the Glarner Leuzingers. He has theorized that the origin of this haplotype may trace back to a brief time in Swiss history when Arabs, known as the Saracens, had come over the mountains from Italy to places in Switzerland such as Disentis and Chur, both in Canton Graubunden. The famous abbey of Disentis was destroyed around 940 by raiding Saracens. Chur was invaded the same year and again in 954. Saracens neared St. Gallen before they were beaten back. Antero speculates in an admittedly wild theory that the Saracens raided the Disentis abbey and took their spoils to Schänis by using a pass (like the Kisten) over the Glarner Alps. And perhaps at some point a Saracen settled in the Glarner hamlet of Leuzingen became a Leuzinger.

### **The Last Trip of the Sernftalbahn**

The majority of Glarner in the New Glarus area have families who left Canton Glarus in the nineteenth century. When the nearly 9 mile long electric train line from Schwanden to Elm (known as the *Sernftalbahn* or in dialect *Chliitalbahn/Chlytalbahn*) began operation in 1905, most of our ancestors were already established in America. There were only a handful of Sernftal immigrants to our area who would have remembered the train including Meinrad Zentner, Elsbeth (Hämmerli) Elmer, and Fridolin Blumer (aka Jack Koby). In 1969 after a nearly 64 year run, the little valley train ended its operation. The tracks were removed from the roadway and rail service was replaced by buses. The train's three 1949 cars were relocated to a line in Western Switzerland which ran between Aigle in Canton Vaud, across the Rhone River to Champéry in the nearby mountains of Canton Valais. And around 1984 the train cars were sold to the *Attergaubahn* in Austria. In 1987, one of the three cars was destroyed in a fire.



After an absence of 47 years, the two remaining cars have now returned from Austria to new homes in the Sernftal – one car to be housed at the former train station in Elm and one at Engi's rail museum operated by the *Verein Sernftalbahn*. And it is anticipated that the 2016 and 2017 relocation of the two cars will be the final trips for these two historic train cars.

The photo on the previous page shows the *Sernftalbahn* traveling up Matt's main street. The red rail car shown in the photograph is one of the two remaining cars returned home. The photo demonstrates how little room there was on the thoroughfare when the tracks shared space with the already narrow road. In fact most or all of the rail line from Schwanden to Elm was shared with the narrow roadway. The route took about 40 minutes from one end to the other and gained approximately 1500 feet in elevation. Scheduled stops were Schwanden, Wart, Engi-Vorderdorf, Engi-Hinterdorf, Matt and Elm. Unscheduled stops were allowed at locales Au, Sool Strasse, Höfliegg, Engi-Dörfli, Matt-Dorf, Meissenboden and Schwändi (bei Elm).

### **The Birth of the Atomic Age**

Around 1944 a 22-year-old physics graduate of the University of California-Berkeley named John Jungerman was appointed to the top-secret Manhattan Project. Jungerman had worked at Berkeley with the eminent nuclear scientist and Nobel Prize winner Dr. Ernest Lawrence.

Lawrence was investigating the separation of uranium isotopes – one of the steps required for the development of the atomic bomb. Dr. Lawrence had recommended Jungerman to be part of the secret team which was developing the bomb. When learning that a test explosion was to take place, Jungerman and other teammates sneaked into the test site near Alamogordo, NM. There they witnessed history -- the first detonation of an atomic bomb (code name Trinity). Jungerman later explained his feelings at the time were a sense of accomplishment for having contributed to the successful development of the bomb. But this feeling was likely tempered with the sobering sense that a new and vast source of energy had been unleashed, forever impacting the future of mankind.



Dr. Jungerman (1921-2014) was a California native, the only child of Albert and Freda (Durst) Jungerman of Modesto, CA. John's maternal grandfather, Fridolin (Fred) Durst, was born in Diesbach, Canton Glarus. Fred immigrated to New Glarus as a young boy with his parents



Fridolin and Magdalena (Streiff) Durst. Fridolin and Magdalena had only two children, sons Johann Heinrich (John E.) and Fridolin (Fred). John E. remained on the home farm immediately west of New Glarus. And Fred left Wisconsin for Yolo County, California where he married and raised a family. His descendants still farm there (see "Family History Notes" Summer 2011 and Fall 2013). The photo at left (courtesy of Kerry (Durst) Kasza) is Freda (Durst) and son John Jungerman.

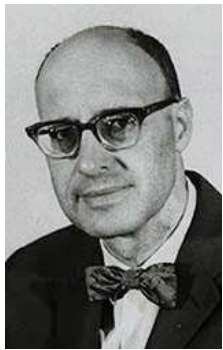
Following the war, Jungerman returned to Berkeley, earned his Ph. D. and joined Berkeley's infant Physics Department. He helped develop that department from just three faculty members to more than 50. He was the founding director of the world-class nuclear physics research lab at the University of California-Davis. In 2011 the research lab building was named for Dr. Jungerman.



Besides Dr. Jungerman's scientific and educational accomplishments, he pursued nature in activities including gardening, brining his own California olives, and hiking in the Sierra Nevadas. He had an artistic side which included painting, playing the piano and writing poetry. At the age of 80, Jungerman, his wife and 10 other seniors embarked on a new chapter of their lives. They developed the country's first self-planned senior co-op housing project named Glacier Circle in Davis, CA. This group of forward-thinkers believed that as a group they could grow old together. While living in independent units they could still look after each other. They wisely planned for one studio unit to be reserved (and rented at a below market rate) for a nurse skilled in elder care. Social bonds remained strong because of their close proximity with their small circle of neighbors.

The accompanying photo showing the Trinity atomic bomb blast of July 16, 1945 is the only still photo of the event. It was taken by another Manhattan Project team member by the name of Jack Aeby. Aeby was the grandson of Swiss immigrants Benjamin and Bertha (Oriez) Aebi. The Aebi/Aeby family members were Mennonites who immigrated in 1881 and settled in Ness County, KS. After the war Jack Aeby also worked with Dr. Ernest Lawrence at Berkeley.

Another physicist working at Berkeley during the 1940s was Dr. Joseph W. Weinberg (pictured left). Weinberg was a native of New York who received his B. S. degree in physics at the age of 19. He continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin where he earned his Master's degree. While at the U. W. Joe Weinberg met art student Merle Hoesly (pictured right), the daughter of Gilbert P. and Anna (Marty) Hoesly of New Glarus. Joe and Merle married and lived in Berkeley where Joe researched theoretical physics at the University of California-Berkeley under the tutelage of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer.



The Syracuse University Archives biography of Dr. Weinberg indicates that Dr. Oppenheimer "would later bring Weinberg in to work on the Manhattan Project during World War II." However, The Atomic Heritage Foundation states on their website, "Many of [Oppenheimer's] students would receive opportunities to work at Los Alamos on the Manhattan Project. Weinberg, however, would not be given the chance after it was discovered that he had ties to the Communist Party." In fact, in 1943, the FBI illegally recorded Weinberg discussing details about the research taking place at Berkeley to create the atomic bomb with local Communist Party leader Steve Nelson" (Croatian-born Stjepan Mesaros).



The AHF continued, "In 1949, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) launched an investigation into Weinberg. At his hearing, he flatly denied ever having met Nelson. Despite this, HUAC branded him as "Scientist X" and accused him of spying for the Soviet government. Sensationalist media stories ran with the "Scientist X" moniker." It has been reported in recent years that in the early 1940s the Soviets had given code names to their operatives and others. "Method" and "Idea" were code names for Joe and Merle Weinberg. Code names "Antenna" and "Bumblebee" were assigned to convicted spy Julius Rosenberg and Rosenberg's brother-in-law David Greenglass.

Joseph Weinberg was indicted for perjury but acquitted by a jury in 1953. There was not enough evidence to tie him to the Communist Party and the illegal wiretap material was inadmissible in court. However, the presiding judge took the unusual step to tell the jury, “The court does not approve of your verdict.” And Prosecutor William Hitz had told the grand jury who indicted Weinberg, “We got enough evidence to hang the son-of-a-bitch; but it’s illegal and we can’t present it.” (Note: Hitz was a descendant of the Swiss immigrant Hitz family of Washington, DC. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Supreme Court Justice Harold H. Burton were Hitz cousins.)

Following their Berkeley years, Joseph and Merle Weinberg lived in Minnesota, Ohio and then Syracuse, NY where Dr. Weinberg taught at Syracuse University and engaged in physics research. Joseph Weinberg died in 2002. Merle (Hoesly) Weinberg was of 100% Glarner background. Her paternal ancestors (Hoesly, Figi, Zweifel) were from Linthal Valley of Canton Glarus (the big valley) while her maternal lines (Marty, Stauffacher, Norder) were from the Sernf Valley (the little valley). Merle graduated in the New Glarus High School class of 1932 (which also included Otto Puempel, Morris Marty and Joe Haegele. Merle died in 2014 at the age of 97.

The Weinbergs visited her parents, Gilbert and Anna Hoesly, for three weeks in September of 1945. It was later reported that the Hoesly home was under constant FBI surveillance during that time. Ten FBI agents posed as salesmen to avoid suspicion. It was said that local residents were discreetly questioned by these “salesmen”. When alleged spy “Scientist X” was identified as Weinberg in 1949 the “Capital Times” headline on September 30 read, “Former U. W. Teacher Named as ‘Scientist X’; Red Probers Ask He Be Prosecuted for Perjury”. The “Janesville Daily Gazette” of the same date had a front page article entitled “Scientist X is Mate of New Glarus Woman.”

### History Detective Question

The historic 1896 photo shown here is that of the Joseph and Sophia (Holzer) Marugg family in front of their home in Denver, CO.



Joseph and Sophia were both Swiss immigrants who met in New Orleans and married just a week later. One of the two witnesses to their 1867 marriage was New Orleans resident and Ennenda, Canton Glarus native, Matheus Jenny. The slightly blurred little boy at right is son Frank P. Marugg. Frank Marugg was mentioned on the February 7, 2017 episode of the game show “Jeopardy”. One of the Jeopardy questions

involved naming Marugg’s mid-twentieth century invention. This invention was developed to assist policing efforts and is the bane of some car owners. The device is named for Marugg’s home town of Denver. Can anyone guess what device Frank Marugg invented?