

Family History Notes

Summer 2017

Historic Anniversaries

In 2015 Canton Glarus paid tribute to an event which occurred 600 years in the past. It was in 1415 that Sigismund, King of Germany, granted Canton Glarus the “*Reichsfreiheit*” – freedom of the empire or sovereignty. This meant that there were no intermediate levels of authority (for example the Habsburgs of Austria) between Glarus and the King. A book, “*1415 und die Freiheit*”, was published and edited by Rolf Kamm and Susanne Peter-Kubli of the Canton Glarus Historical Society to explore this historic step in Canton Glarus freedom.

2017 marks the 600th anniversary of the birth of St. Nicholas of Flüe. He is known in Switzerland as *Bruder Klaus* and considered Switzerland’s patron saint. Klaus mediated at the Diet of Stans in 1481. He persuaded the rural cantons of Glarus, Uri, Schwyz, Zug and Unterwalden to denounce their previous treaties and alliances and to form a new treaty with the urban cantons of Lucerne, Zurich and Bern. A civil war was averted.

2017 also marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther penning his 95 theses and, according to popular legend, nailing them to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church. This event is considered the dawn of the Reformation movement in Europe. And various locales in Germany have kicked off events to recognize this anniversary. The Reformation in Switzerland was propelled by the arrival of Ulrich Zwingli in Zurich’s *Grossmünster* in 1519. Zwingli gradually revealed his theological beliefs through his sermons. It was Mollis pastor Fridolin Brunner who is considered the force behind the Reformation within Canton Glarus. Brunner was a staunch Zwingli supporter. Brunner wrote to his friend Zwingli, “I dare to condemn all the abuse of the Church”. Glarus is unusual among the Swiss cantons in that it found a way to accommodate both Roman Catholic traditions and the new reformed beliefs.

Johann von Schwarzenberg

A friend and supporter of Martin Luther was *Freiherr* (Baron) Johann von Schwarzenberg. He was the great-grandfather of our gateway ancestor Johann Christof von Hohensax and thus Schwarzenberg is a direct ancestor of many newsletter readers. Pictured is the Schwarzenberg family crest.

The following four paragraphs are taken from Wikipedia: “Johann of Schwarzenberg (December 25, 1463 – October 21, 1528) *Freiherr* von Schwarzenberg and Hohenlandsberg, was a German moralist and reformer who, as judge of the episcopal court at Bamberg, introduced a new code of evidence which amended the procedure then prevalent in Europe by securing for the accused a more impartial hearing.



In 1507, at the direction of the Prince-Bishop of Bamberg, Schwarzenberg drew up the *Halsgerichtsordnung* (procedure for the judgement of capital crimes) of Bamberg (also known as the *Bambergensis*). It was based on the humanistic school of Roman law, and it was in turn the basis for the *Constitutio Criminalis Carolina*, drafted in 1530 and ratified in 1532.

In 1507, Schwarzenberg was a leader of the knights of Franconia. From 1522 to 1524, he was a member of the *Reichsregiment* (imperial regiment), a body formed for the government of the Holy Roman Empire. And he even served as the governor of the Empire in the absence of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor.



Schwarzenberg composed moral and satirical poems and works regarding the Reformation. He also did translations, mainly of Cicero. He was an early adherent and friend of Martin Luther.”

Schwarzenberg believed that Germany of his day was a “kingdom of the devil” living in “ungodly scandal” of drunkenness, gluttony, and loose morals. He wrote several editions of a pamphlet to denounce such behavior. He came to believe that church was the problem – the religious authorities who did not enforce nor live by their own moral values. In 1524, Schwarzenberg denounced a Bamberg religious institution which held his own daughter in what he described as a “hellish prison”. He further denounces the “perverted and profligate living” of the monks and nuns.

Christof von Schwarzenberg, Johann’s son, remained a staunch Roman Catholic and urged his father to remain loyal to papal authority and canon law. But Johann countered with a 393 page written defense of his beliefs. The document was lauded by Luther but it permanently estranged father and son.

The above print of Schwarzenberg has been attributed to Albrecht Dürer, Germany’s master artist of that period. The image of Schwarzenberg is surrounded by 16 coats-of-arms of the ancestral families of Schwarzenberg and his wife Kunigunde von Rieneck. These noble families of central Germany (mostly Franconia and Hesse) are Schwarzenberg, Rieneck, Erbach, Wertheim, Abensberg, Hanau, Oettingen, Bickenback, Sponheim, Schaunberg, Henneberg, Munsterberg and Nassau. Our 16th century ancestor apparently had an interest in his family history and heraldry.

Johann von Schwarzenberg and Albrecht Dürer both died in 1528. And both were buried in Nuremberg’s historic cemetery, the *Johannisfriedhof*.

History Detective follow-up

The question was posed in the last issue regarding the device invented by Denver resident Frank Marugg. Marugg was the son of Swiss immigrants Joseph and Sophia (Holzer) Marugg. Marugg invented the automobile wheel clamp, better known as the Denver boot. The patent for his invention was issued in 1958. Thank you to those who wrote and correctly solved the question. Incidentally, a grandson of immigrants Joseph and Sophia Marugg was Richard Hugh Marugg Pleasant. He was a co-founder of the New York’s American Ballet Theatre in 1939.

A Local Hero Remembered

One of Green County's military heroes was Matthew L. Legler. Legler, a 1934 graduate of Monroe High School, went on to graduate from the West Point Military Academy in 1939. In WWII he rose to the rank of Battalion Commander and commanded about 800 men. In December of 1944, his battalion was positioned at the German-Belgium border when they faced stiff German opposition in the Battle of the Bulge. The U. S. forces under Legler were outnumbered by enemy troops and subjected to heavy German artillery shelling. After the shelling stopped, the casualties were staggering. Legler's battalion, which started with about 800, was reduced to less than 250 men. In February of 1945, Major Legler was leading his forces in an attack on the Germans. He stepped on a landmine which wounded his face and severely injured his foot and hand. These injuries ended his military career and he was discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was awarded the Armed Forces Silver Star.



Years later in 1991, Legler was visiting Belgium with fellow veterans. At a special reception it was announced that an ID bracelet once belonging to one of the attending veterans had been found and would be given back to the original owner. The ID bracelet was that of Matt Legler. It had been given to him by his wife before he went overseas. And Matt Legler's West Point ring had also been lost, apparently when he was wounded by the landmine. And his ring was also found years later by a souvenir hunter. Legler's ring is now in the collection of the West Point Hall of Fame.

Matt was the son of Lee G. and Anna (Geigel) Legler. His parents divorced and Matthew was raised by his mother in the home of his maternal grandparents, Mathias and Euphemia (Stauffacher) Geigel of Monroe. Matthew's father, Lee, was the son of John and Maria (Blumer) Legler. Lee was baptized in the New Glarus Swiss Reformed Church in 1879. The church baptismal records show he was baptized as John Lee Grant Legler. Lee and Grant, the Civil War Generals, were both West Point graduates as would be his son. Matt Legler maintained his contacts with Monroe and attended his 70th High School reunion in 2004. Legler died in 2012 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Changing Demographics

A telling, albeit unscientific method for measuring the declining "Swissness" of New Glarus is by evaluating the Glarner and Swiss surnames in the graduating classes. The Class of 2017 boasted only one graduate with a Glarner surname. That honor went to Dustin Blum. Other graduates bearing Swiss surnames were Mark and Jonathan Truttman and Cade Beutler. Twenty-five years ago, the Class of 1992 had ten graduates with Glarner surnames – Disch (2), Elmer (2), Hefty (2), Jenny, Ott, Tschudy and Zweifel. And there were five other Swiss surnames – Wenger, Ziltner, Weiss, Stampfli and Ruegsegger. Fifty years ago, the Class of 1967 presented a much more Swiss image. There were nineteen graduates with the Glarner surnames – Schindler, Kubly (2), Duerst, Streiff, Baumgartner, Stuessy (2), Elmer (2), Hoesly (3), Disch (3), Klassy and Marty (2). And there were eighteen others in 1967 who boasted Swiss surnames – Kehrl, Gmur (2), Judd, Buesser, Senn, Schneider, Strickler, Erb, Mattmann, Kuenzi, Moser, Yaun (3), Hofer, Heimann and Opliger.

Teen Angels

On March 30, 1967 a somber anniversary was noted. Fifty years earlier nine high school girls from Juda, WI were killed when a Delta DC-8 aircraft crashed into their New Orleans hotel. The tragedy was a front page news story across the nation. The Juda students were on a senior class trip to the historic southern city when tragedy struck just after midnight. Besides the Juda girls, all six of the aircraft crew perished as well as four other on-the-ground fatalities. The cause of the accident was determined to be loss of control of the aircraft through improper use of the flight and power controls. The nine Juda girls who were killed were Linda Moe, Linda Hartwig, Sheila Babler, Joyce Kaderly, Sandra Goecks, Janice Siedschlag, Nelva Smith, Doreen Williams and Nancy Siegenthaler. The girls, all aged 17 or 18, are known as Juda's nine angels.

The bodies of the girls were returned to Wisconsin in a Delta aircraft which transported only the bodies. In Madison, nine unpainted pine boxes were loaded into four hearses and five station wagons. There was neither ceremony nor crowds. Within two hours the bodies were in Brodhead and Monroe funeral homes. A community funeral was held in Juda. This was followed by individual funeral services with burials in five different cemeteries. A community memorial was created. The original memorial and pine trees planted to honor the girls were replaced in 2012 with new trees and a granite monument (pictured) located in the Juda Community Park. The names of Juda's nine angels are inscribed on the memorial.

Several of the girls had connections with our area and the area's Swiss community. Sheila Babler, the most Glarner of the girls, was a descendant of early immigrants Isaiah and Anna (Rhyner) Babler, Fridolin and Anna (Becker) Blum, and Peter and Regula (Schindler) Disch. Linda Hartwig's ancestors included Abraham and Rosina (Becker) Kundert and Rudolf and Katharina (Zimmerman) Benkert. Nancy Siegenthaler was the granddaughter of Swiss immigrants Gottlieb and Ida (Boss) Siegenthaler. Joyce Kaderly was the great-granddaughter of Swiss immigrants Rudolf and Afra (Hefty) Kaderli and Samuel and Sophia (Wuethrich) Boss. And Linda Moe was the descendant of early Town of York settlers Davis and Lucinda (Makepeace) Robb and Norwegian immigrants Uldrik and Siri Moe.



About six years before the Juba tragedy, Glarus, Switzerland also experienced a disaster which took place during a school outing. A group of Glarus students took a two week ski holiday near Lenzerheide, Canton Graubunden. On February 10, 1961, the last day of the trip, the group took to the slopes despite avalanche warnings. An avalanche occurred and 12 students and an instructor were buried. The instructor perished, and like Juba, nine students were killed. The names of the Glarus victims were Daniel Aebli, Katharina (Käthi) Gassmann, Elisabeth Grimm, Ruth Landolt, Helen Walser, Dorette Fino, Urs Haltiner, Eugen Handloser, Ursi Hofer and Hans Jenny.



Fortunately, three students were saved. Rosmarie Stüssi-Dürst was wearing bright green gloves. Although nearly completely buried, one of Rosmarie's arms extended above the snow. She was rescued by fellow students who saw her green glove. Ernst Nägeli was also buried. He could not be pulled out and had to be dug out. He suffered two broken legs and a broken arm. Urs Bachofen was completely buried in densely packed snow more than a meter deep. He was rescued by an avalanche dog three hours after the incident occurred.



Nine caskets containing the victims were transported to Glarus in the baggage car of a train. The black and white photo shows the solemn procession along Glarus' *Bahnhofstrasse* taking the caskets from the train station to the *Stadtkirche*. Hundreds if not thousands lined the streets. The tenth body was recovered later than the rest but arrived at the church as the other caskets were being brought inside. A joint funeral was held in the *Stadtkirche*. Burial of the nine students was in common grave in

the adjoining cemetery with individual markers. An angel sculpture (pictured) was inscribed with the names of the victims. In Swiss fashion, the grave has been cleared and the individual markers removed. The Glarus angel remains.

The Norwegians and the Swiss

Following closely on the heels of the Swiss immigrants in the New Glarus and Green County area were the Norwegian settlers. The earliest Norwegian settlements in Wisconsin date from the late 1830s and were found in Racine and Rock Counties. These were followed by the Koshkonong and Blue Mounds settlements. From Blue Mounds the settlers spread south into the Towns of Perry and Primrose in Dane County and into Moscow in Iowa County, through Blanchardville and Argyle to the Yellowstone and Wiota areas. Norwegian immigrants spread into Green County especially in the Towns of Jordan, Adams, York and a few families in the northwestern sections of the Town of New Glarus. These areas remained heavily Norwegian for over 100 years. In 1962 when the country schools closed in area townships, their respective students were folded into the New Glarus schools. Predominantly Norwegian surnames were introduced into our grade school classes including Erickson, Vamstad, Torkelson, Bertelrud, Nelson, Hanna, Knutson, Rindy, Jelle, Sloten, Ostby, Jeglum, Jenson, Aslakson, Hustad and Fjelstad.

There has been a Norwegian presence in New Glarus since the first Glarner arrived here in August of 1845. The Theodore and Boletta (Hendrickson) Greenwood family was already living in the area. The Greenwoods were among those credited in early histories for providing assistance and guidance to the Glarner settlers. The Greenwoods were originally squatters but soon purchased land in Sections 1 and 2 of the Town of New Glarus. Boletta was born in Norway in 1818 (her Belleville gravestone at left). Immigrant records reviewed by the Norwegian-American historian Gerhard Naeseth show a Boel Hendriksdatter age 20 on the 1839 immigrant ship Emilie sailing out of Drammen. It is likely that this Boel Hendriksdatter was the same person as Boletta (a diminutive of Boel) Greenwood.



Bolette's husband Theodore Greenwood was a French-Canada believed to have been born in or around Trois Rivières, Quebec. And his name Greenwood is thought to be the anglicized form of the French-Canadian family name Boisvert. And Bolette's son Alfred Greenwood was one of the Civil War Veterans who enlisted from New Glarus. Alfred did not enlist with his Swiss-American neighbors, but rather was part of the Norwegian-American 15th Wisconsin Infantry organized in Madison by Hans Christian Heg.

The name Christopher Jagsland appears on an 1847 list of New Glarus families having school-age children. Christopher Jagsland (also seen as Jaksland) and wife Gunnild Torgersdatter had emigrated from Røyken, Norway in 1842. The name of their daughter Trini Jagsland appears in the first confirmation class roster of the Swiss Reformed Church in 1851. Little by little other Norwegian immigrants began purchasing land in the Town of New Glarus and surrounding townships. The Norwegian settlers, like the Swiss were largely farmers who grew wheat in the 1850s to 1870s and then turned to dairy.

When dairy cows took over the countryside, cheese factories were built in every farm neighborhood. And the milk for these factories was sourced from the closest farmers -- Swiss and Norwegian alike. The cheese makers were generally Swiss. Many of these country factories were located at an interface between the Swiss community and the Norwegians. For example, the Peerless Factory (in Primrose at Highway 92 and Peerless Road) had Norwegian and Swiss patrons over the years including the Norwegians Adolph Rindy, Jacob Jacobson, Palmer Hanna, Clarence Tollefson and Melvin Jenson. The Swiss patrons including John H. Disch, Jacob B. Hoesly, Walter Duerst, Carl Bringold and Alfred Wenger. The Nessa/Zweifel factory also in Primrose had Norwegian patrons by the names of Ole K. Nessa, Lewis Johnson, Thomas Anderson, Floyd Landmark, Martin Kleppe and Palmer Hanna, and Swiss patrons Jacob H. Zweifel, Martin Hefty and Matt J. Marty.

Swiss immigrant Adolph Eberhardt was a cheese maker and farmer. When he applied for U. S. citizenship in 1898 he looked to his neighbors to serve as witnesses. While the New Glarus area to the south was predominantly Swiss, Eberhardt's neighbors from the Perry and Primrose area were Norwegians. And so his witnesses were Christian S. Engen and Ole J. Fjelstad. Adolph was the grandfather of Madison real estate developer Darrell Wild and the great-grandfather of Beth Zurbuchen and Chuck Bigler.

In 1910 the Citizen's Bank opened in New Glarus. The bank had a Norway-born president, Ole G. Stamm, as well as a Norwegian-American bank director, Melvin K. Peters. And 13% of the bank stock was in Norwegian-American hands. A glance at 1919 to 1921 New Glarus businesses in Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and one will see a Norwegian presence. There was the restaurant belonging to William Tollefson and J. C. Luchsinger, the livery stable of Robert Streiff and Henry Domholdt, the Mt. Vernon Telephone Company run by Carl and Amanda (Daley) Hoiby, the hardware operated by Charles Tollefson and Wilbert Hefty, and community physician Dr. Elias J. Helgesen.



Swiss and Norwegians Pulling Together

The Town of York tug-of-war team was made up of Swiss and Norwegian farmers. In 1935 they challenged and beat the state championship team from Sun Prairie. Thus York claimed the state



championship for themselves. The event took place in New Glarus on Kilby Sunday. Front row left to right: Rudy Haske, Peter Klassy, Town Chairman and Coach Elmer Vamstad, Otto Elmer, and Oscar Paulson. Back row left to right: Carl Herrli, Lester Bleiler, Werner Haldiman, John W. Elmer,

Stanley Hamilton, Peter Disch, and Robert Strahm.

Ole and Lena: And That's No Joke

Midwesterners are acquainted with the jokes about a dim Norwegian immigrant named Ole and his wife Lena. The jokes range from the silly to the bawdy. The stories are home-grown -- a result of the immigrant experience here in America. It is said that these jokes do not exist in Norway. Here are some stories which you might enjoy:

One evening Ole and Lena were quietly sitting in their rocking chairs. Suddenly Lena got up, walked over to Ole and kicked him in the shins. So Ole says to Lena, "Lena, why did you do that to me?" Lena says, "That, Ole, is for fifty years of being a lousy lover." Ole sat there and rocked awhile. And pretty soon, he got up, walked over to Lena and kicked her in the shins. Lena asks, "Why did you do that to me?" And Ole responds, "That, Lena, is for knowing the difference."

A few years passed and Ole's time on earth was running out. Lying in bed and near death, he smelled something. Cake! Chocolate cake, his favorite! With every last ounce of strength Ole crawled out of bed and dragged himself to the kitchen. Lena walked in and found Ole sitting at the kitchen table eating the cake. She scolded him, "Ole! You should be in bed. You shouldn't be out here eating the cake. That cake is for the funeral!"

Alas Ole died and Lena went to the newspaper office to print his death notice. The editor asked her, "What do you want the notice to say?" Lena replied, "Ole died." The editor looked up and said, "But Lena, you were married to Ole all those years. Don't you want to say anything else about him?" "Nope," Lena replied. "Well you know, Lena" the editor responded, "The first five words are the same price." "Five words and it won't cost me extra?" she asked. The editor nodded. Lena thought hard and then said "Ole died. Boat for sale."



Ole approached St. Peter at the pearly gates. St. Peter says to Ole, "It's going to create a problem if I let you in here, Ole. I'll be darned if I'm going make lutefisk and stink up heaven just for one Norwegian!"

Pictured are a real life Ole and Lena – Ole Saether and Lena Loken. And they were my great-grandparents photographed on their wedding day in 1890.

Lena Antonette Loken was born on the Loken farm in the Town of Moscow, Iowa County just west of Blanchardville, WI. Her parents, Hans and Ingeborg (England) Loken, were immigrants from the adjoining villages of Lunner and Gran in the Hadeland district of Norway. This area of Norway has long been agricultural and the historic stone churches at Lunner and Gran date from the 1100s. An ancient rune stone dating from around 1040 was found at Gran. The stone exhibits carvings depicting the first Christian imagery in Norway.

Ole T. Saether was born Ole Thompson Skarasæter. He was a native of the locale of Leirskogen in the district of Valdres, a mountainous and forested area of Norway. His father Thomas was a farmer on the farm called Skarasæter. Hence Ole's name included the patronymic "Thompson" and the farm name "Skarasæter". Additionally, Ole was known in his family as "Vesle Ole" or "little Ole" to distinguish him from an elder brother, also named Ole, who was known as "Stor Ole" or big Ole. "Little" Ole immigrated in the late 1870s and joined relatives who had earlier settled in the Towns of York and Perry. Ole became established in Blanchardville, WI where he became known as Ole Thomas Saether. As a carpenter, Ole made and sold furniture and coffins. His carpenter trade developed into a joint furniture store and undertaking business. Additionally, Ole cut hair and was a sales agent for steamship tickets to Europe. Ole's funeral business is in the capable hands of his great-great grandson, Paul Saether. Saether's remains one of the oldest businesses in the area continuously run by the same family – nearly 140 years.

The Wong, Wang, Hong and Ming Families

When I was growing up I recall my grandparents talking about Lillian Wong, a woman who lived between Blanchardville and Argyle. In my youthful imagination I had pictured Miss Wong as an exotic woman of Chinese birth. But some decades later I learned that Lillian Wong (1913-2000) was full-blooded Norwegian. Lillian's four grandparents were all born in Norway and had immigrated to the Blanchardville area. Lillian, her parents and four immigrant grandparents are all buried in the largely Norwegian Yellowstone Lutheran Church Cemetery.

In 1930, the Quadri-County Fair was held in Blanchardville. Area residents young and old competed in showing various food, animals and crafts. Lillian Wong placed first in the Girl's Wash Dress category. And coming in behind her were New Glarus girls Miss Esther Elmer (Freitag) second, Miss Elda Strahm (Schiesser) third and Miss Harriet Elmer (Stowers) fourth. Years later in 1964, Lillian Wong won the Lafayette County Woodland Award. She was recognized for her stewardship of a 91 acre woodlot on which she had planted over 11,000 trees.

A few miles from the Yellowstone Norwegian settlement was the Wiota Norwegian settlement. One of the immigrant families was named Wang. And like the nearby Wongs, the Wangs were not Chinese but Norwegian. Hans Gulbrandson Wang and wife Anne Petersdatter immigrated in 1852. They and their descendants (including their unfortunately named son Peter Wang) are buried in the East Wiota Lutheran Church cemetery.

Further away in Monona County, Iowa was the Hong family. Engebret Hong and wife Turi Erickson emigrated from Norway. Their daughter, Anna Hong Rutt, became an accomplished artist and authority on home decor. Samples of her artistic works can be found today in the Hong Collection in the Vesterheim archives in Decorah, Iowa.

And closer to home was the Ming family. John and Maria (Matti) Ming lived in the Town of Primrose where John was a cheese maker at the Nessa/Zweifel factory on Nessa Road. And again like the Wongs, Wangs and Hong, the Mings were not Chinese. But unlike the others, the Mings were Swiss immigrants and not Norwegian. The Swiss Ming family originated in Canton Obwalden. Maria Magdalena (Lena) Ming was the daughter of John and Maria Ming. Lena married Fred Wild of New Glarus. Many readers will remember Fred and Lena's granddaughters Susan and Madeline Schuett.

The Swiss Hohensax Family Descended from Norway's St. Olaf

The Hohensax Gateway has been previously explained. Johann Christof von Hohensax was a Swiss noble who lived 500 years ago. He is the direct ancestor of many newsletter readers. Hohensax could claim medieval ancestry from many Kings and Queens of Europe. Among



them was King Olaf II of Norway also known as St. Olaf (pictured). Olaf lived from 995 to 1030. Counting back, Olaf is approximately a 26th to 29th great-grandfather from our generation.

Olaf's daughter Wulfhild married a Saxon by the name of Ordulf. Their son Magnus Billung was Duke of Saxony. And Magnus had the following three great-grandchildren of historic note. And all three of these figures were direct ancestors of Johann Christof von Hohensax. They were: Frederick I Barbarossa (1122-1190) Holy Roman Emperor; Heinrich XII (1129-1195) Duke of Bavaria (also known as Henry the Lion); and Elisabeth of Bregenz (ca. 1140-1216).

Frederick Barbarossa was head of the powerful Hohenstaufen dynasty and became its head. His cousin Henry the Lion was the head of the rival Welf dynasty. When the spheres of influence of these German dynasties entered Italian politics they became known to history as the Ghibellines and the Guelphs.

Elisabeth of Bregenz married Hugo II of Tübingen and their descendants became the Counts of Montfort, Werdenberg-Sargans and Hohensax located in the Rhine River valley which separates Switzerland and Austria. Their castles at Feldkirch in Austria, Werdenberg in Canton St. Gallen, and Vaduz in Liechtenstein still stand as excellent examples of medieval fortifications.

The Swiss Spycherli and the Norwegian Stabbur

Storage structures which look like miniature chalets can be found on both Swiss and Norwegian farms. In Switzerland this building is called a *Speicher* or *Spycherli* and in Norway the building is known as a *Stabbur*. Both were designed for the storage of food. And photographs of each show just how similar they look. Pictured are a Swiss *Spycherli* at Oberlangenegg, Canton Bern and a Norwegian *Stabbur* at the Hallingdal museum.



The buildings typically had two floors and often were placed upon wooden or stone pillars to raise the building above the ground. And sometimes these pillars were capped by large flat stones which prevented rodents from climbing up and into the structure. Food such as flour, salt, smoked and salted meats, cheese and butter may have been stored in the lower floor. Unground grains were stored in the upper section. There may also have been sleeping accommodations on the second floor. Some Swiss *Spycherlis*, and likely Norwegian *Stabburs* too, are now being remodeled into charming weekend getaways and B&Bs.



Slides: Then and Now . . .

Then: Fire escape slides attached to school buildings. Do any newsletter readers who attended New Glarus schools recall the similar slide on the south side of the old red brick school? Does anyone have stories or memories to share regarding the New Glarus school fire escape slide?



Now: Water park slides at a Lethbridge, Alberta Ramada Inn. One of the slides is called the Aquawiz and the other is the Superflume.

