

Family History Notes

Spring 2018

Dürst and Streiff

Two family names closely associated with New Glarus are Dürst and Streiff. It was Judge Niklaus Dürst of Diesbach and Fridolin Streiff of Schwanden who left Canton Glarus in March of 1845 bound for America. After many weeks of searching they purchased acreage in the Territory of Wisconsin which would become the New Glarus settlement. Both Dürst and Streiff are Swiss family names with Canton Glarus origins. And both are associated with certain Canton Glarus villages – Dürst is particularly associated with Diesbach, Braunwald, Linthal, Sool, Glarus and Mühlehorn, and Streiff with Schwanden, Diesbach and Glarus. In America the name Dürst has been spelled Durst (without the umlaut) or Duerst (with an added “e” to follow the “u”). In New Glarus the name Streiff remained spelled as it is in Canton Glarus, although as you will read, different spellings and pronunciations have occurred elsewhere in the United States.



A recent inquiry from Switzerland asked whether there were any people by the name of Durst or Duerst remaining in New Glarus. The inquiry came from Daniel Dürst who explained he is a direct descendant of Joachim Dürst and his wife Regina née Elmer of Diesbach, Canton Glarus. This couple was married in 1617. In 1895 Niklaus Dürst (6001), a descendant of Joachim and Regina and the grandson of Judge Dürst (3048) researched and compiled the Dürst descendants into a booklet accompanied by a large, illustrated family tree (pictured). Displayed on this family tree are hundreds of small circles on the various family branches. Each circle represents a single descendant. The New Glarus Historical Society has a copy of this Dürst tree which is found in the museum’s archival area. Note: the four-digit numbers in parentheses following the names correspond to the numbers on the Dürst family tree.

This Dürst family tree deserves a closer look for it is more than just a two-dimensional piece of paper. The hundreds of names on its branches represent a rich history. For on its branches are ancestors of many, many New Glarus families – whether Durst/Duerst or not. Among the early immigrants who settled New Glarus named Durst/Duerst and who can be found on the Dürst tree branches include original colonist Balthasar Durst (5148), Johann Jacob Duerst (4156; a member of the Glarner forces who laid siege in 1815 to Napoleon supporters at the Hünigen Fortress see Family History Notes Winter 2013), Albrecht Duerst-Wild (6144), Mathias Duerst-Kundert (6081), brothers Melchior (7071) and Joachim Duerst (7072), brothers Fridolin Durst (5171) who settled in Durst Valley and Johann Heinrich Duerst (5166), Bartholomäus (Bartholomew) Durst (6073) of the Iron Brigade, John Durst of California (6167; featured in the Family History Notes Fall 2017) and brothers Samuel (5070) and Thomas Duerst (5071).

The number of area descendants today named Durst/Duerst and who descend directly in a male line from Joachim and Regina include Wayne Duerst, Keith Duerst, Kent Duerst, and Barbara Duerst (from immigrant Samuel); Jon Durst and Fritz Durst (from immigrant Fridolin); and Mike Duerst, Ken Duerst and David Duerst (from immigrant Johann Heinrich); Rick Duerst (from immigrant Joachim); and Mike Duerst of Verona (from immigrant Albrecht).

There are many other immigrant families not named Durst/Duerst who descend from Joachim and Regina (Elmer) Dürst. These include Joshua Wild and his brother-in-law Joachim Klassy, Joshua Wild's cousin Margaretha Wild (Mrs. Christian Luchsinger), original colonists husbands and wives Fridolin Hoesly and Margaretha Durst, Balthasar Durst and Magdalena Durst, George Legler and Anna Durst, and Fridolin Legler and Anna Hefti, siblings Elsbeth Hoesly (Mrs. Caspar Hefty), Peter Hoesly-Zweifel and original colonist Henry Hoesly-Zwicki, sisters Maria Schiesser (Mrs. J. J. Freitag) and Barbara Schiesser (Mrs. John Peter Klassy), Rosina Schiesser (Mrs. Fridolin Hefty), Joachim Klassy-Oertli, Magdalena Streiff (the wife of the aforementioned Fridolin Durst of Durst Valley), Melchior Schiesser-Tschudi, Melchior Klassy-Wichser, Paulus Figi-Hefti, sisters Rosina Streiff (Mrs. John Caspar Blum) and Maria Streiff (Mrs. John Jacob Hefty) as well as Maria's husband John Jacob Hefty, Fridolin Legler-Rhyner, Margaretha Hefti (Mrs. Oswald Baumgartner), 1846 settler Niklaus Durst-Streiff, Elsbeth Schuler (Mrs. Rudolf Kundert), and husband and wife Fridolin Hefty and Rosina Durst.

And the list of Joachim and Regina Dürst direct descendants continues to include original colonist Mathias Schmid-Schmid, Regula Legler (Mrs. Henry Hefty), Anna Knobel (Mrs. John Peter Streiff), siblings Salomea Hoesly (Mrs. Samuel Hoesly) and Henry Hoesly-Baumgartner, Peter Streiff-Zweifel, David Legler-Streiff, Anna Magdalena Heitz- Knobel (whose home was the Heitz-Kundert log cabin in New Glarus), husband and wife Amalia Schindler and Thomas Kundert. Thomas Kundert's mother Sara Voegeli (Mrs. Abraham Kundert) – who alone had 99 grandchildren – is a Dürst descendant.

It would be exhausting exercise to list those all of the New Glarus residents who descend from Joachim and Regina Dürst and the early settlers mentioned above. Many can connect back to Joachim and Regina in a number of ways. Newsletter readers Ann Marie Ott, Duane Freitag, Kerry (Durst) Kasza and Linda (Zentner) Yguado each can trace pathways back to Joachim and Regina Dürst in at least four (and possibly more) ways.

Pedigree Collapse

The ancestry of the Dürst descendants listed above -- Ann Marie, Duane, Kerry and Linda -- provides an opportunity to consider the concept "pedigree collapse" or "ancestor collapse". The following explanation has been adapted from Wikipedia: "One person's ancestry tree is formed by that individual person, that person's parents (2), grandparents (4), great-grandparents (8), and so on. Every generation the number of individuals in such a tree grows exponentially and will eventually become impossibly high. For example, a single individual alive today would, over 30 generations going back to the Middle Ages, have 2 to the 30th power or roughly a billion ancestors -- 1,073,741,824 to be exact. And that is more than the total world population at the time. This apparent paradox is explained by shared ancestors, referred to as pedigree collapse.

Instead of consisting of all different individuals, a tree may have multiple places occupied by a single individual. This typically happens when the parents of an ancestor are related to each other (often unbeknownst to themselves).” The geographic isolation of Canton Glarus and its remote mountain valleys and villages often limited marriage options. Glarner men and women in the not too distant past typically married within their home village or nearby villages. And the marriages in early New Glarus likewise were typically among others in the settlement. It was inevitable that cousins, close or distant, would marry.

The exact same time that Joachim and Regina Dürst lived in Diesbach, Matheus and Verena (Bräm) Marti lived in Matt, Canton Glarus. I can find seven different pathways back to Matheus and Verena by way of my three Glarner grandparents. And so the concept of pedigree collapse becomes reality for me and many others with Sernftal roots who are descended in multiple ways from the Matheus and Verena Marti. The saying “*Alle Glarner miteinander verwandt sind*” or “all Glarner are related to each other” is apt. We are even distant cousins of ourselves!

Streiff, Strieff, Streif, and Strief

As mentioned, the family name Streiff has retained its original spelling in New Glarus. But elsewhere the spelling and pronunciation has changed into other similar forms. The Streiff-derived name Strieff was featured in national news in 2016 when the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of Utah vs. Strieff. As reported in the Family History Notes of Fall 2016, Edward J. Strieff, who won his case, was the great-grandson of John B. Streiff of Monroe, a Swiss immigrant whose ancestry was from Schwanden, Canton Glarus. Chief Justice John Roberts pronounced Strieff as “strife” although others pronounced the Strieff as “streef”.



A Nicholas Streiff born in New Glarus in 1898, found his way to South Dakota where his name became Nick Strieff. It appears Nick’s descendants today continue to use the Strieff spelling.

Second cousins from Schwanden named Peter Streiff (son of #89 Schwanden) and Samuel Streiff (son of #91 Schwanden) immigrated to Farley, Dubuque County, Iowa. Their grandfathers were brothers. There in Iowa both Peter Streiff and Samuel Streiff dropped one “f” in their name and became known as Streif. Peter’s granddaughter Rose Streif and Samuel’s son William F. Streif married – a Streif married a Streif. And yet their son Kenneth, despite having both paternal and maternal family named Streif, became known as Kenneth Strief.

Zach Strief (pictured above; pronounced “streef”) is another Streiff descendant whose name has deviated from the original Streiff. Zach’s immigrant ancestors were great-great-great grandparents Fridolin and Adelheid (Staub) Streiff. Fridolin was a coppersmith in Glarus (*Kupferschmied im Zaun*) and his family roots were from Schwanden. Fridolin and Adelheid immigrated to Cincinnati, OH where the Streiff/Strief family has remained for generations. Zach Strief may be known to some. He was an offensive tackle for the New Orleans Saints, weighing in at 320 pounds and on a six foot seven inch frame. Zach played with the Saints for 12 seasons including their Superbowl XLIV championship in 2010. Besides his football career, Strief is known for his foundation which supports youth camps and aids athletic programs in his native Milford, OH (near Cincinnati). He wrote a charity cookbook entitled “When You’re the Biggest Guy on the Team!” Strief recently announced his retirement from the NFL and has begun a new venture as a partner in a New Orleans brewery called Port Orleans.

New Glarus Men in the Iron Brigade

In September of 2017 the New Glarus Public Library and the New Glarus Historical Society co-hosted a talk by Erik Schlehlein author of the book “Forged in Blood: How the Iron Brigade Earned its Metallic Moniker”. The core of the Iron Brigade was the Wisconsin 2nd, 5th and 6th Volunteer Infantry along with the Indiana 19th and later the Michigan 24th Volunteer Infantry. The Iron Brigade was involved in many of the most important (and deadliest) battles of the war in the Eastern Theater, including Gainesville near Manassas, Battle of Antietam (the battle with the most deaths in a single day), Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Gettysburg (the bloodiest battle), Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and ending up at Appomattox Court House. It is said that Major General George B. McClellan remarked when seeing these men fight, “They must be made of iron.” The celebrated group was also called the “Black Hats” due to their trademark black “Hardee” hats with one brim pinned up.

What Schlehlein did not mention and what should be fundamental to New Glarus interest in the Iron Brigade are the number of local men and men of Canton Glarus background who were part of that eminent group. The following list was assembled using Wisconsin Historical Society roster information and Canton Glarus genealogical records to document these men of local history and family history interest. (Note: both surnames Dürst and Streiff are found on among the soldiers.) Examining this list provides a chilling insight into the number of casualties – those wounded, killed, or who died of disease. These numbers speak directly to the tragedies of all wars, the high mortality of the Civil War, and the very high casualties found in the Iron Brigade in particular

Baumgartner, Balthasar: Baumgartner, known as Baltz or Baltis, was a native of Engi, Canton Glarus and the husband of Anna Barbara Zwicky. The New Glarus Swiss Reformed Church death register records the 1857 death of their son Balthasar Jr. Baltz enlisted in Madison in early 1862. He was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Gettysburg and died of disease on



June 15, 1864 at the Andersonville Prison. His widow received a pension beginning in 1865. According to Canton Glarus records Baumgartner had as many as three surviving children. Nothing further is known of the widow and children.

The notorious Andersonville Prison was under the command of Swiss-born Confederate Henry Wirz. Nearly 13,000 soldiers at Andersonville died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, exposure to the elements or overcrowding. After the war Wirz was found guilty for conspiracy and murder in association with his role as camp commandant. He was executed in 1865.

Blum, John Melchior: was a native of Bilten, Canton Glarus. He immigrated in 1847 with his parents Johann Rudolf and Verena (Luchsinger) Blum as part of the New Bilten settlement. Blum died at the Battle of Gainesville (Brawner’s Farm) on August 28, 1862.

Durst, Bartholomew: was a native of Diesbach, Canton Glarus, the son of Samuel and Sophia (Ackermann) Dürst. After the war Durst married and was a Madison, WI butcher. He is buried in Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery.

Figi, Jacob: a native of Haslen, Canton Glarus, was the son of Johann Jacob and Regina (Hösli) Figi. Figi was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Gettysburg, PA. After the war he married German-born Johanna Behringer, raised a family and farmed in Stephenson County, IL. Later in life they resided in New Glarus and are buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery.

Frey, Sebastian: unknown origin or ancestry. Listed in war records as a deserter.

Gallati (or Gallatin), Baltz: a native of Mollis, Canton Glarus, the husband of Anna Barbara Schellenbaum. She is recorded in both the Canton Glarus records and the local Swiss Reformed church records as dying in New Glarus on May 29, 1861. Gallati enlisted in Madison in February, 1862 and is recorded as a deserter later that same year.

Geiser, Friedrich: was a native of Langenthal, Canton Bern. He died in the Battle of Gettysburg, PA on July 1, 1863. Geiser had married Susanna Scheron just before the war. Their son Friedrich Jr. was born in 1861 and not yet five months old when his father enlisted. The boy was not quite two years old when his father was killed. Geiser's widow remarried in 1864 to Jacob Blum. Friedrich Jr. died in 1884 and is buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery.

Heitz, Paulus: known informally as Pauly, he was a native of Rüti, Canton Glarus, the son of Balthasar and Rosina (Schindler) Heitz. After the war Paulus returned to New Glarus and was employed as a farmhand by such farmers as Adam Schmid and George Legler. Heitz died in 1901 and is buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery.

Hoesly, Henry: was a native of Haslen, Canton Glarus, the son of Heinrich and Barbara (Streff) Hösli. Hoesly was wounded in the war being shot through his left arm. After the war he married Agatha Duerst and operated a New Glarus tavern. After Agatha's death, Henry married her sister Barbara (Duerst) Haegele. Hoesly is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Monroe, WI.

Hoesly, John Jacob: believed to be a native of Haslen, Canton Glarus, the son of Heinrich and Waldburga (Blumer) Hösli. Hoesly was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness. After the war Hoesly married Anna Duerst. He died in 1872 and presumably buried in the New Glarus Pioneer Cemetery (now unmarked).

Hoesly, Samuel: was a native of Diesbach, Canton Glarus, and the son of Fridolin and Margareth (Dürst) Hösli. The Hösli family, including Samuel, were original 1845 settlers of New Glarus. Samuel and his brother Heinrich were millers in early New Glarus and later millers in Milwaukie, OR. Samuel is buried in the Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery.

Klasse, Fridolin: was a native of Luchsingen, Canton Glarus, the son of Samuel and Katharina (Ackermann) Kläsi. Klasse was wounded twice – at Spotsylvania and the Battle of the Wilderness. He married Barbara Freitag in 1865 and they later farmed near Renwick, IA. Klasse is buried in the Vernon Township Cemetery near Renwick.

Knobel, Henry: died of disease at City Point, VA on June 29, 1864. His background is uncertain. A Henry Knobel of Schwändi, Canton Glarus, the son of Adam and Anna (Schiesser) Knobel, was reportedly wounded in 1864 at Chattanooga, TN and buried in Syracuse, NY.

Kubly, John Ulrich: was a native of Elm, Canton Glarus, the son of Oswald and Barbara (Schrepfer) Kubli. Kubly was wounded and taken prisoner at Gainesville. He left leg was shot off and required amputation. After the war Kubly married Rosina Gallati, the widow of Civil War casualty Rudolf Kundert. Kubly died in 1918 and is buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery.

Legler, Simon: born Simeon Legler in Malans, Canton Graubunden, Legler was the nephew of John Caspar Legler of New Glarus. After the war Simon farmed in Gilroy, CA. He was married to Anna Jecklin and they had a son Simon Jr. The Leglers are buried in Gilroy.

Leuzinger, Fridolin: was a native of Mollis, Canton Glarus, the son of Christian and Elisabetha (Schindler) Leuzinger. The Leuzingers farmed southeast of the present day New Glarus Woods. Fridolin died in the Battle of Gainesville on August 28, 1862. Fridolin Leuzinger's name has been misspelled in records as Lenzinger and has been sometimes confused with Fridolin Luchsinger.

Luchsinger, Fridolin: was a native of Engi, Canton Glarus, the son of Martin and Anna (Blumer) Luchsinger. He was wounded three times – at the Battles of Gainesville, Gettysburg and Hatcher's Run. He married Rosina (Hefti) Blesi in New Glarus and according to descendants they later farmed in Illinois and Nebraska. Luchsinger is buried in Nebraska. Luchsinger's sister Anna Maria married German-born Sergeant Peter Schneider who also served in the Iron Brigade.

Luchsinger, Melchior: was a native of Schwanden, Canton Glarus, the son of Thomas and Anna (Stauffacher) Luchsinger. Melchior died of disease at Fredericksburg, VA on June 29, 1862.

Marty, Fridolin: was a native of Engi, Canton Glarus, the son of Fridolin and Ursula (Zentner) Marti. Records indicate he was a deserter. He was a cigar maker by trade and resided in Cook County, IL and later New Glarus. He was first married to Louisa Dietz and secondly to Barbara Hoesly. Marty died in 1896 is said to be buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery.

Popp, Adam and Jacob: Ohio-born brothers, the sons of Anton and Margaretha (Allenbrand) Popp (also seen spelled as Pope or Bopp). In 1860 Adam was a worker on the Jost Voegeli farm between New Glarus and Monticello. Both brothers married after the war, and both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Monroe, WI. Swiss Reformed records in New Glarus state that the father Anton Popp was from Aschaffenburg, Germany.

Schiesser, Caspar: a native of Haslen (or Linthal), Canton Glarus, the son of Niklaus and Anna Margaretha (Böniger) Schiesser. He married Ursula Hoesly and is buried in Monroe's Greenwood Cemetery.

Streiff, Fridolin: was a native of Schwanden, Canton Glarus, the son of Emanuel and Agatha (Zopfi) Streiff. Streiff is likely the best known of the local men who served in the Iron Brigade due to his many New Glarus descendants. Streiff was twice wounded in the left leg and taken



prisoner in Gainesville. While on furlough in 1864 he married Barbara Wild of New Glarus. Fridolin mustered out as a Sergeant in August of 1865 after 4 years 10 months and 9 days of service -- likely the lengthiest record of any New Glarus Civil War soldier. For a short time after the war, Fridolin and his father-in-law Joshua Wild were partners in a Paoli general store. After the

store was sold Fridolin began farming west of New Glarus. Fridolin and Barbara later retired to New Glarus and are buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery.

Pictured are Barbara (Wild) and Fridolin Streiff and their ten children taken in the early 1890s. Seated: Joshua, Barbara (mother), Emma (Mrs. Walter Wohlwend), Fridolin (father), and Agatha (Mrs. Marcus Hoesly) ; middle Emilie (Mrs. Henry Kubly) and Robert; back Fred, Anna (Mrs. Nicholas Marty/Mrs. John S. Duerst), Emanuel, Barbara (Mrs. John S. Zweifel) and John.

Fridolin and Barbara Streiff followed the Glarner naming rules for their oldest children. The oldest four children, Agatha, Joshua, Emanuel and Barbara were named after their grandparents Emanuel and Agatha (Zopfi) Streiff and Joshua and Barbara (Speich) Wild. Third son Fred was named for his father Fridolin. The next, John and Anna, were named after great-grandparents. But the youngest three children -- Robert, Emilie and Emma -- had names which reflected the more "modern" times. Look for more regarding the name Emma in an upcoming issue.

Streiff, Melchior: was a native of Diesbach, Canton Glarus, the only son of David and Barbara (Hefti) Streiff. He enlisted in Eau Claire, WI. Two of Streiff's sisters, Rosina (Mrs. John Caspar Blum) and Maria (Mrs. John Jacob Hefty), resided in rural New Glarus. Streiff died in the Battle of Laurel Hill, VA on May 8, 1864.

Thom, Dietland: was the oldest son of Anna Maria Steinmann, a native of Niederurnen, Canton Glarus and her husband Dietland Thom (sometimes spelled Thomm). Dietland Thom can be found in Civil War records listed as Thomas Dietland. Thom was killed at the Battle of Gainesville on August 28, 1862. After the war, the senior Thoms had another son whom they named Dietland.

Trumpi, Jacob: uncertain ancestry of likely Glarner origin (Trümpi). Trumpi was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Gettysburg. He died in Richmond on November 18, 1863.

Pictured: New Glarus Civil War Veterans in 1914. From left: Henry Altmann, Fridolin Streiff (Iron Brigade), Oswald Babler, Thomas Schmid, John Ulrich Kubly (Iron Brigade) and Peter



Disch. The monument seen in this photo no longer exists at this cemetery location. Apparently no one knows any more about it.

Wichser, Mathias: was a native of Schwanden, Canton Glarus, the son of Rudolf and Anna Katharina (Stüssi) Wichser and the husband of Anna Maria

Luchsinger. When Wichser enlisted in 1861 at the age of 40 he was married and the father of two teenaged girls. Corporal Wichser received a disability discharged after serving 7 months. Wichser died in 1895 and is buried in the New Glarus Evangelical Association Cemetery.

Zentner, Rudolf: was a native of Elm, Canton Glarus, the son of Johannes and Katharina (Dürst) Zentner. Rudolf came as a boy to the New Elm settlement near Oshkosh, WI. He enlisted in November of 1861 at the age of 15. He was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness. He married and raised a family in Adams County, WI where he is buried. Zentner was the nephew of immigrants Samuel and Thomas Duerst of New Glarus.

Zweifel, Jost: was a native of Linthal, Canton Glarus, the son of Albrecht and Anna (Zweifel) Zweifel. He was wounded at Gettysburg and had a leg amputated. Zweifel was a Milwaukee, WI resident where he is buried.

Unidentified (possible Glarner background): Jacob Jenny, wounded and taken prisoner at Gainesville; John Staub, dishonorably discharged; Jacob Zentner (possibly a mistaken entry for Rudolf Zentner).

A net summary of the 29 identified soldiers listed above: nine (31%) died of wounds and disease; nine (31%) were wounded but survived; three (10%) were listed as deserters and the remaining eight (28%) apparently were not physically wounded yet may have suffered disabilities. Deserting was a relatively common practice among Civil War soldiers, particularly on the Confederate side. Cowardice was not necessarily a contributing factor. Many soldiers were worried about their families back home or experienced ongoing health issues and thus decided they needed to leave.

1918 – One Hundred Years Ago

1918 is remembered as a tragic time – World War I was in its fourth and final year and the worldwide influenza pandemic spread death around the globe. The war would come to an end but influenza continued to kill for many more months.

1918 saw the birth of Nelson Mandela, First Lady Betty Ford, businessman Sam Walton, evangelist Billy Graham (who recently died in his 100th year), actors Rita Hayworth and William Holden, and baseball players Ted Williams, Pee Wee Reese and Bob Feller. (An aside: one might wonder if Cleveland Indian's pitcher Bob Feller had Swiss ancestry as there are several area men by the name of Robert Feller possessing Swiss blood. Pitcher Bob Feller's grandfather Andrew Feller was born in Germany. But his grandmother, Elizabeth Brotschi, was of Swiss birth.)

New Glarus locals born in 1918 included Lila (Kubly) Dibble, Harold Hoesly, Garnet (Schindler) Arnes, Gerry Disch, Merle (Kubly) Willoughby, Henry Opfermann, Rudy Schneider, Elda (Strahm) Schiesser, Lorna (Marty) Eichelkraut Marty, Ken Hoesly, and Eldera (Itten) Eichelkraut. These names attest to a time when New Glarus was solidly of Glarner-Swiss background.

The "New Glarus Post" newspaper of October 10, 1918 published an ominous article citing 15 cases of influenza in the New Glarus area. The local Board of Health took this public health situation seriously and closed local schools, churches, theatres and public meetings. They issued seven directives for the general public to follow in order to minimize the catching the flu:

- 1) Avoid contact with people
- 2) Avoid chills
- 3) Sleep and work in fresh air
- 4) Keep hands clean and out of your mouth
- 5) Avoid expectorating
- 6) Cover your nose when you sneeze
- 7) Don't worry and keep your feet warm (Note: rather a curious non sequitur)

The following week the Post published the obituary of influenza victim Mrs. Hilarius Klassy (née Anna Marty). She had married Hilarius Klassy in 1902 and they farmed southwest of New Glarus in York and Adams Townships. Anna was survived by her husband and three school-age children, Sam P., Hilda (later Mrs. John Kernen) and Herman.

The following week the Post published the obituary of another influenza victim John Schrepfer. John was raised on the Schrepfer farm between New Glarus and Dayton. He had married Anna Christen of New Glarus. They had no children.

For many weeks thereafter, the Post published the names of many others who died of the influenza epidemic. And sometimes the epidemic hit families more than once. About two months after the death of Anna Klassy, the Post published the obituary for her sister Frieda (Marty) Blum. And a few weeks later in 1919, Anna (Christen) Schrepfer's brother, Sam Christen, Jr., died leaving a widow and infant daughter.

In the Strahm home, mother Maria (Roethlisberger) Strahm died reportedly of influenza complications on January 30, 1919. Her son Jacob, who had helped nurse his sick mother, became sick himself and died two days later.

The 1918 epidemic hit those aged about 20 to 40 particularly hard contrary to the usual victims being infants and the elderly. Anna Klassy and her sister Frieda were 32 and 19, respectively. John Schrepfer was 28 and his brother-in-law Samuel Christen was 34. Jacob Strahm was also 34. Other flu area victims included mostly young adults including Edward W. Zweifel (age 29), Blanche Gross (20), Ernst Ritschard (22), Ernest Pauli, Jr (16), Emma Hefty of Paoli (15) and my great-aunt Erma (Elmer) Geipel (23). It is believed that young adults were so adversely affected because this particular flu strain overworked the robust immune system. This strong reaction of the young and healthy to the flu virus ravaged the victims' bodies.

One other victim was Albert Wolf (31). Wolf was a young Swiss-immigrant baker who probably



felt on top of the world in 1916. He was a recent immigrant from Kloten, Canton Zurich. Wolf found a bride, another Swiss immigrant by the name of Rosa Märki. The young couple became the parents of a son Otto. Albert began baking around 1912 and by 1916 had built a new bakery building (the New Glarus Bakery yet

today) on the main street of New Glarus. But in 1917 Albert Wolf's wife Rosa died at the young age of 24. And Albert died the following year. The Wolf's little boy Otto was adopted by childless neighbors and tavern operators Joseph and Berta Puempel. Little Otto Wolf was known thereafter as Otto Puempel. Having an adopted son allowed Puempel's Tavern to continue on into the 21st Century. The New Glarus Bakery passed to various members of the Matzinger family who operated the bakery for decades. Albert Wolf was part of a group photograph taken in front of Puempel's Tavern. He is on the right standing next to Berta and Joseph Puempel.

[HERE](#) is a link to the "American Experience" documentary regarding the 1918 Flu Pandemic.

Trivia Answer from Last Issue

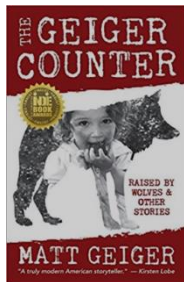
Who was the Jewish Ho-Chunk chief? It was none other than Solomon Levitan. Thank you to those readers who submitted the correct answer. Levitan was an 1880s immigrant from Eastern



Europe who began a retail career by peddling goods around Green County. He partnered with New Glarus local Henry Steussy to form the Levitan-Steussy general store in New Glarus. The Levitan family moved to Madison where he opened a dry goods store on the Capital Square. Levitan rose to become the president of the Commercial State Bank and capped his career as the Wisconsin State Treasurer. Levitan never forgot his New Glarus years. Pictured at left is Levitan attending New Glarus' 80th Anniversary celebration. He appears to be chatting with 90 year old original settler Oswald Babler.

A Book Recommendation

Matt Geiger, the son newsletter reader James Geiger, has written a humorous look at his life from boyhood to fatherhood. Matt's book, "The Geiger Counter", provides many smiles and chuckles in 44 short episodes. Matt exhibits a talent not only in being able to observe life's foibles but also in being able to relate them in an entertaining manner. Matt's book is available from Amazon.com in both print and Kindle formats.



Matt Geiger, who is the editor of the "Mount Horeb Mail" newspaper, has solid Swiss and Norwegian credentials. Matt's Canton Glarus ancestors include the Geigers of Elm, the Oswalds of Bilten, and the Zweifels of Linthal – in other words people from the very corners of the canton. His Schmid ancestors were among the first New Glarus settlers of 1845. Matt's grandmother provided his Norwegian blood. She was a member of the Sherven family (originally Skjervheim) of the nearby Town of Perry.

Canton Glarus History

Although a small and rural Swiss canton, Glarus offers a number of museums showcasing various aspects of their history. Glarus history spans geologic history 300 million years ago to the technological advances of the recent past. Foremost among their museums is the *Museum des Landes Glarus* in Näfels, housed in a grand 17th century manor known as the *Freulerpalast*. This venue offers the best comprehensive look at the history of the Canton. The *Landesarchiv* in Glarus, while not a museum per se, holds historic books and documents related to the Canton including the genealogical volumes of J. J. Kubly-Müller. The smaller, local museums and exhibits include the *Landesplattenberg* (slate mines) and the *Sernftalbach-Museum* in Engi, the *Schiefertafelfabrik* (slate tablet factory) in Elm, the *Dorfmuseum Pulverturm* in Schwanden which contains an archive of documents related to the New Glarus emigration, the *Thomas Legler-Haus* in Diesbach, and the *Suworow-Museum* in Linthal. An exhibit in Elm's old school house explains the unique geological formations found in the mountains above the village. This mountainous area, known as the Tectonic Arena Sardona, has been designated a UNESCO world



heritage site. The *Hammerschmiede* in Mühlehorn is a simple working blacksmith shop museum dating from 1777. It contrasts with the hydro-electric power plant displays at the *Kraftwerk-museum Löntsch* near Netstal. New museums/exhibits in Canton Glarus include the geology and fossil exhibit at the *Ortsmuseum* in Mollis and the *Anna Göldi Museum* in Ennenda.

The Anna Göldi Museum has a focus on women's rights and human rights told through the story of Anna Göldi, the last person executed for witchcraft in Europe (1782). Anna was employed as a domestic in the homes of a Zwicky family of Mollis and later in the Glarus home of the prominent doctor Johann Jacob Tschudi and family. It has been theorized that Dr. Tschudi took sexual advantage of Göldi. Feeling threatened that Anna might reveal his transgressions, Dr. Tschudi may have then invented evidence suggesting that Göldi utilized demonic powers in the Tschudi household. She was tried and hastily decapitated. The Anna Göldi museum, formerly housed in Mollis, has relocated to the *Hänggiturm* (pictured) in Ennenda – a historic 19th century fabric drying tower. The Anna Göldi museum recently received an anonymous donation of \$1 million CHF (\$1,080,000)!