Family History Notes Summer 2018

New Glarus and Area in World War I

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice was signed by the Allies and Germany ending the hostilities of World War I. The war began following the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. In America, war against Germany was declared on April 6, 1917 when President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for "a war to end all wars". The United States was drawn into the war prompted, in part, by German U-boats sinking American vessels at sea.

The United States enacted the Selective Service Act of 1917 which allowed the formation of national army through conscription (a draft). New Glarus conscripts – 53 men and 1 woman -- have been recorded by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in their <u>Wisconsin WWI Roster</u> <u>Database</u>. The names preceded with a "†" died while serving their country:

†William G. Bartlett, Emil Bruni, Jacob Bruni, Oscar D. Curtis, John W. Disch, Thomas Disch, Claude Elmer Donaldson, Jacob H. Duerst, John C. Duerst, Thomas Samuel Duerst, John U. Elmer, Melvin Engler, William Engler, Louis Gassner, Henry Gibeaut, John Gibeaut, Edward J.

Gmur, Leo F. Gmur, John Haegele, Clarence John Hefty, Henry Hefty, Henry W. Hefty, Paul Leo Hefty, Peter E. Hefty, Thomas C. Hefty, Thomas Rudolph Hefty, Dewey Hilton, Charles J. Hoesly, Olen Hustad, Herman Kammer, Leroy Kubly (né Steussy), Tim Luchsinger, Raymond Mathias Marty, John Mischler, Emil J. Moser, Henry Norder, Edward Peters, Alma Regez, Emil Schiesser, Walter Gabriel Schindler, Ernst Schipback, Oliver Abner Stamn, Edwin E. Steussy, †Walter W. Stuessy, Clarence Syvrud, John T. Syvrud, Arthur J. Theiler, Alfred Trosch, Jacob Urben, Emil Robert Wittwer, Robert Wyss, Paul Zimmerman, Fred H. Zweifel and Wilbert Leon Zweifel.

Pictured at right is Charles J. Hoesly on a postcard entitled "A Soldier's Dream". The smoke from his cigar rises to form a heart surrounding his wife Susanna née Schneider. Susanna's brothers, Paul and Martin Schneider, also served in WWI. Charles and Susanna were the grandparents of the Brauers – Bill, Susan, Kent and Jane.



Area villages had the following conscription numbers: Blanchardville 105 including Ernst Ruegsegger, Teddy Colden and †Leroy Stauffacher; Monticello 72 including Edwin Barlow, Fred G. Blum, Arnold Zumkehr, Walter J. Marty and †Leonard Rhyner; Belleville 42 including Ferdinand Aebi and Ludwig Schneider; Mt. Horeb 27 including Henry Koppervig, Paul Schneider, Martin Schneider, Oden Glaeden, Giles Wallen and Henry A. Zweifel; Monroe 497 including Marcus M. Elmer, Edward N. Fuhrmann, Tobias Knobel, Paulus A. Roth and †Emil Wichser; Argyle 99 including John E. Hofmaster; and William B. Disch from Exeter. Miriam Theiler included additional names of WWI veterans in her centennial history book. These men may have resided in New Glarus at that time her book was written. Local boys included by Theiler but are not found in the Wisconsin WWI Veterans database are Emil Tschudy, S. Wilbert Duerst and John Bruni. They may have been out-of-state when they entered the military.

Some of the men who served were single immigrant farm workers. Ludwig Schneider and Louis Gassner were natives of Canton St. Gallen, Switzerland and were "declarants" thus not holding citizenship but having declared their citizenship intentions. Schneider worked on the Fred D. Stuessy farm and Gassner was employed by Albert Legler.



It is uncertain why Alma Regez, a nurse, had enlisted from New Glarus. She was a Monroe girl, the daughter of Rudolf and Lizetta (Wittwer) Regez. She returned to Monroe after the war as evidenced in the 1920 census. She later lived in the Chicago area and married J. B. Ellrod. Alma Regez Ellrod died in 1952 and is buried in Monroe's Greenwood Cemetery.

The soldier pictured left is Edwin Steussy, son of New Glarus merchant Henry Steussy of the firm Levitan-Steussy and his wife Maria née Geiger. After the war Steussy married Helen Freitag who was born and raised on the Freitag Farm mentioned in following article. They were the parents of the late Mary (Steussy) Shanahan of rural New Glarus.

Walter Stuessy was the first native-born son of New Glarus killed in the WWI battlefields. He died in early November, 1918 in France just days before the November 11 armistice. Walter Stuessy was the son of local harness maker Salomon and Anna Magdalena (Becker) Stuessy. He gave his life for his country and as the first New Glarus native killed in the war, his name was given to the local legion post – today's Stuessy-Kuenzi American Legion Post #141. In 1921, Walter's remains were returned to New Glarus and interred next to his father Salomon Stuessy who had died in 1914. But two years later word was received by the Stuessy family that a mistake had occurred. The body returned to New Glarus in 1921 was not that of Walter Stuessy but of an Irish-American by the name of Patrick J. Waldron. In 1923 the situation was rectified when Walter Stuessy's body was finally brought home to New Glarus and properly buried. Waldron was re-buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Other New Glarus area men who died while in service included William Guy Bartlett. Bartlett was the son of local druggist Robert and Edith (Silver) Bartlett. William was a 1916 pharmacy graduate of the University of Wisconsin and shortly before his enlistment he had married Norma Zwicky. He volunteered for medical duty in the overcrowded hospital at Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis. He contracted spinal meningitis and died on January 25, 1918. Bartlett's funeral and burial was held in Monroe. There was a significant snow storm prior to the funeral. The New Glarus mourners, being unable to drive to Monroe, took sleighs instead.

August Martin died from wounds received in France in October 1918. August was the son of German immigrants who lived in Boscobel, WI. He apparently worked in the area and has been included in some lists as a New Glarus casualty.

Martin Schneider, the son of Paulus and Margaret (Zentner) Schneider, served in France but returned ill and died in a Denver, CO hospital in 1919. He is buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery in New Glarus. Martin was the uncle of Ron Schneider, and the late Erwin Zweifel and Charlotte Brauer.

Leroy Stauffacher, the son of Jacob and Marion (Becker) Stauffacher of the Town of York, died October 5, 1918 from wounds received in France. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. Army Corporal Stauffacher was the uncle of Art and Leroy Arnes.

Emil Wichser of Monticello died on September 19, 1918 from wounds received in France. Corporal Wichser was a Swiss-born declarant, the son of Fridolin and Barbara (Zweifel) Wichser. He is buried in Arlington National cemetery. Emil was the great-uncle of Jon Ziltner and Jane Phillipson.

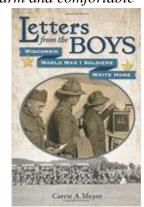
Leonard Rhyner, also of Monticello, was the son of Caspar and Barbara (Lutzi) Rhyner. He died on October 14, 1918 in a military hospital in France of pneumonia – likely caused by the Spanish flu. Private Rhyner is buried in Monticello's Highland Cemetery.

A nurse wrote the following letter to Leonard Rhyner's mother to inform her of his last days:

"Dear Mrs. Rhyner: I know by the time you receive this letter you will have been informed of your son's death over here, and I felt that you would want to hear some particulars. There is nothing much one can say in times like these to make your sorrow any easier to bear, but I hope it will prove a grain of comfort to you, at least, to know that your son was warm and comfortable

and that everything possible was done for him all during his illness. He was only sick a few days, and during that time we all grew to love him; he was so sweet and good and did everything we wanted him to. I'm sorry I can't give you more particulars as to where he came from to this place. He was so sick we did not bother him with questions. I imagine he was sent here from some evacuation hospital closer to the front.

I am on night duty at present, and during the last night he lived I asked him if he'd like me to write to his mother and he said: "I wish you would; I'm afraid she'll worry. I always wrote twice a week. Tell her I'm feeling fine." He was delirious excepting when we spoke to him and didn't seem to



suffer at all. This form of pneumonia just seems to be all through their system and the patients don't struggle for breath, but just run a high fever and are delirious until the heart gives out.

It is really heart-breaking to us nurses to see such fine young men taken as your son was, and you and all the rest of the wonderful American mothers, who are bravely giving their sons to their country, have all our sympathy." (Source: "Letters from the Boys: Wisconsin World War I Soldiers Writing Home" by Carrie A. Meyer)

Feelin' Fine on Route 69

In late 1950s, the narrow and sometimes curvy Highway 69 between Belleville and Monroe was widened and straightened. Perhaps the most significant changes were the New Glarus and Monticello by-passes. No longer did highway traffic have to slow down to pass through these



villages. And no longer did the highway divide farms such as the Stauffacher and Freitag farms between New Glarus and Monticello.

There are a couple of remnants of the old highway which still exist. One such remnant is known today as Old Highway 69 Road which runs for about a mile between Highways 92 and 69 north of New Glarus. And what is known today

as Old Madison Road was once the Highway 69 route leading into New Glarus. The old highway route entered New Glarus on the north side going past the Pet Milk plant. It followed our "main street" on Second Street, then Fifth Avenue, then First Street. At First and Eleventh Avenue the highway took a one block jog back to Second Street past the Upright Embroidery Factory (and past my early childhood home).

On the south side of New Glarus the old highway passed Streiff's Chevrolet Garage and Streiff's Waffle Restaurant and Motel on 2nd Street. The highway continued due south over two small streams and up the hill to New Glarus Woods. It is said the original cement bridge over the little creek just north of the Woods can still be found in a field. About a mile south of the Woods, the highway passed between the buildings of the Conrad and Emma (Roethlisberger) Stauffacher farm shown above.

The aerial photograph of the Freitag Farm below shows the old Highway 69 passing between the various buildings. The large red brick Queen Anne farmhouse built in 1906 by Nik and Elsbeth (Hefty) Freitag is found on the middle right. The traditional bank barn with ventilation louvers is upper left. The older farmhouse below the barn (and on the



opposite side of the highway) was originally built in the 1860s by New Glarus founder Fridolin Streiff. And the building near the old farmhouse with the large sloping roof was the cheese factory. The original cheese factory dated back to 1869 and was Green County's first Swiss cheese factory. It was said to have been housed in the Streiff family's original log cabin home. The first photo below was taken at the Freitag Farm earlier this summer. A small cement bridge is seen along the original highway remnant. The circa 1880 combination hog barn and corn crib is also pictured. The hog pens were found in the stone basement with corn cribs located on each end of the upper building.



About one mile south of the Freitag Farm, the old Highway 69 route entered Monticello. The route passed along today's W. Coates Avenue, Main Street, Urban Road, and S. Monroe Street. The old highway exited the village on the south side passing the cemetery which is today's Cemetery Road.

Between Monticello and Monroe was the Cold Springs

Farm. Here the old north/south highway took a short east/west jog before it again ran north/south. This segment of the old highway was straightened but the jog in the old highway remains and is called Cold Springs Road. The Cold Springs Farm was owned by Frank B. Luchsinger. Luchsinger bred horses and dogs. Perhaps his most famous racer was named Peter



McKinney, the fastest Wisconsin-bred race horse of his day. I have a dim recollection of this portion of old Highway 69 and my parents mentioning a grave of a horse. Indeed, Peter McKinney was buried on the old highway route just adjacent to the Cold Springs Farm driveway. Deb Krauss-Smith, who lives on Cold Springs Road, verified that dim memory of mine when she created Find-a-Grave pages for world champion pacer

Peter McKinney and horse driver and trainer Arlie Frost.

A mile or so south of Cold Springs Road is another remnant of the old highway which today is called Abels Road and which is pictured left. The curve on this stretch was eliminated with the new straightened highway. The old highway cement bridge at this location is still visible.

Jack Stauffacher – Printer Extraordinaire

San Francisco native John Werner (Jack W.) Stauffacher, 96, passed away in November of 2017. He was a self-taught printer who developed and expanded his printing skills becoming a highly

respected book publisher, designer and artist. At the age of 13 Jack purchased a printing press from Popular Mechanics magazine. By the age of 16 he had opened Greenwood Press, the San Francisco printing firm he would be associated with for the rest of his life. Jack's career spanned 80 years and his printed body of work encompassed lowly business cards, collectible art books, and art prints now found in the collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA). Jack, his wife and two daughters had the opportunity to spend three years in Florence, Italy where



Stauffacher studied historic printing techniques under two renowned European printing experts. On his return to America, Stauffacher was associated with the Carnegie Institute of Technology followed by a return to his native California where he was hired by Stanford University Press. The Letterform Archive in San Francisco acquired over 200 of Stauffacher's wood type prints. They wrote, "These [prints] are the product of the printer-typographer's experiments with the drawers of wood type he inherited at his 300 Broadway studio, located in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco. These wooden letters – many mismatched, not a single complete alphabet among them . . Stauffacher used the opportunity to create "monoprints," no two the same. Among his techniques: manipulating the layouts of the letters on the bed of his press between impressions; using solvents and sponges to create



unique textural variations and effects with inking; iterating with sub-sets of letters; and inking once, then printing multiple times. The resulting prints offer striking variance in color, shape, texture, and pattern . . ." Pictured is Stauffacher's 2003 print entitled "Wind whistles". <u>SFMOMA Stauffacher art prints link</u>

Jack's surname gives away his Glarner heritage. His greatgrandparents, Anton and Anna (Stauffacher) Stauffacher, were original 1845 settlers of New Glarus. They were accompanied by their young sons including Anton Jr. (b. 1841) who was Jack's grandfather.

The Immigrant Great-Grandparents of Jack Stauffacher

Jack Stauffacher's paternal great-grandparents were Anton and Anna (Stauffacher) Stauffacher of Matt, Canton Glarus and Heinrich and Katharina (Zopfi) Schindler of Schwändi/Schwanden, Canton Glarus. As mentioned, Anton and Anna were original settlers of New Glarus in 1845 along with their sons Jacob, Mathias, Anton Jr., and Isaiah. The Anton Stauffachers did not remain long in New Glarus but settled in Section 32 of the Town of Mt. Pleasant where they built a log cabin (later replaced by a stone house) and farmed. They were associated with the nearby area known as Dutch Hollow and the Dutch Hollow Evangelical Association cemetery is where Anton and Anna were buried.

Anton Stauffacher Sr. was one of three children born to Jacob and Anna Maria (Allmendinger) Stauffacher. In 1815 Jacob Stauffacher served as a soldier with the Glarner troops at the siege of Hüningen. The following year he and his wife were "*Schwabengänger*" – those migrant workers who went into Swabia in Germany to find employment. The many Stauffacher families of Matt were known for large families. The fact that the Jacob Stauffacher family had only three children was a bit of an anomaly. But Jacob had an accidental death at the age of only 28. He fell to his death while cutting wild hay on the *Berglialp* high above Matt. (See Family History Notes Winter 2013 for more information on the siege of the Hüningen fortress; Winter 2014 for more information on *Schwabengänger*; and Winter 2010 for more information on wild hay cutters or *Wildheuern*.)

Heinrich and Katharina (Zopfi) Schindler also immigrated in 1845, but not with the large groups which left Canton Glarus in 1845. The Schindlers were traveling in the company of Joshua and Barbara (Speich) Wild and daughter Katharina (later Eichelkraut) of Schwanden – people well-known to New Glarus family historians. Both Barbara Wild and Katharina Schindler were pregnant during the immigration. And both gave birth to daughters while living in Syracuse, NY. These daughters born in Syracuse were Barbara Wild (later Mrs. Fridolin Streiff of New Glarus) and Anna Schindler (later Mrs. Anton Stauffacher Jr. of Monroe – Jack's grandmother).

In 1850 Joshua Wild and Heinrich Schindler partnered in opening a lathe shop in Monroe. They had purchased adjoining lots near the court house square. Wild wrote in his autobiography, "We constructed a workshop and showroom and I installed a lathe. Of course Schindler had to turn it as we had no horse power. He soon got tired of this so our partnership broke up and I sold my share at a loss." One could speculate that this partnership was not meant to be. It seems Joshua Wild presumed the manual "horse power" was not a responsibility shared by both partners!

The Wilds left Monroe for New Glarus and Schindler remained a carpenter in Monroe. He died there in 1885. His widow Katharina Schindler eventually followed some of her children to San Francisco where she died in 1906. Heinrich and Katharina have a monument found in Monroe's Greenwood Cemetery.

Grandchildren of Original Settlers

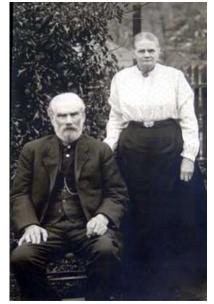
New Glarus is approaching the 175th anniversary of its founding in 1845. The oldest remaining members of those founding settlers passed away in the late 1920s and 1930s. These were people like Oswald Babler and Anna (Durst) Engler, who as little children, had accompanied their parents from Canton Glarus in 1845.

The children of those first settlers lived into the 1970s – including Anna (Legler) Kundert who died in 1973, Ada (Babler) Zentner who died in 1977, and Martha (Blum) Simmons of Tillamook, OR, who lived until 1978.

The grandchildren of the original settlers included many local people still remembered – such as Eunice (Zweifel) Breylinger, Alice (Legler) Marty, Henry Schmid, Florence (Legler) Hoesly, Dora (Streiff) Ott, Fay Zentner, Ray Hauser and Louise (Legler) Babler Freitag. Others with Monroe or Monticello connections included Marianne (Stauffacher) Kieffer, Charles B. Stauffacher, Hazel (Zentner) Mechelke, Florena (Stauffacher) Solomon, and Mata (Steinmann) Lynn. George Legler Benbough, who died in 1998, was a prominent San Diego citizen and

philanthropist. And as indicated in a preceding article, Jack W. Stauffacher of San Francisco was the grandson of original immigrant Anton Stauffacher Jr. All of these grandchildren listed have now passed away in the last generation or so.

Wendell Blum, 95, of Tillamook, Oregon may the last remaining grandchild of a New Glarus original settler. Wendell was the grandson of Elsbeth (Babler) Blum. Elsbeth was just a child when she accompanied her parents, Fridolin and Dorothea (Stauffacher) Babler to New Glarus in 1845. In 1861 Elsbeth married Jacob Blum, a member of the original group who settled New Bilten in 1847. Blum was a New Glarus merchant with his brother Fred. When the Blum Brothers' store was destroyed by fire, the Jacob Blums moved to Oregon and the Fred Blums to Minnesota. Pictured are Jacob and Elsbeth (Babler) Blum of Tillamook, Oregon.



Look Pa, No Hands ...

... is something I may have said as a young boy to my dad while we were enjoying a late



afternoon beverage at Puempel's Tavern. For over the back door of Puempel's is artist Albert Struebin's painting of a clock tower exhibiting a clock face with no hands. The accompanying quote says, "Dem Glüklichen [sic] schlägt keine Stunde" referring to the following line from Friedrich Schiller's 1799 "Wallenstein Trilogy – Die Piccolomini",

"Die Uhr schlägt keinem Glücklichen" (Act III, Scene III). S. T. Coleridge translated this as "No clock strikes ever for the happy." Two other German interpretations also capture the sentiment. *"In dem Moment, wo wir Zeit vergessen, sind wir glücklich"* or, the moment we forget time, we are happy. *"Wer Glücklich ist, dem ist die Zeit egal"* or, time does not matter to the happy. These philosophic notions are something to ponder while enjoying a Spotted Cow.

Züribieter

One of the Swiss desserts made in New Glarus is *Züribieter* (often spelled without the umlaut as *Zueribieter*). *Züribieter* may remind one of a spiced mincemeat pie. This delicacy is served annually at the Swiss Church Kilby dinner as well for holiday-time family and social gatherings. I enjoyed Ruth Anderegg's tasty *Züribieter* at Turner Hall's Christmas Market last year. Doris Streiff's recipe is found in the Swiss Church sesquicentennial cookbook. Her oven-baked dessert consists of a fruit filling in a pastry crust. Doris uses such fruit as apples, pears, prunes and raisins seasoned with cinnamon and anise.

Miriam Theiler's centennial history book of New Glarus included a *Zueribieter* recipe. This recipe referenced various fruits in a pastry, a dab of butter and sugar to taste, but included no spices. And the cookbook by Marie Matzinger and Elda Schiesser repeated Theiler's recipe and again did not include any spices. But the latter book also included the Kilby Supper recipe for *Zueribieter* made on a cookie sheet. And this recipe included a variety of spices.

The name *Züribieter* suggests that the pastry has a Canton Zurich origin. *Züribiet* is dialect for *Zürich Gebiet* meaning the Zurich region. The -er at the end indicates someone or something from that region. *Züribieter* is also the brand name of a line of Swiss dairy products, the name of a <u>Swiss Yodel by Doris Müller</u>, and a Swiss restaurant, oddly located in Basel and not in Zurich!

There is something curious about this pastry called *Züribieter*. References to recipes, its culinary history and even photographs are seemingly nonexistent on the internet. The culinary history of foods associated with Canton Zurich does not include anything resembling *Züribieter*. Swiss friends who live in Canton Zurich do not know of it. A recent visit to Zurich's *Conditorei Schober*, a longstanding Zurich pastry shop located in the *Niederdorf* area, proved unsuccessful. When asked if they sold *Züribieter* the long-time Schober clerk indicated she was not aware of it. The helpful lady even used her cash register's internet connection to look up *Züribieter*. Her search yielded nothing regarding a Zurich pastry. When asked again if she ever heard of *Züribieter* the clerk finally admitted "yes, but only once". Apparently several years ago she had been asked about the pastry by another American visitor!

View Park, Los Angeles and Leuzinger High School, Los Angeles County

In the days and weeks before the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, there were countless articles about the couple and their families. One article showed a photo of Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland, standing in front of her home in the View Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Just 85 years ago this area was nothing but unproductive dry soil. But then developers and builders saw real estate potential. The area was developed into lots on which residential homes were built. One of the developers was Reuben (also spelled Rueben) Ingold. Ingold was head of the Ingold and L. A. Investment Company which owned the land which would become View Park.

Reuben Ingold was a native of Green County, WI. He was born in 1893, the son of immigrant Fred Ingold and Emma Hefty. Emma was the daughter of Monroe brewer Jacob Hefty and wife Katharina née Blumer and the granddaughter of immigrants Fridolin and Rosina (Schiesser) Hefty. This latter couple began what is today the Hefty-Blum Homestead Farm southwest of New Glarus.



In 2016 the View Park neighborhood was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. A large number of the original Spanish- and Mediterranean-style homes remain. Today the makeup of the area is predominantly black and considered one of America's wealthiest black neighborhoods. The only park in View Park today is called the Rueben Ingold Park. This park is only a matter of minutes from the home of Doria Ragland.

About 8 miles due south of View Park in the Los Angeles County city of Lawndale is the Leuzinger High School. When researching my book "Glarners in America", Leuzinger High School was investigated with the hope to establish a link back to Canton Glarus where Leuzinger is a common family name. The school was built in 1928 and named for Adolph Leuzinger, a



local farmer and active civic leader. Pictured is a historic image of the Leuzinger (pronounced in LA as LOO-zinger) farm. Adolph was Swiss-born and immigrated to America with his parents, Johann Jacob and Verena Leuzinger. Johann Jacob Leuzinger was not found in the Kubly-Müller genealogy volumes in Glarus. And therefore because a Leuzinger link to Canton Glarus was never established, the story of the Leuzingers and Leuzinger

High School was not included in my book.

But recently a bit of information surfaced indicating that Adolph Leuzinger's mother Verena was born Verena Dürst in Mühlehorn, Canton Glarus. Canton Glarus genealogist Patrick Wild verified this, and thus a Glarner link has been established for Leuzinger High School and Adolph Leuzinger through his mother. And Patrick also was able to verify that this particular Leuzinger line was not of Glarner origin but from nearby Canton St. Gallen.

Demographic Changes in New Glarus and Canton Glarus

The decline in the Swiss-American population of New Glarus continues. The loss of families with the long-standing Glarner and other Swiss family names can be witnessed in a variety of ways. If there is such thing as a telephone book today, it would bear little resemblance to one of a generation ago. In addition to the loss of the traditional family names, the traditional Glarner given names have long disappeared with the exception of a few Jacobs, Nicks and Annas.

This phenomenon is happening in Canton Glarus too. In a large pink and blue feature (below), the "*Glarner Woche*" newspaper welcomed one month of new arrivals at the Glarus hospital. And you will notice the lack any of the traditional given names. The Glarner family names of old are in the minority. Of these 23 births, only six Glarner family names are represented -- Bäbler, Leuzinger, Zopfi, Luchsinger, Stucki and Schiesser.



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