

Family History Notes

Spring 2019

At the Heights of the Nursing Profession

Joanne Disch and Karen (Frick) Pridham share some interesting parallels. They are separated in age by about a dozen years and were raised about two dozen miles apart. Joanne was the daughter of Harold and Ethel (Manning) Disch of Madison. And Karen, a New Glarus native, was the daughter of Sylvan and Mildred (Buchholtz) Frick. Their respective fathers were both of 100% Swiss blood and both born in the year 1907. And their respective non-Swiss mothers were both born in 1910. Karen and Joanne both attended the School of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They are both Registered Nurses who have earned masters and doctorates and are fellows of the esteemed American Academy of Nursing.



Joanne Disch served as a nursing assistant at the UW hospital while a student at Madison West High School in the 1960s. This began a lifelong nursing career now spanning more than 50 years. She has served in many capacities of increasing responsibility – bedside clinician, nursing manager, clinical director, chief nursing officer, hospital officer, educator and public health advocate. Joanne has been involved a member and board member of many professional organizations and has testified before Congress on issues related to public health. [Dr. Disch Testimony](#) Joanne is a distinguished alumna

at all three of the Universities she attended -- the University of Wisconsin (BS), the University of Alabama (MS) and the University of Michigan (PhD).

In 2001, Dr. Disch's career path took a new direction. She applied for one of six open seats on the Board of Directors of the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) -- the world's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization, with 38 million members and 2,000 employees. Disch was drawn to AARP because it afforded her the opportunity to input on key public health issues. Joanne was considered an outsider to AARP but as such she provided a fresh voice to the group. And after serving several years on the AARP Board, Dr. Disch was selected for the role of Board Chair.

Dr. Disch's role as AARP Board Chair ended in 2008 but did not end her commitment to serving. From 2011 until 2013, Disch held the position of President of the Academy of American Nursing. And in 2016, she was unanimously elected Board Chair of Aurora Health Care, the 10th largest health care system in the United States.

Joanne Disch's paternal grandparents were John Martin and Katharina (Hoesly) Disch, whose family farm was located about one mile south of Dayton. Joanne's four paternal great-grandparents were all immigrants from Canton Glarus, immigrating to the New Glarus area in the 1850s. They were Martin and Katharina (Zentner) Disch who at one time farmed in Section 30 in the Town of New Glarus and Heinrich and Euphemia (Baumgartner) Hoesly who farmed in Section 26 in the Town of Primrose. In March of 1865 Joanne's great-grandfather Martin Disch, then a married father of seven children, joined the Wisconsin 46th Infantry, just weeks prior to the end of the Civil War.

Karen Frick was the valedictorian of her New Glarus High School Class of 1951. She was active in band and chorus and the school's newspaper "Old Guard". In her senior year, Karen was editor of the school annual "The Glarian" and a cast member in the senior play "Springtime for Patsy". Pictured below are Karen and two other of the play's cast members -- (from left) Darlene Walden (Waelchli), Karen Frick (Pridham) and Ruth Streiff (Wytttenbach).



While enrolled in New Glarus schools Karen attended a music clinic at the University of Wisconsin. During the clinic she exhibited symptoms of polio and was immediately taken to the hospital. She had contracted the dreaded disease, but fortunately it was a mild case. In fact she was able to assist the hospital staff in attending to the needs of polio patients who required iron lung treatment. Karen's life was set on a course of nursing and she left for Madison the day after graduation to work as a nurse's aide prior to entering the University. Karen's high school yearbook prophecy said she would head one day the Sister Kenny Foundation (polio physical therapy). But as polio was conquered by researchers such as Drs. Salk and Sabin, Karen's passion turned to pediatric nursing.

In 1957 Karen graduated from the UW School of Nursing, followed by an MS in 1966 and a PhD in 1972. Her career now spans over sixty years. Karen's UW biography states, "Her extensive program of research has influenced two generations of nurse scientists and focused on supporting parents and children in learning health care and solving problems associated with the care of children with chronic health problems, including very prematurely born infants and infants with complex congenital heart disease. She received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Nurses' Alumni Organization in 1998 and the Midwest Nursing Research Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. She gives consultation to young investigators who are developing studies concerning parenting and infant feeding, and mentors undergraduate honors students in research projects."



Karen and her late husband Walter Pridham were generous benefactors to the UW's Power of Nursing Campaign and the Memorial Union. They also donated to the University Presbyterian Church and Student Center known as the Pres House. Their donations funded the remodeling of the main floor lounge (now known as the Pridham Lounge) and for the replacement of the church pipe organ. The Pres House held a special place for the couple as this is where they met, having literally bumped into each other rounding a corner. Walter helped Karen to her feet, invited her for a coffee at nearby Rennebohm's and they were wed four years later.

More on Karen Pridham's New Glarus ancestry can be found in the two following articles regarding the Tschudy store and the Frick home. The Tschudy store was operated by Karen's great-great grandparents and the Frick house was the home of Karen's grandparents and later the home of her parents.

Tschudy Store

Fridolin (Fritz) Tschudy and Amalia Blumer were both natives of Schwanden, Canton Glarus. Fritz had immigrated to New Glarus in 1848 and returned to Schwanden to marry Amalia in 1854. The Tschudys sold general merchandise in a store building dating to 1866. The building still stands today – the building many will remember as Kehrl's Tavern and Cheese Store. The



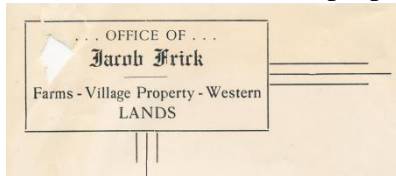
Tschudy building was moved from its original location just north of the New Glarus Hotel to a site across the street, a feat which was accomplished without turning the building around. Thus the front of the building today was originally the rear (and vice versa). Fritz and Amalia Tschudy were the parents of four children who lived to adulthood – Joshua (married to Maria Eberhard and Inger Haraldson), Fridolin, Anna Katharina

(married to Henry Luchsinger) and John Jacob (married to Verena Schiesser).

Fritz Tschudy died in 1888 and the store continued to be run by his widow Amalia presumably until her death in 1904. The circa 1890s photograph of the Tschudy Store shows Amalia (Blumer) Tschudy, her daughter-in-law Verena (Schiesser) Tschudy (at left), and granddaughters both named Amalia. The girl at the top of the stairs is Amalia (Tschudy) Graf and the smaller girl is Amalia (Tschudy) Frick. A third granddaughter of Amalia (Blumer) Tschudy was also named Amalia. She was Amalia (Luchsinger) Schlatter. Each of these three Tschudy granddaughters named Amalia was known as “Molly”.

The Frick House Then and Now

The home of Jacob and Amalia (Tschudy) Frick was located on Fourth Avenue adjacent to the Swiss Reformed Church property. Jacob, who was a cattle dealer and real estate agent (see 1912 letterhead), was an immigrant from Canton St. Gallen, Switzerland. He married New Glarus native Amalia Tschudy in 1904. They had three children – Wilbert (married to Hazel Fjelstad), Sylvan (married to Mildred Buchholz; the parents of Karen Pridham) and Helen (married to Homer Zweifel).



In the circa 1900-1910 photo below, the Frick house is found at the bottom center near the Swiss Church buildings. The Frick house remained at this site until recent years, when due to Swiss Church remodeling, it was moved to a country setting about three miles west of New Glarus on the Zentner homestead farm. The Frick home



was refurbished with additions and reinvented as the [Rose Hill B&B](#) (pictured right), run by Sharon and David Sippy.

Henry Clay Frick and Ida Klee-Frick

Pairing together Henry Clay Frick and Ida Klee-Frick in one article is admittedly odd.

Henry Clay Frick was an American industrialist known for his role in the formation of U. S. Steel and for the Frick Collection art museum in Manhattan. He was considered one of the robber barons from America's Gilded Age due to his ruthless business dealings and opposition to labor unions. Frick's ancestry was Swiss on both his paternal and maternal sides. His maternal grandparents were whiskey distiller Abraham Overholt (originally Oberholzer) and Maria Stauffer, both of Swiss ancestry. The family's Old Overholt rye whiskey is manufactured yet today. The ancestry of Frick's grandmother Maria Stauffer can be traced back to Niklaus Stauffer who was discussed in the Family History Notes Winter 2018 as a direct ancestor of both Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Stauffer families of Monticello, WI. A friend and business associate of Henry Clay Frick was another industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Mellon. Mellon's mother was born Sarah Jane Negeley and her ancestry, like that of Henry Clay Frick, can be traced back to Canton Bern to a man named Johann Nägeli.

Ida Klee-Frick was the mother of one of Switzerland's most famous artists, Paul Klee (pronounced Clay). She was born Ida Frick and upon her marriage to the German Hans Wilhelm Klee, she became styled Ida Klee-Frick in the Swiss fashion. Ida was the daughter of Heinrich Franz Frick, an *Absinthfabrikant* -- a maker of absinthe. Absinthe, the highly alcoholic anise flavored drink, originated in the Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland in the late 18th century. It has been referred to as "*la fée verte*" -- the green fairy.

Henry Clay Frick and Ida Klee-Frick both possessed similar sounding names -- "Clay Frick" and "Klee-Frick". Both had alcohol manufacturers -- rye whiskey and absinthe -- in their families. Art works of Ida's son Paul Klee have been exhibited in the Frick Collection. These two individuals (Henry and Ida) have likely never been linked together in the same article and perhaps never again will.

Frick & Frack

Have you heard the expression "Frick and Frack" referring to an indistinguishable, perhaps inseparable pair? The origin of this phrase goes back to a real duo -- the acrobatic and comedic



Swiss ice skaters Werner Groebli (known as Frick) and Hansruedi Mauch (known as Frack). Frick refers to a village in Canton Baselland, and Frack is the Swiss-German name for a type of coat favored by Mauch. The pair (pictured) began skating together in 1936. A talent agent caught their act in St. Moritz and took them to London to perform. From London they made their way to Hollywood where the pair appeared in films and ice follies. A Time magazine article from 1939 said, "Frick & Frack do not depend on costumes, grimaces or falls to get their laughs . . . with

the pantomime of Charlie Chaplin and the rubber legs of Leon Errol [a comic who often played a wobbly drunk], they take the elements of figure skating and distort them into crazy positions to create some of the most astonishing feats ever performed on skates."

History Detective Riddle -- Name That Author

Can anyone name the author of the 19th century story of a little girl of the Alps named Adelaide who lived with her grandfather, leaves home, gets homesick and returns to the alp? (Hint: the author is not Johanna Spyri.)

Frauenverein: Swiss Church Ladies Aid



In 1907 Anna Maria (Weibel) Blumer, the wife of Dr. J. J. Blumer, gathered a group of local women with hopes of forming a choral group. The musical group did not materialize, but rather it was decided to begin a church-based charitable group known as the *Frauenverein* or Ladies Aid. The Ladies Aid began by contributing to organizations associated with the Reformed Church – the Fort Wayne (IN) Orphan’ Home and the Mission House (today’s Lakeland College). They also supported the Winnebago Indian School and Mission in Neilsville, founded by Swiss immigrant and Reformed clergyman Jakob Stucki. They helped fund parsonage and church adornments such as flooring, lighting fixtures, paintings and a pipe organ.

The above group photograph was taken around 1948. Included in the group were at least two members who attended the original organizational meeting called by Mrs. Blumer. They were Mary Luchsinger (seated third from the left) and Ellen Steussy (seated second from the right). Identification of all the Ladies Aid members pictured above can be found at the New Glarus Public Library collection of Bank of New Glarus calendars (December, 1998).

Pictured in the third row, second from the right is Marian (Hoesly) Kubly. Marian was then a young wife and mother – perhaps the youngest member of the group when photographed. She recently died at the age of 92 and appears to be the last surviving member of the women photographed above. Marian was one of those increasingly rare New Glarus residents having 100% Glarner ancestry. She was the great-granddaughter of original 1845 settlers Heinrich and Barbara (Zwicki) Hoesly and Anton and Anna (Stauffacher) Stauffacher. She was also a great – granddaughter of Johann Peter and Rosina (Blum) Blum who were among original 1847 settlers of New Bilten. Marian was survived by husband Delmar Kubly, daughter Roxann and son Kris.

In addition to the group photo on page one, an earlier group photo of the *Frauenverein* circa 1911 can be found in the Bank of New Glarus calendar collection (November, 1994). At least four women can be found on both photos – sisters Kathryn (Kundert) Zweifel and Ellen (Kundert) Steussy, Anna (Streiff) Duerst, and Bertha (Hoesly) Ott.

The grouping of four New Glarus women (shown below) is an enlarged portion of the circa 1911



Ladies Aid group photo. The Bank calendar correctly identifies these women as Elsbeth (David) Hoesly, Maria (Fridolin) Kundert, Barbara (Fridolin) Streiff, and Katharina (Julius) Eichelkraut. What the Bank calendar doesn't mention

is that these four women were sisters. They were the four daughters of Joshua and Barbara (Speich) Wild and the ancestors of many newsletter readers.

Black-Americans with a Touch of Swiss

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is host of the PBS series "Finding Your Roots". Gates has commented, "Like almost all African Americans, I have white ancestry. That's not a surprise; it's a legacy of slavery." An exception with to this "white ancestry due to slavery" assumption can be found in the family of John and Anna (Marti) Jones of Oberlin, Lorain County, OH. John, a black man, married Anna Marti (or Marty), a Glarner immigrant. Perhaps surprisingly, this particular marriage of a black man and a white woman is not a contemporary one. The marriage took place over 130 years ago on January 20, 1887 in Monroe, WI.

Jones John J.	Head	B M	April 1857	43	M	13		Ohio	Not Known	Not Known	
— Annie	Wife	B F	April 1865	35	M	13	7 7	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	1882
— Lizzie	Daughter	B F	Dec 1885	14	S			Wisconsin	Ohio	Switzerland	
— Marie	Daughter	B F	July 1887	12	S			Wisconsin	Ohio	Switzerland	
— John	Son	B M	Oct 1889	10	S			Ohio	Ohio	Switzerland	
— Augusta	Daughter	B F	Nov 1891	8	S			Ohio	Ohio	Switzerland	
— Martha	Daughter	B F	Dec 1893	6	S			Ohio	Ohio	Switzerland	
— Allen	Son	B M	Jan 1895	4	S			Ohio	Ohio	Switzerland	
— Emma	Daughter	B F	Oct 1897	2	S			Ohio	Ohio	Switzerland	

Pictured above is an excerpt from the 1900 census for Oberlin, Lorain County, OH. The John Jones family is listed. The highlighted column is filled in entirely with the letter "B" meaning "black". The census also recorded Switzerland as the birthplace of Anna (Annie) and her parents. Her year of immigration year was 1882. Pictured below is a copy of the death certificate for Anna (Marti) Jones from 1937. And here too, she is listed as "colored".

STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			57710
1 PLACE OF DEATH		Registration District No. 25	File No.
County <u>Lorain</u>		Primary Registration District No. 296	Registered No. 79
Township <u>Oberlin</u>		No. <u>Allen Memorial Hosp.</u>	St. <u></u> Ward <u></u>
or Village <u></u>		(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)	
or City of <u></u>			
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred <u>7</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds.		How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? <u>7</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> ds.	
2 FULL NAME <u>Anna Marti Jones</u>		Did Decedent Serve in U. S. Navy or Army <u></u>	
(a) Residence. No. <u>177 P. Main</u> St. <u></u> Ward <u></u>		(If nonresident give city or town and State)	
(Usual place of abode)			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR or RACE <u>colored</u>	21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Sept. 22</u> 1937	
5. SINGLE, MARRIED, Widowed or Divorced <u>Widowed</u>		22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended decedent from <u>9/18/37</u> to <u>9/22/37</u>	
6a. If Married, Widowed or Divorced Husband of (or) Wife of <u>John F. Jones</u>		I last saw <u>her</u> alive on <u>9/22/37</u> death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at <u>4:00</u> m.	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>April 24, 1864</u>			

Anna Marti was born in Matt, Canton Glarus in 1864, a daughter of Mathias Marti and Elsbeth Stauffacher. The family was uncommonly large – 18 children. All but 3 of the Marti children lived to adulthood – some remained in Canton Glarus and some immigrated to Green County.

The oldest sibling of Anna (Marty) Jones of Ohio was her brother Mathias Marty. Mathias married Susanna (Susie) Schmid, a native of Frutigen, Canton Bern. They were the grandparents of Delma (Haldiman) Phillipson and Virginia (Marty) Heimann of New Glarus. Mathias and Susie Marty once lived in what is known as the Foye cabin near Mt. Vernon located on the grounds of the present day Donald Park. The log cabin burned in 1893 while the Marty family lived there. Matt Marty, a grandson, has a vision to reconstruct the cabin at this site.

A nephew of Anna (Marty) Jones was Dietrich (Dick) Marti, was one of the three victims of the 1919 triple homicide in Green County. Marti was shot by his farmhand Gottfried Voegeli, who also killed the sheriff Matt Solbraa and one other.

Elsbeth (Stauffacher) Marti, the mother Anna (Marty) Jones and the other 17 children, died in America in 1887 just months after the Anna's marriage to John Jones. Elsbeth is buried in the Lewis Cemetery in the Town of Jordan.

Kamm's Corners

Like the John and Anna (Marty) Jones family mentioned above, Oswald Kamm was a resident of



Lorain County, OH. He was born in Elm, Canton Glarus in 1845 to Jacob and Anna Maria (Elmer) Kamm. Oswald Kamm immigrated to America in 1867. He might have ventured to Wisconsin – he had great uncles Niklaus Elmer in New Glarus and Jacob Elmer in New Elm. But Kamm settled in Cleveland, OH where he engaged in the grocery trade. And there he married Lena Klaue and they became the parents of six children.

Pictured above circa 1900 is the Kamm store at the corner of Lorain Street and Rocky River Drive in the West Park neighborhood of Cleveland. Oswald Kamm's business expanded to include more than just groceries. He handled hardware, meats, farm supplies and the store served as a local post office.

This busy corner and the area surrounding it are still known as Kamm's Corners. The building has been renovated over the years and today it is home to Kamm's Café (note the corner sign on building pictured to the right).

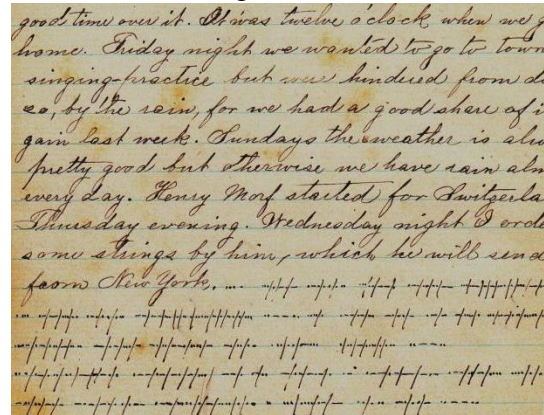


Oswald Kamm died in 1922 but the Kamm name lives on at Kamm's Corners. In addition, Oswald's great-grandson, Carl Jacob Kamm II is a produce farmer located on Kamm Farms Drive near Huron, OH and about 45 miles west of Kamm's Corners.

The Diary of Anna Ruedy

When the diary of Bangor, WI native Anna Ruedy was offered for sale on eBay, it was Greg Wegner, a UW-La Crosse History Professor and a Bangor native himself, who won the bidding. He subsequently wrote the article “The Anna Ruedy Diary: A Young Girl’s Life among the “Bangor Swiss,” 1874-1884” for the Wisconsin Magazine of History (August, 2011). Anna’s diary provides insights into the late 19th century lives of her family and the village of Bangor.

Anna Ruedy (1862-1943) was the daughter and granddaughter of Swiss immigrants from Canton Graubunden. Her paternal grandparents immigrated to Highland, IL in 1840 then moved on to the Swiss settlement of Honey Creek in Sauk County, WI. In the 1850s the Ruedys and several other Swiss immigrants families moved by ox cart to Bangor where they remained. Anna’s



maternal grandparents, the Saxers, were natives of Splügen, Canton Graubunden and arrived in Dubuque, IA in 1854 prior to settling in Bangor.

Anna started her diary in 1874 at the age of 12, writing in both English and Swiss-German. And rather surprisingly, Anna wrote some 30 passages in Morse code apparently to thwart any prying eyes. Pictured at left is a portion of Anna’s diary in which the Morse code can be seen at the bottom.

In these coded passages, Anna revealed an interest in two local boys -- one a young man by the name of Zacharias and whose surname was not mentioned. Anna wrote in code about possibly reciting or singing the then contemporary song, “Starry Night for a Ramble” when Zacharias was passing by. Romantic feelings are expressed in the lyrics:

*I like to take my sweetheart, "of course you would," said he,
And softly whisper in her ear, "how dearly I love thee!"
And when you picture to yourselves the scenes of such delight,
You'll want to take a ramble upon a starry night.*

This mysterious Zacharias in all likelihood was Zacharias Bäbler Jr., the son of Zacharias Sr. and Rahel (Stüssi) Bäbler, 1870 immigrants from Canton Glarus. Zacharias Sr., a native of Elm had married Rahel Stüssi of Niederurnen, Canton Glarus. Zacharias Jr. (1857-1921) became a harness maker in Bangor (see 1881 biographical item below) and later was employed for over 30 years as Bangor’s station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad.

TOWN OF BANGOR.

ZACHARIAS BAEBLER, Jr., harness-maker, Bangor; son of Z. Baebler, Sr., who was born in Switzerland; came to the United States in 1870; came directly to La Crosse, thence to Bangor the same year. Mr. Baebler, Jr., was born in Switzerland, June, 1857; learned his trade in Bangor, and established his business here in 1874.

In her diary pages, the musically-inclined Anna noted, “Now finally we have a piano. Mother bought Legler’s [piano].” By examining 1880 Bangor census records, the piano was purchased from the family of Johann Heinrich Legler. Johann Heinrich Legler was the son of Johannes Legler whose 1854 death is recorded in the New Glarus Swiss Church records and who is presumably buried in the Pioneer Cemetery.

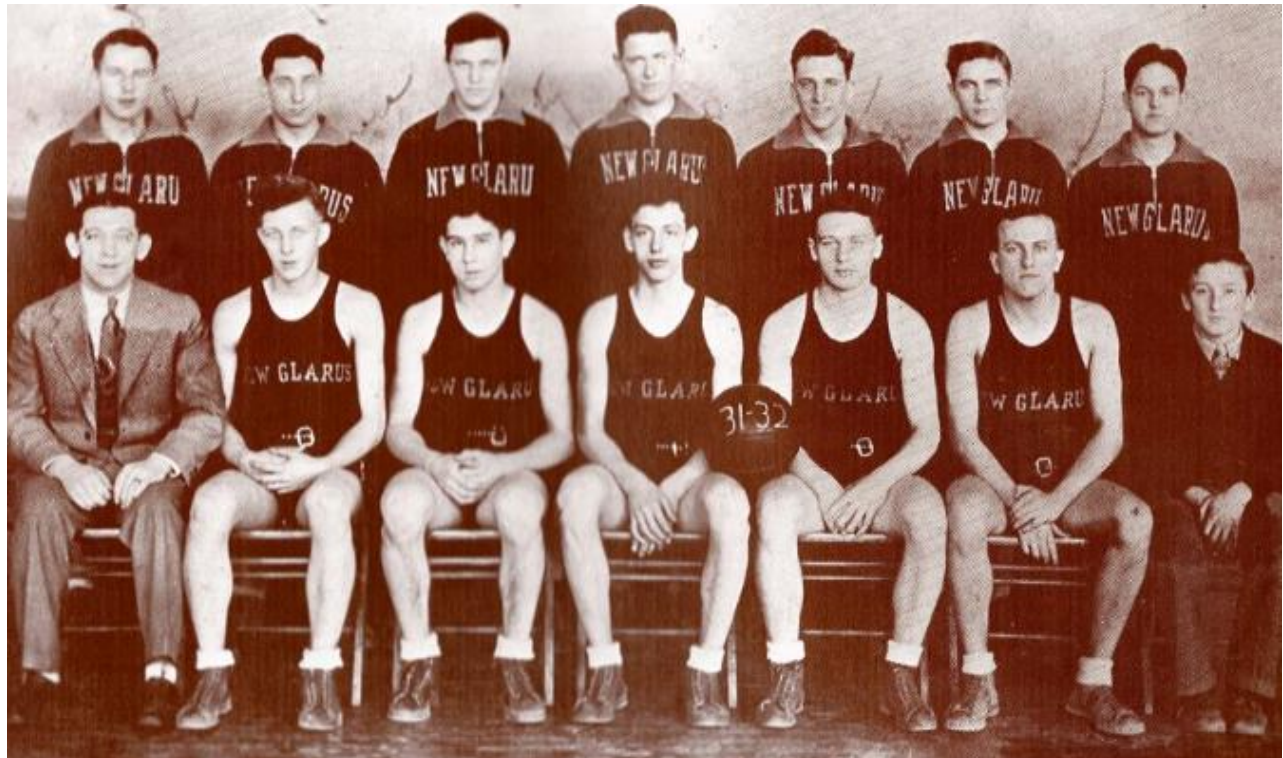
New Glarus Champions

Congratulations to the 2018-2019 New Glarus High School Glarner Knights Boys Basketball Team who won Wisconsin's 2019 Division 4 tournament on March 16, 2019! In this year's tournament games, New Glarus first beat Manitowoc's Roncalli High Jets, the defending State champions. The Glarner Knights then brought home the title by beating the Lourdes Academy Knights of Oshkosh.



It was 87 years ago that a New Glarus team last played in the state tournament. Pictured below is that 1931-1932 team.

Bottom row from left: Coach Emil W. (Chick) Bruni, Russell Stuessy, Morris Marty, Huldrich Kammer, co-captain Otto Puempel, co-captain Joe Haegele and manager Tom Wurgler. Top row from left: Kenneth Hoesly, George (Heine) Kuesel, Emil Ziltner, Isaac Alderman, Werner Ziltner, Gilbert Strickler and Kenneth Gmur. The 1931-1932 team was undefeated going into the State tournament, but lost to DePere in the tournament quarter finals. 1932 was the second to last year of the one-class tournament. In 1934 the state tournament increased to two classes.



Previous to 1932, the 1924-1925 New Glarus had also advanced to the state tournament. The team is pictured below. Bottom row from left: Melchior Schiesser, Harry Sarbacker, captain Vernon Duerst, Charles Howard, Palmer Kundert. Top row from left: Henry Hoesly Jr., Sam Elmer, Earl Zweifel, Coach William Meikle, Clifford Kubly and Harvey Ott. The New Glarus 1924-1925 team advanced as far as the quarter finals.



The New Glarus basketball team of 1917-1918 also saw State tournament play. The New Glarus team lost to teams from Superior and Nekoosa. One of the New Glarus players was Emil “Chick” Bruni, who later coached the 1931-1932 team.

Missing the Mark

Mark Hawley is running for the office of New Glarus Village President in the 2019 spring election. Mark recently commented on the loss of Swiss identity in New Glarus – a feeling I share. Mark said, *“My family and I do worry that New Glarus may be slowly losing its Swiss identity. As hard as everyone in the village works to keep this alive, I believe we must work even harder at preserving the Swiss heritage which makes New Glarus a great tourist destination. As each generation passes on, we slowly lose a part of our heritage.”*

Mark refers to the need for preserving Swiss heritage because it makes New Glarus a tourist destination. Tourism is fine, but hopefully he will discover more altruistic objectives in celebrating our heritage above and beyond financial gain for local businesses. Sadly, many New Glarus residents today, who may or may not have ties to our history and heritage, see Swissness as merely a commodity to lure tourist dollars. It means much more than that to many of us, but unfortunately we have become the minority.

Hawley continued, *“Something as simple as renaming Bahnhof Street to Railroad Street and now I see the signs say RR Street. That is a simple example of Swiss culture slowly eroding away. I will do my best to help all the good people already trying to preserve the culture do even better.”*

This comment raises a couple of questions. Does the use of German words on New Glarus streets and buildings really make the town more Swiss? Is the use of Railroad Street rather than Bahnhof Street an example of cultural erosion? Railroad Street was the generally accepted name for the village street which most closely parallels the rail road tracks. Early plat book maps of the village do not appear to label this street as either Railroad Street or *Bahnhofstrasse*. And curiously, an 1873 map of the village, several years before the arrival of the railroad, identified the street as “Schwanden”. The use of *Bahnhofstrasse* may date only to 1995 and the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding. Several street signs (see photo above) in were installed in an effort to increase the visible Swissness in New Glarus by resurrecting street names like Diesbach, Rüti, Schwanden, and Ennenda which were apparently used in the late

19th century for the historic core of downtown streets. These names can be found on various early village maps however there was some degree of variability to these street names since they differ on various historic maps. Thus calling Railroad Street by that name does not appear to be a case of cultural erosion.

By the way, *Bahnhofstrasse* is not the German translation of Railroad Street. Railroad Street would be translated in German as *Eisenbahnstrasse*. A *Bahnhof* is a rail station. And there are streets in Switzerland named *Bahnhofstrasse* and *Eisenbahnstrasse*. But it may be more authentic to use Swiss-German words and not German. In Swiss dialect, *Eisenbahnstrasse* and *Bahnhofstrasse* might be found as *Isebähnlistrasse* or *Isenbähnlistrasse* and *Bahnhöflistrasse*. Pictured above is a photograph found on the internet with the caption “*Das Bahnhöfli von New Glarus*”

Pierce Street

It may be of interested to Mark Hawley that his home address of 3rd Avenue was once known as Pierce Street. This name can be documented on historic village maps. Pierce refers to lumberyard manager and one-time Village President George Pierce (1858-1941). Pierce, a native of the nearby Mt. Vernon area, married two local widows – first to Eva (Tasher) Schlaepfer and after Eva’s death to Emma (Ott) Stuessy.

George and Emma Pierce had one daughter Clarissa who married Edward L. Bogumill. The Bogumills named their oldest son George Pierce Bogumill. George Pierce Bogumill served in the military for over 20 years during which time he earned his medical degree. He had a distinguished medical career in the military, followed by an equally impressive civilian career, most notably as a hand surgeon associated with the Georgetown University and Walter Reed Hospitals.

Dr. Bogumill assisted in the minor hand surgery of two sitting U. S. Presidents – President Reagan in 1987 and President Bush in 1989. Dr. Bogumill died in 2017 at the age of 88.

