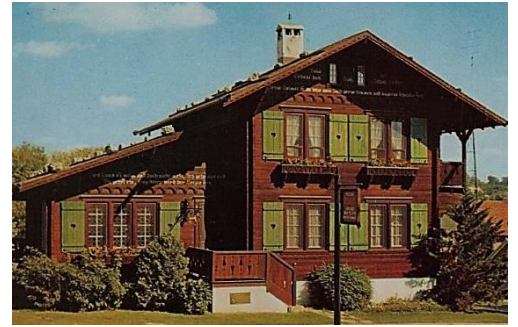


# Family History Notes

Fall 2020

## Edwin Barlow: Resident of New Glarus and the World

Edwin Barlow was the originator, producer, director and overall guiding spirit of the Wilhelm Tell drama and the builder of the Chalet of the Golden Fleece in New Glarus. The Chalet was his home for a number of years before he gifted it and its entire contents of collectibles to the village to serve as a cultural museum. Barlow has been acknowledged as a key driver of an awakening and celebration of Swiss culture and heritage in the late 1930s. This was less a celebration of the culture and traditions brought to New Glarus by its early Glarner immigrants, but celebrations of a broader Swissness e.g. the Bernese Oberland style architecture of his Chalet, the celebration of Swiss folk hero Wilhelm Tell, Swiss folk dances and colorful cantonal costumes (*Trachten*). The following pages will add some additional breadth to Edwin Barlow's world including his Barlow, Streiff, Figi, Bosworth and Mather relationships. However these following notes are based upon fragments of information gathered from a variety of public sources and unfortunately do not constitute a comprehensive study. Pictured on this page is the Chalet of the Golden Fleece and the Wilhelm Tell Usherettes photographed beside the New Glarus floral clock and Wilhelm Tell crest.



**The Barlows – Edwin Barlow's Paternal Line:** Edwin Peter Barlow (1885-1957) was born in Milwaukee to Warren Hiram Barlow (1866-1904) and Magdalena Streiff (1860-1898). Warren was the son of Appleton, WI merchant Edwin L. Barlow and his wife Mary Jane née Hinman. Both the Barlow and Hinman family roots extend back to Connecticut. Edwin L. and Mary Jane married in Ohio on January 3, 1849 when he was 21 and she 18 according to Summit County, OH documents. They moved to Appleton, WI where they had a family of four children – daughters Julia and Eva and sons George and Warren. Edwin L. Barlow died in Appleton in 1867 when only a man in his late thirties or early



forties (his birth year varies). In 1880 the widow Mary Jane Barlow, her two sons George and Warren and her daughter Eva and Eva's family were all living for a period of time in Janesville, WI.

Grandmother Mary Jane Barlow died in 1903 when grandson Edwin was 18. She was survived by her daughter Eva (Mrs. David Gurnee), and sons Warren and George, both of Chicago. (Warren reportedly had moved to Chicago from Appleton in recent months or years.) It was reported in her obituary that Grandmother Mary Jane was a graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio (but she married in 1849 at age 18). She was remembered (again as reported in her obituary) for her nursing during the Civil War and having being sent to Peshtigo in 1871 to head an emergency hospital set up to treat victims of what is still America's deadliest fire. And Mary Jane Barlow was remembered as a purveyor of her own prepared horseradish. It was said that Mary Jane's mother Harriet Hinman née Saxton was a cousin of First Lady Ida (Saxton) McKinley. But any relationship other than having the same surname appears to be specious.

And just months after Mary Jane Barlow's death, her son (and Edwin's father) Warren Barlow died in Chicago in March of 1904 when Edwin was 19. It was mentioned in Warren's obituary that he had a son (referring to Edwin, but unnamed) who was "out west for his health" and it was speculated that this son would not live for any length of time.



Barlow past. (Pictured is Edwin Barlow circa 1922.)

Of his Barlow relations, Edwin was likely closest to his Aunt Eva Gurnee. Appleton newspaper items mention his visits with her in 1911 and 1913. These same Appleton newspaper items mentioned that Edwin was a leading man for William Brady, a prominent New York theater producer at that time. It went on to say that Barlow was soon sailing for Europe for his health (possibly his first trip to Europe). In 1914 Edwin returned from New York City to attend the funeral of his cousin and Aunt Eva's daughter, Pearl (Gurnee) Sieth. In 1934 Edwin hosted a Barlow family reunion at his aunt's house in Appleton. And in 1940 it was reported that Mrs. Gurnee had Hinman cousins visiting from Ohio and that they would also be visiting Edwin Barlow in his new chalet home in New Glarus. Barlow's Aunt Eva passed away in 1952, Edwin's oldest link to his

**The Streiffs – Edwin Barlow's Maternal Line:** Edwin's mother, Magdalena née Streiff, was born in Diesbach, Canton Glarus to Johann Peter and Anna (Knobel) Streiff. Magdalena (sometimes referred to as Lena) emigrated with her parents in 1861 when only one year old. She was the oldest of 10 Streiff children and the only one born in Canton Glarus. Also immigrating in 1861 were Magdalena's maternal grandparents, Fridolin and Magdalena (Kläsi) Knobel. The Streiffs settled on a farm northwest of New Glarus and a short distance from the farm of Anna Streiff's half-brother, Andreas Hoesly. Little of a personal nature has been written about Magdalena. She married Warren Barlow in Rock County, WI in 1884 and died in 1898 predeceasing both of her parents. She was buried in the New Glarus Swiss Reformed Cemetery – her parents both buried alongside her by 1910.

Magdalena's paternal grandparents were Fabian and Anna Rosina (Dürst) Streiff of Diesbach, Canton Glarus who had three sons who lived to adulthood – Fabian, Johann Balthasar and Johann Peter. All three of these sons came to New Glarus. Oldest son Fabian married *Graubiünderin* Katharina Bärtsch. They were the parents of Fabian (the man who mysteriously disappeared for over 30 years), Barbara, Anna Rosina, Christian, Johann Balthasar and Jacob. The middle son, Johann Balthasar, married Sybilla Knobel. They were the parents of Anna Rosina, Regula, Abraham, Anna (married to her cousin Jacob Streiff above), Fabian and Sybilla. The youngest son, Johann Peter, married Magdalena Knobel. Their children were Magdalena (Mrs. Warren Barlow), Peter, Rosina (married to her cousin Christian Streiff above), Anna (died young), Verena (Mrs. Jacob Figi), Fridolin, Anna (Mrs. John Blum), Fred B., Johann Heinrich and Louisa (Mrs. Harold Stevens). The Streiff family farm was later taken over by second generation son Fred B. Streiff and his wife Sibilla (Belle) Bolliger. And their son Peter H. Streiff and family were the third generation and last of the Streiffs to farm the land. Peter H. and his wife Dorothy née Hurlburt had three daughters – Audrey, Shirley and Lynette. Belle Streiff was a co-director of the Wilhelm Tell play with her nephew Edwin Barlow in its first decade and several of his Streiff relatives were Tell participants in various roles.

In the early 1880's Fabian Streiff, a cousin and neighbor of Magdalena Streiff and her family, mysteriously disappeared. And he was not heard from for over 30 years. Fabian found work at a farm in Illinois where he labored earning little more than food and tobacco. In 1915 Fabian Streiff was identified and returned from Illinois by his cousins Fred B. Streiff and Jacob Figi (who were Edwin Barlow's uncles). Fabian lived out his life in the Fred B. Streiff household. (See "Family History Notes" Summer, 2009 for more about the Fabian Streiff story.)

When Edwin Barlow died in 1957 he was survived by nine Streiff first cousins – Mayme (Streiff) Kuhn, Anna (Streiff) Pierce, Thomas Streiff, Louisa (Blum) Schneider, John Blum, Fred P. Streiff, Peter H. Streiff, Jacob L. Streiff, and Alice (Stevens) Murphy. He was also survived by his Aunt Louisa (Streiff) Stevens, only four years Barlow's senior. Two Streiff cousins, Anna Streiff and Raymond Stevens, predeceased Barlow.

### **Jacob and Verena (Fannie) Figi – Edwin Barlow's Aunt and Uncle**

Jacob Figi and his wife Verena (Fannie) Streiff (pictured right) were both New Glarus natives born to parents all of whom were born in Canton Glarus. Fannie was the sister of Magdalena Barlow. Jacob and Fannie were married in 1888. Sometime after 1894 (when A. J. Magoon's Monticello House burned to the ground), Jacob Figi and his father John built a new Monticello House (pictured below). Jacob and Fannie operated the hotel and boarding house for about 25 years.



At some point presumably after the death of his mother in 1898, Edwin Barlow moved into the Monticello House where his Aunt Fanny (Verena Streiff) and Uncle Jacob Figi

raised him. The U. S. census confirms that Edwin was living with the Figis in 1900.

In 1903, Fannie's sister Rosina (Mrs. Christian Streiff) died leaving her widower and three children – Thomas, Anna (later Mrs. Ira B. Pierce of Monticello) and Mayme (later Mrs. Henry Kuhn of Ripon). Sometime before 1910 they were all living with the Figis as well.



The Figis left Monticello and farmed for a time near Oshkosh, WI before purchasing the Grand View Hotel in

Ripon, WI. They were assisted in running the large Ripon hotel by their niece Mayme and her husband Henry Kuhn. Jacob Figi died in 1931. And in 1937 Mayme and Henry Kuhn purchased the Grand View Hotel from Fannie Figi. And at was at this time that Aunt Fannie and Edwin Barlow had the idea to construct a Swiss chalet home for Aunt Fannie to be built in her hometown of New Glarus. This chalet home was designed and built by Swiss immigrant architect Jacob Rieder. Unfortunately, Fannie Figi died unexpectedly in 1937 before the chalet was completed the following year. The obituaries of both Jacob and Fannie Figi referred to their nieces Mayme Kuhn and Anna Pierce and nephew Edwin Barlow as their daughters and son.



Henry Kuhn died in August, 1948 leaving his widow Mayme and their son to run the Grand View Hotel. Edwin Barlow also stepped in to assist Mayme with the hotel management. In February, 1949 a nighttime fire at Kuhn's hotel took the lives of six hotel residents and completely destroyed the building. Barlow was present at the time of the fire and escaped unharmed. The Kuhn's 16 year old son, Edwin Jacob Kuhn (presumably named for Edwin Barlow and Jacob Figi), proved heroic that night by directing guests to escape routes out of the burning hotel. It was in Mayme's Ripon home that Edwin Barlow died unexpectedly in 1957. Mayme died there in 1959. And in 1968, Mayme's sister Anna Pierce died in the Ripon home of her nephew Edwin Kuhn, with whom she had been living.

**The Bosworths – Edwin Barlow’s Adoptive Family:** Daniel Perkins Bosworth and his wife Clara Van Zandt of Marietta, OH had three children – Hobart, William, and Clara. These three children were to live varied lives which took Hobart to Hollywood and a career in acting, William (known as Welles), an architect, to the Rockefeller estate on the East Coast and then to the Palace of Versailles, and for Clara into New York City society and into a (perhaps unlikely) relationship with Edwin Barlow.

The Bosworths had Massachusetts and Connecticut colonial roots and the Van Zandts were early Dutch settlers in New York. The Bosworths could trace their ancestry to Jonathan Bosworth and his wife



Hannah Howland. Hannah was the daughter of Mayflower passengers John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland. Daniel Bosworth was a partner in a leading Marietta retail firm, Bosworth and Wells – the Wells partners being members of Daniel’s mother’s family. The Bosworth family home (pictured left) dates from 1868 and is located near Marietta’s downtown. The home was built by Martin P. Wells and sold to his nephew Daniel Bosworth in 1870. Wife and mother Clara (Van Zandt) Bosworth died in 1873 when her two sons were just small boys and daughter Clara was just a baby. Baby Clara was subsequently raised in Marietta by her great-uncle Charles B. Wells who had married Clara’s Aunt Cornelia Van

Zandt. Both uncle and aunt were dead by 1888 and Clara went to live with her brother Welles in Boston where he was a student.

### **Hobart Van Zandt Bosworth**

The oldest Bosworth child was son Hobart (1867 – 1943) who was to become a recognized stage and movie actor. His mother died when Hobart was just a young boy. His intense dislike of his step-mother led him to leave home at a young age bound for New York City. He took a job as a cabin boy on a ship which eventually took him to San Francisco. There Hobart was drawn to the stage at age 18 and acted for the rest of his life.

After over two decades in the theater, and at the age of about 40 years, Bosworth began acting in the very dawn of movie-making in California. He is credited by motion picture historians as the first actor to star in film completed on the west coast -- “The Count of Monte Cristo” of 1908 (filming had begun in Chicago and finished in California). Suffering from tuberculosis, Bosworth persuaded his employer, the Selig Polyscope Studios of Chicago, to open a west coast branch where the climate was better for his health and which offered the possibility of year-round movie-making. And soon other movie makers followed suit and the flight of studios to Hollywood had begun. In 1909 Hobart Bosworth had the lead in a film entitled “In the Sultan’s Power” which is said to be the first movie filmed entirely in the Los Angeles area. Since his boyhood, Hobart had a yearning for the sea. And this love led him to a friendship with author Jack London. In 1913 Hobart became a studio owner, founding Bosworth Inc. His immediate aim was to produce all Jack London novels, beginning with “The Sea Wolf” -- produced by and starring Hobart Bosworth. In 1914 he allied with W. W. Hodkinson who had just formed the first national film distributor, Paramount Pictures. Bosworth then partnered with other early Hollywood film makers such as Adolph Zukor, Jesse Lasky, Cecil B. De Mille, and Samuel Goldwyn né Goldfish in distributing their pictures through Paramount. In 1915, Zuker, Lasky and De Mille engineered a coup and took over Paramount, ousted Hodkinson and bought out Bosworth.



Hobart Bosworth returned to acting and by the end of his life he had amassed (according to IMDb) 293 movie credits, 59 directing credits, 41 writing credits and had produced 14 movies. Bosworth was a well-known actor yet never famous – he was about 10-15 years ahead of the Hollywood star system and what we may think of as the golden age of Hollywood. In 1927, the year of the early talkie “The Jazz Singer”, Hobart had turned 60. The photo at right is of Hobart Bosworth and his co-star Jane Novak from the 1919 silent film “Behind the Door”.



In 1922, Bosworth and his wife built a new home on Hillcrest Drive in a sparsely developed enclave named Beverly Hills. He was known for riding his white horse through the streets and bridle paths of Beverly Hills. He became known as “the Duke of Hollywood” for being an early and prolific movie actor and as a fixture of the early Beverly Hills scene.

### **William Welles Bosworth**

The second Bosworth child was son William Welles Bosworth (1869 – 1966), known as Welles. Like his siblings he was born at Marietta, OH. He became a prominent east coast architect. He studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the late 1880s and later at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He was known for grand and monumental Beaux-Arts buildings in the tradition of Chicago’s Columbian Exhibition of 1893. Bosworth buildings standing yet today include the great dome of his alma mater MIT (pictured) and the AT&T building in Lower Manhattan at 195 Broadway. He was a favorite architect of John D.



Rockefeller, Sr. and Jr. Bosworth spent the years 1907 to 1916 designing and landscaping the exterior gardens at the Rockefeller home, Kykuit, near Tarrytown, NY (garden pictured below). His work at Kykuit was considered by some to be his best and it represented his most fruitful client relationship.



In 1924 and through 1936, Welles Bosworth was again employed by the Rockefellers. He moved to Paris where he supervised the restoration of France’s great buildings with funds from the Rockefeller Foundation. These French treasures included the Palace of Versailles and its Petite Trianon Palace, the Fontainebleau Palace, and the Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral. Bosworth received the French Legion of Honor for his work in preserving these buildings -- which by the way are all UNESCO World Heritage sites today. Welles Bosworth died in France at the age of 97 and is buried in Paris’ famed Père Lachaise cemetery.



Both Hobart Bosworth and Welles Bosworth and their wives were listed as patrons of the Wilhelm Tell play in New Glarus in 1939.

## Clara Bosworth Mather

Clara Bosworth (1872 - 1939), was the youngest child and only daughter of Daniel Bosworth and wife Clara Van Zandt. She was first christened Gertrude, but after her mother's death, her name was changed to Clara. On June 30, 1900 she was married to mining engineer Henry Arms Mather. In 1924, Clara adopted Edwin Barlow who was 13 years her junior. Clara is pictured below in a costume reflecting her Dutch heritage.



After Clara's death, a family genealogy of the descendants of 1634 immigrant Edward Bosworth was underwritten by Welles. The book served as a memorial to his sister Clara Bosworth Mather. Welles also contributed the following personal memorial to his sister:

*The qualities most characteristic of "Clare," as we called her, were overflowing love, and devoted service to those she loved. She was generous, to a fault; superlatively conscientious, and trustworthy; tirelessly industrious with fingers and hands that could do anything from artistic needlework or decorative painting and design to making candies, cakes, pickles and dishes from old-time recipes and all sorts of household performances of which she was particularly fond and in which she was remarkably*

*proficient. She loved music and was at one time a good pianist. Abounding in health and energy she loved to make fun and laughter and told amusing stories on herself as well as others. Of course she enjoyed travel and variety of experience. She saw what she most desired to see in the world, and was always pleased at being likened to Queen Mary [of Great Britain] whom she strikingly resembled. Blond hair, blue eyes and a beautiful nose with a most sympathetic voice were her chief personal charms. A friend once said of her, "she liked everybody and everybody like her." As a child, she lived most happily with her Aunt Cornelia and great-uncle Charles B. Welles in Marietta, but when they died she went, at age of sixteen, to live with her brother Welles in Boston. He chiefly relied in caring for her, on a devoted friend of their mother's, from Beverly, Ohio, Mrs. John H. Hubbell, who was a second mother to them both. Clare studied kindergarten at Miss Wheelock's school and after moving to New York in 1884 had classes of her own for children which was highly successful. Harry Mather was a mining engineer, who that after their marriage they went to live for a time in Jerome, Arizona, but returned to East 17<sup>th</sup> Street, New York when Clare became very active in Dr. Rainsford's St. George's Church, nearby. During the Great War, she did hospital work in Washington, her husband having gone to a sanatorium in Switzerland where he died. She adopted a wounded soldier, Edwin Barlow, whom she had nursed, and they travelled 'round the world, living for a time in England, in Holland, which she loved on account of her Dutch ancestry (she unveiled a Pilgrim tablet in the church at Leyden) and in Switzerland. Barlow had family connections at New Glarus, Wisconsin, where there is a large colony of Swiss emigrants. He and Clare organized and inaugurated an annual production of Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell," and built and furnished a Swiss chalet there, "The Chalet of the Golden Fleece," which they have deeded to the town.*

*[In 1939] Clare's spirit passed out at her apartment at Gramercy Park, New York in the presence of her bother Hobart and wife, and Edwin Barlow, whose devotion to her more than repaid what she had done for him. She adored her father, with whom she had the closest sympathy and whom she greatly resembled and her "second mother," Mrs. Hubbell, who embodied all she most admired and revered. She died in fullest confidence of their meeting her on the "other shore." Welles Bosworth March 22, 1940*

Welles' generous comment regarding Edwin Barlow's devotion to Clara is a wonderful testament. It was about this time that the bulk of Clara's estate was left to Edwin. He was to receive about \$138K (over \$2.5 million in 2020). She also remembered her brother Hobart and Welles' daughters Audrey and Françoise Bosworth with lesser legacies. Clara has a tombstone next to Edwin Barlow in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery in New Glarus. A small stone next to her husband Henry Mather in New Jersey has the initials "C.G.M" (presumably Clara Gertrude Mather) and the verse "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). It is now known if Clara was buried next to her husband, near Edwin Barlow or perhaps cremains at both locations.

Barlow's exact relationship with Clara Bosworth Mather likely unknown. Clara and her husband Henry were childless and sometime after WWI Henry went to live in Europe for his health. It is likely that Edwin provided Clara with a lively companion for travel, exploring the arts and as an escort at social functions. Clara had the financial means to support their social life and travel. It was not uncommon for single men to act as "walkers" to society ladies. These men possessed charm, were well dressed, had impeccable manners and were often gay. In a time when society women required an escort and when wealthy husbands were often uninterested in concerts, plays and the arts, the "walker" would step in and provide a non-threatening escort for the wife. And it is reasonable to assume that over the years, genuine friendship and devotion developed between Clara and Edwin.

**Henry Arms Mather – The Husband of Clara Bosworth:** Mining Engineer Henry Arms Mather was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1870 and married Clara Bosworth in 1899. Henry was a direct descendant of Boston Puritan minister Richard Mather, and the first cousin six times removed of Cotton Mather, a Puritan minister, remembered for his belief in witchcraft and his involvement in the Salem witch trials. Henry Mather was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Morristown, NJ, the same cemetery as his parents. Henry died in Geneva, Switzerland in 1933,

A historic sidebar regarding Henry Mather -- his sister Margaret was one of 36 passengers on the Hindenburg's 2½ day crossing from Europe in May of 1937. The airship burst into flames upon its arrival at Lindenhurst, NJ. Margaret was one of the survivors; however 13 passengers and 22 crew members were killed.

### **Edwin Peter Barlow**

Looping back to Edwin Barlow himself – his life is told here in bits and pieces of information. He was born in Milwaukee in 1885, lived with the Jacob Figis in his teens and early twenties, served overseas in WWI, moved east as a young man but returned to Wisconsin later in life to build a chalet-style home and create the Wilhelm Tell drama in New Glarus. In 1907 it was reported he belonged to the Brown Stock Company associated with the Davidson Theatre in Milwaukee. The 1910 census noted he clerked at the Figis' Monticello House. As noted previously he visited his Aunt Eva Gurnee in the nineteen teens where newspaper accounts noted his status as a leading man on the New York stage. He reportedly attended the Monroe [Wisconsin] Business College and George Washington University in Washington D.C.

World War I intervened and Barlow enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1917. His enlistment documents stated he was an actor. He served in France in the 127th field hospital of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Wartime letters written by Barlow home to Monticello can be found on the Monticello Area Historical Society website. Welles Bosworth wrote that his sister Clara Mather had adopted Barlow after nursing this wounded WWI soldier. Deborah Neff and Phillip Zarrilli wrote in their book, "Wilhelm Tell in America's Little Switzerland" that Mrs. Mather adopted Barlow in 1924 when she was then 52 and he 39. Their bonding may have begun by discovering their mutual loss of parents at a young age and being raised by aunts and uncles.

In 1922, Barlow again traveled to Europe (said to be his third trip). A part of his itinerary was to see the 5 hour Oberammergau Passion Play. This outdoor drama involved nearly 2000 Oberammergau citizens and may have planted a seed which was to germinate and grow in New Glarus in subsequent decades.

In the 1920s and 1930s Edwin Barlow traveled to France where he worked in a secretarial role for the Rockefeller Foundation's reconstruction efforts on French monuments. This work was likely associated with the reconstruction work headed by Welles Bosworth. In the summer of 1929 he returned from Paris to visit Streiff and Barlow relatives. It was stated that he had traveled ten times across the

REPUBLICA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRASIL  
FICHA CONSULAR DE QUALIFICAÇÃO  
Esta ficha, expedida em duas vias, será entregue à Polícia Marítima e à Imigração no porto de destino

Nome por extenso: EDWIN BARLOW  
Admitido em território nacional em caráter: TEMPORÁRIO  
Nos termos do art. 7º letra a do dec. n.º 7967 de 1945  
Lugar e data de nascimento: Milwaukee (Wisconsin) - 13/III/1894  
Nacionalidade: norte-americana Estado civil: solteiro  
Filiação (nome do Pai e da Mãe): Warren Barlow e Magdalena Streiff Profissão: diretor de teatro  
Residência no país de origem: U.S.A.

Passaporte n.º 15 expedido pelas autoridades de Cons. de USA., Estraburgo (França) na data 21/IX/1950  
visado sob n.º 241

ASSINATURA DO PORTADOR: Edwin Barlow

NOTA: Esta ficha deve ser apresentada à autoridade competente sempre ao entrar no país.

Atlantic at this point of his life. In 1928 and 1929 Edwin Barlow lost his father's brother George Barlow and his grandmother's brother William Hinman of Ohio. In the 1930s Edwin returned to Paris for his secretarial role in the Rockefeller Foundation reconstruction efforts. And it was reported that in continuation of this role he would be traveling to the Orient for a year and a half.

In 1937 the outdoor pageant "The Lost Colony" premiered in Manteo, NC. The play received national press and was attended by President

Roosevelt. As a theater devotee, Edwin Barlow no doubt read of this theatrical endeavor and again perhaps this drama planted a seed in his imagination. For it was the following year that the outdoor drama Wilhelm Tell was presented in New Glarus due to Barlow's vision and drive and the backing of many community volunteers. The unique chalet home planned for Aunt Fannie Figi began in 1937 and completed the following year. Barlow had "rescued from impending destruction" a golden lamb said to have been taken from a Hotel of the Golden Lamb (Golden Fleece?) in Switzerland. This golden lamb was placed in a wrought iron arm and mounted on the front of his chalet. And perhaps this rescued Swiss artifact became the inspiration behind his naming his home the "Chalet of the Golden Fleece."

1940 Barlow added color, music and dance to the Wilhelm Tell drama with the creation of the Usherettes –local girls dressed in authentic recreations of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century cantonal costumes. Barlow had used the five volume set of reference books by Swiss costume expert Julie Heierli upon which to base the Usherette costume designs. Additionally Barlow invited Swiss dance expert Rosa Witschi to create dances for intermission entertainment by the Usherettes. Edwin Barlow can be credited for his smart strategy to seek out and work with Swiss experts to deliver authenticity to architecture, costume design, music and dance.

Barlow's desire to travel and live abroad continued throughout his life. By the end of his life he had crossed the Atlantic 63 times and took two round-the-world cruises. Barlow's many travel documents as well as his WWI draft registration reveal Barlow's propensity to cite his correct birthday of March 13 but alter his 1885 birth year. His draft registration listed his birth year as 1887. And the year 1886 is found on early travel documents. Traveling with Clara Mather in 1937, Barlow is listed as Edwin B. Mather, birthdate March 13, 1893. And the 1952 Brazilian document pictured above lists March 13, 1894 as his birthdate. In the 1940s Barlow's occupation on these same travel papers is listed as theater director and even impresario. Edwin Barlow's last decade was filled with more travel including trips to Central and South American and Africa. He was part of the New Glarus delegation to Canton Glarus, Switzerland in 1952 to celebrate Glarus' 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Swiss Confederation. Edwin died unexpected in 1957 while visiting Wisconsin from Europe on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> season of the Wilhelm Tell drama.

### **Other Barlow Legacies: Freulerpalast Himmelbett and Log Church Lanterns**



As evidenced by the collection in the Chalet of the Golden Fleece, Edwin Barlow had an eye for unique collectibles and quality antiques. A donation he made to the Freuler Palace (*Freulerpalast*) cantonal museum in Näfels, Canton Glarus is a magnificent canopy bed (*Himmelbett*). The bed reportedly came from the *Grosshaus* in Elm. The images on the headboard are three-dimensional scenes composed of wood marquetry. A date of 1587 is found at the top of the headboard.



Barlow also facilitated a donation by his friend and Canton Glarus native Marie (Hefti) Mueller. Mrs. Mueller possessed two beautiful etched and leaded glass candle lanterns, said to have originally been found in a Swiss castle. These lanterns were donated to the New Glarus Historical Society and they can be seen in the museum's log church.

### **Chalet of the Golden Fleece**

There is a curious aspect regarding the Chalet of the Golden Fleece. Looking at the photograph at right of the Chalet from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, you may be able to discern what that may be. This is the rear of the house.



Exposed basements in the rear of the house are commonplace in America. Often homeowners have basement family rooms which open



onto a patio area. But chalets built in mountainous area of

Switzerland are generally positioned so the back of the house faces the mountainside and the front of the house faces the valley. And thus the basement level is exposed on the valley

side and became part of the front of the house. The photo at left of two new chalets in Grindelwald demonstrates how most mountainside chalets are typically positioned. However, the site of Barlow's Chalet more or less dictated its front facing 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. But think how attractive the Chalet might have been had a lot been selected using a slope to dramatically heighten the impact of the front as is done in Switzerland.

### **Thirteen New Glarus Boys**

In 1941, the following New Glarus boys began a local tradition which can be observed yet today. The boys were Rodney Wittwer, Rolland Disch, Wayne Duerst, Harley Streiff, Sylvan Kundert, Dean Streiff, Billy Smith, Eugene P. Duerst, John Hamilton, Billy Hamilton, Paul Rettig, Gordon Burki and Eugene Matzinger (who, appropriately, made the group a baker's dozen!). Does anyone know or can anyone guess what tradition the boys began back then?

### **Friedrich Schiller's Grave**

In 1959, to honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of German playwright Friedrich Schiller, it was the desire of the Wilhelm Tell Guild to place flowers on Schiller's German grave. They were unsuccessful. Does anyone recall why?

### **Swiss Halberd**

Paul Streiff posed for a newspaper photo in 1941 as Melchtal in the Wilhelm Tell play. He was holding an authentic halberd (an axe commonly found in medieval Switzerland). The halberd was owned by Edwin Barlow and can be seen yet today in the collection of the Chalet of the Golden Fleece. Does anyone know or can anyone guess who owned the halberd before Barlow?

## **Fridolin Stauffacher Rabbit Holes**

Newsletter reader and Stauffacher descendent Steve Marshall recently indexed the numerous Stauffacher Family newsletters written by the late Donna (Stauffacher) Utecht of Minnesota. Her documents are a wealth of diverse family history information regarding various Stauffacher family members. Steve shared his index/notes with me.



One particular comment caught my eye -- a Fridolin Stauffacher died at the notorious Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, GA in 1864. And his grave stone from the Andersonville cemetery is shown here. But who was this Fridolin Stauffacher? His identity was not clearly detailed. Civil War records indicated he was a member of the Missouri 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry and who had enlisted in St. Louis. A thorough search of the genealogy records for the village of Matt, the origin of the Canton Glarus Stauffachers, yielded several Fridolin Stauffachers but none appeared to confirm a link to this Civil War casualty.

Over the years I have developed a guideline that Civil War soldiers were men typically born in the span of 1821 to 1846. And to develop this range of years, I have used my own great-great grandfather, Johann Ulrich Jordi, who was born in 1821 and his son, my great-grandfather Jacob Jordi, who was born in 1846. Jordi father and son were both members of the Wisconsin 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Johann Ulrich died of cholera in Nashville in 1865 and is buried there. Jacob returned to Green County and died in 1913 and is one of several Civil War veterans buried in the New Glarus cemetery.

So in looking for a Fridolin Stauffacher born in Matt or in neighboring Elm in the years 1821 to 1846, I found seven possible candidates. The following five men could be ruled out: Fridolin Stauffacher born in 1839, but who emigrated to Brazil; Fridolin born 1830 of Matt and who remained in Switzerland; Fridolin born 1830 who remained in Glarus and was killed by a falling rock in 1854; Fridolin born 1828 and who died in 1845; and Fridolin of Elm born in 1830 and who remained in Canton Glarus. The two other possible Fridolin Stauffachers were recorded as having immigrated to the U.S. before the Civil War. Of these two, Fridolin #1 was born in 1824 and immigrated in 1854 and Fridolin #2 born in 1829 and who appears to have immigrated to America in 1860.

While information about this Fridolin #1 is sketchy it appears that he died shortly after arriving in America (Louisiana or Texas). Glarus records have recorded that Fridolin's widow married his brother Anton in 1857. (More on this particular immigrant Stauffacher family is found in the following newsletter item.) That left Fridolin #2 born 1829. Fridolin #2's story is as sketchy as Fridolin #1 although it was found that his wife remarried in 1875 suggesting there is a possibility that this Fridolin died in the Civil War. Was this Fridolin #2 the casualty at Andersonville? As it turned out he wasn't the Andersonville casualty either and his fate in America is still a mystery to me.

To confound matters even more, another note found in Donna Utecht's Stauffacher newsletter suggested that yet another Fridolin Stauffacher was the Andersonville casualty. It said that a Fridolin Stauffacher enlisted in St. Louis two months before his marriage to Lydia Spence in New Jersey in 1861. Logistically, that seemed problematic. And after much unproductive research it was finally discovered that Lydia Spence did not marry a man named Fridolin Stauffacher but a man named Dietrich Stauffacher. The name Dietrich was incorrectly recorded in the 1865 New Jersey census as "Frederick". And it may have been a family historian who assumed Frederick was derived from Fridolin as it often was in America. And so this New Jersey "Fridolin" Stauffacher was really a man named Dietrich Stauffacher, and who, by the way, was still living in 1865. And therefore this "Fridolin" of New Jersey was not the Andersonville casualty.

After these various Fridolin Stauffacher rabbit holes were exhausted, the Andersonville casualty was finally identified. He was Fridolin Stauffacher, an immigrant from the Canton Glarus village of Netstal, and the son of Fridolin and Elisabeth (Vogel) Stauffacher. This Netstal branch of the Stauffacher family left their ancestral village of Matt and established citizenship (*Bürgerrecht*) in the village of Netstal in 1777. And recorded with the Netstal Stauffachers was Fridolin (1831-1864) including the conclusive information that he had indeed died as a prisoner of war at a place named Andersonville. The name Andersonville in the Glarus records provided no context about its being the largest Confederate prison of the Civil War, notorious for hunger, filth, disease and over 13,000 deaths. And, ironically, the prison camp was commanded by another Swiss immigrant by the name of Henry Wirz. Wirz was tried, convicted and hung for his war crimes in 1865.

### **The Anthony and Elsbeth (Zweifel) Stauffacher Family of Galveston, Texas**

Mentioned in the previous article was Fridolin Stauffacher (1824- ~1856) of Matt who immigrated to America in 1854 with his wife Elsbeth née Zweifel, a native of Linthal. They were accompanied by Elsbeth's illegitimate infant daughter, Elsbeth who was born in 1851. The Stauffachers were among several Glarner families on the immigrant ship Ferriere which also included Isaiah and Anna (Rhyner) Babler and Rudolf and Cleophea (Rhyner) Kubli and children who would settle in Monticello, WI. And



apparently Fridolin died shortly after arriving in the U.S. since the Glarus records state that widow Elsbeth married her brother-in-law Anton Stauffacher. And that marriage has been documented as having occurred in Bexar County, Texas on January 24, 1857. It appears that Anton (also known in America as Anthony) served as a Second Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the Texas Infantry of the Confederate Army. The fate of husband and wife, Anton and Elsbeth Stauffacher has not yet been discovered. But the illegitimate daughter Elsbeth, now Elizabeth in America, has left Galveston with a splendid architectural legacy and her brother Antony (Tony) provided a small but tragic piece of Wild West history.

In 1875, (illegitimate) daughter Elizabeth Stauffacher (who took on the surname of her step-fathers) married Julius H. Ruhl (originally Rühl). Upon their marriage the Ruhls moved into a new and grand residence which remains yet today one of Galveston's most striking historic homes (pictured). Sophia Ruhl, daughter of Julius and Elizabeth, married Rene Jacques Muller (originally Müller), the son of a Swiss native and cotton exporter. Sophia and Rene lived in the home of her parents, creating a separate second floor residence. The Ruhl and Muller home remained in the family until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

In recent years, the Julius and Elizabeth Ruhl home has been completely and beautifully restored inside and out by a Texas couple Chuck and Debbie Morris. Exterior features such as the cast iron fence and two story porches have retained the homes original elegance. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the house is its two story "widow's walk", which the Morris added back to the home since hadn't survived the gulf coast hurricanes. Inside features include a three story walnut staircase. Fortunately 21<sup>st</sup> century amenities have been seamlessly worked into the home to provide the comforts of today.

Antony (Tony) Stauffacher (~1863-1903) was a son of Anton and Elsbeth (Zweifel) Stauffacher. In 1903 in a Roswell, NM saloon he was shot to death in cold blood by a notorious gambler, Kinch Mullins. Stauffacher's tale reads like a scene from a Western movie script. Tony was the night bartender at the Grand Central Saloon in Roswell where Mullins was a regular customer. Kinch was a professional gambler described as having lived a wild and drunken life. He was given free drinks by Tony (said to have numbered in the hundreds) in exchange for bringing other thirsty clientele into the barroom. One night Mullins expected free drinks not only for himself but also for his friend. And Stauffacher refused giving the additional free drink. Mullins went to the nearby Legal Tender Saloon, picked up an ivory-handled six shooter, returned to the Grand Central and shot and instantly killed Stauffacher. Mullins was found guilty and received a 99 year sentence.

The Roswell Daily newspaper headline of September 21, 1903 had the single word "Murdered" followed by "Toney [sic] Staffinger [sic] Shot Down in Cold Blood by Kinch Mullins", "Refused Him a Drink".

### **Arlington National Cemetery – Additional Burials with Green County or Glarner Family Connections**

Arlington National Cemetery is hallowed ground and the final resting place of over 400,000 individuals. The following are four more listings of Arlington Cemetery burials with interest to our Glarner family. Other burials of interest can be found in the Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 newsletter issues.

- **Ronald Lewis Meyers:** Ronald was a native of South Bend, IN. He served in Viet Nam in 1965-66 and again in 1970-71 earning a Bronze Star and Air Medal, and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Ron served in both the Army and Navy and retired 1987. He was the great-grandson of Monroe natives Mathias and Sarah (Wenger) Elmer.
- **John Henry Wichser:** John Henry Wichser was born in Bristol, PA in 1920 and recently died in The Villages, FL in July, 2020 just days shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. John was the grandson of Glarner immigrants Caspar and Anna (Zimmermann) Wichser, natives of Schwanden and Schwändi, respectively. Wichser enlisted in the Army during his junior year at Drexel University and was assigned to an Air Force bombardment group in Italy. He flew 17 missions as a B-24 Liberator bombardier. While on a mission to destroy railroad bridges in France, enemy flak took out two of his aircraft's four engines and instantly killed crew members including the co-pilot. Wichser parachuted out landing in a farm field where he was captured and turned over to the Nazis. He was imprisoned at Stalag Luft 1. Wichser attained the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, received a Purple Heart and was a life member of American Ex-Prisoners of War.
- **Wesley Jacob Steesy:** born in Kansas, Wesley Steesy was a descendant of immigrant Johann Jacob Stuessi of Linthal, Canton Glarus. Commander Steesy had served on the battleship California in WWII and remained in the Navy until his retirement in 1960.
- **Larry Eugene Blum:** Larry was a native of Tillamook, OR. He was an Army Chaplain from 1988 until his death in 2008 serving in Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. He earned two bronze stars and the Legion of Merit. Larry's great-grandparents, Jacob and Elsbeth Blum, left New Glarus and settled in Tillamook in the 1870s. Elsbeth (Babler) Blum arrived in New Glarus as a two year old when it was settled in 1845. Larry's father Wendell Blum is believed to be the last surviving grandchild of an original 1845 New Glarus settler.