

# Family History Notes

## Spring 2020

### **Burials of Interest in Arlington National Cemetery**

Arlington National Cemetery is America's largest military cemetery. It is located across the Potomac River from Washington, DC and burials there date from 1864. As Civil War casualties mounted and DC area cemeteries were filling to capacity, a new burying ground was sought. The Custis-Lee property in Arlington, VA was a favored choice – high ground not susceptible to flooding yet adjacent to DC.

George Washington Parke Custis (grandson of Martha Washington and adopted son of George Washington) once owned the land and built the imposing Arlington House on a high point of the land in



the early 1800s. Custis daughter Mary Anna married Robert E. Lee and Arlington House (aka Custis-Lee mansion) was their home during the Antebellum Period. The property also satisfied the desire of some that burials surrounding the mansion would deter the Lee family from ever using the home again. And indeed Robert E. Lee never returned to the home, and his wife Mary Anna returned just once but never entered and soon departed.

Today Arlington National Cemetery has over 400,000 burials on its 624 acres. The following

is a listing of known burials which hold significance to New Glarus area families and those with Canton Glarus ancestry. There are likely several more that fit these criteria, but are not identified at this time. Any additional information would be appreciated.

### **Burials of New Glarus Natives**

**Walter Gabriel Schindler**: New Glarus native who graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy and rose to the rank of Vice Admiral in the U. S. Navy. Admiral Schindler served in both WWII and Korea, receiving Navy Cross, Silver Star and two Legion of Merit awards. Schindler's Silver Star citation, which reads, "*The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Walter Gabriel Schindler, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Gunnery Officer . . .*" was awarded for his heroic actions during the Battle of the Coral Sea. He was the son of S. A. and Anna (Wohlwend) Schindler and possessed 100% Glarner ancestry. Flora (Streiff) Schindler, also a New Glarus native, is buried beside her husband.

**Richard Wendell (Dick) Streiff** : New Glarus native and son of Fred P. and Esther (Werndli) Streiff. Streiff was valedictorian of his New Glarus High School Class of 1942 and graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1946. Streiff achieved the rank of Colonel in the U. S. Army earning the Silver Star for service in Korea as well as the Purple Heart. His Silver Star citation read, "*. . . for gallantry in action against the enemy. . . When the enemy, in its all-out drive . . . surrounded and isolated his platoon behind enemy lines, Lieutenant Streiff displayed extreme devotion to duty and inspirational leadership in effecting its return to safety.*" Col. Streiff later served in the White House as a Presidential Aide during the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations.

**Gilbert E. Strickler:** New Glarus native, member of the New Glarus High School Class of 1934 and graduate of Ripon College. He was the son of Swiss immigrant and meat market proprietor Eugene Strickler and his wife Katherine Kimpel, a German immigrant. Strickler served in the United States Army during WWII in the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, where he earned the Silver Star and the Soldier's Medal. His Soldier's Medal commendation cited his heroic actions on D Day +1, June 7, 1944 off the coast of France. *"At great risk to his own life, [he] voluntarily made repeated trips to the various troop compartments of the ship, some of which were fast flooding, in order to ensure that all troops were safely evacuated. As the result of Major Strickler's heroic efforts, together with those of other officers, all of the troops aboard were safely evacuated in the one and on-half hours before the doomed ship sank."* Strickler achieved the rank of Army Colonel having served in WWII, Korea and Viet Nam.

**Leona (Marty) Barca:** New Glarus native and 1934 New Glarus High School classmate of Gilbert Strickler. Leona was the wife of U. S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Santo Joseph Barca who served in WWII and Korea. Leona was the daughter of Nicholas and Mary Anna (Baumgartner) Marty.

### **Burials of Green County Natives with New Glarus Connections**

**Matthew L. Legler:** Monroe native with New Glarus roots. Legler graduated from Monroe High School Class of 1934, attended the UW and was a 1939 graduate of the West Point Military Academy. He was Battalion Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 393<sup>rd</sup> Infantry during the Battle of the Bulge where he was severely wounded by a land mine. Legler achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded a Silver Star. Legler's West Point ring was lost during the war, presumably where he was injured, but later found by a souvenir hunter. The ring is now held in the West Point Hall of Fame.

**Nathan J. Lindsay:** Monroe native with Glarner ancestry. He received BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering from the UW and entered the Air Force in 1959, serving in locations around the country and around the world. He retired in 1993 achieving the rank of Major General and earning numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster. In the mid-1980s Lindsay had served as commander of the Eastern Space and Missile Center at Patrick Air Force Base, FL and later as the deputy commander responsible for the Air Force elements of the space shuttle program.



**Don S. Wenger:** Monroe native and grandson of Canton Bern immigrant Karl Wenger and Canton Glarus immigrant Sara Oertli. Wenger attended Monroe High and the University of Wisconsin. He received a medical degree from Marquette School of Medicine and later in life earned a law degree from George Washington University. Dr. Wenger served in WWII in the Army Medical Corps and later in Korea and Vietnam. When the Air Force became a separate branch of the military, he transferred to it and was later assigned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. There he served as the medical supervisor of the seven original Mercury astronauts. He retired in 1967 as a Major General having earned the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit.

**Charles W. (Chuck) Staley:** Brooklyn, WI native descended from the Staley and Wallace families, early Town of Exeter settlers. He served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during WWII flying 74 missions, earning 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 5 Air Medals and 3 Bronze Stars. He saw the sun rise from his P51 Mustang Fighter over the Normandy beaches on June 6, 1944. Staley achieved the rank of Major and retired from the USAF.

### **Burials with New Glarus Family Connections**

**Emil Wichser:** Canton Glarus native and 1908 immigrant who lived in Green County. Wichser was a farm laborer in 1910 on the Jacob and Emma (Jordi) Freitag farm. He enlisted from Monroe and served in WWI achieving the rank of Corporal in the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry assigned to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Wichser died in France on September 19, 1918. He was the brother of Sarah (Wichser) Ziltner Stuessy of New Glarus.

**George Pierce Bogumil:** Madison native and grandson of George and Emma (Ott) Pierce of New Glarus. He joined the Army as a senior in High School and served 20 years attaining the rank of Army Colonel. He earned an MS and PhD in Anatomy leading to an MD degree. During the Vietnam War, Bogumil served as Chief of Surgery and Orthopedics in Yokohama, Japan. He earned a Legion of Merit award for his work establishing the first military medical school in the DC area. He was a Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and attending hand surgeon at the Georgetown University Hospital. He had the distinction of performing hand surgery on two successive sitting Presidents – Reagan and Bush.

**Wilmer F. Noser:** Minnesota native who was raised in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University. Noser served in the United States Air Force in WWII, Korea and Viet Nam, attaining the rank of Major. His paternal grandfather, Werner Noser, was a native of Oberurnen, Canton Glarus and maternal grandfather, Abraham Baumgartner, was born in New Glarus.

**Richard Floyd Babler:** Minnesota native who was the grandson of New Glarus natives (and first cousins) Christof and Anna Barbara (Babler) Babler. He served in the United States Navy in WWII and Korea. He later worked for the Department of Defense as a computer specialist.

**Raymond L. Klassy:** Nebraska native and descendant of early New Glarus settlers Melchior and Margaretha (Wichser) Klassy. Klassy served in WWII and died in a 1958 crash when the aircraft he and others were riding plunged into Argentia Bay, Newfoundland, just 1000 feet short of the runway.

### **Burials with Canton Glarus Roots**

**Francis D. (Frank) Knobel:** native of La Crosse, WI and Army Corporal. In 1950 he was engaged in battle in North Korea when he was declared missing in action. In 1954 his remains were part of an exchange between the communist forces and the U.S. His body remained unidentified and was sent to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (known as the Punchbowl) in Hawaii for burial. In 2014, the remains were exhumed and his body was identified using advanced technologies which had become available. He was re-buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in 2015. Knobel was the grandson of Canton Glarus native and immigrant Baltz Knobel of Schwändi, Canton Glarus.

**Victor F. Kubly:** – Swiss native and son of Elm native David Kubli. He was wounded on the Mexican border in 1915 and again in France in WWI. In 1951-52 Kubly had the distinction of serving as National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

**Charles Richard Luchsinger:** the descendant of Canton Glarus immigrants Kaspar and Margaretha (Weber) Luchsinger, he served in Viet Nam and attained the rank of Specialist 5. Luchsinger was trained in radio and electronics which led to a civilian career the telephone and computer industries.

**Mark D. Hefty:** born in Michigan, Hefty enlisted in the Army in 1974 and served 20 years of active duty including tours in South Korea. He was an IT specialist in while in the Army and continued in that field as a civilian. Hefty was a descendant of immigrants Balthasar and Margaret (Jenny) Hefty of Ennenda, Canton Glarus.

**Edward Sherman Kundert:** Wisconsin native and grandson of Canton Glarus immigrants George Kundert of Rüti and Mary Zwicky of Mollis. Kundert served in the United States Air Force in Korea and Viet Nam attaining the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

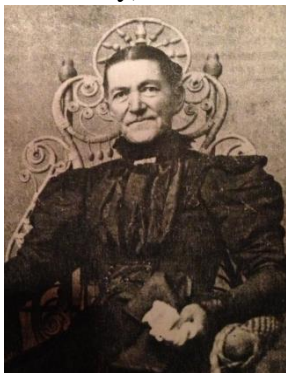
**Allan W. Trimpi:** native of New Jersey who served in General Patton's Third Army WWII and later in Korea. Trimpi attained the rank of Captain. He was a great-grandson of immigrant Jacob Trimpi (originally Trümpy) of Ennenda, Canton Glarus.

### **... And the Burial of an Irish Native**

**Patrick J. Waldron:** native of Ireland, Patrick Waldron had no family connection to New Glarus. But he was mistakenly buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery for a brief period of time following WWI. Waldron's body was thought to be that of Walter Stuessy, the first New Glarus native killed in WWI. This misidentification was resolved in 1923 when Stuessy's body was interred in New Glarus and Waldron's body was re-buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

### **Noser Family Uncommon Relationships**

When researching family history data, one occasionally comes across some unusual family situations. The paternal grandparents of Wilmer F. Noser (mentioned above and buried at Arlington National Cemetery) are an example of a family which had an unconventional composition.



In 1874, Augustin (August) Noser, a native of the village of Oberurnen, Canton Glarus, immigrated to Minnesota with his wife Maria Anna Barbara née Mächler (known as Babetha; pictured left) and their two sons. They settled in Dodge County, MN one of the settlement sites of Glarner immigrants.

In 1878, Werner Noser, a nephew of August, arrived from Canton Glarus and was welcomed into the August and Babetha Noser home. Subsequently, nephew Werner and his aunt Babetha (who was 12 years his senior) engaged in an intimate relationship and a son was born to them in 1887. Babetha had attempted to obtain a divorce from August in 1886 on the grounds of cruel and inhumane treatment, but was unsuccessful. Husband August left home but remained living in the area. Nephew Werner remained living with Babetha and two more sons were born to them.

Noser - Wilmer	Head	M	1852	1918	3	5	Switzerland
" " Babetha	Wife	F	1846	1922	8	8	Switzerland
" " Eugene	Son	M	1887				Minnesota
" " Werner Jr	Son	M	1890				Minnesota
" " Albert	Son	M	1895				Minnesota

Werner Noser and Babetha lived together for the rest of their lives as man and wife. The 1910 census (pictured above) records the household of Werner and Babetha and their three sons Eugene, Werner Jr. and Albert. Werner is listed as the head of the household and Babetha as his wife, although they were not married.



August Noser died in 1917 removing any impediment to a marriage between Werner and Babetha. Werner, who had previously been referred to as “uncle”, was now called “dad” by the children and “grandpa” by the grandchildren. Cards and letters received by the Nosers were addressed “Mr. and Mrs. Werner Noser”. When speaking to others, Werner referred to Babetha as his wife. And yet the couple never married.

Babetha died in 1928 and her estate named her children as sole heirs. Her common law husband Werner demanded a share of Babetha’s estate, his request was denied by the probate court. An appeal was taken to a court with jury and it was proven to the satisfaction of the jury that a common law marriage existed between Werner and Babetha, reversing the probate court denial. Werner Noser died in 1946.

### **Friend Goes There**

A brief newspaper item entitled “Friend Goes There New Glarus” was printed in newspapers around the country in 1945. It related the meeting of New Glarus natives (then) Major Gilbert Strickler with (then) Private Robin Steussy. The item read, “*Ordinarily there is nothing unusual about a GI guard challenging an officer. But when Pvt. Robin Stuessy [sic] commanded an officer to halt while on sentry duty in Europe, he discovered that the officer was Maj. Gilbert Strickler and old friend from his home town.*”

### **Emigration, Utopian and Land Societies**

One of the unusual aspects of the founding of New Glarus, although not entirely unique in that day and age, was its sponsorship and support by an emigration society. The *Glarner Auswanderungsverein* was formed to encourage the emigration of its needy citizens in the hope that they would find better opportunities in America than Canton Glarus could provide. The following was adapted from a piece written by Thomas Schätti of the Schwanden [Canton Glarus] Historical Society known as GUKUM.

#### *The Glarus Emigration Association*

*Notable in the 19th century was the promotion of emigration through the Glarus communities. Most communities supported the emigrants with a one-time contribution and with loans. The communities promoted the emigration of its poor citizenry.*

*With the intention to bring order to the emigration, the Schwanden local council (Gemeinderat) sponsored a debate/hearing on April 16, 1844. Members of the municipalities of Mollis, Netstal, Schwanden, Sool, Nidfurn, Haslen, Luchsingen, Diesbach-Dornhaus and Elm took part. The main features and objectives of the emigration association were determined at the first meeting. Other communities joined the association, after its founding, on May 17, 1844. They were Näfels, Hätzingen, Rüti, Linthal, Engi, Matt and Schwändi.*

*Hilarius Jenny, councilor of Schwanden and textile entrepreneur (Blumer & Jenny), was elected president of the association. Vice President was Heinrich Blumer of Schwanden. Members of the committee were Peter Jenny of Schwanden, H. Jenny of Ennenda, Niklaus Dürst, appellate judge of Diesbach and Tagwenvogt Zwicky of Mollis.*

*Some of the board members were textile entrepreneurs with overseas experience and business relationships in North America. Although the canton first spoke out against the support of emigration, it finally extended an amount of 1500 florins for the cost of sending the experts [the aforementioned Judge Niklaus Dürst and Fridolin Streiff], but continued to oppose direct support for the emigrants.*

New Glarus was a successful venture and many more immigrants followed in subsequent years based upon encouraging reports sent back home. Despite hardships, disagreements, infighting and all that comes with the formation of a new settlement, New Glarus thrived. But other such planned settlements did not fare so well.

In 1843 twenty English families with a utopian and socialist vision bought 160 acres around Spring Lake, Mukwonago Township, WI. One large log cabin was built for communal housing with smaller cabins nearby. The Owenite Society, or simply Owenites as they were known, believed that everything was owned by the community and everyone was to receive an equal share. Crop failures soon led to the colony break up, although many Owenite families remained in the area.

Another utopian settlement in Osage County, MO was founded by an Alsatian, Andreas Anton Dietsch. Dietsch published pamphlets in Switzerland advocating communal living in an agricultural society with common ownership of all property. On June 2, 1844, Dietsch, his family and 37 impoverished Swiss and Germans left Europe for a new beginning in a community which was named New Helvetia. Upon arrival in Missouri, using communal funds, they purchased 363 acres on Missouri's Osage River. Dietsch's request for Swiss government funds to help subsidize his new venture had been rejected. Quarrels of various kinds ensued and people left the rural and wild settlement for a better sense of security in the cities.

Members of the Dietsch community settlers included Glarner Johann Konrad Tschudi of Schwanden (#242) and Oswald Babler of Elm (#113; note: not the New Glarus original settler Oswald Babler). Babler died in Missouri almost immediately leaving a widow and seven children for the fledgling community to support. And Dietsch himself died within a year or two. His utopian dreams never materialized. The fate of the Babler and Tschudi families who went with Dietsch to Missouri is yet to be researched. Both Oswald Babler and Johann Konrad Tschudi had New Glarus connections. Babler had two daughters from his first marriage who left Switzerland for New Glarus. They were Barbara (Mrs. Jacob Babler) and Anna (Mrs. Abraham Straub). And Johann Konrad Tschudi was the maternal uncle of early New Glarus settler and one-time New Glarus hotel operator, Samuel Luchsinger.

A Wisconsin Historical Society marker near Portage tells of another failed emigration group, the Potters Society. *"Near here in 1849 Thomas Twigg began a settlement of unemployed potters from Staffordshire, England."* In 1850 The Potters Society boasted of almost 100 families in 60 houses. *The settlement had 28 oxen, three horses, a smithy and two stores. Letters home spoke of living "amongst the woods and Indians, at the west end of civilizations, with a chain of colonists down to the river...Mosquitoes are the greatest drawback."* Despite high hopes and hard work the Society died. The potters were challenged by getting supplies to their settlement and by financial concerns.

In 1843 the British Temperance Emigration Society was organized and which sponsored a settlement near Mazomanie, WI. Log homes measuring 14 feet by 20 feet and 1 ½ stories were constructed on 80 acre plots of land. One of the English immigrants to settle in the vicinity of this temperance settlement was Yorkshire native Richard Hodgson, who farmed near Arena on non-society land. Richard Hodgson was the great-grandfather of New Glarus resident and former New Glarus Village President David Hodgson. Dave Hodgson was the youngest son of the youngest son (Benjamin 1894-1982) of the youngest son (Benjamin 1845-1938) of immigrant Richard Hodgson (1797-1881).

Another success story, like New Glarus, was New Ulm, MN, founded in 1854 by German immigrants. The origin of the city is said to have sprung from a dream of Frederick Beinhorn to form a model village and farming community in America's Midwest. Beinhorn immigrated to Chicago in 1852 and the following year he and others formed the "Chicago Land Society" for the purpose of buying Midwestern land for this new community. At the same time in Cincinnati, the Turner Society (*Turnverein*) was promoting the formation of a venture to purchase land for a village and farming community. The Chicago group had located suitable land on the Minnesota River and was joined by the Cincinnati Turners who had more capital to purchase land and more potential settlers. Historian Alice Felt Tyler commented on the early village, "*When the merger of the two associations [the Chicago and Cincinnati groups] was made, the village consisted of twenty-three log houses scattered over a three-mile area, and one store, the entire stock of which consisted of thirty pounds of coffee, fifty pounds of sugar, three bolts of cotton goods, and a half barrel of whisky! Many of the thirteen hundred Cincinnati [Turner] members migrated . . . and by 1860 the population of the township was 653, almost all Germans and their American-born children.*" In 1857 a Turner Hall (*Turn Halle*) was built, the largest New Ulm structure at 40 by 70 feet. This original Turner Hall was also used as a school, for public meetings and even theatrical events. Soon a new school house and court house joined the Turner Hall as the social, educational and political centerpieces of New Ulm's vision. Historian Dennis Gimmestad wrote, "*The founders' goals created a community persona that sets New Ulm apart from the Minnesota towns founded by land speculators or railroad companies.... The New Ulm founders aspired to establish a town with a defined philosophical, economic, and social character*".

One of the Cincinnati Turners who settled in New Ulm was August Schell. In 1860 Schell and a partner began a brewery to supply beer to the German settlers. The Schell Brewery remains today, America's second oldest family-owned brewery (ranking after Pennsylvania's Yuengling Brewery which dates to 1829). It is the Marti Family of New Ulm, direct descendants of August Schell, who have been operating the brewery for over 100 years. (More on the Martis in the George Marti article below.)

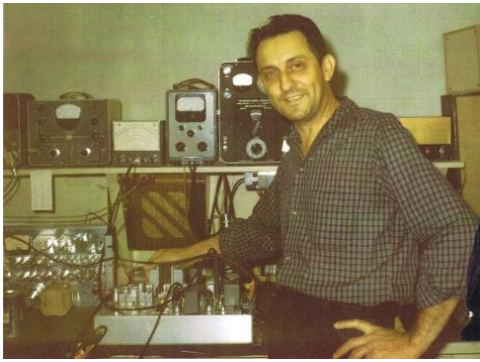
### **Emigration Ironies**

The emigration story remains today -- desperately poor people with few possibilities in their native lands leave for new opportunities to be found elsewhere. It is ironic that Switzerland and Norway, the very countries that many of our ancestors left due to dire poverty and lack of opportunity, are now among the top ten wealthiest and healthiest nations in the world. And both rank in the top ten as the best countries in the world in which to live.

Recently, the following story was related to me which illustrates how dramatically times and fortunes have changed among the citizens of Canton Glarus: An elderly farmer from Leuggelbach, Canton Glarus decided it was time to open a bank account rather than hiding his savings in his home. The old man put his lifetime of savings into two burlap sacks and set off for the *Kantonalbank* in Glarus. Safely inside the bank he approached an available teller and whispered to her, "I have well over a million Swiss francs in these sacks and wish to open a new account." The teller replied in a normal and nonchalant tone, "Sir, there is no need to whisper. Poverty is nothing to be ashamed of in Switzerland."

### **Four Men Named George Marti/Marty**

George Marti (1920-2015; pictured on following page) was a resident of Cleburne, Tarrant County, TX. George had a lifelong and successful relationship with radio communications. And he credited his success to his grandmother, Katharina Marti -- the most influential person in his life. Katharina née Jenny and her blacksmith husband Jost Marti were Canton Glarus immigrants from the village of Sool.



George spent time each day with his grandmother on his way to a two room school. Grandmother Katharina was a shrewd businesswoman who bought and sold real estate and loaned money. And during this time, George developed a business plan at age 13 targeting his passions -- electronics, particularly radios.

Radio was in its infancy and George set his goals on establishing a radio station in Cleburne. He attended technical school and had earned his radio operators license prior to his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. And to attain additional technical knowledge, he apprenticed at a

Fort Worth radio station. During his WWII service, George became a communications specialist, repairing ships' radar systems and establishing military radio stations.

After the war George fulfilled his boyhood dream and built a radio station in his parents' living room. Over time George acquired more radio stations. But his real accomplishment was the establishment of Marti Electronics which built radio broadcast systems. When he sold the immensely successful Marti Electronics in 1994, Marti-built radio equipment could be found in 80% of all radio stations worldwide.

Certainly Marti Electronics was a proud achievement of George Marti. But perhaps a prouder legacy has been the millions of dollars in scholarships he gave through his Marti Foundation. His scholarships have helped hundreds of Cleburne-area college students by paying \$1250-1500 per semester for four years (or \$10-12K). George Marti was honored for his commitment to his community when they named the Marti Elementary School after him in 2003.

Another George Marti (1856-1934) resided in New Ulm, MN. He was born in Seneca Falls, NY, the son of immigrant Rudolf Marti, a native of Rüeggisburg, Canton Bern. George, a pharmacist by profession, married Emma Schell, the daughter of New Ulm brewer August Schell. In 1911, following the unexpected death of Emma's brother Otto Schell, George took on what was assumed to be a temporary role managing the August Schell Brewery. It was not a short-term assignment and the Marti family has continued brewery management for four more generations. George passed the brewery operation over to his son Alfred, who was followed by his son Warren. Warren's son Ted is currently the brewery president, assisted by his sons Franz, Kyle and Jace.

Over the years the brewery has had its ups and downs. The Martis were forced to manufacture root beer and near beer during prohibition. And in the 1970s, like other small breweries, the August Schell brewery barely survived. An old walnut tree on their property was sold for lumber just to earn some cash. But today the Schell brewery is in the top 50 U. S. craft breweries. Sixth generation Jace Marti is a German-trained brew master, solidifying the claim that the Marti family are New Ulm's "brew bloods".

New Glarus once had a George Marty (1866-1952). He was born in New Glarus just after the Civil War to Canton Glarus immigrant and Civil War veteran Joachim Marty and his wife Anna Legler. George Marty's name George came by way of his maternal grandfather and original settler George Legler and also from his uncle George Legler, an 1864 casualty of the Civil War. George Marty married Glarner immigrant Maria (Mary) Babler. They had three daughters and farmed just east of New Glarus. At some point between 1910 and 1920 George and Mary divorced. Both remarried and both moved to California. And both died in Los Angeles – George in 1952 and Mary in 1955.



And then there is George N. Marty (1930-2008) who was born in Tacoma, WA and who died in California. George has the distinction of having served in WWII and the Korean War — enlisting just before the end of WWII at the age of only 15. This George Marty was not of Glarner background and not even Swiss. He was born George Martigopoulos of Greek heritage. He decided to simplify his life by changing his surname to Marty.

### **A Peek at the Local Prohibition Era**

This newsletter item was begun on January 17, 2020 – the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the day of the beginning of America's Era of Prohibition. The Eighteenth Amendment had passed the requisite number of states in mid-January, 1919. The Volstead Act, formally named the National Prohibition Act, provided the enforcement for the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibited the manufacture, sale and transport of alcoholic beverages. Interestingly the Act did not outlaw the consumption of alcohol.

The New Glarus Brewery, operated by Gabriel Zweifel and his son H. Jacob Zweifel, went idle during prohibition times. It was sold in 1924 to John Darrow of Kenosha who planned to manufacture malt beverages and cereal products. The brewery property was also said to have been owned by Chicago gangsters. Tales have been told of tunnels extending from the brewery to the Zweifel home across the street.

Paul Grossenbacher, recalling the 1930s when his family lived for a time above the Four Corners Tavern next door to the brewery property, commented, *"Next door was an old brewery which was owned by the wife of Al Capone, the notorious Chicago gangster. Every so often he had some of his hoodlums there who needed to go into hiding for a while, and who would have looked for gangsters in hiding in an old brewery in a small, sleepy town like New Glarus? When they needed refreshment, they came down to the tavern. One of them was an excellent piano player. Elmira [Paul and Verena Grossenbacher's*



*eldest child] liked music already as a little girl (she was about 3 years old). I still see her grabbing the hem of her dress with thumb and index finger, lifting it up a little and dancing to the rhythm of the music. Even those rough gangsters liked the innocent dance of that little girl and they showered her with quarters. Into the piggy bank they went."*

During Prohibition, the New Glarus taverns could no longer legally sell liquor but remained open, perhaps turning into pool halls or "soft drink parlors". Roy Marty operated a billiard hall (pictured above) during Prohibition. This photo contains a small, but significant clue. The sign on the wall advertises Heileman's New Style Lager. Heileman's of La Crosse was well known for its Old Style beer. But the New Style Lager was a non-alcoholic "near beer" produced during Prohibition.

Many taverns turned to the sales of soft drinks. The New Glarus census of 1930 lists the following soft drink parlor operators: John and Rosa Nufer, Gottlieb and Annie Shipback (probably Schuepbach), Fred and Sarah Ziltner and Fred and Ida Heisler. The photo below is taken from the New Glarus digital collection and is identified as Stuessy's Market in 1947. This is likely not a correct identification as the photo appears (to me) to be another couple from the 1920s or early 1930s. And it may be one of the New Glarus soft drink parlors.

There is a large (root beer?) barrel on the right with a sign indicating "Coca Cola Club meets here". The business sold a variety of food items (fresh fruit, canned goods, bulk Johnston's candy) and in the lower left the magazine "True Story". And there are stools at the back of the establishment.



The following letter appeared on March 9, 1927 in The Capital Times newspaper under the

heading, "If Mr. Dixon Isn't Too Busy with Hurley Perhaps He May Act" [Note: Mr. Dixon refers to R. W. Dixon, Wisconsin's Prohibition Commissioner and Hurley refers to the notorious northern Wisconsin village which largely ignored prohibition as well as other laws.]

*As a subscriber to The Capital Times, I would like to voice my opinion in regard to the liquor traffic in New Glarus. Are the saloonkeepers of New Glarus above the law in this community? Ever since prohibition went into effect there has been some of that deadly poison sold but this last year they have gone beyond all limits. It is sold right across the bar at all times to anyone who asks for it, minors and all. It isn't anything unusual to see one, two or even more drunks at New Glarus the same day. Is this the result of prohibition? Isn't there anything that can be done for this? There have been raids off and on but with very poor results. Nearly every time there is someone kind enough to get a message in ahead of the raiders (how this is managed is rather hard to understand) with the result that everything is put in safe keeping before the raiders arrive. Other times small amounts of liquor have been found but nothing is done and in a few days those same places are selling their liquor the same as before.*

*One bootlegger down there has been arrested twice but he always manages to escape a jail sentence and right at the present time is supplying the saloons with the deadly poison. If Green County doesn't want to do anything about it, can't someone else step in and do something? Of course to make a successful raid there would have to be a whole army of raiders at one time or else while one place is being raided the others would have a chance to bet it all put away, which has been done before. There isn't one place better than the other down there and it would be a good thing to see something done soon as this has been going on long enough. I think every bar in New Glarus ought to be torn right out to see if that wouldn't help matters some. Why shall homes be ruined on account of such lawlessness and think of the younger generation being brought up under such influences. – A Subscriber from New Glarus.*

New Glarus taverns were occasionally raided during Prohibition and were fined accordingly. In 1926 cobbler Moritz Krugjohann had a run-in with the law when four stills were found in his basement along with 15 barrels of mash and 10 gallons of illegal hooch.



Meanwhile in Monroe, Prohibition proved to be a challenge for Swiss immigrants John and Bertha (Lüthi) Wüthrich (spelled Wuthrich in America). After arriving in America John and Bertha Wuthrich made cheese in the Monroe area – first at the Priewe Factory in the Town of Cadiz and later in the Pleasant Hill factory just over the border near Rock Grove, Stephenson County, Illinois. Following their cheese making years, John and Bertha purchased the Green County House in Monroe. In 1927 they were caught selling liquor in their soft drink parlor. John Wuthrich was fined \$150. And his wife Bertha was found guilty of the same plus destruction of evidence for which she was fined \$400 and two months of hard labor in jail. The Wuthrichs sold the Green County House that same year to Arthur Sperry, Sr. And it appears they separated or divorced. Bertha went to Milwaukee where she was listed as a resident of the Milwaukee County Asylum for the Insane – not as a patient but as an attendant. John remained in Monroe where he died in 1945 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

John and Bertha Wuthrich's years in Monroe may be largely forgotten or unknown. But their great-granddaughter is known -- she is Amy Klobuchar who was running for President (or more likely Vice President?) of the United States.

### **Carvana, Volkswagen and Pigeon Hole Parking**

A television commercial for the used car dealer Carvana features their “car vending machine” which dispenses used cars. Drop in an oversized token and your selected vehicle will be delivered to you from its vertical tower (see photo left). These car vending machines can be seen in a growing number of cities across America.



Near Wolfsburg, Germany is Volkswagen's “Autostadt” complex. And this complex has two 16 story circular towers built as new car storage silos, each tower holding 400 cars (see right). And

like Carvana, automobiles are whisked down from their parking cubby holes to awaiting customers. Unlike Carvana, these are new cars, 500 of which are delivered to VW buyers each day. The Volkswagen towers draw 2 million visitors and buyers each year.



These modern car facilities are sleek and showy. Their designs may seem futuristic, but the concept is

not new. Some readers may remember Madison, WI's “Pigeon Hole” parking (seen in the two black and white photos) which employed the same principle – automated vertical automobile parking.



Madison's Pigeon Hole parking was built by retailer Harry S. Manchester just behind his eponymous department store on the Capitol Square. A hydraulic system moved the cars both vertically and horizontally. Fully automated, the system could park a car in as few as 39 seconds after the driver exited the

vehicle. Manchester's parking structure had six levels and could hold 169 cars.

The Pigeon Hole parking system was invented and patented by the Sanders brothers of Spokane, WA. And while it has been claimed that the Madison structure was the first Pigeon Hole, the first structure was built by the Sanders brothers in Spokane a year or two before Manchester's. Additional Pigeon Hole parking towers were built but were soon plagued with ongoing hydraulic system failures which ultimately led to their disuse. The company folded in 1971.



### **First Call**

David Hodgson (previously mentioned in this issue), while serving as New Glarus Village President, was recipient of the first direct-dial telephone call from Switzerland to the United States on Friday, April 30, 1971. The phone call was received at 12:30 p.m. at the Hodgson home. Calling from Switzerland was Dr. Otto Wenger, a member of the Swiss Parliament. Paul Grossenbacher was a guest on the receiving end. On this occasion of the direct transatlantic call, Dr. Wenger invited the entire German language cast of the Wilhelm Tell drama to perform in the outdoor theatre at Interlaken. This invitation did not include any transportation or accommodation expenses and hence never took place.

### **Historic New Glarus House for Sale**

Listed for sale is a small home in New Glarus' *Hinterstädtli*. It is pictured below in color as it looks today. This was originally the family home of Joshua and Barbara (Speich) Wild, built in the 1870s. The house is located at 101 First Avenue, but was originally built nearby on Second Street across from the New Glarus Town Hall. As a comparison, the sepia photo of the Wild family (father Joshua, mother Barbara, son John, and youngest daughters Maria and Elsbeth) is also shown circa early 1870s.



### **What Color is Green Cheese?**

Here are two intriguing questions for those readers who are trivia enthusiasts. The first question is what color is green cheese, as in the saying "the moon is made of green cheese"? We know that Glarner *Schabziger* is a cheese that is green in color due to the clover (*Schabzigerklee*) used in its manufacture. But this question does not refer to *Schabziger* or any other cheeses which incorporate green herbs such as sage or basil. And, in fact, the answer to this question is not green. So what is the color? The second question asks what city New Ulm, MN was named for. And the answer is not Ulm in Germany.