

Family History Notes

Summer 2020

Update: A Black-American Family with Glarner Ancestry

As mentioned one year ago in the Summer 2019 newsletter issue, Anna Marti, an 1882 immigrant from Matt, Canton Glarus, married John Jones, a black man, in Monroe, WI in 1887. Inter-racial marriage (miscegenation) was outlawed by most states in times past. However Wisconsin was one of nine U. S. States where such laws were never enacted. Gradual state-by-state repeal of these laws ended in 1967 when all anti-miscegenation laws in America became history. Shortly after their marriage Anna and John Jones moved to Oberlin, OH where they raised their family and lived the rest of their lives. Oberlin was a community where blacks were welcomed and integrated.

Pictured below is an excerpt from the 1900 Oberlin census showing the John Jones family. The highlighted row listed wife Annie Jones (born Anna Marti), her birthplace listed as Switzerland and her immigration year of 1882. The highlighted vertical column is filled in entirely with the letter “B” indicating black.

Jones John	Head	B M Mar 1857 43 M 13	Ohio	Not Known	Not Known
Annie	Wife	B F Apr 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

The last Jones child listed on the 1900 census was daughter Emma. Emma married William Arthur Zebbs and they resided in Oberlin. They had one child, Arthur Alvin Zebbs, a man who would play a leading role in Ohio’s Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

Arthur Zebbs was born in Oberlin in 1927 and graduated from Oberlin High. He graduated from Dillard University, a historically black institution in New Orleans. He received divinity degrees from Oberlin College and Vanderbilt University Schools of Theology, following which Zebbs served numerous United Methodist congregations in Illinois and Ohio. In 1963, Rev. Zebbs took part in a picket



(pictured) of a private swimming pool which had denied admission to members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). On another occasion, Zebbs and a colleague chained themselves together and to seats in the Ohio House of Representatives to advocate for fair-housing legislation. The chains were seen as a powerful metaphor for black oppression. It took four officers with bolt cutters to cut through their restraints.

In 1972, Rev. Zebbs took a new road in his life’s journey and became the director of Black Studies at Ohio’s Denison University. He served in this role for four years, a period which saw an increase in Denison’s black student population, creation of a Black Studies major and new courses to study the Black-American experience as well as black experiences found in other parts of the world such as the West Indies and Africa.

Arthur Zebbs died of a heart attack in 1993. He was survived by his wife, their four children and his mother Emma (Jones) Zebbs. Arthur was buried in Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery, the same resting place as his Canton Glarus-born grandmother, Anna (Marti) Jones (1864-1937). Arthur's son, Alvin Marti Zebbs, provides evidence that the Marti name survives in this family. Among the legacies of Rev. Zebbs is the Arthur Alvin Zebbs Park, a 200 unit housing complex in Columbus, OH. Built in 2004, the housing complex is a fitting tribute to a man who forcefully advocated for better housing.

A Small Slice of Madison: Bram's Addition

The south side of Madison, WI has a number of small neighborhood areas – Bay Creek, Burr Oaks, Capitol View and Bram's Addition. On the map below, Bram's Addition is the light blue slice in the middle of the map. It is bordered by Park Street on the west, the former Chicago and Northwestern railroad tracks on the east, the Beltline on the south, and Wingra Creek on the north. Bram's Addition was a working class housing development started in 1908 by Adam Bram who owned land in the area. Today it is a neighborhood of modest single family home as well as apartment complexes. Bram's Addition has historically been a center of Madison's African-American community and its Penn Park is the site of the city's Juneteenth celebration. Bram's Addition was also the location of Madison's first McDonald's restaurant in 1957 on South Park Street. Nearby on Badger Road near the Beltline was the location of one-time Madison restaurant, Marc's Big Boy.



Adam Bram (1841-1919) was born in Engi, Canton Glarus to Mathias and Barbara (Wurster) Bram (originally Bräm). Mathias, Barbara and family immigrated to Wisconsin in 1853 and settled in Section 16 of the Town of Springfield, Dane County where they farmed. The Bram's "upper 40" was adjacent to an Indian Reservation which according to the 1861 Dane County map occupied the entire Town of Springfield Section 9. By 1873 the Brams were farming in what had been the Indian Reservation. In 1864 Adam married another Canton Glarus immigrant, Anna Maria Zwicky, a native of Mollis. She was the daughter of early Madison soap and candle maker Michael Zwicky and his wife Anna Katharina née Zwicky. Adam continued farming in Springfield for a number of years. But later he owned land in the Town of Madison, the Town of Fitchburg and a large portion of the land at the southwest side of Lake Waubesa in the Town of Dunn where Bram's Point and Bram's Bay (near Christy's Landing restaurant) can still be found on maps. Father Mathias Bram died in 1869 and is buried in the Kohlman Cemetery near Springfield Corners. Mother Barbara died in 1885 and was buried in Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery, near where Adam and Anna Maria Bram would be buried.

Adam and Anna Maria Bram had several children, one of whom was daughter Louisa. Louisa married William Blaney. Their son, William Edwin (Ed) Blaney, farmed at the southeast corner of Lacy and Syene Roads in Fitchburg – about 4 miles due south of Bram's Addition and about 4 miles due west of the Adam Bram farm on Lake Waubesa. Ed became interested in hybrid seed corn and received enough seed stock from the University of Wisconsin to plant one acre of land. He created Blaney Seed Corn in 1932, later investing in a corn dryer and processing plant. He sold to local farmers, promoting hybrid seed corn rather than lower yielding open pollinated corn. Blaney Seed Corn, which started on one acre of land, continued growing becoming the largest independent family-owned seed corn operation in the upper Midwest. At its peak Blaney Seed Corn sold 200K bags of seed in nine states and grown on 8600 acres of land.



Arlington National Cemetery – Additional Burials of Interest

As suspected there were additional individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery with links to the New Glarus area and with Canton Glarus ancestry. Patrick Wild discovered and shared the following:

Arlington Burials with New Glarus or Green County Family Connections

- **Clement Robert Criddle:** Oregon, WI native and graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy. He achieved the rank of Captain. Criddle's maternal grandparents were New Glarus natives Fred and Magdalena (Duerst) Luchsinger.
- **Harold and Patricia (Francis) Cotner:** Kansas native who served in WWII in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. He retired a Lieutenant Colonel and spent his civilian career with the Department of Defense. Wife Patricia née Francis was the granddaughter of Canton Glarus immigrants Jacob and Elsbeth (Hefty) Kubly who farmed in the Town of Jordan.

Arlington Burials with Canton Glarus Ancestry

- **David Richard Hamlin:** served in the U. S. Navy in Korea and Viet Nam. He achieved the rank of Captain. He was the husband of Rita née Elmer, a direct descendant of Jacob Elmer, a native of Bilten, Canton Glarus and an 1836 immigrant to Biloxi, MS.
- **Robert Fabian Cook:** grandson of Fabian and Magdalena (Streiff) Zopfi both natives of Schwanden, Canton Glarus. Fabian Zopfi was a small boy who immigrated with his parents Andreas and Appollonia (Blesi) Zopfi in 1845 as part of the original group emigrants on their way to settle New Glarus. Father Andreas died at sea and mother Appollonia and son Fabian returned to Canton Glarus. Fabian married Magdalena Streiff in 1866 and later re-emigrated in 1877 and settled in New York State.
- **Norman James Wirth:** Illinois native who served in the Navy Dental Corps in WWII. He was the descendant of immigrant Salomon Wirth of Matt, Canton Glarus.
- **Albert J. Weinnig:** New Orleans native who served in the Army achieving the rank of Colonel. He was the great-grandson of immigrants Fridolin and Afra (Aebli) Hefti.

Consider the Lillys

The descendants of Robert and Fanny (Moody) Lilly of West Virginia have been holding family reunions since 1929. In 2009 the Guinness Book documented the Lillys as having the world's largest family reunion with 2585 attendees. But in 2012, the Lillys were surpassed by France's Porteau-Boislevé family reunion with 4514 members. However Georges and Madeleine (Boislevé) Porteau began their family around 1660 giving them the advantage of several more generations of descendants when compared to the Robert and Fanny Lilly whose children were born around 100 years later.

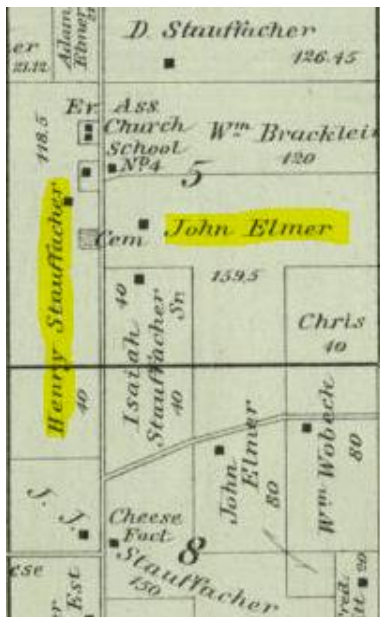
Matt Figi recently shared a decades-old Monroe newspaper clipping with me which reported on the reunion of one branch of the Elmer Family of Green County. My mother remembered going to these Elmer reunions as a young girl. And subsequently the following Madison Capital Times item was found from August 10, 1930 which documented my mother's family attending the reunion. It read, "*Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Saether [my grandparents of Blanchardville] and family and Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Elmer [my mother's maternal grandparents] of Argyle, attended the Elmer Reunion held in Lincoln Park, Monroe, Sunday. The Elmer family reunion has a membership of 2,000 members, all descendants of the late J. U. [John Ulrich] Elmer and claims to be the largest in the state. The officers elected for this year were I. M. Stauffacher, Monroe, president; John H. Elmer, vice president; Henry Elmer, Treasurer; Alvin Elmer, secretary.*"

As mentioned in the article, members of this branch of the Elmer family were the descendants of 1849 immigrants John Ulrich and Verena (Marti) Elmer and their family of seven sons and five daughters (photo of J. U. Elmer and his children in 1875; mother Verena had died in 1872). Their 12 children oldest to youngest were Barbara (Mrs. Abraham Kubly), Conrad, Magdalena (Mrs. Isaiah Stauffacher), John (seated left; see following article), John Ulrich, Mathias, Verena (Mrs. Christ Brunkow), Henry J., Jacob H., Maria (Mrs. Peter Stauffacher), Adam, and Euphemia (Mrs. Peter Elmer). Of the dozen children, the only child yet living in the 1930s was son Jacob H. Elmer of Monroe. There were numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren. In 1935 a great-great-great grandchild, the late Tom Saether of Blanchardville, added a new generation to the Elmer family descendant count.



John Elmer and Henry Stauffacher of Dutch Hollow

The fourth child of John Ulrich and Verena (Marti) Elmer (see previous article) was son John (born Johannes). John Elmer's farm was located in an area known as Dutch Hollow in the Town of Sylvester, and just across the road (today's Dutch Hollow Road) from the farm of his closest neighbor Henry (born Heinrich) Stauffacher. Both farms were adjacent to the Dutch Hollow Evangelical Association Church, the Elmer country school and the Evangelical Association cemetery as seen on this 1891 map. (John Elmer's eastern 40 acres contained a prairie remnant discussed further on next page.)



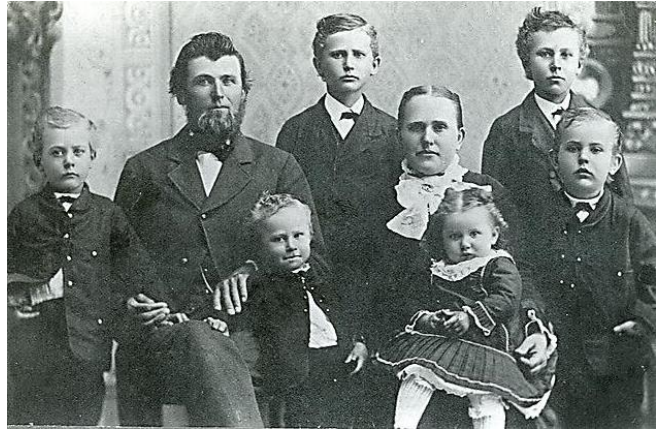
Henry Stauffacher's parents, Jacob and Elsbeth (Speich) Stauffacher, were among the original New Glarus settlers of 1845 and Henry was a mere 3 month old infant when they departed from Matt. The Jacob Stauffachers were also among the original families to leave the new settlement. It is possible that the Stauffacher's interest in the Evangelical Association Church (as opposed to the Swiss Reformed Church) was part of their decision to move from New Glarus to Dutch Hollow. In fact Jacob and Elsbeth sold 96 square rods of land for the Dutch Hollow Evangelical Church and parsonage for \$1 and one half acre of land for the church cemetery for \$5.

John Elmer's parents, John Ulrich and Verena (Marti) Elmer, arrived in Green County in 1849 with five little children in tow. They were met by Verena's siblings already here – the brothers Jacob and Mathias Marty (who were key to the development of Monticello) and sister Magdalena (Mrs. Anton) Baumgartner. John Ulrich and Verena lived in Shook's

Prairie before moving about a mile north of the Jacob Stauffachers in the Dutch Hollow settlement. The Elmers were also staunch members of the Dutch Hollow Evangelical Association Church.

The farm neighbors, John Elmer and Henry Stauffacher, had parallel lives in many ways. Both were born in Matt, Canton Glarus in 1845, both immigrated with their parents bound for Green County and both grew up on farms in Dutch Hollow. In 1865, both men enlisted and served in Company F of the Wisconsin 46th infantry for several months in the final days of the Civil War.

Both men married after the war – John in 1869 and Henry in 1871 – to wives born in 1853 and 1852, respectively. John Elmer married Anna Elmer and they had 6 children in the years 1871 to 1886. Henry Stauffacher married Louise Ebert and they had 10 children in the years 1872 to 1889. Pictured right are Henry and Louise and their children Benjamin, Edwin, George, John, Emil and Ida. Not yet born were sons Albert and Willis. Two other sons, Samuel and Henry, died as infants.



Pictured left are John and Anna Elmer with their two youngest children Euphemia (Famee) and Manuel Conrad. John lost his left arm in a threshing accident in the fall of 1868. His armless sleeve can be seen in this photograph and also the photograph on page 4.



John Elmer and Henry Stauffacher both continued farming until sometime early in the early twentieth century. But the parallel paths of John and Henry separated in retirement and death. Henry and Louise moved to Monroe, while John and Anna sold their farm to the John Loeffel family while retaining a piece of the Elmer farmland on which they built a new home. John Elmer died in 1920 and was buried in the Dutch Hollow Cemetery. Henry Stauffacher died in 1922 and was buried in Monroe's Greenwood Cemetery -- not in the Dutch Hollow Cemetery which was once a part of the original Stauffacher farm.

Immigrant Tales on the Prairie and a Surviving Prairie Remnant

John Ulrich and Verena (Marti) Elmer (mentioned on previous page) were early settlers on what was called Shook's Prairie (between Monticello and Argyle). The Elmer family decided to attend a 4th of July celebration several miles away in Dutch Hollow (where they later moved). Their mode of transportation was a sled pulled by oxen. While a sled doesn't sound like an appropriate summertime means of transport, it actually worked well. The sled could smoothly glide over the prairie grasses. When a prairie fire threatened their Shook's Prairie cabin, the Elmers plowed a strip a land and burned a portion of the prairie (backfire) so that the large prairie fire just passed by. The pioneers were learning and adapting to their new American environment.

The thin and rocky hilltop soil on the former John Elmer farm (see pages 4-5) kept it from being plowed. The last private owner of the land, Harrison Butenhoff, considered planting pine trees on this high point. But then he learned this hilltop was an increasingly rare piece of prairie which contained prairie plants (such as Indian plantain and Hill's thistle) attracting birds and butterflies. Known today as the Butenhoff Prairie this 19 acre prairie remnant was purchased for preservation in 1988 by the Green County Conservation League and is now owned and managed by The Prairie Enthusiasts. Butenhoff had also owned the Henry Stauffacher farm on Dutch Hollow Road (also see pages 4-5) and was a great-grandson of Henry Stauffacher.

From The Prairie Enthusiasts' site regarding the Butenhoff Prairie: "*The original protection of this property coincided with the publication of the book "Rudy's Hill – The High Point in the Valley and A View of Life Beyond the Horizon" by Dr. Manuel Conrad Elmer, a memoir of growing up in Dutch Hollow and which was written as Dr. Elmer approached his 100th birthday in 1986. His stories of learning the birds and bees and flowers and trees from his Swiss-born grandfather [John Ulrich Elmer)] while they tramped the land surrounding what we now call Butenhoff Prairie lends charm and literary history to the property.*" The book "Rudy's Hill" inspired and prompted Harrison Butenhoff to sell the land to the Conservation League. Note: Manuel C. Elmer's book can be found online within the website of the Monticello Area Historical Society and by clicking on this [link](#).

Geraniums vs. Prairie Plants

The 175th anniversary planners of New Glarus aimed to showcase a village filled with colorful geraniums. The geraniums are a nod to the Swiss passion for that flower. Perhaps most evocative to many are the Bernese Oberland chalet balconies with glorious flower boxes spilling over with red and pink geraniums. Many of these plants are the balcony or ivy geraniums which possess an attractive trailing habit. Similar balconies with flower boxes are found throughout neighboring alpine regions such as Bavaria and Tyrol. But it is said that the Swiss spend more than their neighbors on potted plants. Millions of geraniums are purchased each year. And many frugal Swiss reuse their plant stock year after year by over-wintering the plants in their cellars. A Zurich psychologist once theorized that geraniums were a clever way that Swiss housewives could show off in a country where boastfulness is typically scorned. The geraniums, it was said, sent a signal that the house was well maintained. Geraniums are so ubiquitous that landlords reportedly include a clause in their leases which mandate that the tenants plant and care for geraniums in the flowerboxes.

The geranium is not native to Switzerland but rather came to Europe from Africa in the 18th century. Furthermore, the plant is not a geranium at all, but is known botanically as *Pelargonium*. The name geranium was misapplied by famed Swedish botanist Linnaeus over 250 years ago and it has remained the flower's common name to this day. The true geranium is a plant referred to as cranesbill – in fact the word geranium is derived from the Greek *geranos* meaning crane. Native cranesbill can be found in New Glarus area woodlands and is pictured on the next page with Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*).

Geranium planting in Switzerland "bloomed" after WWII and has become an alpine tradition. But like many traditions there is a fear expressed by some that the geranium fashion is waning as younger generations, with so many competing interests and activities, take less interest in tending flowers. And even horticulturalists encourage the Swiss to go outside of their geranium comfort zones and try new and varied plants. This encouragement may have had some success in the village of Glarus a few years back when the Rathaus and surrounding square were bedecked with flower pots filled with ornamental grasses and the American prairie wildflower black-eyed Susan. The conventional Swiss geraniums were upstaged.



Pictured above is a recent photo of Elm's imposing *Zentnerhaus* with multiple flower boxes filled with ivy geraniums. Interestingly, historical photographs and postcards of Elm and elsewhere in Canton Glarus show little evidence of blooming flowers or flower boxes. This may not be altogether surprising for until the advent of indoor plumbing, watering flower boxes may have been an arduous task – buckets of water carried from the nearest village fountain then up several flights of stairs.

Did the New Glarus anniversary planners consider displays of prairie plants and wildflowers native to our own area rather than geraniums? The early explorers and pioneering settlers marveled at the expanses of prairie across America's Midwest – an ecosystem previously unknown to them. In July and August of 1845, immigrants from Canton Glarus, Switzerland had reached America's Midwest. These founding settlers of New Glarus walked or rode wagons across the prairielands and on to the settlement site. It was noted by diarist Mathias Durst, *"We rode the whole day over prairie vast as an ocean; for many miles we could see nothing but the sky and the meadows, no tree, shrub, house or person to be seen; the eye was lost in its immensity"*. These endless views of the horizon were a departure from Canton Glarus, where villages are situated deep within the Glarner Alps and nature's views are vertically oriented and not horizontal.



Prairie plants are being rediscovered and celebrated. Prairie remnants are being saved. Acres of prairie are being re-introduced to areas which had been plowed under by the farming settlers. The choice of planting geraniums for the 175th anniversary is another example of how New Glarus strives for Swissness while missing the essence of our own (in this case botanical) New Glarus history.

New Glarus -- The Wealthiest Village in the World?

New Glarus was the wealthiest village per capita in the world. So it was claimed by Henry M. Auby of Monroe in 1922. Auby penned a letter to the National Leader newspaper in response to their claim that dairy farms were "mortgaged and chattel mortgaged to the limit". Auby, a cow and milk tester had an insider's knowledge of Green County's dairy farms. He maintained that *"Green County is one of the richest counties per capita in the United States, barring none. This is the greatest dairy county in the state. The community of New Glarus is the richest community in the world on a per capita basis, and New Glarus is the greatest dairy section of Green County."*

Auby's boasting may have been close to the mark. For in 1924 the Joseph Schafer's "Wisconsin Domesday Book" had published data about dairy farm income in various southern Wisconsin townships. In 1905 and again in 1920 Town of New Glarus held the #1 ranking farm income and production statistics of all the Wisconsin towns studied. In 1905 New Glarus was #1 with an average of \$1,642 in farm income, \$1,589 average livestock production value and \$1,075 average dairy production – all totaling nearly \$124K in today's dollars. In 1920 New Glarus retained the #1 ranking for each of these values averaging \$5,338 in farm income, \$5,329 livestock production and \$3,901 dairy production – totaling \$189K in today's dollars. In 1920 New Glarus was followed by Primrose Township which ranked #2. Dr. Schafer made the salient point that both New Glarus and Primrose farms were carved out of the hilly terrain of Wisconsin's "Driftless Area"-- that area not flattened by the glaciers. Yet despite the challenging geography of the land itself, it was the magic combination of fresh milk converted into readily marketable cheese or (after 1910) condensed milk which contributed to New Glarus' success.

Herbert Kubly was quoted in 1970 as saying, *"dairying remains the center of New Glarus economy and the source of its prosperity."* Indeed the dairy farm was a driver of economic prosperity, bringing farm income into the village implement shops, grocery stores, car dealerships, hardware stores, the lumber yard, feed mills, gas stations, taverns and restaurants. But as we all know, the once ubiquitous family dairy farm has been on a steady decline, especially so in the Town of New Glarus. And as the dairy farms went away, so did the implement shops, mills, car dealerships, lumber yard, etc. which the farms had helped support.

Glarner Transplants in Appleton City, Missouri

Mentioned in the John Luchsinger memoir shared in the last newsletter was the name of an early New Glarus merchant and postmaster, Fridolin Egger. According to Luchsinger's recollections it was Egger who suggested Luchsinger's attendance at a political convention held in Monroe. And while at that convention, Luchsinger (apparently much to his surprise) was selected as a candidate for the State Assembly beginning in 1873 and ultimately serving four terms. It is possible that Egger was not interested in the State Assembly position for himself because he was considering new horizons beyond New Glarus. And indeed in 1874 Fridolin Egger and family left New Glarus for Appleton City, MO.

In Missouri Fridolin (known there as Fredolin) Egger became a banker and bought and sold real estate. He built a bank in Appleton City and one in nearby Lamar, MO in 1881 – a small Missouri town which would see the birth of Harry S. Truman in 1884. In 1901 Egger died a wealthy man. His \$300K estate may not sound like a substantial amount, but adjusted for inflation, that sum is equivalent to nearly \$10 million today. Upon Fridolin Egger's death, the Appleton City bank went to his son John B. Egger and the Lamar bank went to another son Thomas. John B. Egger died in 1910, putting Thomas in charge of both banks. Thomas was judged the wealthiest man in the area. It was said he "always bought but never sold a foot of ground in his life." He traded in grain and owned one of the area's largest elevators. But in 1924 business reversals caused Thomas to lose everything but his home. The Egger Bank, which was always considered beyond reproach, came crashing down. Thomas Egger died in 1929.

Appleton City, MO was also the destination of at least two other Glarner families who had previously settled in Green County. They were Adam and Anna (Baumgartner) Luchsinger and Adam's brother-in-law and sister Henry John and Salome (Luchsinger) Babler. The Luchsinger parents, Jacob and Anna Katharina (Marti) Luchsinger, were Canton Glarus immigrants who farmed in the Dutch Hollow area of the Town of Sylvester.

The Henry and Salome Babler family included three sons, Jacob L., Henry J. and Edmund A., the first two having been born in Green County and youngest son Edmund in Appleton City. Jacob and Henry became prominent Missouri businessmen and brother Edmund went on to become a noted St. Louis physician and surgeon. After Edmund's unexpected death at age 55, brothers Jacob and Henry established the Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park (today the Babler State Park) in memory of their brother. Jacob L. Babler also established a \$2.4 million endowment trust (valued at over \$35 million in today's dollars) and stipulated that the income and revenue from the trust "shall be used in defraying the expenses of management, maintenance, beautification, further development and possible enlargement." Today the park comprises nearly 2500 acres on the west side of St. Louis. A life-sized bronze statue of Dr. Edmund Babler (pictured) can be seen near the park entrance.



Charlotte Figi RIP

Charlotte Figi, a Colorado child born with a severe type of epilepsy and who went on to inspire a medicinal cannabidiol (CBD) movement, passed away April 7, 2020 at age 13. Charlotte became a symbol of the possibilities of CBD after Dr. Sanjay Gupta told her story in the CNN documentary "Weed." Charlotte's horrific seizures were controlled by using Charlotte's Web, a non-hallucinogenic marijuana strain named in her honor. She was a direct descendant of Glarner immigrant Johann Jacob Figi and his wife Barbara née Kundert who was born in the New Glarus area.

The 1964 World's Fair Wisconsin Pavilion

Wisconsin's pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair at Flushing Meadows, Queens in New York City has an interesting backstory and local connections. The Wisconsin Pavilion was designed to promote our state's scenic beauty and commercial products. Wisconsin was given a prime location on the fairgrounds just a short distance from the fair's centerpiece "Unisphere". And it was situated in good company being adjacent to both the New York City and New York State Pavilions. A highlight of the Wisconsin Pavilion's exhibit was the (then) world's largest cheese – a 34,591 pound Cheddar pictured below.



It was made by Steve's Cheese (Steve Suidzinski) of Denmark, WI. (It appears the current world's record is held by Agropur of Granby, QC with their 57,518 pound Cheddar made in 1996.)

Despite the fact that Wisconsin had been assigned a prime location our pavilion nearly didn't get built. Cost estimates for the construction and operating costs for a Wisconsin pavilion exceeded a million dollars, an amount that no one in 1963, public or private, seemed interested in supporting. Enter Clark Prudhon of Pruden Steel Buildings of Evansville, WI. His envisioned a steel building of contemporary design and with a reasonable price tag. In fact he

imagined a building composed entirely of off-the-shelf Pruden Steel building components. Prudhon's choice of an architect was John W. Steinmann of Monticello, WI. And Steinmann's creativity resulted in an impressive and striking Mid Century Modern pavilion. Also impressive, the pavilion was constructed within 90 days of when the materials were delivered to the World's Fair site. And no tax dollars were used for the pavilion's construction.

Like many of Steinmann's works, there is a suggestion of Frank Lloyd Wright's style. But some saw a Native American teepee (and there are Indian motif mosaics decorating the building), some saw a spacecraft and others thought that it resembled a re-imagined Howard Johnson's.

Architect John W. Steinmann was the son of John C. Steinmann, a Monticello architect and contractor. John W.'s son John C. Steinmann of Seattle, WA is a notable contemporary architect. John W. Steinmann was the grandson of Canton Glarus immigrant John Caspar Steinmann (see Family History Notes Spring 2016) and his wife Barbara née Legler of New Glarus. And Barbara's father was George Legler, an original 1845 immigrant. Several John W. Steinmann-designed homes and buildings can be found in the New Glarus and Monticello area including the New Glarus school building at 1402 2nd Street. One final note, Steinmann's Wisconsin Pavilion has survived the years and can be visited in Neillsville, WI where it serves as the home of WCCN radio station and also houses a gift and cheese shop.



The Dickinson-Hoesly Home in Neillsville

Another historic structure in Neillsville, WI with New Glarus connections is the Dickinson-Hoesly Home. Built in 1891 for the Dickinson family, the home is a fine example of Eastlake/Queen Anne architecture. In 1912 the home was purchased by a New Glarus couple, Marcus and Katharina (Stuessy) Hoesly. The historic home remains in the Hoesly family today. Allen Hoesly, a grandson of Marcus and Katharina, is the current resident.



Marcus Hoesly, a native of Haslen, Canton Glarus was the son of Johann Balthasar and Cleophea (Zopfi) Hoesly. And wife Katharina was born in New Glarus the daughter of Canton Glarus immigrants Melchior and Katharina (Legler) Stuessy. Marcus and Katharina married in New Glarus in 1885. Five years after this event, his mother Cleophea (then a widow) married her father widower Melchior Stuessy.

The Dickinson-Hoesly house was built by Neillsville builder and New Glarus native George W. Trogner. Trogner's parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (Beck) Trogner, farmed on land in the Town of New Glarus southwest of today's New Glarus Woods State Park. Three Trogner sons, Joseph, George and John, all participated in the Civil War. Joseph died of disease in Cairo, IL while in service. After the war John returned to Monticello and George went to Neillsville where he became the village's preeminent builder and contractor. He was also the proprietor of a planing and saw mill. A number of George Trogner's Victorian period homes can be seen on historic home tours of Neillsville.

George Trogner had a sister Mary Trogner who married Charles Rolph. The Rolphs were Monticello residents and many of their descendants lived in the vicinity. Rosemarie (Rolph) Klassy, long time New Glarus music teacher and band director, was a Trogner descendant.

New Glarus' 100th Anniversary

The centennial of New Glarus occurred on August 15, 1945. But the local anniversary was overshadowed by another event. For on August 15, 1945, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced the



surrender of Imperial Japan, bringing the WWII hostilities to an end. Japan's surrender was formally signed on September 2, 1945. Due to differences in time zones, the news of Japan's surrender spread in the United States on Tuesday, August 14. The Wednesday, August 15, 1945 *New Glarus Post* led with "War Is Over", and taking lesser prominence,

"New Glarus Has 100th Birthday". It was fitting that the *Post* ran an unemotional and spiritless "New Glarus Has 100th Birthday" given that war casualties and American sacrifices were fresh in the minds of citizens. A 100th anniversary program in was held in 1945 but the centennial celebration came in 1946.

Tragedies -- Local, Regional and National

It appears there is an unusual correlation between three separate shotgun accidents which occurred in the New Glarus area over the forty year span of 1895 to 1935. The three victims were all men named Hoesly. All sustained head injuries in which two of the men were killed instantly and one was seriously wounded. All three men were in their 50s and all three accidents took place in the month of October, and two of which occurred on the same date -- October 19.

In October of 1895, Samuel Hoesly set off to shoot some crows. His family heard a particularly loud shot and suspected an overloaded shotgun. They found Samuel dead, his head shattered. The death of this 54 year old Swiss immigrant occurred on October 7. The story of the tragedy was reported in the Monticello newspaper (this was prior to the New Glarus newspaper). The coroner ruled the shooting accidental and Hoesly was accorded a funeral in keeping with the rites of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Samuel Hoesly was the grandfather of the late Elnora (Hoesly) Ehinger and her brother Henry Hoesly.



On October 19, 1913, Jacob L. Hoesly was climbing over a fence when his shotgun discharged accidentally and, according to newspaper accounts, his head was entirely blown off of his body. He was found by his son Fred. Jacob was 58 years old, and left his widow and nine children. Jacob Hoesly was the grandfather of many local residents, of whom only two, Kermit Marty and Richard Arn, are still living. Jacob and his wife Barbara née Legler are pictured here.

On October 19, 1935, Thomas A. Hoesly, a New Glarus native and Monroe grocer, suffered three shotgun wounds to his head – the pellets entering his brain causing hemorrhaging. Thomas, age 58, survived his wounds and went on to live until 1954. Thomas is pictured above in a four generation photo with his father Jacob K. Hoesly, his son Clarence E. and grandson Sheldon A. Hoesly.



immigrant, Jacob L. Hoesly was the son of immigrant Andreas Hoesly, and Thomas A. Hoesly was the grandson of immigrant Peter Hoesly. The three Hoesly victims were only distantly related.

If you were watching “Jeopardy” a year ago on July 3, 2019, you may have heard contestant Charlie Jorgenson declare his intent to write a musical. He explained that his musical is to be written about Emil Fricker, the dairy baron (and murderer) of Illinois. Host Alex Trebek raised his eyebrows at this unusual topic and nothing more was shared. The following will expand on the Fricker story.

It was a story of lust, jealousy and murder and the players were all of Swiss and/or German stock in the Highland, IL area. At the center of the tale was Minnie Schlicht, a domestic servant and dairy maid employed by the prosperous Swiss-American dairy farmer Emil Fricker. Fricker frequently took liberties with Minnie, who in 1920 decided to get out of this situation by marrying Swiss-American Robert Kehrli. Fricker, intensely jealous over Minnie's marriage, shot and killed Kehrli but apparently covered his tracks and Kehrli's death was ruled a suicide. A few years later the young widow Minnie Kehrli married German-American John Nungesser, and again this triggered Fricker. Fricker enlisted the help of two Swiss-Americans, his son-in-law Eldo Wernli and Jacob Landert, to carry out Nungesser's murder. But this time the crime was discovered. Wernli and Landert were given life sentences for their roles and Fricker was sentenced to death. Despite an appeal to the Illinois Governor for a commutation of the death sentence to one of life imprisonment, Emil Fricker was hanged on April 16, 1926.

Emil Fricker's grandparents, Abraham and Elizabeth (Senn) Fricker, were immigrants from Switzerland. Abraham was from Veltheim, Canton Aargau. New Glarus had at least one immigrant named Fricker. That was Rudolf Fricker, also a Canton Aargau immigrant, who had married Barbara Wild. Emil Fricker's accomplice, Eldo Wernli, was a cousin of Harlan Wernle, a Highland native and one-time plant manager of the New Glarus Pet Milk plant.

Here is a [link](#) to a 1930s-era radio program dramatizing the Fricker story. And in case you may be wondering, there is no update to report on the status of Charlie Jorgenson's musical.

The name J. Alexander Kueng (pronounced King) may not be immediately recognized. He is the youngest of three police officers charged with aiding and abetting in the second-degree murder/manslaughter of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. Like the other officers, Kueng was fired, arrested, charged and jailed. He has since been released after posting a \$750K bail. Kueng was a rookie on only his third working shift when Floyd was murdered. The press sought out information on the officers involved and Kueng's background proved somewhat elusive. The family name Kueng was

reported at one point to be of Chinese or Korean origin. Then it was said that the name Kueng could possibly indicate a Swiss background. His lawyer confirmed that Kueng is a black man. After sifting through the bits and pieces of news reports as well as some family history research, it appears that Kueng is the adopted son of a single white mother, Joni Kueng. And Joni's paternal ancestry is Swiss. Her father Dennis Kueng was the son of Swiss-born Gebhard (sometimes spelled Gebhardt) Kueng. And Gebhard was the son of immigrants Gebhard Sr. and Frieda (Mettler) Kueng.

In the nineteen teens, Gebhard Kueng Sr. was a cheese maker at the Clover Hill Cheese Factory east of Monticello, WI. This factory was operated by John Meier (the great-grandfather of cheese maker Silvan Blum). John Meier was married to Anna Mettler the sister of Frieda Kueng. It appears Gebhard immigrated in 1910 in advance of his wife Frieda, sons Gebhard Jr. and John, and mother-in-law Anna Mettler, who all arrived in 1915 from Herisau, Canton Appenzell Ausserrhoden. While in Green County, Gebhard Sr. was naturalized and also registered in the WWI draft in 1918 (see document above).

The name Kueng (originally Küng and sometimes König) is a common Swiss surname and is found in Canton Glarus especially around the villages of Obstalden and Mühlehorn.

Yaeger Family

A few years back newsletter reader Barbara Kuehni shared an unidentified photograph with me and wondered if I knew the identity of these people. I looked at the photo and was unable to make any identification. But I saved the photo and happened to look at it again a couple of weeks ago. This time I thought I saw a resemblance between the mother in this photo to a woman I had observed in another photo. And that woman in the second photo was identified as Katharina Yaeger. Was this the Anton and Katharina (Steiner) Yaeger family?

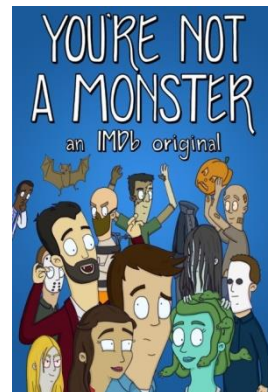
My first step was to determine the number of children in the Yaeger family. And the Yaegers had 3 sons and 5 daughters which matched the photo. The respective ages of these 8 children also appeared to fit. Another newsletter reader, Judy (Yaeger) Killian, confirmed that this was indeed the family of her grandparents. Mystery solved and “cold case” closed.



Josef Anton Jaeger/Yaeger and his wife Anna Katharina née Steiner were both immigrants from Canton Schwyz, Switzerland. They married in 1891 and immigrated the following year along with her father Karl and her Steiner siblings. The Yaeger children were from top left: Anton (known as Tony; Judy Killian’s father), Katharina (Mrs. Alfred J. Duerst), Anna (Mrs. John E. Schneider); middle row: Wilma (Mrs. Clarence Roth), Fred, and Magdalena/Lena (Mrs. Ivan Duerst); at bottom: Palma (Mrs. Ervin Fjelstad/Mrs. William McFadden) and Walter Yaeger.

Consider Another Lily

Lily Stuart Streiff is an animator who has been doodling on paper since being a child. Her lifelong creation of characters and stories led to a career in animation. Here is a [link](#) to some imaginative animation shorts entitled “You’re Not a Monster” in which Lily played key roles and wore many hats in their development – Producer, Animation Director, Character Designer and Story Board Artist. Lily is the daughter of the late New Glarus native Stuart Streiff and the granddaughter of the late Dennis and Marion (Frederickson) Streiff. Pictured is Lily with actor and collaborator Kelsey Grammer.



Trivia Answers from the Spring Newsletter – What color is green cheese? What place was New Ulm, MN named for?

Green cheese is an unripened or fresh cheese which is creamy white in color. The adjective green is used to connote immature or undeveloped as in “a young person who is very immature and very green.” Cream cheese and Mexican *queso fresco* (fresh cheese) and *queso blanco* (white cheese) are examples of green cheeses.

You might imagine that New Ulm, MN was named for “old” Ulm in Germany. But it was actually named for Neu-Ulm which lies directly across the Danube River from the city of Ulm. The Danube River at this location shared border of the German states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg with Neu-Ulm located in Bavaria and Ulm in Baden-Württemberg. Congratulations to those readers who successfully solved the riddles.