

# NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3/Issue 4/July 2020

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Klassy, President

Jim Hoesly, Vice-President

Ann Marie Ott, Treasurer

Erica Loeffelholtz, Secretary

John Colstad

Mary Dibble

John Freitag

David Hustad

John Lienhardt

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board held two meetings in the month of June. One meeting focused on discussing the pros and cons of opening the museum for the 2020 season and the second, regular monthly meeting focused on discussing financial matters.

At the meeting related to operating the museum during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board reviewed procedures for managing the entrance building and admission transactions drafted by Board member Ott and a list of references related to operational guidelines for businesses presented by Board member Dibble. While the Board acknowledged we had identified procedures that made opening possible, the Board made a decision to keep the museum closed for the season. Factors that weighed heavily in making this decision included: the challenges of having enough volunteers/paid cleaning staff in order to adhere to guidance for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces on a daily basis, our inability to predict visitor compliance with requests for wearing masks and physical distancing, and perhaps most importantly, the potential risk of virus exposure to volunteers, guides and cashiers who are primarily 60 years of age and older. While Green County has experienced a fairly low number of cases of COVID-19 to date, visitors potentially coming from other parts of WI and/or northern Illinois, where infection rates are higher, caused concern.

At the second meeting we reviewed an updated financial forecast from Treasurer Ott that reflected the decision to keep the museum closed. As you may have recognized from financial reports in previous years, the Historical Society is heavily dependent on admission fees paid by visitors to operate the museum. Over the past six years we have averaged \$38,800 in admission fees and another \$4000 in profits from gift shop sales annually. At present, given the loss of income from operating the museum, we are facing a loss of \$20,000. A first step in addressing the deficit is to apply for a Wisconsin CARES Act grant for the humanities. This grant, designed to support non-profit organizations such as ours, could provide up to \$7500 to meet general operating expenses such as salaries, utilities, telephone costs and supplies. The Board asked members of the Financial Committee,

President Klassy, Treasurer Ott, and Board member Lienhardt, to explore additional options for fund-raising and expense reduction, in order to address the projected deficit and bring recommendations to the full Board for review and decision-making at the July meeting. We welcome suggestions from the membership to address our financial issues. Please call and leave a message at 608-527-2317; Treasurer Ott will return a call. You may also submit suggestions in writing to: [admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org](mailto:admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org)

Hosta Princess Wu in museum garden below.



## RECENT DONATIONS & WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Member D.L “Lee” Camarigg, a resident of Florida and Germany, answered the call for contributions following last month’s newsletter. Lee has family connections to the Village of Elm, Canton Glarus and has routinely enjoyed 4<sup>th</sup> of July visits to visit family in Iowa which have included a trek to the Swiss Historical Village. Lee had to postpone his trip to New Glarus this year due to concerns related to COVID-19. He had planned to do a presentation for Historical Society members and the community about his travels to Elm as part of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration activities. Now instead, we’ll look forward to seeing excerpts in upcoming newsletters and Lee, in person, in 2021. In the meantime, Lee has made the first payment on a lifetime membership as a gift to a cousin who lives in New Jersey. He has been hoping to bring his cousin to visit New Glarus and experience her Swiss roots; the membership will offer her an alternative connection until travel is possible. Thank you, Lee for your generosity! Consider purchasing a membership for one of your family members or friends as a means to support the Historical Society in this challenging year.

A financial gift in memory of Ruth Klassy, who passed away in 2010, was made by the Kate Brockman family. When Kate contacted us, she expressed a desire for the Historical Society to use the donation to pay employees who were likely negatively impacted by the museum closure. None of our adult cashiers and guides are dependent on the income from working at the museum, but we know our student staff do appreciate the opportunity to work in order to save or pay for college expenses. Since we are not opening the museum, the Board decided to accept the Brockman family donation and use the funds to employ the student guides, who had planned to return this summer, to work on a project to take photographs of displays in all of the buildings and then, update and verify the inventory of artifacts for insurance purposes. This project will require more hours of time than this initial donation will allow, so if you are inclined to support this effort, please contact us to make a donation.

If you don’t feel you have the financial means to support the Historical Society and museum at this time, we do welcome volunteers to participate in a variety of activities at the museum. For example, Green County Master Gardener Mary Nelson grew native prairie plants from seed and recently donated them to us to plant in our prairie plot. To purchase the same plants, we would have spent nearly \$100. In the archives, we have photographs to sort and label, newspaper clippings to organize by topic, articles to write for this newsletter, scrapbooks to inventory and a host of other ways to engage in local history. Contact us via telephone or email and we’ll be happy to work with you to participate in a task of interest to you. When individuals get together to work on these types of tasks, we are only working when we feel healthy, are practicing physical distancing inside and outside the buildings, as well as wearing masks as a courtesy to one another.

### IT’S BERRY TIME



The advertisement at the left appeared in the July 2, 1941, edition of the New Glarus Post. Can you picture the large brass canister full of cherries sitting on your kitchen table? And perhaps you remember turning the crank on the old-fashioned, metal cherry pitter. How many cranks did it take to process a pail of freshly picked cherries from your own back yard? Here’s a cherry recipe from the “Past and Present Recipes” Book published and sold at the Swiss Historical Village museum. Please contact us if you would like to purchase one for yourself or as a gift. We are able to mail the cookbook to recipients throughout the United States for a nominal fee.

*Kriesi Bregel* – In Memory of Mrs. Clayton (Marion) Streiff

1 lb. fresh cherries (or one 14 oz. can sweetened cherry sauce); 1 T butter, 1 T flour, a little cinnamon and 1 ½ C sugar (if cherries are fresh). Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the flour and cook until lightly browned. Add cherries and juice; cook until thickened to the consistency of a light sauce. Add cinnamon while cooking. If using wild cherries, add sugar to your taste. This is good served with hot meat and potatoes. Enjoy!

## SCHÜTZENFEST

The month of July brings loud bangs and pops from fireworks to celebrate fourth of July, but in Switzerland and our own community, the month has also included the similar sounds of Schützenfest! According to Wikipedia, the first organized shooting festival in Switzerland was held in 1824, though the competitions have likely been held for many centuries before and may have had competitors using crossbows instead of rifles in those times.

Silver coins or “talers” were often presented as awards beginning in 1842, with the second coin in the series minted for the Canton Glarus competition in 1847. The coins were made of silver and could initially be used as legal tender. This image of the 1847 Glarus taler was found on a Singapore based website called *Emporium Antiquities* that offers coins to collectors around the world. Additional coins were struck from white metal or zinc and are reported to have been placed in the center of the shooting target. If hit, the shooter could receive a larger prize.



A Schütze or marksman was among the first immigrants that founded New Glarus. Fridolin Legler, Sr.’s occupation was noted as “marksman.” Schütze may also be interpreted by some as “protector.” Historical notes suggest that a local “Schützenverein” or shooting club may have also served as a volunteer group to protect a community from invaders.



Shooting festivals were held for many years in New Glarus, beginning as early as the 1880s, with competition between local residents and marksmen from Monroe and Highland, IL (where PET milk was founded).

The “Shooting Park,” owned now by the Wilhelm Tell Guild and the location for the annual Volkfest in New Glarus was built to support the shooting competitions in the early years.

After an absence of competitions, three members of the Young Swiss Club of Chicago, Fred Spitaler, Peter Herdeg and Hans Schmutz, worked with local residents to host a modern day Schützenfest beginning in 1969. A New Glarus Post

Messenger article by Sue Moen includes the Millard Tschudy photo below picturing some of the members of the original local group. Jack Roberts, Brad Beal, Chuck Phillipson, Hans Anderegg, and Paul Klassy are noted as active organizers and promoters of Schützenfest and also winners of the Robie Schneider Cup, one of several awards for the shooters in each of three categories of shooting: standing, kneeling and prone. The Swiss Consul provided a trophy for the prone shooting category, seen in the 1969 photo and pictured below. It is among the artifacts held by our museum. Each year the best overall marksman was named the Schützenkoenig or Shooting King and was presented with a large Swiss Bell. Gary Kuebli, pictured at lower right below, was named Schützenkoenig in 1972.

Although this festival was discontinued quite a number of years ago, the history and memories of friendly competition and camaraderie will not be forgotten.



## FOURTH OF JULY -1912

Remember when a parade was part of nearly every community 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration? This photo from the Tschudy Collection which appeared in an area newspaper depicts the Fourth of July celebration in 1912. Millard Tschudy wrote: “. . .horseless carriages decked in the stars and stripes, plus red, white and blue bunting, proceed south on New Glarus’s North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The parade marshal at the right prudently stays his distance.”



### Contact Us

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**We thank the Bank of New Glarus for their support in publishing the New Glarus Historical Society newsletter.**



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