

Family History Notes

Summer 2021

Multi-Generational Blumer and Babler Family Photos

New Glarus native Damion Babler is a family historian who has assembled an admirable collection of family photos. He has posted many of these on the Find a Grave website and has shared several others with me. With Damion's permission I am including two photos in this newsletter of his Blumer and Babler ancestors which he identified and which I found of interest.

The first is a photograph of immigrants Johannes and Maria (Stuessy) Blumer who were mentioned in the Spring 2021 newsletter. The Blumers farmed in the Monticello area and later lived in Monroe.



Pictured in this four generation photo are Johannes (John) Blumer and wife Maria née Stuessi, seated left and center. Seated right is their daughter Maria (Mrs. John Legler), standing left is their granddaughter Elizabeth (Mrs. Albert Babler) and the young boy is Elizabeth's son Forrest Babler. This photo dates to the late 1890s.

Note: Another grandson of Maria (Blumer) Legler was the late Major Matthew Legler, a Monroe native and a 1939 graduate of the Military Academy at West Point. Legler was seriously wounded while leading his troops in WWII and received the Army's Silver Star award for gallantry in action.

The second photo is also a multi-generational photograph – in this case five generations. This circa 1897 photograph was mentioned in one of the earliest editions of the New Glarus newspaper. Seated left is Regula (Schindler) Voegeli and seated at right is her daughter Anna Barbara (Voegeli) Babler. These two women are Damion Babler's direct ancestors. Standing right is Regula (Babler) Hefty and standing at left is Anna Barbara (Hefty) Werndli with her baby Wilma (later Mrs. Nic Klassy).



Regula Voegeli became a widow at age 37 when her husband Johannes Voegeli died in the 1854 cholera epidemic in New Glarus. Four days after Johannes died Regula lost their 16 year old daughter Ursula, also a cholera victim. The following year, 1855, Regula married a widower, Christof Babler. And the following year, 1856, Christof Babler's son Albrecht married Regula's daughter Anna Barbara Voegeli – step-brother married step-sister. Green County's first cheese factory, built by Nic Gerber in 1868, was located on the Albrecht and Regula Babler farm.

Death claimed the eldest three immigrants in these photographs in a span of only two months. Johannes Blumer died in December of 1900 and his wife Maria died the following month in January of 1901. And Regula (Schindler) Voegeli Babler also died in January of 1901.

Jenny Families Revisted

In the very first issue of *Family History Notes*, going back to the spring of 2005, one of the inaugural articles mentioned Peter Jenny, a California architect. Peter was researching his Jenny and Trümpi ancestry. The newsletter article was entitled “Which Peter Jenny” because New Glarus, in its first



decade, had three men named Peter Jenny. These three were Peter Jenny-Elmer, Peter Jenny-Freuler and Peter Jenny-Heitz all immigrants from Sool, Canton Glarus. But having three Peter Jennys was short-lived. Peter Jenny-Freuler passed away in 1858 and his only son John moved to the Monticello area. Peter Jenny-Heitz and family moved to the Monroe area in the 1860s. Peter Jenny-Elmer remained in New Glarus but had no sons.

Ennenda, Canton Glarus natives Melchior Jenni (originally Jenny) and Fridolin Jenny settled in the New Glarus area. Melchior (Mike) Jenni married Canton Graubunden immigrant Ida Thoeni and they farmed in the Verona area. Fridolin Jenny married another Canton Glarus immigrant Elsbeth Zimmermann. The

Fridolin Jennys had five daughters, including Mrs. Harvey (Sally) Ott of New Glarus but no sons who survived to adulthood. Thus the Jenny surname had been an infrequent Glarner surname in New Glarus over the years. And what of Peter Jenny the architect? He still resides in California and remains a longtime newsletter subscriber.

Pictured above are Peter Jenny and his wife Amalia née Heitz. Peter was an early New Glarus school teacher and who became a Monroe area farmer. Amalia’s family members were the occupants of the historic Kundert-Heitz log cabin reconstructed at the Swiss Historical Village in New Glarus. Pictured right is the Jenny family coat of arms from the *Wappenbuch des Kantons Glarus*. You will note that Jenny is spelled Ienny (with an “I”). For an explanation on this spelling read the following.



Sampler with Missing J

A recent donation to the New Glarus Historical Society was a 19th century sampler received from the family of Rudy and Rosie (Baertschi) Schweizer. Samplers were projects that young girls would employ to learn the alphabet, numbers and various embroidery stitches. The sampler pictured at right



(copied from the internet) and the sampler donated by the Schweizers both share a curious feature. There is no “J” in the alphabet portion. Was this a mistake made by that young person stitching the sampler? Was this an omission by the sampler manufacturer? No, it is because the “J” evolved from the letter “I” in the 18th and 19th centuries. The letter “I” was used for both “I” and “J” until a swoop was added to the “I” and the “J” was born.

Another example of a missing “J” is found in Washington, DC. In DC, many east-west streets are lettered streets such as I Street and K Street. (K Street is particularly well-known for its lobbyists and advocacy groups.) But when Pierre L’Enfant laid out the DC streets in 1792, it was still a time when the “J” was evolving from the “I”. He decided not to use a “J” to avoid confusion. Thomas Jefferson spelled his surname with a “J” although he was known to use “TI” as his initials when making notations. And this evolution of the “J” explains the surname Jenny printed as Ienny as seen above. And it helps explain why a branch of the Swiss Jaggi family in Illinois has retained the spelling of Iaggi.

Albert Kaech and his von Weissenfluh Ancestors

A recent question posted on a New Glarus-oriented Facebook page asked if anyone remembered Albert



Kaech. One response was, yes and he “stuttered [sic]”. Albert (pictured left with his mother Katharina) was a humble man who worked as a mechanic at such places as Pet Milk, Erb Implement and Disch Hardware. Albert enjoyed hunting and fishing with his buddies in Northern Wisconsin. He was known for riding his bicycle around town (license plate #1) and at age 65 was among the first cyclists to ride on the Sugar River Trail. Toward the end of his life, Albert Kaech helped maintain both the Sugar River Trail and its bicycles. And I believe he did stutter. But to reduce Albert down to a speech impediment ignores an honorable albeit unassuming life. And it misses an interesting family history.

Both of Albert’s parents, Albert Kaech Sr. and his wife Katharina von Weissenfluh, were immigrants from Canton Bern, Switzerland. Albert Sr. was born in Gampelen on the flat plain of the Aare River on the border with Canton Neuchatel. And Katharina was born high in the Berner Oberland near the village of Gadmen, specifically *Mühlestalden bei Gadmen*, and near the source of the Aare. Albert Sr. and Katharina met and married in America. They were cheese makers in the Blanchardville area then Postville areas. The Kaechs moved to New Glarus when Albert Sr. began employment at the Pet Milk factory.

Katharina’s father and grandfather, Andreas and Johannes von Weissenfluh, held a special place in the emerging sport of Swiss mountaineering in the mid-nineteenth century. The von Weissenfluh men were well known and respected mountain climbers and served as guides on many historic ascents. Indeed John Ball commented in his in “The Alpine Guide” “the family of von Weissenfluh was long considered the only competent guides for this region.” In 1841 Johannes von Weissenfluh was among the first group to scale the 11,493 foot Sustenhorn. In 1842 von Weissenfluh accompanied Swiss mountaineer Gottlieb Samuel Studer in the fourth ascent of the famed Jungfrau. In 1864 Johannes’ son Andreas von Weissenfluh was among the first to reach the summit of the Dammastock, Canton Uri’s highest peak at just under 12,000 feet. That same year he was the first to climb the nearby Diechterhorn. These mountain peaks are all significant landmarks of the central Swiss Alps.

In August of 1850 Johannes von Weissenfluh and a companion embarked on a journey through the Swiss and Italian Alps which would involve traversing eight mountain passes. And von Weissenfluh kept a chronicle of that journey which was later published. The alpine trip would take them to Zermatt, Canton Valais to view the iconic yet unconquered Matterhorn and the nearby Dufourspitze, Switzerland’s highest peak. Toward the end of the trip von Weissenfluh and his companion crossed into Canton Glarus by way of the Panixer Pass.

Johannes Von Weissenfluh left his home near Gadmen on Sunday August 11, 1850 and met up with his traveling partner in the city of Bern. The coming days took them up the Kander Valley and over the Gemmi Pass to arrive in the Rhone River valley near Visp, Canton Valais. From there they climbed the valley to Zermatt. Days of rain obscured their view of the Matterhorn, but on Sunday, August 18, von Weissenfluh noted, “*The weather was fine now. The Matterhorn, the mighty giant, was the first object that caught my eye and which we saw for the first time in full form. Its top tip looks like a wild giraffe or eagle's bill and [which] proudly looks down on its neighbors. Only the wild Monte Rosa [the Monte Rosa massif is Europe’s second highest peak, part of which is the Dufourspitze, Switzerland’s highest peak] seems to instill a little respect for her by being several feet higher, but the latter, since the former is inaccessible, may rightly keep its pride.*”

Their journey continued from Zermatt by crossing the mountain pass into the Italian village of Macugnaga, and from there zigzagging between Italy and Switzerland getting as far south as Lugano in the Swiss Canton Ticino. Von Weissenfluh and his companion went north through Bellinzona and then up the Blenio Valley toward the Lukmanier Pass. Here von Weissenfluh noted the valley's beauty writing of the magnificent waterfalls, vineyards, mountain meadows and chestnut forests. He described this valley as "*an earthly paradise*".

They crossed the Lukmanier Pass and entered the headwaters of the *Vorder* Rhine River and overnighted in Panix, Canton Graubunden. And the next day, after a breakfast of coffee and goat cheese, the journey continued over the Panixer Pass and into Canton Glarus. Climbing down the pass and toward the village of Elm, von Weissenfluh noted, "*Rock sheets emerge from the snow now and then. Magnificent Alps, arguably the most beautiful anywhere I've ever seen, big cows which drew everyone's attention. Beautiful houses made of wood, splendid maple forests [and] friendly people.*" They had their lunch in Elm before continuing down the valley (4 hours on what he described as a bad road) to the village of Glarus. Von Weissenfluh noted the slate mines along the way mentioning the slate tablets which were manufactured from the Glarner slate. And in Glarus he noted the famed Glarner colorful cotton fabrics which they observed draped from the drying towers (*Hänggitürme*).

The journey continued from Canton Glarus into Canton Schwyz via the Klöntal and its magnificent *Klöntalersee*, over the Prigel Pass into Schwyz's Muotathal. Lake Lucerne (*Vierwaldstättersee*) led them through the villages of Beckenried and Kerns in Cantons Nidwalden and Obwalden. And they climbed their final pass, the Brünig Pass, back into Canton Bern. At or near Brienz, von Weissenfluh recalled, "*we gave each other a brotherly hug and [my travel partner] sailed off on the steamer to Bern, and I returned to my peaceful mountains.*"

In 1864 the von Weissenfluhs were an influential part of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) efforts to build the SAC's second mountain hut, the *Trifthütte* above Gadmen. (The first SAC hut, the *Grünhornhütte*, had been built in Canton Glarus in 1863.) The *Trifthütte* has been rebuilt over the years and in January of 2021 suffered extensive damage due to an avalanche.

Back to Albert Kaech of New Glarus, the descendant of the von Weissenfluhs – one obituary noted, "Albert passed away at home in July of 1977. He will always be remembered for his easy laugh and sense of humor." And that is a good way to remember Albert.

A Granite Shower

A contemporary google search of the term "granite shower" will yield photos of luxurious bathroom enclosures lined with granite. But 100 years ago, this term had a different meaning. In the first decades of the 20th century a granite shower was a pre-nuptial party featuring the speckled and enameled kitchenware, known as graniteware, which was presented to the bride-to-be. From the *Argyle Atlas* of April 26, 1912, "*The young ladies [of Argyle] gave Miss Pearl Elmer a granite shower last Saturday evening.*" And indeed on Wednesday, April 24, Miss Pearl Elmer married H. T. Saether of Blanchardville in the Argyle Methodist Church. By the way, the Saethers were my maternal grandparents.



Trivia Answer (from Spring 2021 issue):

Who is that gent featured on the obverse of the Swiss 5 franc coin? Coin dealers will often proclaim that this image is the Swiss folk hero Wilhelm Tell. But the correct answer is that the image is a depiction of the noble alpine herdsman (*Alphirte*). Thanks to those readers who responded and congratulations to those who knew this piece of Swiss trivia.

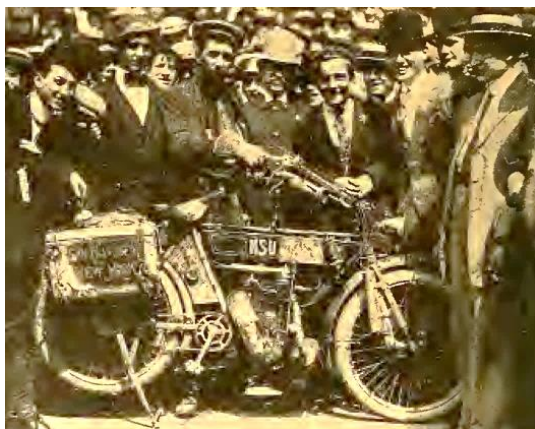
Go West Young Man

“Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country” is a well-known historical quotation attributed to Horace Greeley. The quote is said to date from Greeley’s *New-York Daily Tribune* of July 13, 1865. The Civil War had ended in April of that same year. And just a few years previous, in 1862, the U. S. Congress had enacted the Homestead Act. This legislation “provided that any adult citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. government could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land.” Claimants were required to improve the plot by building a dwelling and cultivating the land. After five years of residency on that land, title was given to the homesteader. After the Civil War it was additionally provided that one’s term of service in the U. S. Army, Navy or Marine Corps could be applied toward the five year residency requirement. Thus, a three year stint in the Army would lessen the residency requirement to two years.

Thousands of Civil War veterans took advantage of this offer and ventured west. South Dakota was the destination of many including a number of New Glarus vets who went to farm in the area around Beresford. Beresford straddled the border between the appropriately named Lincoln and Union Counties. These veterans and their families included Gabriel Voegeli, Peter Rudolf Tschudy, Mathias Durst, Fridolin Kundert and Rudolf Duebendorfer. New Glarus miller Mathias Schmid and painter Thomas Voegeli (brother of aforementioned Gabriel) also relocated to this area although it doesn’t appear that they served in the war. Other veterans who moved west at this time included Fridolin Klasse to Renwick, IA, George Klassy and Fridolin Blum to South Dakota, Johannes Schuler and Fridolin Luchsinger to Nebraska, the Bloom/Blum brothers Caspar, Jacob, and Fred to Nobles County, Minnesota and Joachim Marty and Albrecht Engler to Grasshopper Falls (now Valley Falls), KS. These pioneers endured many hardships -- hot and dry summers, tornados, prairie fires, and crop destroying locusts and grasshoppers. In winter they endured blizzards and sub-zero temperatures. Veteran Joachim Marty was killed in Kansas after being struck by lightning. The Jacob Blums left Nobles County, MN for Oregon after grasshoppers devastated their crops. And those veterans residing in South Dakota survived the blizzards of 1880 made famous by author Laura Ingalls Wilder in her novel “The Long Winter”.

Go East Young Man

In 1910, 26 year old William Peter Streiff set off to break the transcontinental record (coast to coast) on his 4 horsepower 2-speed NSU motorcycle (German-made from Neckarsulm near Stuttgart). Leaving his home in San Francisco, he traveled east to New York City arriving in 28 days, 3 hours and 30 minutes. Streiff succeeded in breaking knocking more than 3.5 days off of the existing record. His over



3000 mile adventure was fraught with challenges such as impassible roads in the west, continual rear tire punctures not to mention difficulty finding oil and gasoline. He once had to pay 50 cents a gallon for scarce gasoline -- about \$14 a gallon in today’s dollars. Between Reno, NV and Cheyenne, WY Streiff used a railroad bed as his path east. Upon arriving in New York, Streiff was cheered by thousands of New Yorkers and presented a letter from Mayor McCarthy of San Francisco to New York’s Mayor Gaynor.

William Streiff was the son of Schwanden, Canton Glarus immigrant and San Francisco saloon keeper Peter Streiff.

William’s grandfather was Niklaus Streiff of Thon near Schwanden. This Niklaus Streiff was a first cousin of both Monroe Lawyer John Luchsinger and Fridolin Kundert, one of the New Glarus Civil War veterans mentioned above who resettled in South Dakota.

Celebrating and Identifying our Cheese Factory Past

The photo shown here was featured in the January 5 or 6, 2021 *Monroe Evening Times* in their recurring “Celebrating our Past” feature. The accompanying caption read, “*Raw milk flowing directly into a Swiss cheese kettle in the 1920’s at an unidentified cheese factory. The receiving tank is similar to one on display in the Imobersteg cheese factory at the National Historic Cheesemaking Center Museum in Monroe.*” (Note: A similar receiving tank has been on display at the Swiss Historical Village’s cheese factory in New Glarus for 60 years.)



I had seen this photo somewhere before but it took about 4 months to locate the original source. This photo was originally published in the June, 1947 *National Geographic* article “Deep in the Heart of Swissconsin”. The *Geographic* had devoted a story to New Glarus including numerous color and black-and-white photographs. And the cheese maker, Fred Muehleemann, was identified, but not the cheese factory.

Muehleemann, an immigrant from Niederhünigen, Canton Bern, was the cheese maker at the Rock Hill factory in the Town of Primrose, Dane County. The Swiss immigrant cheese maker received milk from Norwegian-American farmers in Primrose. Sadly, Muehleemann was found dead of a heart attack on Saturday morning, May 17, 1947. His obituary mentioned that his photograph was featured in the June, 1947 *National Geographic*, so it appears that he had known of the *Geographic* issue, and hopefully he had a chance to see the publication. Fred Muehleemann and his wife Marie née Bohren are buried in the Swiss Reformed Cemetery in New Glarus.

Paul Luchsinger: Steer Wrestler and Rodeo Cowboy

An uncommon profession for an American with Glarner roots is that of steer wrestler and rodeo cowboy. But that is what Paul Luchsinger (1955-2015) achieved. In high school, Paul was a champion New Mexico wrestler and all-state football players. He became interested in rodeo sports in college and excelled at steer wrestling (also known as bulldogging). At the height of his career, Paul participated five times in the National Finals Rodeo.

In 1981 Paul married Oklahoman Susie McEntire whose father and brother were champion rodeo steer ropers. Susie was and is a Christian country singer and the sister of country superstar Reba McEntire. But Paul and Susie’s marriage was a stormy one attributed to Paul’s domestic abuse. Their book, “A Tender Road Home”, documented a volatile marriage and reconciliation. But unfortunately, after many years of work and prayer, the marriage of Paul and Susie (pictured) ended in divorce. Paul died of cancer in 2015 at the age of 59.



Today the three Luchsinger’s three children, Sam, Lucchese and E. P., along with their mother Susie, manage the 4000 acre Hard Wood hunting lodge and ranch in southeastern Oklahoma. E. P. Luchsinger is the head guide offering various hunting options. For instance, their “snort and gobble” hunting package combines both wild hog and turkey hunting.

Paul Luchsinger’s immigrant ancestors had lived in the Glarner settlement of Renwick, IA. But subsequent generations took the Luchsingers from Iowa to North Dakota, Montana, New Mexico and Oklahoma. And while Paul Luchsinger had inherited his Glarner surname, after many generations of Luchsinger men marrying non-Glarner wives, it is estimated that Paul possessed only 1/16 Glarner blood (assuming in all likelihood) that his various maternal lines were non-Glarner.

Localities within the 3 Villages (formerly 29 villages) of Canton Glarus (updated from Spring 2007

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In order to trace family history in Canton Glarus, the village of origin (*Bürgerort* or *Heimatort*) is required. Historically, there were 29 villages in the Canton. Some years ago a list was prepared by U. Petra Suess documenting various historical localities associated with these 29 villages. For example, a family researcher may find a reference to the Streiff family from Thon, a Freitag family from Steinibach, or a Hefti family of Dornhaus. Using the list below, one finds Thon associated with the village of Schwanden, Steinibach associated with Elm, and Dornhaus associated with Diesbach.

In 2006, 4 of the 29 Canton Glarus villages merged into neighboring villages -- Leuggelbach and Nidfurn joined Haslen, and Diesbach and Hätzingen joined Luchsingen. Ten years ago, on January 1, 2021, the Canton's remaining 25 small villages consolidated into just 3 new municipalities – Glarus Süd, Glarus and Glarus Nord. This consolidation formed larger municipalities thus solving the small town challenges of less than optimal operational and cost efficiencies and limited pools of willing citizens to volunteer for the necessary village operations. And so the previous list of 29 municipalities has been reorganized into the three new villages shown with the three new village flags.

Glarus Süd

Braunwald: Braunwald, Kleiner Gumen, Hösliberg, Rubschen

Diesbach: Diesbach, Diesbach-Betschwanden, Dornhaus, Ohrenplatte

Elm: Aeschen, Egg, Elm, Meissenboden, Müsli, Obmoos, Sandbühl, Schwändi, Schwendi, Steinibach, Sulzbach, Töniberg, Unteral, Vogelsang, Wald

Engi: Engi, Engi Hinterdorf, Engi Vorderdorf, Hinterdorf, Höfliegg, Kummerberg, Vorderdorf

Betschwanden: Betschwanden, Obmatt

Haslen: Bühl, Haslen, Leu, Mühlebachli, Sand, Zusingen

Hätzingen: Hätzingen

Leuggelbach: Leuggelbach

Linthal: Auen, Bergli, Ennetlinth, Frittern, Fruttberge, Linthal, Nussbühl, Obbord, Oberberg, Oberreiti, Reitimatt, Stachelberg, Tierfehd

Luchsingen: Adlenbach, Luchsingen, Luchsingen-Hätzingen

Matt: Brummbach, Matt, Stalden, Weissenberge, Wissenbergen

Mitlödi: Ennetlinth, Mitlödi, Schlatt

Nidfurn: Nidfurn, Nidfurn-Haslen

Rüti: Rüti, Sätliboden

Schwanden: Au, Kies, Mettmen, Schwanden, Thon

Schwändi bei Schwanden: Lassingen, Niederrüti, Schwändi bei Schwanden

Sool: Sool, Soolstrasse, Wart



Glarus Nord

Bilten: Bilten, Oberbilten, Unterbilten, Rüti, Ussbühl, Elmen

Filzbach: Brittenberg, Filzbach, Habergschwänd, Vordemwald

Mollis: Beglingen, Biäsche, Fronalp, Kengel, Mollis, Mullern

Mühlehorn: Mühlehorn, Tiefenwinkel, Vortobel

Näfels: Aeschen, Näfels, Näfels-Mollis, Obersee

Niederurnen: Niederurnen, Nieder- & Oberurnen, Ziegelbrücke

Oberurnen: Elmenröfithal, Näfels Berg, Oberurnen, Riet, Schwändital

Obstalden: Hütten, Mühlethal, Nidstalden, Obstalden, Voglingen, Wallenguflen



Glarus

Ennenda: Ennenda, Ennetberge, Ennetbühls bei Ennenda, Großberg, Mühlefuhr, Sturmingen

Glarus: Bleiche, Hohlenstein, Käseren, Klöntal, Leimen, Rhodannenberg, Richisau, Schwammhöhe, Seerüti, Vorauen

Netstal: Langgütli, Netstal

Riedern: Riedern, Staldengarten



From Ussbühl to Nussbühl

Two Canton Glarus localities with curiously similar names are Ussbühl near Bilten and Nussbühl near Linthal. When researching Johann Heinrich Lienhard of Bilten, it was learned that Ussbühl (at left) was his birthplace. Lienhard (still referred to as “California Heiri” by his relatives) was an associate of Johann Sutter in California before and after the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in 1848. Ussbühl is a cluster of small farms and homes and is the first locality encountered when crossing from Canton Schwyz into Canton Glarus. The Lienhard homestead can still be seen at the foot of the mountains.



When researching early New Glarus settlers Peter and Elsbeth (Zweifel) Streiff, two localities were named indicating the Streiffs had lived at Hösliberg in Braunwald and the Zweifels had lived in Nussbühl above Linthal. The beautiful photo of Nussbühl (at right) is worthy of a Swiss picture postcard. Nussbühl’s location on a plateau above the village of Linthal is reached by hiking from Braunwald or from the Klausen Pass road. The Restaurant Nussbüel offers a simple Alpine fare on sunny terrace and a sweeping view of the Glarner Alps.



Main Street History of New Glarus

Most businesses today have their own websites to ensure they are connected to the internet. It is a vital part of doing business today. And most business sites today include a website section typically named “About Us” or “History” which provides information such as biographical sketches of the people conducting the business and the business mission or values. And often the business history is included and even the history of the historic building in which they operate. This “History” provides the businesses an opportunity to connect the past with the present.

New Glarus is a village which prides itself, even promotes itself, on its history and heritage. One might expect that local and business history would have a presence on the various business websites. You might expect the local Chamber of Commerce, the New Glarus Historical Society and/or the New Glarus Historic Preservation Commission, to promote and endorse the establishment of history sections in local business websites to help educate locals and visitors about New Glarus’ past. But a review of various local websites indicates a rather lackluster performance when it comes to local establishments which provide more than a hint of local history. The following are some assorted examples:

Puempel's Olde Tavern is a New Glarus business which honors the past as well as any local establishment. The owners' commitment to maintaining the character of the 120 year old business is to be commended. Their website shares articles written about this unique New Glarus institution. But the website also claims the tavern was started by Joseph Puempel. It was actually built and operated by Henry and Maria (Duerst) Aebly who were New Glarus natives with Canton Glarus roots. The Aeblys Owned the Wisconsin House next door. At some point after the Aeblys moved to Eau Claire, WI in 1908, immigrants Joseph and Berta Puempel began operating the tavern.

The Bank of New Glarus website contains some material regarding their history. It identifies the 5 founders of 1893 – Fridolin Kundert, Thomas Hefty, Thomas C. Hefty, B. A. Kundert and J. C. Zimmerman – opened the bank with \$12000 of operating capital. The Bank website further explains that a new bank building was built in 1910 and that building was torn down in 1969 and replaced by the Swiss-style bank of today. A drive-up facility was begun in 1977. The now amusing tale is told of an attempted but unsuccessful 1900 bank robbery. The online bank history also relates the highly inconsequential fact that the present bank building was painted in 1995.

Badger Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, formerly New Glarus Motors, is the only new automobile dealership remaining in the village. Badger does not have a history section within their website. A welcome addition would be a historical review of the Badger ownership back to the Chevrolet dealerships of Kubly-Richert and Fred Streiff. A review of the various new car dealerships of New Glarus over the years would be even better. RPM Motors, a used car dealership, simply states they started in 2001. Pictured left are



Overland cars delivered to New Glarus about 1916 in front of the Nik K. Zweifel dealership.

The website of the New Glarus Bakery, a popular establishment which has operated for over a century, merely indicates that they began in 1910 and are under new ownership since 2004. That is the extent of their past history. It has been reported that Albert Wolf, an immigrant from Canton Zurich, began a bakery in November of 1912. Following Wolf's death from the 1918 influenza pandemic, the bakery was operated by members of the Matzinger family -- Gottfried Matzinger, Herman and Marie (Strahm) Matzinger, Courtney and Ida (Schumacher) Matzinger and Paul and Marie (Matzinger) Vetterli. None are mentioned. The New Glarus Bakery continues the sale of numerous Swiss delicacies (such as *Springerli*, *Brätzeli*, *Leckerli*, and *Birnbrot*) which are described but any culinary history is not explained.

Ruef's Meat Market, next door to the bakery, operated as a meat market since the nineteen teens until it recently closed. Ruef's website did have a history section and included a historic photo at right showing their 1920s market. Note the customer stools and sawdust on the floor. They also mentioned their predecessor Zemp's Meat Market. Zemp's was operated by Peter Zemp, a Swiss immigrant from Canton Lucerne and later by Zemp son-in-law, Paul W. (Bill) Bischof.



While people may not remember the seats in the photo, they may remember the smell of the sawdust liberally scattered on the meat market floor. Ruef's and Zemp's meat markets were main street businesses which maintained links to our culinary past.

Perhaps New Glarus' oldest business was located in the oldest main street commercial building. And that is the historic New Glarus Hotel (pictured at right). The Hotel, as it is known locally, was originally a lodging establishment dating to 1853 which offered food and drink. And since the 1960s the Hotel was a restaurant specializing in Swiss cuisine. But a difficult 2020 has put a (hopefully temporary) pause of their restaurant operation. Prior to their closing the Hotel website offered a peek at the history of the Hotel's operation over the years including the years it served as a movie theatre. Owners Robbie Schneider and Hans Lenzlinger were cited but no ownership history prior to the 1960s. The Ticino Pizzeria still operates from the Hotel's ground-level basement.



The Chalet Landhaus Inn and restaurant provides no historical or cultural notes. The Swiss Aire Motel provides little more than tourist-oriented (and debatable) hyperbole -- "authentic Swiss setting" and "stunning rolling hills and remarkable woodlands which resemble the backdrop of Glarus Switzerland".

Toffler's website correctly states that their tavern dates to 1880. They mention being located in the "Backtown" area of New Glarus. However, the Backtown or "*Hinterstädtli*" is more likely that area



north of Third Avenue or Fourth Avenue and thus would put Toffler's in what was known as the Front Town or "*Vorderstädtli*". Toffler's include little of the history of the establishment or its many owners over the years. Canton Glarus natives Fridolin and Rosina (Durst) Schindler built "Schindler's Hotel" (pictured at left) in 1880. After the Schindlers, the tavern was operated by a succession of mostly Swiss immigrants. Both the Wisconsin Magazine of History and the National Geographic Magazine have featured photographs of Toffler's when it was operated by Ernst

Thierstein as the Four Corners Tavern. Thierstein's dog Fido received some notoriety for his ability to clear beer bottles from the barroom tables

Hoesly's Meats offers a closer look at how their operation came about in 1983. The operation is run by Dennis and Lillian (Yaun) Hoesly and their children Dusten and Devon. Dennis' father Cloyance Hoesly was a sausage maker at Strickler's Meats who had learned his trade from Canton Bern immigrant Alfred Wyss, a master sausage maker. Dennis and Toots (Lillian) purchased the Fred Stuessy meat market and later built a new meat processing plant with a retail outlet in the New Glarus Industrial Park. Like the *Hösli Metzgerei und Wursterei* in Glarus, Switzerland, Hoesly's of New Glarus makes the most Glarner of all sausages, Kalberwurst (*Chalberwurst*) pictured at left. It would be wonderful if there was an explanation of this iconic sausage and its decades-long role on the New Glarus dinner table. Hoesly's Meats is one of the few local businesses with a Glarner family name. Can you name the others?



The Glarner Stube (pronounced SHTOO-beh), a popular New Glarus restaurant, is located in a building whose cornice proudly proclaims the building was built by Salomon Stuessy in 1901. The Stube website mentions earlier uses of the building prior to becoming a restaurant. But it does not explain who Salomon Stuessy was – a native of Riedern, Canton Glarus who immigrated with his parents and siblings to New Glarus in 1873 and who became a harness maker. Salomon and wife Magdalena's son Walter Stuessy gave his life for our country in WWI. The Norwegian-American Hoiby family operated New Glarus' first telephone switchboard on the second floor of the Glarner Stube building. The Glarner Stube building was also a former pool hall transformed into a cozy Swiss-style restaurant by Goti Schuetz in the late 1950s. A variety of New Glarus history can be shared from this one building.

Hometown Pharmacy is a chain of pharmacies found throughout Wisconsin. Despite styling themselves as "hometown", there is only a passing mention of New Glarus drug store history on their website. They mention Jack and Jim Roberts as their direct predecessors but missed an opportunity to mention earlier main street pharmacies such as the 1860s apothecary shop of Eugen Vidal (mentioned in the previous *Family History Notes* newsletter.)

The Beal Funeral Homes website, like the Hometown Pharmacy website, briefly mentions their predecessors. Previous funeral directors Fay Zentner (incorrectly referred to as Faye) in New Glarus and Claude Becker in Belleville are cited. But their website fails to mention the preceding generation or any of the other local undertakers. Werner L. Zentner (father of Fay) and Melvin Becker (father of Claude) both began as funeral directors around 1916.

This look at local business and organization websites will continue in the next issue with the hope of finding local history.

All Aboard!

It was reported in the August 8, 1895 *Monroe Evening Times* that a special Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul train connection was set up to take Monroe area residents to New Glarus for its 50th Anniversary celebrations. A train would depart from Monroe at 8:25 a.m. bound for Brodhead. At Brodhead a special train connection arriving from Janesville was scheduled to leave for New Glarus and arriving there at 9:50. Those boarding at Monroe numbered 250, 255 boarded at Albany and 34 originating from Janesville and Orfordville. (Passengers boarding at Monticello were not mentioned.) The return train was scheduled for 8 p.m. The cost of a round trip ticket was \$1.00 (about \$31.50 in today's dollars).

Trivia Questions: Montpelier, VT and Glarus, Switzerland

What do the villages of Montpelier, Vermont and Glarus, Switzerland have in common besides both being capitals in their respective state/canton? And what does the capital village Glarus have in common with 13 other Swiss Canton capitals (e.g. Lucerne, St. Gallen, Zug, Schwyz)?

The answers will be found in the next issue.

Locke-Ness Marriage

In 1880 New Glarus area residents Thomas Locke and Carrie Ness married. Carrie was the daughter of Norwegian immigrants and Thomas was the son of a Swiss immigrant mother and a Yankee father. No doubt shrewdness and thrift was inherited from all sides. The Lockes are buried in the Mt. Horeb Union Cemetery.

(And yes, I am aware that the Scottish lake and monster are spelled Loch Ness.)

