

Family History Notes

Winter 2022

Kubly Family Homestead

Immigrants Oswald and Barbara (Schröpfer) Kubly (originally spelled Kubli) arrived in New Glarus from their native Elm, Canton Glarus, Switzerland in 1853. They were accompanied by their four sons – John Ulrich, Paulus, Oswald and Jacob. The following year sons Paulus and Jacob died in the 1854 cholera epidemic. Oswald and Barbara went on to have two more sons (reusing the names Paulus and



Jacob) and one daughter Susanna (Mrs. Jost Altmann). Oldest son John Ulrich served in the Iron Brigade and lost a leg at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in 1862. John Ulrich returned to New Glarus and married Rosina Gallati, the widow of Civil War casualty Rudolf Kundert. And possibly due to John Ulrich's disability, the homestead farm went to second son, Oswald (II). Immigrant Oswald Kubly is remembered in the Canton

Glarus archives with the following statement, “*Durch harte Arbeit erwarb sich Kubli ein bedeutendes Vermögen*” – through hard work Kubli made a significant fortune. Kubly, like many of his fellow immigrants, became farmers and succeeded beyond what could have been imagined in Canton Glarus.

The top photograph was taken at the Kubly homestead farm just east of New Glarus showing the family of Oswald (II) and Anna Maria (Marie) Kubly around 1895-96. Wife Marie was the daughter of farm neighbors Nicholas and Verena (Elmer) Elmer, also immigrants from Elm. Oswald and Marie had five sons – Oswald Herman (III), Nic, Robert, Emil and Ernst – and three children who died in infancy. Pictured (from left) father Oswald, domestic Miss Mellenberger, mother Marie, sons Emil, Nic, Ernst, and Robert, hired hand and nephew Herman Elmer, and Oswald Herman.



The original frame farm house is shown above in a more recent photo. Note the summer kitchen at the rear of the house. The home is said to enclose the original pioneer log cabin. The Kubly farm passed to Oswald and Marie's son Nic and his wife Alda (Ott) Kubly who built a large brick home in 1923 and a new dairy barn in 1919. And happily (like the Freitag homestead farm) the original house was not razed. The new home and barn were constructed by Kubly cousin Oswald Altman, the prolific builder of New Glarus (see *Family History Notes* Spring 2016). Altman used the masonry skills of his uncles Paulus and Jacob Kubly who built the basements and foundations of his buildings.

In his 1964 book *At Large*, author Herbert Oswald Kubly (son of Nic and Alda) recalled how his father “confided to me his plan to paint across the full sweep of our barn the sign, “Nic H. Kubly & Son.” The compliment of such a sign to an eight-year-old boy was tremendous, but I did not so consider it. “In that case,” I said with what must have been intolerable smugness, “you shall have to have another son.” He did not have another son and my betrayal of the land was, I think, the biggest sorrow of his life. It was a matter of great pride to him that no one but a Kubly had ever lived on the farm pioneered by my great-grandfather and subsequently owned by my grandfather and then himself. Herbert did not remain on the farm but became a journalist and author, winning the 1956 National Book Award for his non-fiction work *American in Italy*.

The buildings seen on the photo below are the cheese factory and cheese maker residence on the Oswald Kubly farm. The photo was taken on the occasion of the baptism of Adolf Schmid, Jr. which occurred in April of 1894. Adolf was the son of Adolf and Elisabeth (Hari) Schmid, recent immigrants from Frutigen, Canton Bern. Adolf Sr. was a cheese maker, possibly the cheese maker at the Kubly factory.



Oswald Kubly has been identified as the dark-bearded man on the right side of the photo with young sons Emil and Ernst nearby.

What is rather interesting in the photograph is the make-up of the cheese operation. The typical cheese maker’s residence is the long perpendicular building, the basement

generally dug into a hillside to become the cheese cellar. Most often the cheese factory itself was positioned at the narrow end of the residence and cheese cellar. In this photo, the little cheese factory is a stand-alone building. The milk intake can be seen on the narrow end of the small factory building.

A Bit of Nostalgia

It was probably 1967 or 1968 when my classmate Ann Marie Ott threw a “protest party”. It was the era of hippies and flower children. But the “love-ins” had given way to war demonstrations and anti-establishment protests. Ann Marie’s guests were asked to create a protest sign and bring that sign to her party. The protest posters were to be judged by local attorney Peter Waltz who donned a judicial robe and wig. As he entered the room the guests chanted “here come de judge, here come de judge” from TV’s *Laugh-In*.

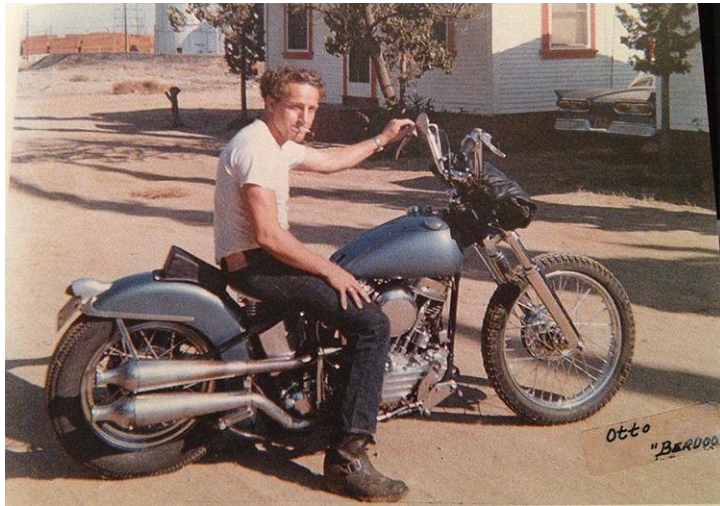


I thought my sign was clever (although not original) and it read “Draft Beer, Not Students”. Although my sign was one of the finalists, it did not win. Bill Bigler’s sign was the winner. Bill took a toothpick and taped a small paper “banner” at the end which read, “I protest big protest signs.” Brilliant . . . not to mention easy to make!

Although we were just in our early teens, Ann Marie’s father Don Ott, a local winemaking expert, offered us a sample some of his homemade wine. A bottle and wine glasses were produced with great ceremony. We all sipped our wine with delight and a sense of self-satisfaction for being considered young adults. But we were duped. What we were served was actually Welch’s grape juice.

Fallen Angel Reborn

Otto Friedli (1931-2008) has been cited in numerous sources as the founder of the notorious Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. Friedli was a prominent member of Hells Angels and who became both the local San Bernardino chapter president and even the president of the national organization. But Friedli himself stated that he was not a founder – just an early member. His membership in the Hells Angels was preceded by his membership in the Pissed Off Bastards Motorcycle Club of Bloomington, CA (near



San Bernardino). In 1947 this POBs, possibly including Friedli, participated in the 3-day take-over of the small town of Hollister, CA. This event became known as the Hollister riot and was later immortalized in the 1953 Marlon Brando film, "The Wild One". "Berdoos" (seen lower right on the photo) is a slang term for San Bernardino, where the Hells Angels were founded in 1948.

Around 1948 Otto Friedli (pictured left) became a member of the Hells Angels. These motorcycle clubs were known as "outlaw biker gangs" which may or may not have been involved in criminal activity. It seems the Hells Angels and Otto Friedli were involved in unlawful activities. Friedli was convicted of narcotics and fire arm violations and sent to prison in 1967.

But Friedli's prison sentence changed his life and he became a committed Christian. His newfound inner peace was witnessed by his family and friends. They admired Friedli's new calm demeanor. He founded the Black Sheep for Christ Motorcycle Club – Harley Davidson riders who spread the word of Christ. He helped found a Christian Church where he became admired by church members who were amazed that Otto had once belonged to the notorious Hells Angels.



Otto Friedli was Wisconsin-born to Swiss immigrants Gottfried and Hilda (Wirz) Friedli, cheese makers and farmers. Based upon 1930 and 1940 census records the Friedli family had lived in the Merrill, WI and Antigo, WI areas. By the 1940's the Friedli family had moved to southern California. Internet sources state Otto Friedli was born in Madison, WI on June 28, 1931. But more curious is the birth information found on the naturalization papers of his parents. Mother Hilda's documentation states that Otto was born in Monroe, WI. And his father Gottfried's naturalization papers states that Otto was born in Blanchardville, WI. Green County historian Matt Figi of Monroe was unable to find any 1931 Green County birth records linked to Otto Friedli.

History Detective Question

When the original New Glarus immigrants of 1845 were on the last leg of their journey, they crossed the West Branch of the Pecatonica River before reaching Wiota, WI. In the vicinity of this river crossing, the group also encountered another geographical feature, which in all probability was entirely unknown to them and likely unknown to most people today. This feature cannot be seen or sensed in any way. Can anyone identify the geographical feature they encountered?

Harris Marcus and Family

A living reminder of an earlier way of small town life can be found at Nina's Department Store of Spring Green, WI. For over 100 years, Nina's has survived changing times and adapted to changing consumer shopping habits. And today the store is in its 4th generation of family ownership. The Marcus family has owned the Spring Green Store since 1916 but the retail history of the Marcus family goes back to before 1893.

In a story very similar to New Glarus merchant Solomon Levitan, Harris Marcus got established by being a Jewish pack-peddler in the rural areas of the lower Wisconsin River valley. A 1919 article even states that Levitan and Marcus were pack peddling partners in the late 1880s when they both carried



their entire stock on their backs. When it became impossible to carry all the goods they wished to sell, Harris Marcus and Sol Levitan each established stores – Harris in Muscoda and Levitan in New Glarus. And both later expanded with stores in nearby towns.

In 1916 the Marcus family purchased the Cohen (or Cohn) Brothers building in Spring Green and began a new store

location operated by Harris' son Sam Marcus and his wife Nina. The store operation passed to Sam and Nina's son George Marcus and his wife Helen. And today the business is operated by George's son Joel Marcus and his wife Judy. The Marcus business (exterior pictured above and interior below) has been renamed Nina's in honor of Joel's Grandmother Nina Marcus.

Around 1919, the Levitan and Steussy store in New Glarus changed hands. Sol Levitan sold his share of the business to the Marcus family. Assisting Henry Steussy in New Glarus was Joseph Schrader, a Lithuanian native who was married to Sara Marcus, the daughter of Harris.

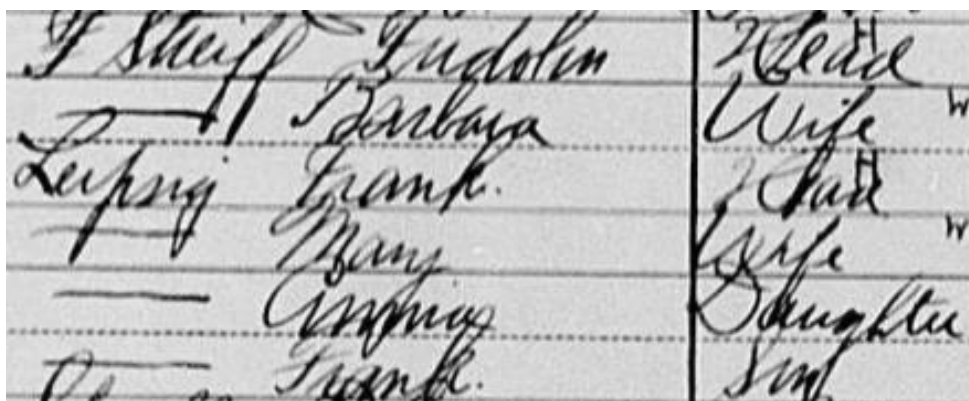
The Marcus family (and apparently Henry Steussy) sold the mercantile to Percy Chaimson around 1930 when the store became known as Chaimson's. For a period of time the mercantile store was operated as Zentner's Department store, operated by former Chaimson employee and New Glarus native Werner J. Zentner. In 1940 J. Fred and Emma (Schulz) Uffelmann purchased the business. The store later passed to Elwood (Andy) and Donna (Oasen) Anderson who operated the store as Anderson's Ben Franklin and later Anderson's Kaufhaus. Anderson's department store closed in 2000 when Andy and Donna retired.



Harris Marcus died in an auto accident in 1920. He lived to see his old friend and partner Sol Levitan serve as President of Madison's Commercial National Bank but not long enough to see Levitan rise to become Treasurer of the State of Wisconsin. In 1948 Marcus grandson Herbert Marcus married Levitan granddaughter Roberta Goldstine, thus establishing a new partnership between the two families.

Bishop Francis P. Leipzig

A recent question raised about Civil War veteran Fridolin Streiff led to an examination of the U.S. census records. Fridolin Streiff died in 1917 so the 1910 census was the last federal census in which he was enumerated. The names of Fridolin and his wife Barbara née Wild



were located (see 1910 census entry right) and followed by their neighbors Frank and Mary Leipzig and their children Anna and Frank. Frank Leipzig, Sr., a German immigrant, was a brewer at the New Glarus Brewery. The Leipzig family did not remain long in New Glarus but moved to west to the State of Oregon.

But life in New Glarus was not forgotten by the Leipzigs. For in 1957 Frank Leipzig Jr. and his sister Anna (Mrs. B. J. McGuigan) both of Oregon arrived in their one-time hometown to visit childhood friends including Philipp N. Marty Sr. Little Frank Leipzig had become Bishop Francis P. Leipzig of Bishop of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon (pictured left). Bishop Leipzig (1895-1981) served as Bishop of the Baker Diocese from 1950 to 1971. He attended all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council between 1962 and 1965. During his 21-year-long tenure, over 95 churches were built as well as hospitals, schools, and convents. Bishop Leipzig resigned as bishop in 1971 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Census Transcription Challenges

Finding family history information by way of census records and census transcriptions are frequently frustrating. Some examples related to some of the people mentioned in this newsletter issue:

- Fridolin Streiff and Frank Leipzig from the previous article were found in 1910 census transcribed as “Fudolm Sheiff” and Frank “Lupsig”.
- The 1910 census transcription captured Blasius Rhyner (mentioned on page 7) as “Blianes” Rhyner. At least Rhyner was correct.
- The 1860 census entry for the Reverend Andrew Tarnutzer (see article on page 9) was transcribed as And. Tearnutcher.
- In another transcription from the 1910 census was that for Swiss immigrant “Foeliline Cosbli”. This census entry was suspected to be “Fridolin Kubli”. And indeed a Fridolin Kubli from Netstal, Canton Glarus lived in Green County at that time.

Census records remain a valuable resource for historians. However these rather flawed transcriptions demonstrate why searching census records can take great deal of time and patience.

Walter Zentner: His Memory Lives On

The article about Walter Zentner (who is pictured below) in the last newsletter prompted wonderful recollections from two readers.

Paul Roehrig recalled that when he and his family began the Swiss Valley Orchard in rural New Glarus in the mid-1980s, Walter Zentner volunteered to re-create the orchard logo in flowers on the hillside. He designed, dug and planted 2500 begonia and marigold plants in the 40x50 foot area. Walter required a “walker” to aid his mobility due to arthritis. And despite his physical limitations, Paul remembered that Walter accomplished his task in about one week – something that younger and healthier people wouldn’t attempt to do. The orchard’s hillside flower bed remained until the orchard closed in 2001. Paul added, “*We have never forgotten Walters’s professional help.*”



Damion Babler, who grew up on a dairy farm only about a mile from the orchard, remembered that around 1992 volunteers were sought to help an elderly gentleman plant flowers around his house. The man had fallen and now required assistance. That man was Walter Zentner and Damion and his brother were the volunteers. Damion recalled, “*I showed up at the address and met Walter Zentner for the first time. A short, elderly gentleman with a walker and a very heavy accent answered the door. He put us to work planting begonias. He was very thorough in his instruction -- first loosen the ground around the area to be planted, then remove some of the dirt to make a hole, add about a 1/2 cup of fertilizer to the hole slightly mixing it in with the surrounding soil, add the young begonia plant, fill in around the plant patting the soil, and then water a certain amount. We started about 9 a.m. that morning and listened to his wisdom and life story while we planted. He fed us lunch (he had an old radio tuned into a Swiss channel while we ate), and then we continued on into the afternoon. We stopped that evening about 5 pm. as we had our own chores to do at home. We were back the next morning and wrapped up with the planting about noon. The place looked beautiful and his roses were always some of the best in town. My brother and I planted over 400 Begonias in a day and a half. I never expected that many plants when I volunteered!! It was a great experience and one I will never forget. He left me with a lasting impression and a new respect for his passion in life. I have made sure that I have planted begonia's every year since that spring of planting for Walter - his memory lives on!*”

Monroe Shooting Club

Matt Figi recently wrote about the founding days of Monroe’s Shooting Club (*Schützenverein*) around 1907-08 in a brief article for the *Monroe Evening Times*. The group had built a shooting house (*Schützenhaus*) which appeared to have a similar look to the one built in New Glarus in 1907. Organizing members in Monroe included Thomas Luchsinger, George Schneider, Henry Hefty, Adam Blumer, Jacob C. Blumer, Edward T. Kundert, Jacob Karlen, M. C. Durst, John Strahm and Edward Ruegger. Like the New Glarus group, these men were mostly the community businessmen of their day. It seems the shooting club memberships exhibited a degree of social stratification. The shooting club members were for those with free evenings and weekends -- more leisure time than the countless area farmers and cheese makers who were tied to their work seven days a week, morning to nighttime.

When Monroe hosted a regional contest in 1911, it was written that the club had hopes of “drawing hundreds of progressive businessmen” from the other shooting clubs from other Midwestern clubs. This comment, too, stressed the businessman angle.

Zumkehr Brothers Implements

The photograph below shows the interior of the Zumkehr brothers implement shop which was located where Town of New Glarus offices are located. The business was operated by brothers John and Ed Zumkehr. Ed's wife Rose was the bookkeeper. They are pictured at left. A small sign at center left may not be legible, but it says, *"Repairs strictly cash. Do not ask for credit. One did – man died."*



The Zumkehr implement business had its roots in the hardware and implement business of brothers Rudolf and Jost Hoesly which was located on First Street and which is now part of the Bank of New Glarus

site. Jost's son Joe H. Hoesly partnered with Blasius Rhyner. The photo below (circa 1910-1914) shows the Hoesly and Rhyner building and at extreme left you can see the tombstones in the original Swiss Church cemetery. Blasius Rhyner died in 1914. Joe H. Hoesly and his cousin and brother-in-law Joe C. Hoesly then operated the firm before selling it to the Zumkehr Brothers in 1917. The Zumkehers operated the business until 1948 when they sold to Thompson and Zander. The business was later the Phillipson Farm Store operated by Roswell "Bud" Phillipson.



The parents of the Zumkehr Brothers were David and Maria (Schmid) Zumkehr, immigrants from Frutigen, Canton Bern. They farmed near today's intersection of Exeter Crossing Road and Wettach Road in the Town of Exeter. Rose Zumkehr's parents were John C. Marty (sometimes known as John G. Mary) and his immigrant wife Marie Glausen. Marie (Glausen)

Marty was also a native of Frutigen and was a friend of the senior Zumkehers. In fact Marie had presented David and Maria Zumkehr with yellow roses on their wedding day in Frutigen. And 50 years later, Marie presented roses to the David Zumkehers on their golden wedding anniversary in New Glarus.



Rose (Marty) Zumkehr was the oldest of the many grandchildren of Canton Glarus immigrants Johannes (John) and Elsbeth (Heer) Marty. And all of these Marty grandchildren have now passed with one exception. The youngest and last of the Marty grandchildren, Gloria (Marty) Jacobson, lives in New Glarus. Pictured right are Rose and Ed Zumkehr on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary in 1976.

Isaiah and Magdalena (Elmer) Stauffacher Family

Newsletter reader Steve Marshall of Minnesota shared a photo below found in the Stauffacher family archives assembled by the late Donna (Stauffacher) Utecht. The photo features Isaiah (originally Esajas) Stauffacher and his wife Magdalena née Elmer. Isaiah and his brothers Jacob, Mathias, and

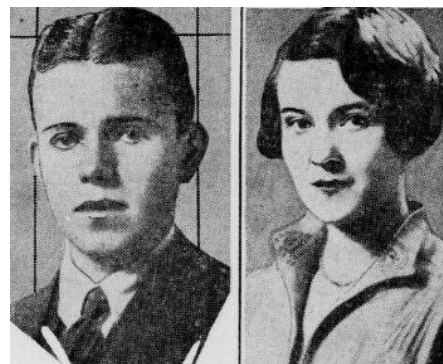


Anton were original settlers of New Glarus accompanying their parents Anton and Anna (Stauffacher) Stauffacher to America in 1845. The Anton Stauffachers did not remain in New Glarus but farmed on the southern edge of the Town of Mt. Pleasant in the vicinity of Dutch Hollow. Isaiah and Magdalena operated a 320 acre farm in the Town of Sylvester also near Dutch Hollow. And like the aforementioned immigrant Kubly family, the Isaiah Stauffachers became successful through hard work and determination.

Pictured are (standing from left) Daniel, Electa, Ernest, Emmanuel and George; (middle row) Isaiah M., mother Magdalena, father Isaiah, and John Anton; (seated at bottom) Carolina and Madeline. Many descendants of this family can be found in the Green County area, however few, if any, ever lived in New Glarus. Isaiah served in the Wisconsin 31st Regiment Company B in the Civil War – serving with farm neighbor Conrad Elmer who was to become his brother-in-law.

The Tragedy of Jem and Dorothy Marty

The fall of 1929 brought the Wall Street Crash on Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929. This led to the national tragedy of the Great Depression which affected tens of millions of Americans. A month after this date, a double tragedy hit Jemuel Gates Marty, Jr. and his wife Dorothy (Easton) Marty (pictured). And while the Marty family misfortune did not affect millions, the news quickly reached millions as newspapers across America reported on their story.



To set the stage, Jemuel (Jem) Marty was the great-grandson of Mathias Marty who, with his brother Jacob, was largely responsible for the initial development of the village of Monticello, WI. The immigrant Marty brothers left Canton Glarus in the mid-1840s and arrived in Wisconsin. They settled in Monticello but after the Civil War re-settled in the Kansas City area. Mathias Marty was a real estate developer and his family and descendants became wealthy, married well and became respected citizens of Kansas City. Dorothy Easton was born to an even wealthier family of New York society. She was beautiful and European educated and so attracted the attention of continental suitors even wealthier than the Eastons. But it was Jem Marty of Kansas City that Dorothy married in Rome, Italy in 1926. The couple moved to Paris, France where lived what appeared to be an ideal and carefree life of exploring Paris while sketching and painting the cityscapes. Two daughters, Jacqueline and Patricia, were born to the Martys in Paris.

In 1929 the Marty family traveled to Florence, Italy to explore and paint. It was Thanksgiving and the Martys celebrated the American holiday with friends. After dining, Jem left to arrange for an automobile for a leisurely family drive along the Arno River. He slipped or tripped on the hotel steps and fell headfirst down the flight of stairs landing on the marble floor of the lobby. Marty's drive along the Arno had been replaced by a drive to the hospital in an ambulance. And Jem Marty died in the hospital from his head injuries.

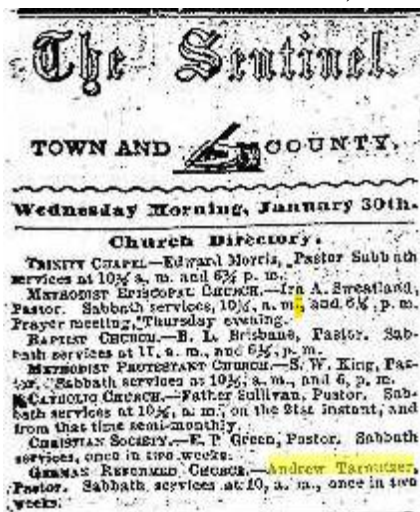
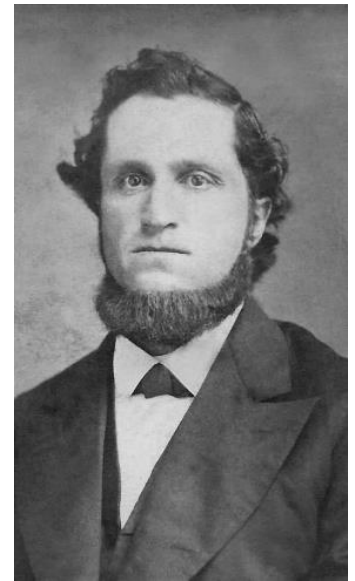
Dorothy was overcome by Jem's sudden death and a doctor prescribed a powerful sleeping draught. The nurse was to administer a few drops of the draught. Dorothy asked the nurse to contact her father-in-law (who happened to be in London) before taking the sleeping aid. The nurse complied and while she was out of the room, Dorothy swallowed the entire contents of the sleeping draught. She died about 24 hours after her husband. Jemuel Marty was 23 and Dorothy was only 22. They were both buried in Florence's Allori Cemetery.

The Marty daughters both married and lived in the United States. Patricia Marty Houghton died in 2014. It is believed that Jacqueline Marty Key is still living in Florida in 2021.

Reverend Andrew Tarnutzer

The name of Andrew (originally Andreas) Tarnutzer is not frequently found in New Glarus histories. But he played a role in the establishment of the Evangelical Association churches in New Glarus, Dutch Hollow and Monroe around the years 1859 to 1861. The Evangelical Association, sometimes referred to as the German Methodists, was a separate denomination from the Swiss Reformed Church. It was reported by historian John Luchsinger that Evangelical Association itinerant preachers were conducting services in New Glarus as early as 1847. Luchsinger wrote that, "so strong was the prejudice against them", that the Evangelical Church was constructed in 1859 about 2 miles south of New Glarus.

Tarnutzer (1834-1898; pictured right) was born in Schiers, Prättigau, Canton Graubünden and came with his parents to Sauk County, WI in 1846. He entered into the ministry in 1855. In 1856 he was sent to Minnesota where he formed the first Evangelical Association church in that state. Following his service in Minnesota, Rev. Tarnutzer helped form the Evangelical



Association congregations and churches in Green County. Pictured is Monroe's *The Sentinel* newspaper from August 24, 1860 which listed Rev. Andrew Tarnutzer's German Reformed Church (Evangelical Association) in the newspaper's church directory. Tarnutzer later served in congregations in Oshkosh, Neenah and Portage. He died in Portage and was buried there.

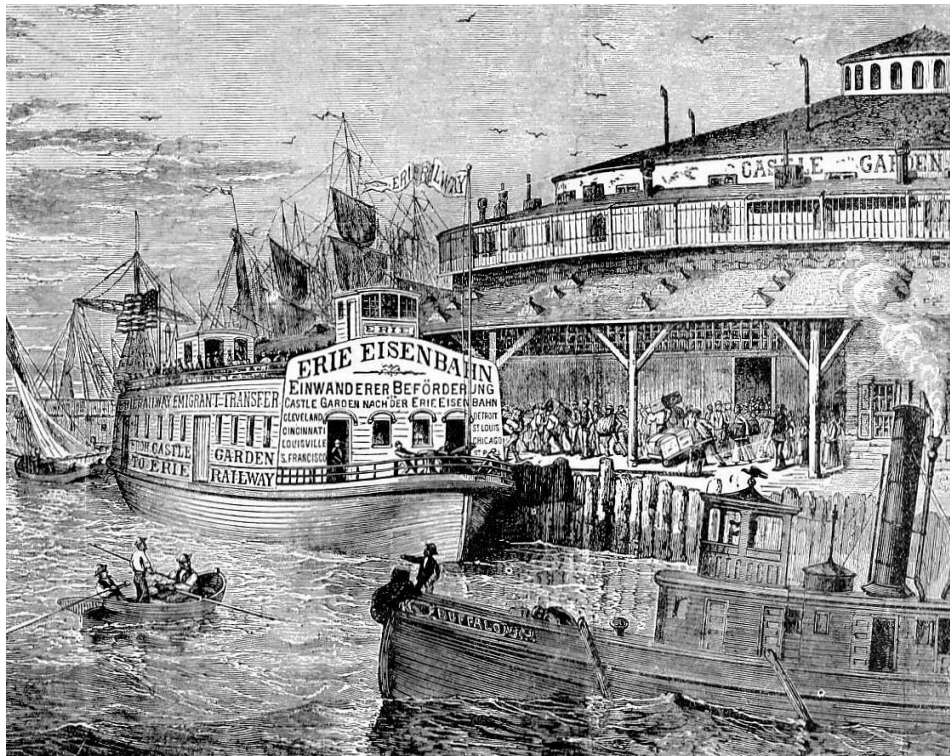
In 1892 the Tarnutzer family was planning for a happy event – the marriage of their 19 year old daughter Ida to Baraboo businessman Ulrich von Wald. The von Walds, like the Tarnutzers, had settled among other Swiss immigrants in Sauk County. But Ida died suddenly and in a strange twist of fate, her funeral was held in the very church and at the very same time and date which was planned for her wedding. And Ida was buried in her wedding attire.

Methodist ministers and those of the Evangelical Association (aka German Methodists) began itinerant ministries in the first half of the 19th century to the sparsely populated rural areas being settled. In the 1830s and 1840s these rural areas included southern Wisconsin. A minister by the name of Joseph Powell was one such circuit riding preacher who held fervent anti-slavery views. He and his family lived on a farm in Walworth County, WI. Since Rev. Powell was frequently away from home, the farm chores fell to his son who was aptly christened John Wesley. And this son was the same John Wesley Powell who later lost his right arm in the Civil War and who led the U. S. government-sponsored expedition by boat through the Grand Canyon in 1869.

As mentioned, circuit riders had established contact with the New Glarus settlement around 1847. A number of families drifted away from the majority Swiss Reformed with a preference for the Evangelical Association Church. Did some of the New Glarus people warm to that brand of religion which held little tolerance for drink and card playing, and who championed abolitionist views? Could abolitionist feelings, then at the forefront of much discussion, have been a factor in the formation of the Evangelical Association Churches in Green County in those antebellum days? Interesting to consider.

Castle Garden and Ellis Island

Most of us know of the existence of Ellis Island in New York Harbor as an official entry point for many immigrants to the United States. Ellis Island did not open until January 1, 1892 and thus was not a part of the immigration journey for our immigrant ancestors who arrived before then. Prior to Ellis Island there was an immigration facility located at the southern tip of Manhattan known at various times as Castle Clinton or Castle Garden. Castle Clinton was built in 1806 as a defensive fortification for New York Harbor. In 1824, the facility evolved into an entertainment venue called Castle Garden. With the construction of a roof, it was used for concerts, opera and theater. Swedish Nightingale Jenny Lind sang there in her American debut promoted by P. T. Barnum.



Castle Garden became an immigration facility in the 1850s – about the time of the illustration at left. Pictured here is an immigrant conveyance (*Einwanderer Beförderung*) from Castle Garden to the Erie Railroad (*Erie Eisenbahn*). Since the Erie Railroad began on the west side of the Hudson River the ship provided the needed transport across the Hudson. Note the immigrants and their trunks being taken from Castle Garden to the ship. The Erie Railroad ended in Dunkirk, NY on Lake Erie and served as an alternative to the Erie Canal

which also linked the Hudson River with Lake Erie. This was the initial part of the immigrant journey from Manhattan to Lake Erie and on to Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville, Chicago, San Francisco and St. Paul (all these cities written on the front end of the ship).

The Castle Garden website offers a [search feature](#) for immigrants who arrived in New York prior to the Ellis Island years. I have found this database both easy to use at times yet challenging at other times. But with some patience, it remains another source of family history immigration data. For example, the immigrant Oswald Kubly family (mentioned on page 1) was found in the Castle Garden database to have arrived in New York on May 11, 1853 on the immigrant ship Zurich. Their surname was transcribed as “Kueble” which proved a research challenge.

St. Jadwiga of Silesia

When Polish Saint Jadwiga of Silesia died in 1243 her remains were laid to rest but no documentation was made of where her body was buried. It was always presumed she was buried in the Cistercian abbey in Trzebnica, Lower Silesia (present day Poland) which had been founded by Jadwiga’s husband, Duke Henry I of the Piast Dynasty, in 1203. But her exact burial location remained a mystery for centuries.

Unexpectedly in March of 2020, during some conservation work in the abbey, a small metal casket was found bearing the name of Jadwiga. After centuries of uncertainty her remains had been found.

Jadwiga was born Hedwig of Andechs in Bavaria in 1174. Her family was well connected in both church and state domains. Her sister Agnes had married King Philip II of France and another sister Gertrude married King Andrew II of Hungary. Her great-aunts were St. Mechtildis of Edelstetten and the Blessed Eufemia of Altenmünster. A niece of St. Hedwig was St. Elizabeth of Hungary and her nephew was King Béla IV of Hungary. In her lifetime, Jadwiga was considered saintly – her devotion to the poor, widows, orphans and lepers was legendary.



And St. Jadwiga (or St. Hedwig in non-Polish locations) is a direct ancestor of our “gateway ancestor” Johann Christof von Hohensax of Switzerland. Hohensax was 11-15 generations removed from St. Hedwig making her a direct, albeit very, very distant ancestor of many newsletter readers.

Brätzeli at Christmastime

The Meinen cousins of the Oshkosh, WI area continue a long-standing tradition – making Brätzeli cookies for the Christmas season. For 34 years, the Meinen cousins have gathered at the home of Mike and Kathy Meinen in Oshkosh on the weekend following Thanksgiving. The Meinens use two Brätzeli irons brought from Switzerland in 1910 by their immigrant grandparents Johann Meinen of Därstetten, Canton Bern and Emma Minnig of nearby Erlenbach, Canton Bern. Originally the irons would have been placed on wood cooking stoves, but the Meinens use an antique gas kitchen stove to provide the flame to heat the iron. This year the Meinen cousins made 26 batches which equates to about 4000 cookies. Pictured is one of the Meinen irons showing four different patterns which get stamped into the wafer-thin cookies.



The Meinen family originally immigrated to the Monroe, WI area where Mike Meinen’s father was born. Mike’s grandfather Johann had a sister, Mathilda, who was married to Henry A. Zweifel of New Glarus. Mathilda’s daughter, the late Gertrude (Burkhalter) Goecks, was also a New Glarus resident, and thus a Meinen cousin.

Thank you to Ann Marie Ott for sharing the newspaper article which featured the Meinen family.