

New Glarus Historical Society

Volume 7, Issue 6 :
September 2024

2024 Board of Directors

Larry Klassy, President

David Hustad, Vice President

Kelly Ruschmann, Secretary

John Freitag, Treasurer

Jackie Judd

Amy Legler

Al Lienhardt

Tim Pauli

Dwight Truttmann

Daniel Wytenbach

Kim Tschudy (Honorary)

President's Report By Larry Klassy

Hello Swiss Historical Society members. August was another busy month. We had three buses from different areas - two from Green Bay and the 4-H junior leaders from Green County. One group came from Kiel and many of them knew Barbara Eichelkraut and Merlyn Duerst.

Some quips from our guest register:

Great guides!

Abigail rocks as a guide!

A young girl said she knew how to make cheese
Highland Illinois, home of Pet Milk. Settled in 1837.

Loved the cow!

Kelly was great and Dave was awesome!

I'll close with a quote from Helena Rubinstein: "Hard work keeps the wrinkles out of mind and spirit."



Contact Us

New Glarus Historical Society
& Swiss Historical Village Museum

PO Box 745
612 7th Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

608-527-2317
admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org

Erica Loeffelholz, Newsletter Editor



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 24th @ 6:00 PM
Genealogy Quest: Telling Your Family's Story
Village Hall Community Room

Have you been researching your family tree for awhile, but now you're trying to figure out the best way to present your information to your family members? Or maybe you'd like to share some genealogy discoveries on social media, but you're not quite sure how to do so.

September's Genealogy Quest will focus on taking the lists of names, dates, and places in your family tree and bringing those ancestors to life by telling their stories. We will review some great free resources for finding genealogy info, and then we will explore using Canva to turn your memories into scrapbooks, social media posts, and videos that can be shared with others.

If you have a laptop or chromebook, please bring it along so you can practice with us in real time.



Tuesday, October 29th @ 6:00 PM
Genealogy Quest: Navigating Ancestry
Village Hall Community Room

Ancestry.com is one of the most popular genealogy tools available, but the sheer amount of information available can be overwhelming to navigate. This session will take a look at both the free and paid subscription versions of Ancestry, and talk you through some of the most common questions users have, including user privacy, interpreting user trees, finding records, and exploring DNA matches.

If you have a laptop or chromebook, please bring it along so you can practice with us in real time.



Treasures from the Archives: Early Days of the Museum



Esther Streiff Stauffacher in her role as custodian of the historical museum's collection.



From left to right: J. Jacob Rieder (architect), Carl Marty (cheesemaker from Monroe), and Dora Emanuel.

These photos were tucked into a folder on Esther Streiff Stauffacher, one of the founders of our museum. Esther had a keen interest in Swiss culture and history, and served as president of the Green County Historical Society for a number of years. In 1940, she was making plans and rallying support for a historical museum in New Glarus.

By 1941, land had been secured, an architect engaged, and fundraising was well underway. Jake Rieder, who had designed the Chalet of the Golden Fleece for Edwin Barlow, planned a log cabin for the very first building, with a limestone foundation and hand-hewn oak logs, just as the original pioneers would have used.

And by Wilhelm Tell weekend of 1942, Esther was welcoming visitors to the brand-new historical museum up on the hill! Sadly, Esther passed away in 1945 at the age of just 43, but her legacy lives on through our work.

Schools of Yesteryear

By Erica Loeffelholz

These days one-room schools are viewed as a quaint relic of the “olden days,” but it really wasn’t all that long ago that these little country schools were commonplace. In the 1930s, Wisconsin boasted roughly 6,500 one-room schools! Over the next few decades, as smaller family farms were sold off or abandoned, and more people moved into towns and cities, the need for these rural schools declined. By 1960, only 1,300 one-room schools remained in Wisconsin.

Country schools serving the area around New Glarus included the following:

- Meadow Valley School
- Farmer’s Grove School
- Spring Valley School
- Plainview School
- BEM School
- Dividing Ridge School
- Bethel School
- Primrose Center School

Our archive holds a small collection of documents and artifacts from several of these schools. Of particular interest are the Teachers’ Registers. These thin, spiral-bound books give us a glimpse into daily life in a country, with class schedules, lesson plans, student grades, and more information packed into each page.

A teacher would have to be highly organized and disciplined in order to fit in lessons in reading, writing, phonics, arithmetic, science, social studies, music, and art for students ranging in age from 5 to 14! A register from Farmer’s Grove School in the 1957-58 school year shows that teacher Naomi Meland had each day divided into 15-minute increments, with direct instruction periods and group work time clearly marked out for each grade.



Plainview School Students, 1948.

Front row: Roger Sponem & Diane Truttmann

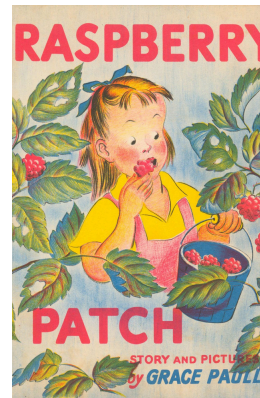
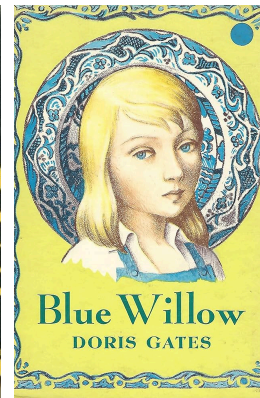
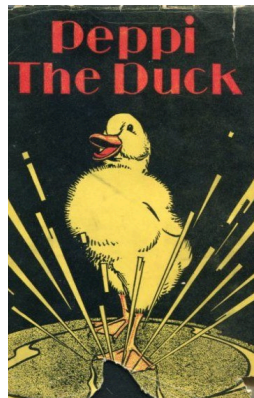
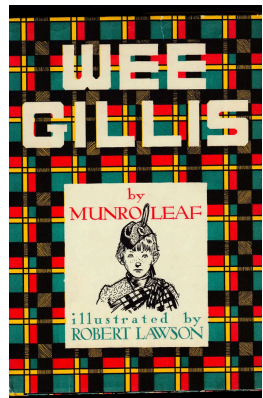
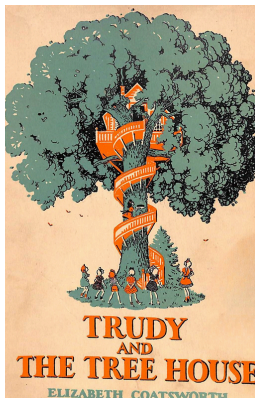
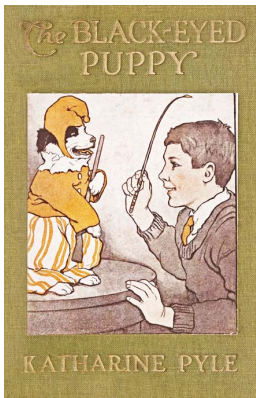
Back: Vernon Meland, Janice Funseth, Mabel Hamilton Schoch (teacher), Claudette Truttmann, Linda Funseth, Harold Sponem.

Photo from the New Glarus collection in the UW Digital Archives.

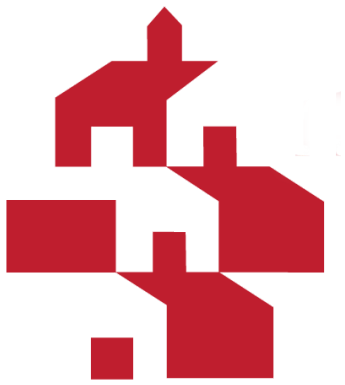
Mrs. Meland even made a point of writing down every book that each of her pupils completed during reading circle time! What an amazingly detailed record for any researcher who would like to learn more about the school days of their ancestors.

Big changes came to Wisconsin schools in the 1960s, as state statutes began requiring small rural schools to be merged into municipal school districts, and those schools began bussing country school students into town. By the end of 1970, the last public one-room school in Wisconsin had closed its doors. Fortunately, those one-room school days still exist in living memory, allowing us to better understand a nostalgic part of American history.

Further reading: One-Room Country Schools: History and Recollections by Jerry Apps. Guest Cottage publishing, 1996.



Pictured above is a sampling of recommended school library books, circa 1948. Do you remember any of these stories?



**The Bank
of New Glarus**

Powering Growth in Our Community

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

Ancestry Corner



*Photo shared publicly on FindAGrave by
Cherie Sckorohod.*

*This month's photo features the
Zweifel family. Regula Zweifel
(1839-1923), seated center, came to
America in 1883 after the death of
her husband, Fredolin.*

*Also pictured are her four children.
Standing are Regula Zweifel Voegeli
(1870-1955) and Fred Zweifel (1865-
1931). Seated to mother Regula's
left is Jost Zweifel (1863-1933) and
Gabriel Zweifel (1864-1946) is sitting
to her right.*

*Gabriel settled on a farm just outside
of Monticello where he raised dairy
cows. He also enjoyed playing the
banjo in his spare time. Gabriel
married Rosina Hefty in 1890, and
together they raised children
Herman, Rosa, and Hulda.*

**New Glarus Historical Society &
Swiss Historical Village Museum**

PO Box 745
612 7th Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

Recipient Name

Mailing Address

City, State, ZIP