

New Glarus Historical Society

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President's Report By Larry Klassy

2024 Board of Directors

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Welcome Swiss Historical Society members. Another busy month. We had several buses and were able get the fence painted. Thanks to the board members for accomplishing this feat. We had several compliments on it. Tim Pauli started guiding and does an excellent job. Thanks Tim. I had an interesting day guiding. The president of Mount Mary came through. She said they had ten thousand costumes of all designs. It's by Waukesha. Her his a nuclear engineer and has worked on the Hadron collider in Geneva CH. Some quips from our guest book: One woman said her family came from Algeria, North Africa the Mediterranean area. She could relate the experiences that settlers went through. The museum gives a great experience of the great Swiss town. Kelly is a treasure. A quick quote: "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago."



Contact Us

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& Swiss Historical Village Museum

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Erica Loeffelholz, Newsletter Editor



Trick or Treat! From the November 2, 1977 edition of the New Glarus Post:
"New Glarus Elementary School afternoon kindergarteners had a Halloween party in school Monday, and came dressed up in costumes ranging from clowns and gypsies to cowboys and monsters."

Upcoming Events

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.



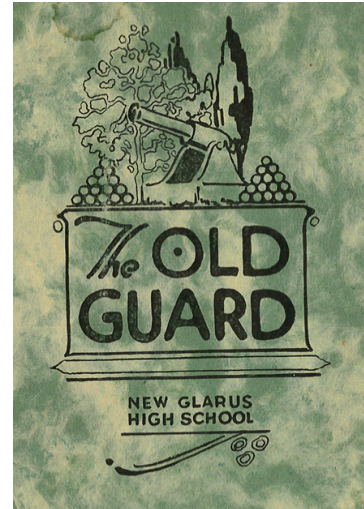
Meet Amy Legler

My name is Amy Streiff Legler, and I have recently been asked to complete the term for another board member who recently resigned. As a life-long resident of New Glarus, I have always had a passion for knowing the history behind this community. Both my mother and father worked at the Museum for years, my mother not only guided, but also assisted with cataloging and especially establishing an organized record of burials... as many families are curious about their genealogical connections.

My connection to the Museum (besides visiting often as a child), is that I have taught "Country School" to many students over the years right at the Swiss Historical Museum; most recently as part of the New Glarus School District's Summer School Program. The goal of this program is to immerse children in a county school simulation... allowing them hands-on opportunities to explore history.

I recently retired from teaching at New Glarus Public Schools, and my current position was sixth grade social studies, with the focus on US History. I hope to discover how my passion for teaching and learning can be of use on the Board.

Treasures from the Archives: The Old Guard



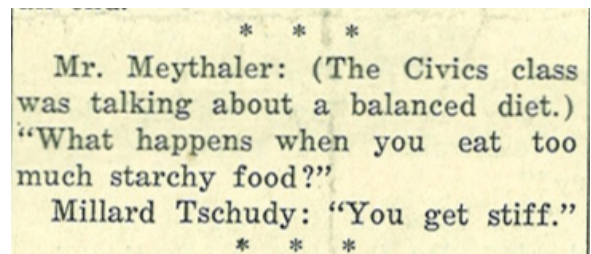
Did you know that the very first *Old Guard* published by the New Glarus High School was in the year 1917? Or that the first *Old Guard* was actually in the format of a yearbook?

We are fortunate to have both versions of the *Old Guard* in our collection. We have several copies of the 1917 yearbook, pictured above, as well as numerous issues of the more familiar school newspaper. Our newspaper collection was donated over the years by multiple people, and includes issues from the 1920s through the 1960s.

Reading through the past issues is an interesting and entertaining glimpse into the past. The newspapers contain the usual articles about school sporting events, classroom goings-on, and other academic news, as well as jokes, riddles, and poems & essays written by the students. We even have a number of articles written by a young Herbert Kubly, decades before he would go on to win a National Book Award for his first book, *American in Italy*.

If you'd like to read through past issues of the *Old Guard*, the school district has digitized a number of papers:

<https://www.ngsd.k12.wi.us/documents/district-information/old-guard-articles/508874>



A 1920s Hallowe'en By Erica Loeffelholtz

When one thinks of festivals and celebrations in New Glarus, Halloween is hardly the first thing that comes to mind. But the children and teens of the community have been enjoying their Halloween celebrations for well over a century, as evidenced by mentions in the *Old Guard* and the *New Glarus Post*.

To get an idea of what those early celebrations might have looked like, I turned to the digital collection of Dennison's Bogie Books available through the Hathi Trust. In 1909, the Dennison Paper Company launched a series of direct-to-customer catalogs to sell their specialty crepe paper products. The catalogs were a hit with customers, and Dennison's soon became a hugely popular source of inspiration for not just holiday decorations, but costumes, games, menus, and other entertainments.

If you would like to throw a vintage Hallowe'en party, why not draw inspiration from these old catalogs?

Set the Stage (1923 Bogie Book)



"As the guests arrive, they are greeted by a ghost standing in the hall, which is dark except for one feeble light. A second ghost leads the way to the room where the wraps are to be left, then, one by one, ushers them to an absolutely dark room. As the ghost closes the door a blast of confetti or simply hot air from an electric hair dryer is blown in the victim's face. As he becomes accustomed to the darkness he sees a pair of ghostly eyes looking at him and hands beckoning him on. A hand grasps him and draws him down the room and seats him in a low chair... The living room is quickly and easily decorated as illustrated, using such items as crepe paper, festoons, and cut-outs. At the door stands a witch whose gleaming eyes reveal the fact that her skeleton is the floor lamp. A skirt, cape, and hat of crepe paper will do the trick."

Lay the Table (1925 Bogie Book)



"When the refreshments are to be served buffet style, the table may be spread with an orange colored cover. Stretch strips of the crepe paper smoothly over the top of the table and pin to the silence cloth. Fasten a border of the Decorated Crepe Paper around the edge."

Suggested menu for a Hallowe'en party:

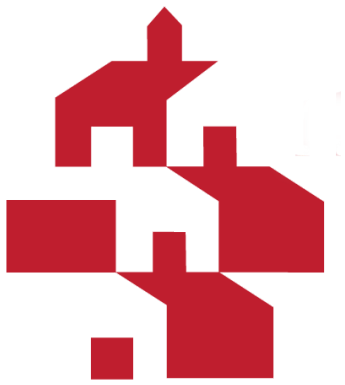
Chicken Pie
Stuffed Apple Salad
Nut Bread Sandwiches
Hot Gingerbread
Coffee

Games and Stunts (1924 Bogie Book)

"When the refreshments are served, have large red apples at each place. Ask your guests not to eat them until they are given the word. When the time comes to eat the apples, each one is asked to cut his apple in halves and count the seeds. The hostess will then foretell the future by the number of seeds."

1. Continued hard luck
2. Disappointment in love
3. Happy marriage
4. Unexpected legacy
5. Great wealth
6. Husband or wife known to political fame
7. A trip around the world
8. The attainment of most cherished plan
9. Soon to be appointed professor of an Agricultural College





 **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



Pictured here are Edward Marty and his bride, Hilda Schlittler, on their wedding day. Edward & Hilda were married on September 15, 1935 in Monticello. Photo shared in the September 11, 1985 edition of the New Glarus Post, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

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