

## NEW GLARUS.

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In July, 1845, four men, Armstrong, Greenwood, Slater, and Jackson by name, had claims in what is now called New Glarus. There was not a single inhabitant there who owned the place on which he lived; but the time had come when the long waiting of the unoccupied township was to be rewarded. Here was to be shown, as it was to be shown in no other township in the county, how the superfluous and poverty-stricken children of the old world are transformed in the United States into prosperous and useful citizens. Early in 1845 the Emigration Association of Glarus determined to relieve the crowded population of that canton by sending a colony to the United States, and Fridolin Streiff and Nicholas Duerst were delegated to come in advance of the colony and select a place for the settlement. They left Switzerland March 8, 1845. At the conclusion of a long voyage they were met in New York by friends of the society, and on the 11th of May they started with Joshua Frey of Pennsylvania, on their search for a home for the colony. They arrived at Chicago the morning of the 19th of May, and here the

search began. They traveled over Illinois and a large part of Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Their aim was to find a place with a healthful climate, convenient markets, good soil and water, and plenty of timber. They selected the township named by them New Glarus, and on the 25th of July they purchased twelve hundred acres in sections fourteen, fifteen, twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-seven of that township. The purchase was made at Mineral Point, where Mr. Streiff took the first step towards becoming a citizen of the United States. Not being sufficiently acquainted with the language to take the usual oath, the ceremony, so far as he understood it, consisted in kissing the bible.

The first work of the commissioners was to lay out a road from Green's Prairie to the prospective village, after which, on the 6th of August, Mr. Frey left them to return home. Meanwhile, Messrs. Duerst and Streiff had hastily erected a few shanties for the colonists who were daily expected. The society had not wished to send the colony so soon, but the emigrants became so impatient that it was impossible to restrain them, and they were permitted to start the 16th of April. Some communities paid the traveling expenses of those of their emigrants who could not pay for themselves, and during the night of the 15th and 16th of April, charitably disposed persons raised the money to pay for the passage of a number of families that wished to come but for whom no provision had been made. The colonists went to St. Louis and thence to New Glarus, where they arrived August 12. Their progress had been delayed

by some misunderstanding, on account of which the commissioners were looking for them in Chicago while they were waiting in St. Louis for instructions from the commissioners. At first they were crowded together in a few shanties. Then, as they were able, they built log houses; and whenever a house was built, a shanty was taken down and the lumber used to make the floor and the door of the new house. Few of the houses had two windows, none had more than two. The doors had wooden hinges that Mr. Streiff made himself. Two months after the land was bought, Mr. Duerst, who had never intended to remain in this country, returned to Switzerland, shaking as he went with the ague. The whole care of the colony now devolved on Mr. Streiff. Some of the colonists had a little money, but most of them were so poor that, as one of them expressed it, "if they had to pay six cents for a cat, they couldn't buy it." A few went to Thompson's settlement to work, and a few others spent the winter in Galena; but as a whole the colony was so helpless that Mr. Streiff was compelled to ask for help. The Association sent him \$1,000, with which he bought provisions, oxen, seed, agricultural implements, and whatever else was indispensable before the people could take care of themselves. Provisions were bought by the quantity, and sold to families at the lowest possible price. There was little in the houses, and little room for anything besides the folks and the beds. One stove and a few chairs were bought. Bedding had been brought from Switzerland, and beds were made on the floor so close to each other

that a housekeeper who confesses to many tears because the men stuck their dirty boots against them, says that while she made her bed she always stood on some other woman's bed. In the mountainous land of their birth, the people had never known such winds as swept through their cabins that long, first winter; and sometimes when they crept shivering to bed they had to take their few umbrellas with them. Fearful of being deceived by the harmless appearance of the Indians who visited them occasionally, timid men and women told till they trembled with terror the stories they had heard of Indian perfidy and cruelty. No wonder that wherever Mr. Streiff turned he found a woman in tears; no wonder that his incessant labors excited little gratitude, and that he wrote home, "I shall remember the year 1845." The wonder is that on a thousand dollars he could keep nearly a hundred persons from fall to spring in such a way that they should be grateful to him in after years. He did this, but, though often urged, he has never consented to take charge of another colony from Switzerland. Through the winter, the men were busy cutting wood and splitting rails. In the spring, the work of breaking prairie began. The Association sold each man twenty acres at three florins an acre, on ten years' time without interest. Some men bought more land, and some claimed land adjoining them, and paid for it in 1855, when the deeds were given by the Association. The commissioners divided the land so that the shares were as nearly as possible alike in their advantages in wood and water, and then, when all had

promised to abide by the result, the shares were drawn by lot. Rules for the government of the colony provided that no one should cut wood from another's land, but all might cut from the road. During the first year, two families at least should live in one house, and colonists should help each other in building houses and barns. Until their land was paid for, they were not to dig for mineral. After it was paid for, they might dig; but if lead was found, the land was to be given up to the society, in which case the owner was to be paid the original cost of the land and the value of his improvements in cultivation and buildings, but nothing for the lead.

The reports that went back from the colony were so encouraging that several times in the summer of 1846 recruits came from the mother country. One of them was J. Jacob Tschudy, who was sent to assist in the care of the colony. A report of the condition of the colony dated November 20, '46, and printed for circulation in Switzerland, contains the following: The owners of lots were Fridolin Hoesli, John Kundert, Paulus Kundert, Henry Hoesli, Leonard Hämmerli, Mathias Smith, George Legler, Mrs. Barbara Hoesli, Abraham Schindler, Balthasar Dürst, Niklaus Dürst, David Schindler, Markus Hoesli, Mathias Duerst, Fridolin Hefti, Fridolin Legler father, Fridolin Legler son, John Caspar Legler, Oswald Bähler, Fridolin Bähler, Henry Aebli, Hilarius Wild, Mathias Hoesli, Jost Trümpli, Jost Becker, Fridolin Streiff, Gabriel Baumgartner, Caspar Zwicki, Fridolin Oertli. Six men with their families had gone away,

and three men, J. Jacob Tschudi, Peter Hoesli, and Jacob Ernst had not yet drawn their lots. There had been two births and seven deaths, and the colony numbered at that time 125 persons. There were twenty houses, of which thirteen were in the village. One hundred and nine acres had been broken, seven hundred bushels of corn and "more than enough potatoes" had been raised. The live stock owned by individuals consisted of two horses, ninety-seven head of cattle including eighteen oxen, one hundred and ninety-nine pigs, and nine sheep. Fowls were still owned in common. A few orchards had been set out. A few garden vegetables, "as peas, chicory, cabbages and tobacco, also pumpkins were planted by way of trial." Fortunately, the experiment succeeded, especially in peas and pumpkins. The ground was thought to be too new for wheat, and there was complaint that the potatoes were not so good as in Switzerland. There were as yet but few fences, and the crops were much injured by the swine as well as by field mice. The prairie fires destroyed hay stacks and fences, and some of the colonists lost their hair in saving their hay-covered houses. Published extracts from Mr. Streiff's letters show that the people were well, but, on account of the hard work they had done, very ragged, also that there was a general desire for a minister and a school. After Mr. Tschudy's arrival, he was, until the people were able to pay for all services rendered, overseer, minister, physician, and teacher. In the summer of '46, the first Swiss school was taught. The next school was Eng-

lish. The first frame house in the colony was a school house, though previous to its erection some of the log houses had been boarded over. The people showed no great anxiety to learn the English language, but the children learned it at school, and it gradually made its way in the colony. More efficacious than the schools in Americanizing the people was the habit of the young men and women of going out to service. For years all the hired girls in Monroe were from the colony, and with the language they also acquired in their various homes many of the ideas and customs of the country. Married women sometimes left their families, walked to Monroe, washed three or four days, took their pay in flour, old clothes, or whatever they could get and carried it home on their backs. The men were naturalized very soon. Usually before an election each party had an agent at the colony who offered to pay the naturalization fees of all who would vote for his candidate. The second or third year after the arrival of the colony, Conrad Ott opened a store in the village. Mr. Frederick Egger, who succeeded Mr. Tschudy as agent of the Emigration Society, was the second merchant. The third store was that of Mr. Tschudy, who soon sold it to Mr. Gus. Alder. About the time of its appearance, Dr. Samuel Blumer, the first physician, and the Rev. Wm. Streisgood, the first clergyman, came from Switzerland. In 1855, a stone church was built. For five or six years there was no blacksmith in the colony, and for ten years the people went to Winnesheek to mill. Mark Luchsinger was the

first blacksmith, and David Klassy built the first mill.

One of the colonists has had the curiosity to search the county records to see how early and how often the names of New Glarus and her citizens appeared. The result is as follows: April, 1847, New Glarus school district was credited with forty children and school three months. Frederick Streiff was appointed road supervisor. January, '48, said supervisor made his report and was paid. A road was laid out from Exeter by way of New Glarus and Green's Prairie to the Mineral Point road. July, '48, J. Jacob Tschudy was allowed an account for bringing witnesses to United States Court. February, '49, J. Jacob Tschudy was petit juror. November 16, '49, a petition from township 4 north, range 7 east, asking to be set off from the town of York as the town of New Glarus was granted, and it was ordered that the first town meeting should be held at the school house in the village of New Glarus the first Tuesday in April, 1850. January, 1850, J. Caspar Legler was paid \$2 for a wolf scalp. November, 1850, the result of the first assessment of the town was recorded, to which is added by way of contrast the assessment of '76:

	1850.	1876.
Value of taxable property.....	\$8,915 00	\$323,996 00
Amount of state tax.....	17 83	744 32
County tax... ..	57 95	826 11
School tax.....	13 37	173 02
Blind asylum.....	00 60	... ..
Total tax.....	89 75	1,743 45

The village of New Glarus, apart from its interest as a piece of Switzerland in America, is an important one.



The hotels of S. Luchsinger and H. Marty, the cheese factory of the New Glarus Cheese Manufacturing Co., the saw and flour mills of F. Kundert, the brewery of Hefty and Elmer, the stores of F. E. Legler, F. Tschudy, and A. Kundert, with their various minor accompaniments, enable the village to meet all ordinary wants of the township. At the cheese factory in the village of New Glarus, Mr. Wilder made in 1876, 136,000 pounds of American cheese. For several years cheese has been shipped directly from this factory to England. In their old home the Swiss were accustomed to the care of herds and the making of cheese, and as soon as they saw the uneven surface and innumerable springs and brooks of New Glarus, they rejoiced over the adaptation of their new home to the industry learned in the old. From the very first they made cheese to use at home and sell in the county, but its manufacture in large quantities was delayed until some five or six years ago when Mr. Nicholas Gerber started two factories in southern New Glarus and one in Washington. At first only Swiss cheese was made, but of the two lines of industry the manufacture of Limburger cheese is now the more important. Besides the factory of American cheese already mentioned, there is one other, that of Hoesly & Lenherr.

The following table shows about the amount of Swiss and Limburger cheese made in 1876 by the largest manufacturers in New Glarus and Washington:

(TABLE REFERRED TO ON PRECEDING PAGE.)

	No. of Factories.	Lbs. of Swiss.	Lbs. of Linburger.
G. Babler, - - -	1	....	22,000
Jacob Boss, - - -	1	....	24,000
Jacob Freitag, - - -	1	5,000	....
Nicholas Gerber, - - -	3	....	227,900
Jacob Karlen, - - -	3	....	24,000
Paulus Kundert, - - -	1	6,000	....
Geo. Legler, - - -	1	8,000	....
Staffaucher & Weiss, - - -	1	20,000	....

The Swiss are among the best farmers in the county.

LARGEST FARMERS IN NEW GLARUS IN 1876.

Names.	No. of Acres.	Names.	No. of Acres.
Albrecht Baebler, -	270	Balthasar Kundert, -	265
Christopher Baebler,	160	Fridolin Kundert, -	490
Fridolin Baebler, -	185	Oswald Kundert, -	160
Fridolin Becker, -	180	Paul Kundert, - -	530
Jacob Burgy, - - -	180	Thos. Kundert, - -	300
Adam Duerst, - - -	160	Fridolin Legler, Sen.,	215
Balthasar Duerst, -	180	Geo Legler, Sen., -	400
Jacob Duerst, - - -	210	Friedrich Luchsinger,	196
Jacob Duerst, Jun.,	210	John Luchsinger, -	200
J. Henry Duerst, -	300	Fridolin Marty's est.,	160
Samuel Duerst, - -	240	M. North, - - -	300
Thos. Duerst, - - -	170	Anton Ott, - - -	190
Julius Eichelkraut, -	270	Jacob Rueggy, - -	165
Elmer Bros., - - -	400	Adam Smith, - - -	420
Mathias Figy, - - -	240	Frid. & Abe. Schindler,	220
Henry Geiger, - - -	160	Joseph Schindler, -	160
Caspar Häuser, - - -	210	Dietrich Staffaucher,	195
Caspar Hefty's estate,	300	Jacob Steussy, - -	350
John Hefty, - - -	220	Melchoir Steussy, -	190
J. Jacob Hefty, - - -	180	J. Jacob Streiff, - -	200
Andrew Hoesly, - - -	350	Peter Streiff, - - -	280
Henry Hoesly, Sen., -	210	Joseph Trogner, - -	175
Henry Hoesley, - - -	160	Joshua Wild, - - -	210
John Hoesly, - - -	180	Nicholas Zentner, -	290
Jost Hoesly, - - -	400	Fridolin Zimmerman,	160
Mathew Hoesly, - - -	280	Gabriel Zimmerman,	190
Peter Hoesly's estate,	200	Adam Zweifel, - - -	160
Peter Jenny, - - -	240	Henry Zweifel, - - -	160
John Klassy, - - -	200	Jost Zweifel, - - -	280
Peter Klassy's estate,	200	Zwicky Bros., - - -	235

TOWN OFFICERS OF NEW GLARUS FROM 1850 TO '77 INCLUSIVE.

CHAIRMEN.

JOHN WESCOTT, 2 years..	HENRY HOESLY, JR.
JOSHUA WILD.	HENRY TRUMPY.
RUDÓLPH BAUMGARTNER.	MELCHOIR STEUSSY, 2 years..
MELCHOIR STEUSSY.	CONRAD ZIMMERMAN, 2 y'rs..
PETER JENNY.	M. STEUSSY.
MELCHOIR STEUSSY.	JOHN LUCHSINGER, 2 years.
HENRY TRUMPY.	M. STEUSSY.
A. ALDER, resigned; F.	CONRAD ZIMMERMAN, 2 y'rs..
Egger, appointed.	JOHN LUCHSINGER, 2 years.
MELCHOIR STEUSSY, 5 years.	

CLERKS.

JOSHUA WILD, 7 years.	CHRIS. LUCHSINGER, 6 y'rs.
PETER JENNY.	THOS. LUCHSINGER, 3 years.
MATHIAS STEUSSY, 10 years.	M. STEUSSY.

