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## **The establishment and development of the New Glarus Colony (Wisconsin North America) overall view form [i.e. from] 1844-1892 as well as a travel description of D. Dürst, school administrator in Diesba...**

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The Establishment and Development

of the

New Glarus Colony

(Wisconsin North America)

overall view from 1844-1892

as well as a Travel Description of

**D. Dürst**

School Administrator in Diesbach

1894

copied in 1992

translated into the English

by

Peter Etter

School Administrator in New Glarus

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## PREFACE

Three days after my happy return from America. On August 27, 1892 I attended a teacher's conference in Diesbach of teachers from the Glarner hinterlands. At this conference I was asked by a fellow teacher to present a description of my trip to the New Glarus Colony for the next conference and also to have it printed in the local paper. Even though I was aware of the difficult assignment before me, I accepted, and have taken pains to describe the travel experiences of my trip as well as the establishment and the development of the New Glarus Colony on the following pages. As untrained author I ask you dear readers, for your kind patience and apologize because you have had to wait so long for my work.

Several requests from inside and outside the Canton Glarus have asked that the form of my report not be written as a paper as originally thought but that I put it in the form of a brochure in order to bring it to a larger reading public. Since this type of publication is also more rewarding and agreeable to me. I will follow with this request.

The submitted report contains much of interest that may seem doubtful to some of my readers. To these I would suggest to come up with at least 1000 Franks, a good sense of humor and take the trip yourself to convince yourself of the accurateness of my descriptions. They will come to know that one must really believe more than ones own eyes see.

While I am inclined to recommend my work to the body of teachers of the Glarner Hinterland a broader public is welcomed and I hope it is accepted by your readers and they are satisfied.

Diesbach, (Glarus) October 1893

The Author

#### 1. ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW GLARUS COLONY

It is known to everyone that at the beginning of the 1840's a big standstill in industry and trade occurred in the Canton of Glarus as well as many parts of Switzerland which created much misery.

In the Canton of Glarus one felt that over population of the land was the cause of the problem and public opinion demanded that the government support emigration to eliminate this evil situation.

In order to deal with this concern a public meeting in Schwanden in 1844 decided to guarantee a subsidy of 1500 Gulden (ca \$600). Shortly thereafter two trustworthy and expert men were chosen by the newly formed Emigration Society. They were given the mission to look for land in the United States that was suitable for colonization and then to purchase it.

The two men who were charged with this important and difficult mission were my father, Court of Appeal Judge Nikolaus Dürst from Diesbach and Fridolin Streiff from Schwanden.

My father was then 48 years old, a robust man used to exertion. From the beginning he decided to stay in the new settlement only long enough to make certain of its safe foundation. The mission was accomplished in 1845 and my father returned to his homeland the same year where he died in 1874. Fridolin Streiff was only 29 years old at the time. He also had the intention of staying in the colony for only three years. After

this time however, he did send for his family and never again left his new home land. He died in Monroe in 1889, a wealthy and respected man.

The two pioneers began their difficult and dangerous journey (for that time) on March 8, 1845. When they arrived in America they first went to Allentown, Pennsylvania to get some advise from H. Blumer, a fellow country man who had settle there. H. Blumer introduced them to an expert in the person of Mr. Josua Frei.

Their mission was to purchase 1200 acres of adjoining land. After looking for suitable land in nine states without much success they turned to the Northwest. Here they purchased 1200 acres of land on the Little Sugar River in what was to become the State of Wisconsin. They also purchased 80 acres of woods two miles south. The land surveyor from Monroe divided the land into 20 parcels called lots and the pioneers built a log cabin with the help of Friedrich Rudolf, a person from Aargau. This first cabin located here was completed in July of 1845. On August 6th Mr. Frei left this cabin in what was once wilderness and returned to Pennsylvania.

In the meantime on April 1, 1845, 193 persons of all ages, men and women full of hope embarked from the other side of the ocean to find a better existence. They were under the direction of emigration leaders Georg Legler and Jakob Grob. With bundles, sacks and boxes the group left from the Biäschen Bridge and travelled by water through the Linth-canal, Zürich see, Limmat, Aare and Rhine to Rotterdam.

Because of low tide the group had to wait in Rotterdam for 6 days and was able to ship out on May 12th. After a 49 day crossing that was very difficult, they landed in Baltimore. They immediately continued west and reached St. Louis on July 23rd. They had a difficult time getting news from the agents that went before them. Finally they met the agents at Galena who then led them to their future home on the Little Sugar River.

On August 15, 1845 the group of travelers arrived at the new settlement after an 18 week trip. Of the original 193 persons who had left from Glarus there now remained only 108. Many had dropped out of the group but later several joined up again.

The land of their dreams had now been reached, but it was no paradise, this land they had found. These earlier settlers had to overcome extreme difficulties and had much work and toil before them in order to provide for the necessary subsistence materials, building of dwellings, procuring of tools and oxen to cultivate the unbroken land. At the beginning they survived through hunting and fishing in the nearby streams and gathering nuts and berries that grew wild in the area. In the old homeland everyone hoped and believed that the settlers had it better at this time than those who had stayed home; but shortages, privations and even hunger were a part of their difficult circumstances.

Rev. Wilhelm Streissgut, the preacher of the first colony, wrote in the year 1850 that not 50 pounds of flour were available in the entire town, he also went without meals quite often and if he had received potatoes three times a day, he would have been satisfied.

In times of need feuds continue. The natural division of small and large valley inhabitants in the Canton Glarus continued to have its influence in the new land. Following the pattern the small valley folks built their huts on the east side of the Sugar River. In spring several families even moved away to other cities.

The new settlers faced the coming winter with great concern in a strange land, among strange people, not knowing the language or the customs and without good clothes and the necessary food. If it had not been for \$1,000 from the old homeland for the most necessary requirements such as food, tools, building material and animals the new colony would not have survived.

In the following spring of 1846, 22 families received their 20 acre lots.

The 80 acres of woods were at first kept together but later divided into 2½ acre lots. The lots had to be paid for within ten years at \$1.25 per acre. New houses were built with enough room for two families, the land was worked and planted and everyone trusted in God's help for a thriving prosperity.

Further development of the newly founded colony continued with nothing to restrain it except maybe poverty; but this was also overcome. In 1846 every family received a cow worth \$12.00. Men and older boys looked for work at nearby farms or in the lead mines in Exeter and Mineral Point when they had finished their own work. (I visited these mines on a side trip because they interested me. After 46 years however, they had given out.) Their hard earned wage of 50 cents per day was usually paid in the form of goods. The girls served as domestics for out of town families and the women took care of the house holds.

As was mentioned earlier my father returned to Glarus in 1845. In October 1846 he was replaced by a younger man in the person of Mr. J. J. Tschudy from Schwanden who handled the business of the colony with Mr. M. Streiff for many years.

Tschudy later occupied more public offices. He now lives in Monroe as a well respected citizen. In the year 1855, Tschudy was relieved by Egger who was less known but is well reputed.

The names of Dürst, Legler, Tschudy, Jenn, Ott, Kundert, Elmer, Zimmermann and Etter will remain in honorable memory as long as the colony exists.

According to a census by Mr. Tschudy, 20 acre lots had been drawn in the fall of 1846. Most of them had a block hut built on them with a total population of 124 persons. The first horses were purchased by Gabriel



Baumgartner. His example was later followed by Tschudy and Streiff. At the end of 1847 the Colony had the following animal count: four horses, sixteen oxen, thirty-seven cows, fifteen beef cattle, twenty-five calves and many sheep and pigs. One hundred nine acres were under cultivation.

In the years of 1847 and 1850 new settlers arrived. Five miles southwest of New Glarus immigrants from Bilten founded a settlement in a valley that is now called Biltnerdtäli, however it is counted as a part of New Glarus.

After many years of wrestling and fighting, prosperity followed. Religious institutions and schools developed along with the colony. The poor old church from 1849 was replaced in 1858 with a new but simple stone church complete with tower. It was officially and ceremoniously dedicated on the last Sunday of the year in 1858.

During the early years of the development of the Colony Mr. Tschudy performed the spiritual functions of the church until Pastor Streissgut was selected in 1849. Mr. Matthäus Jenny from Ennenda also functioned in this capacity during emergencies in 1846.

Pastor Streissgut also had a knowledge of medicine which was also very useful to the colony. His successor from 1856 to 1859 was Pastor J. Zimmermann who is now the president of the Evangelical Synod in Burlington, Iowa. In the fall of 1859, Pastor J.T. Etter was unanimously voted on to be the next pastor. Mr. Etter comes from the Canton of Appenzell. Born the 28th of December in 1832 he married Elise Zehner in 1855 and was called from Sauk City, Wisconsin to New Glarus. He presently serves the community with loving care and loyalty.

In 1859 a second evangelical church was built outside of the village where services are held according to the methodist rite. Two years later the Methodists built their own church in the village. This congregation

belongs to the evangelical synod while the first church preserves its independence and uses the same church hymnals for services as the Canton Glarus.

The first school was established in 1847 by an Irishman named Cowan in a log cabin owned by Balth. Schindler. He later died in the Green County Poor House. In 1849 Cowan received a successor in his countryman J. Kilroy who held school in the house of Mathias Schmid from Nidfurn. In the year 1849 a school for the colony was built in the village. Peter Jenny from Sool was in charge for six years, after him J.C. Zimmermann served for three years and the present teacher is Mathias Stussi from Haslen. A German school was also held in New Glarus with as great enthusiasm as the English. The first teachers were Ernst, Tschudy, Streissgut and then Zimmermann.

In the year 1867 F. Knobel came to be the teacher at the German School. He was born in Betschwanden and received his education in the Seminar at Kreuzlingen. His conscientious activities will remain an honorable memory in New Glarus. He died in Milwaukee in 1892. Christian Luchsinger from Schwanden taught an evening school for those who worked during the day in order to earn a living.

J.J. Tschudy was the first Swiss person to be voted into office in Green County. At first he served as Recorder, then as Register and four terms as County Clerk. Math. Marti was County Clerk during the time Tschudy was Register. Johann Luchsinger from Schwanden was elected to the County Board four times.

The first doctor to practice in New Glarus was Tschudy whose father had been doctor in Glarus. A French-Swiss man by the name of Bonjour followed him until 1853 when Dr. Samuel Blumer, a trained physician from Mühlehorn, but then living in Dornhaus came to New Glarus. Dr. Blumer moved to Iowa in the year 1866 and left his medical practice in New Glarus to his son Dr. J.J. Blumer who was educated at the University of

Pennsylvania. He presently practices here and is greatly respected.

The first wood frame building in the village was built in 1851 by the Ott brothers from Madison who also established a store in it. In the same year Josua Wild built a sawmill and in the year 1862 David Kläsi built a flour and spice mill. Since the Sugar River did not always have enough water to run the two mills the present successful owner, Fritz Kundert from Rüti enlarged the flour mill and changed over to steam power. The colonists were not completely satisfied with the very good drinking water that was available so production of the favorite beverage of the Germans and Swiss, beer, was soon taken care of. Dr. J.J. Blumer and Co. erected a beer brewery in 1867. Twenty years later, however, it burned to the ground. It was immediately rebuilt by the present owner Jakob Hefti from Ennetbühls but much nicer and newer. A little later a brick yard (works) was also constructed.

This is the brief outline of the history of the establishment and development of the colony of New Glarus, Green County, Wisconsin up to the year 1890.

## 2. TRIP TO NEW GLARUS

As a son of one of the founders of the colony of New Glarus, I have long entertained the wish to see with my own eyes the development and present conditions in the colony and undertake a journey there. Six years ago the thought came to me and it became stronger every year until it finally became a reality.

As a family man and father of five children this was a daring undertaking

for me. My dear friends and relatives have given me all kinds of reasons not to undertake the voyage but I had made up my mind and would not be swayed by my well meaning relatives.

The travel agreement was agreed to early and I paid 460 Franks for a second class trip to Mr. J. Stüssi in Schwanden. Departure was set for March 3rd and the crossing was to take place on the steamship "La Bourgogne". This was later changed however, and we shipped out on the steamer "La Normandie".

I chose the route from Havre to New York as it is the shortest route as seen on a map. On this route the English Channel does not have to be crossed which I felt was uncertain due to the many storms there.

The French Company, owner of the two ships mentioned, owns the following steamships:

La Touraine	8000 tons capacity and 12,000 horsepower
La Bourgogne	7300 tons capacity and 9,000 horsepower
La Gascogne	7300 tons capacity and 9,000 horsepower
La Champagne	7300 tons capacity and 9,000 horsepower
La Normandie	6300 tons capacity and 6,500 horsepower

These newly built splendid steel ships are famous for their sea worthiness, their speed and their comfortable conditions. Because of their great dimensions (length of 160 meters) they have a quiet gait and passengers do not suffer as much from uncomfortable sea sickness.

It is important to note that after much checking and communication I found that the French Line has better catering and cleanliness and that wine, bed (with blankets), utensils and other materials are all included in the price. Other companies charge extra for these so I can recommend the French Line to those interested in emigrating.

The prices for passage from Havre directly to New York are:

1st Class - Summer 400 to 1,000 Franks, Winter 400 to 800 Franks

2nd Class - 300 Franks - 1st and 2nd depending on choices

3rd Class - (Between decks) only 120 Franks

Return tickets in 1st and 2nd class are good for an entire year and offer a 10% discount.

The day of departure approached and after bidding my relatives and friends farewell I started my trip on March 1st in the Name of God and also to be able to greet my relatives in Johannesburg bei Lachen and in Zürich.

The actual departure date was March 3rd and our travel agent J. Stüssi from Schönengrund in Schwanden met us at the railroad station restaurant in Zürich with several members of his travel agency from various parts of the canton. Here we drank a few beers at our departure party. After having properly strengthened ourselves and made certain that everything was in order the train left for Basel at 2:30, and we arrived at 4:50.

Here we spent the night at the Gasthof zum Bahnhof. Mr. Stüssi and I shared a room. Due to the good catering and a very comfortable bed, Mr. Stüssi was almost late the following morning, had I not awakened him in time. He had to get a group ready to leave by train at 5:50 that morning.

March 4, 1892. Because of this delay I no longer had time to enjoy my breakfast. Mr. Stüssi accompanied me to the special train, where he had to take care of the passengers. He then said goodbye to the entire group and wished us well on the up-coming trip.

From Basel we rode on a special train whose cars had been arranged to take our luggage and also allow room for sleeping. Mr. Ländlicher, a porter from Rommel, a company in Basel, accompanied us to Havre. He explained everything quite willingly and gave us many good tips for the trip. From Basel and train took us over the brand new and solidly built

bridge through a narrow valley to Laufen. The bridge near the famous Münchenstein had been rebuilt after the great accident of 1891. We then travelled up a steep mountainous area with eight tunnels through Delsberg and Pruntrut to Delle. Mr. Ländlicher and I enjoyed a cup of coffee in the restaurant in Pruntrut. In Delsberg we had to go through customs but only the passengers of one of the cars had their things inspected and after only a short delay we continued on to Paris, where we arrived at nine in the evening. The train had a half an hour stop here which we used to eat something on the train. We then continued toward Havre in the moon-lit night and we arrived there hale and healthy at six in the morning on March 5th. We had to go on board immediately and could not eat our packed up provisions until we were on the ship. Once we had moved into our quarters on the ship "La Normandie" we had time enough to look around the small darkened port city.

I spent several happy hours with my fellow travelers whom I had joined. They were Mr. Bollinger from Schwanden, Gabriel Dürst, a lively young man from Sool and a young journeyman butcher from the canton of Aargau. Because of sea sickness and because I travelled second class I was separated from them for several days.

The entire morning of March 5th was spent loading. Live as well as dead merchandise, persons of all sexes from various countries with suitcases, bundles, were all loaded with the Italians seeming to carry on the most.

After the noon meal, at 2:00 in the afternoon the "Normandie" departed from the port of Havre. Including the crew there were over 1,000 persons on board of which the Immigration Agents of Rommel and Company in Basel had provided 376 persons.

We lost sight of land after two hours. I stayed up on deck until 7:30 because for me the view was very interesting. It was the first time I allowed my eyes to wander over the unending water surface which moved

only slightly with the waves.

March 6th. At three o'clock in the morning I was awakened by a mighty roaring, whistling and clattering. Because my room, number 104, second class, was located in the middle of the ship, the noise was not as noticeable here but all objects not fastened down were moving about. My walking stick, which I had placed between the wash stand and wall the night before proved clearly to me that I was now on the high seas.

After an enjoyable breakfast I went on deck to look for my travel companions from third class. I had to leave after a quarter of an hour however, because the mighty waves which rose to 35 and 40 feet caused the ship to sway and caused great headaches for me.

As I watched this display for a moment, it was between 8 and 9 in the morning that a high wave came over a part of the deck with the speed of the wind. Several passengers were completely soaked and two even gulped some sea water, which made Gabriel Dürst comment in his Glarner dialect, " 's Meerwasser ist doch ä meineide gselzni." (Sea water does taste a bit too salty for me.)

Due to the violent swaying motion of the ship I had to go to bed and could not get up until Tuesday, March 8th. I suffered from severe headaches, but had to throw up only once and did not have diarrhea; thirst, appetite and sleeplessness followed, however.

March 8th. This afternoon I managed to get up again in order to recuperate and breath some fresh air on deck and also to engage in some conversation with my travel companions. The weather was really decent, the sun broke through the clouds every once in a while and although I was very weak and thirsty I sat on a bench in the middle of the ship with lively Gabriel Dürst and with Mathilde Huber from Linthal.

Many of the passengers suffered from sea sickness, so it was natural that

we compared our symptoms and pains. G. Dürst gave me a large mildly sour apple to eat to still my thirst. I was very thankful for it because it tasted so good I could have eaten several pounds had they been available.

Pretty feathered birds, white with dark wingtips, somewhat larger than pigeons (sea gulls), accompanied the ship. Everything became more lively and a bad hand organ player entertained the entire travel company.

Evening came upon us and because I had been indisposed for the first three days the ships employees neglected me somewhat so in order to still my slight hunger I was satisfied with some scant pears and plums out of my suitcase. In order to quench my thirst the water kept in the room had to do. The evening meal was pushed off until the next day. That evening I found little sleep. I tossed and turned in my bed from one side to the other in order to find a comfortable spot until the morning finally came.

March 9th. After breakfast which was difficult to enjoy, I got dressed to go up on deck. I did not feel well again and threw up. I sat near a sickly looking and poorly dressed Italian lady but found no comfort there as she was as bad off as I was. I felt as the saying goes, "too bad to die". I suffered from a terrible thirst and almost unbearable headaches and had to return to my bed because I had no strength to stay up longer.

Noon came but I was forgotten again. I waited until 2:00 p.m. and finally said to myself very dishearteningly: "I muäss dena Burstä ä mal Bei machä, so chunis bim Eid nämma hä". (I'll have to go after these boys, it certainly can't go on like this.)

Due to my weakness I could not sit up in bed so I used the big toe of my right foot to press the electric call apparatus. In a few minutes two gentlemen came into the room, the ship's doctor and an assistant, both very young. The latter looked like our Moses from the last theater play we had at the Diesbach Hotel.

The doctor asked me how I was, upon which I answered in Glarnerdeutsch:



"s'Schiff ist ä Schaugli-Chaib, wänns stürmat, d'rum häni so ä meineid's Grindweh." (This ship certainly sways a lot when it storms which certainly gives me a terrible headache.) The doctor seemed to amuse himself upon hearing the original Glarnerdeutsch so he laughed heartily and remarked. "Those Swiss are lively fellows." From this day on I was treated in a much more attentive way due to his involvement. As the sea became quiet again I also began feeling better and was able to sleep until four in the morning on the following night.

March 11th. On this day the weather became stormy again. Large waves hit the ship so that in the last 24 hours it was constantly lifted from behind and dropped down every seven or eight minutes. That afternoon the ship's doctor visited me again. He is a kind young fellow from Paris who speaks German well.

"Hello, Schweizer, How are you dear friend?" "Oh I'm alright, Doctor, if I stay in bed a little longer I will be fine". The doctor however, felt that I should go up on deck as much as possible to get some fresh air. "I know that it would be good, Doctor, but I can not bear the extreme rocking of the ship."

I asked the doctor in a somewhat humorous way and with my original Glarner expressions about the cause of the shaking and rising of the back end of the ship. The doctor could not understand me however, and said that the Swiss had so many different dialects, even though he had heard several of them speak, everyone talked different. I repeated my questions in regular high German and he explained that the cause of the swaying was in the waves below the surface, which lift the ship at the rudder with such force so it moves about.

The doctor took leave and said goodbye, wished me a speedy recovery and good trip and then hinted the assistant Moses receive a proper tip for extra services. The shaking and the swaying of the ship continued through the entire night until four in the morning. The machines almost

stood still and functioned only in a slow three quarter beat, like the Glarners say, "G'ländi hüt nüd, so gländi morä". (If I don't come today, maybe I'll come tomorrow.)

On March 12th and 13th the weather was better again and on March 14 at 10 A.M. we saw the large light house tower on Long Island. At 2:30 p.m. that afternoon the Normandie entered the beautiful harbor of the world city of New York, safe and sound. After the passes of the first and second passengers were checked and the identity papers regulated, unloading began. I looked up my travel companions, wished them well and said goodbye.

A strict customs examination was from 4:30 to 7:00 and even though I tried a dangerous gamble I passed through. On the recommendation of a young Schweizer from the Canton of Aargau I decided to stay at the famous Grütli Hotel. He had given me a map and I got there on the elevated train. There I felt at home again because many Swiss were lodging here and the service was good.

March 15. At nine in the morning I received a surprise visit from my sister-in-law Karoline (Mrs. Schneider). She invited me to visit her in Paterson, New Jersey. I accepted the invitation and stayed until March 20th. I was received well and was able to recuperate from my unpleasant sickness. On March 21st I returned to New York to the Grütli Hotel to continue my trip. For the cost for lodging and keeping my travel cases I paid \$2.20.

My younger sister-in-law Aloise accompanied me on my departure to the ferry boat where we said goodbye. She had worked for the American government for the past year so she spoke English well.

The ferry boat trip to the train station took seven minutes. A friendly young man came up to me and asked me where I was traveling to. He asked to see my ticket and found it in order but he warned me to take good care

of it because my trip would take two days and two nights. After asking him for the exact train departure time to Chicago we separated and said farewell.

At 9:10 we heard the call for all aboard and at 9:45 the train departed. After a 14 and one half hour trip, I arrived in Buffalo on March 22nd at 11:30. I immediately took a bus to another train station and had time until one o'clock for dinner.

We left Buffalo and the train passed near the famous Niagara Falls to Detroit, the largest city in the state of Michigan. Here we had to change cars and then we travelled non stop to Chicago where we arrived on Wednesday, March 23rd, 9:00 AM Buffalo time. Here I again used a bus to travel from the train station of arrival to the station of departure. I also asked, as best I could for the train departure time as well as the time of day in Chicago which was an hour and 5 minutes later than that of Buffalo.

I viewed the city of Chicago until the departure of my train on the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Line. The most impressive things I noticed were the tall 10 to 12 story and higher buildings. I arrived at the railroad station on time in order to leave on the 11:30 train (Chicago time).

From Chicago the train headed north to the very commercial city of Milwaukee, then southwest to Brodhead (Monroe), where I stayed overnight.

On the following day, Thursday March 24th, I arrived in the friendly town of New Glarus at noon. This was the goal of my trip. Here my cousin Heinrich Hösli picked me up.

After the noon meal my cousin Hösli (who came from Haslen) took me to another relative Friedolin Dürst, who lived on a farm a half hour west of the town of New Glarus. (This cousin visited last summer here in Glarus.)

I was greeted as a welcomed guest from the distant old and dear homeland by him and his dear wife and I enjoyed their hospitality during the greatest part of my visit in New Glarus and surrounding area.

In time I visited other relatives and acquaintances as well as citizens from other towns in our canton. I was accepted and treated well every where. The names of these folks will be mentioned in a suitable place. I now come to the actual reason for my trip, the description of the colony of New Glarus.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW GLARUS COLONY LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION

The colony, New Glarus, lies in Green County one of six southern most counties of the State of Wisconsin, between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan, at the Illinois border. The capital city of the county is Monroe. This city had 3,760 inhabitants in the year 1890.

The areas from the southern border line of Wisconsin are divided by parallel lines called town lines running north and south. These lines are divided by lines going east to west called range lines. The lines are six miles distant and parallel to each other so they form quadrants.

Thirty-six square miles of a township forms a section and this is again divided equally and numbered in quarter sections or 40 acre pieces. A square mile has 640 acres, 36 square miles therefore have 23,040 acres.

Green County is a well settled area with 24,000 inhabitants. It is divided into 16 townships approximately the size of the Canton of Luzern and crisscrossed by several railroad tracks. Of the 366,423 acres almost all are cultivated and the average value of an acre is between 35 to 45

dollars.

As was mentioned earlier the two pioneers purchased 1280 acres of land and forest. Because an entire township consists of 23,040 acres (water, villages and cities included) 21,760 acres of so called congressland had to be purchased from the government until the entire township was established which is now call New Glarus.

New Glarus is one of the largest Swiss colonies in the United States. The town was known only by the name of Swiss Colony before April 1850. It lies in the northern part of Green County and in the eastern part of the township in a hilly area. The Biltner Settlement also belongs to it.

By request of the authorities in Bilten 17 forty acre lots of land near New Glarus were purchased from Fridolin Streiff in 1847. Twelve families settled here in the previously mentioned Biltner valley. Later more land was purchased. At first the settlers attended Church in New Glarus but later they built their own small church in which pastors from Monroe held services.

The entire colony has about 1,5000 inhabitants today. There are all kinds of stores but most deal with either farming, animal raising or cheese making.

#### THE VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS

As mentioned earlier the Village of New Glarus is located in the eastern part of the township about 16 miles north of Monroe and about 25 miles south of Madison. The location at the end of two low chains of hills, running from west to east and ending at the Small Sugar River is very favorable and friendly. the village includes about 140 homes with 360 inhabitants (1890 census).

New Glarus was acknowledged as a city in April 1850 in spite of its few

inhabitants. Since 1875 it is the ending station of a spur line from Brodhead of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. It will be removed in time to join with the Illinois-Central Railroad at a more favorable place which would connect New Glarus to Madison the capital city and lead to further growth of the town. The station is located on the east side of the small city on the Little Sugar River. The name New Glarus comes of course from the founders and earliest settlers from the canton Glarus in Switzerland.

From south to north the little city is bisected by the streets crossed at right angles by five streets running east and west. Emmenda Street which stretches from the southern part, the so-called "foundation" to the northern part (Hinterstadli - back town) is the main street and is kept busy by visiting farmers from the north and northwest sections.

Rütli Street, a block further east goes from the "foundation" to the custom mill of Fridolin Kundert and is crossed from the west by Mill Street. In the middle it stops at a small hill on which the first church is located. Molliser Street, a block west of the Main Street is the shortest in this direction. These three streets are crossed from west to east by Schwanden, Diesbach and Engi Streets.

These streets may however, not be compared to ours in Switzerland. They were not build with proper stone foundation underlayments so they are almost impassible during rainy weather.

Many streets also lead from town to the various spread out farms but because of the lack the necessary stone building material it is very difficult to maintain the many streets according to our concepts. Every spring the most needed improvements are completed with every citizen doing several days of compulsory service. A street supervisor is elected by the community every year to supervise the work.

Between the criss and cross streets there are many very nice houses built

in the American style with solid roofs. Among these new homes there are some with French type roofs and with entrances at one corner. For example this part of the house does not have walls but serves as a resting place in the fresh air which is used primarily in the evening until one is driven inside by the very annoying mosquitoes. There are also houses with similar roof lines where the entrance is in the form of a built on area in the middle. This resting place is always surrounded by a railing on all sides. This front area is called a "Brüggli" here but a porch in English.

Another house shape is a long uneven square with flat tin roofs. A third building style is a T form, also with a porch. The most inconvenient part of the American building style for a Swiss immigrant is probably that the toilet is located outside of the house and then usually more than 20 or more steps away. Sometimes this outhouse is somewhat closer to the house but always the same; painted and tie-beamed. On the farms the houses have the same I or T forms. Most are constructed of wood with horizontal running boards which overlap and are then painted. There are also homes built of stone and brick.

Not only in New Glarus but throughout America tie-beam homes are built without pegs. These are naturally not intended to last forever. The inner part is covered with boards and the out part is jointed. The space in-between is filled with sawdust or moss. Such a short-lived (hastily constructed) house is called a frame house.

Farm houses are usually surrounded by forest trees and topped off with lightning rods. Inside, the homes are pretty and meet the needs of the inhabitants and are practically arranged. In large rooms serving as living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms there is often a tile or iron plated (sometimes zinc coated board) cooking stove with oven on which cooking takes place, bread is baked and the room is heated as well. In

order to avoid the annoying heat in the summer, some houses have a summer kitchen which can be used as a dining room or people may eat in the living room. There are also houses however, that have separate kitchens.

The other areas of the houses such as parlors, chambers and bedrooms are all comfortable and furnished nicely and with good beds, so that I slept well wherever I had a chance to visit.

In order to heat the homes every living room or parlor also has an American fill-regulated oven. Depending on use, the homes are two or three story and the lively New Glarers have made them quite comfortable.

The necessary drinking and cooking water is of good quality and plentiful. Wells with pumps that are owned and maintained separately or by groups bring water into the homes. Water is also collected as rainwater in cisterns and then pumped.

A building place in New Glarus, called a city lot, the size of 66 feet by 132 feet can be purchased from \$100 to \$500 depending on location.

The houses of the small city are overlooked by two small churches; a Swiss and Methodist church.

The Swiss Church does not belong to a state organization but is an independent, self sufficient, free congregation with a pastor. As mentioned earlier, he is an Appenzeller by birth and now 61 years old. I got to know him during my visit to New Glarus and have the honor to have him as a pen pal. He is an upright and kind pastor and lives with his very friendly, vigorous and unpretentious wife alone in a comfortable house in the northwest part of the town. His two sons live in the neighboring city of Monroe in agreeable conditions where they are visited by thier parents from time to time. For my dear firend and his wife I wish all the best from the heart in the hope that God will keep them in good health for a long time.

Pastor Etter, as was previously mentioned, was unanimously voted as



pastor by the congregation at the end of September 1859 and celebrated his 34th year of service at the last church dedication celebration which is held every year on the last Sunday in September. In the beginning his salary was \$250 plus use of church facilities. Twenty-five years ago upon his wishes this was changed to a \$500.00 salary where it has remained and is paid regularly in quarter year installments by the church treasurer.

Around 200 families belong to his church with almost 150 voting members.

(The entire township has 600 adults.) The church customs of the congregation at weddings, baptisms and funerals are those of the homeland with few exceptions. Their church songbook is the same as that of the reformed congregations in our canton, as it was published by the synods of the cantons of Glarus, Graubünden and Thurgau in 1872, with separate voices for songs. At the time of my visit in New Glarus questions about more books came to my attention so I sent three dozen to the colony at the request of the pastor. These however are for single voices. The books are passed out before singing begins to those who have none or have forgotten to bring them, a custom I have never seen anywhere before. Mr. J. Zimmerman accompanies songs on the organ or harmonium. On Palm Sunday, April 3, 1892, I attended the service with my cousin Fr. Dürst for the first time and had the opportunity to observe this custom. Attendance at the church is average and like everywhere else leaves something to be desired. The church, which was renovated in spring, has 300 seats which are enough for regular services but not enough for funerals or festival days.

The sermons of the old honorable pastor are worked out well as far as I can determine and despite his age are delivered with understanding and expression. The congregation gives its full acknowledgement to their long time loyal servant and pastor.

The church council is made up of nine members, the president, treasurer, clerk and six members whose term of office lasts three years.

A sexton is hired to serve the church for \$60.00 yearly salary. He also receives fees for bell ringing and doing graves at funerals for non members.

Children are in charge of announcing deaths and funerals. Reimbursement for these are the responsibility of those left behind. Because of the large area taken in by the congregation the service begins at 10:00 am. Two bells sound for church services.

The outside as well as the inside of the church gives a friendly impression. It has a cupola tower without a clock and stands almost exactly east to west. In the choir loft there is a small older organ which accompanies the singing only during large attendance. When attendance is less a harmonium is used which works quite well. These two instruments are played by a youthful but very pious organist who gains recognition for his merits. Sadly the singing in this church by the participants is rather weak like in other towns. Young men and women leave the embellishment of the service to the clergyman and organist first through his sermon and prayer and second through the well sounding melodies. They sit there with their thoughts rather than to join in the rising song. They believe that the sound of the organ is everything and forget that its main purpose is only to accompany the singing and give it a solemn mood.

During the first 20 years the church cemetery was around the church, it is now located 10 minutes to the west outside of the little city.

On April 15th I had the opportunity to attend a funeral. A young man who was a harness maker by trade and the father of three minor children was being buried after dying of pneumonia. Many participants had gathered at the home to pay respects to the too early departed. His earthly remains were placed on a hearse which led the funeral procession to his eternal rest while bells sounded. After the arrival of the hearse

at the cemetery, the black colored casket with two bent down handles was set at the side of the grave. After the minister said the final words a fitting song was sung for the deceased. At the end of this grave side service the casket was placed in a finished box and lowered into the ground. The funeral service impressed me greatly and the lifting song at the cemetery was heart felt.

It is also common for community members to purchase cemetery lots for family tombs. These lots which are 14 feet wide and 16 feet long may be purchased from the congregation for \$10.00. At the cemetery the grave mounds are decorated with beautiful monuments as well as a group of young pines so that those who are buried there rest in double shade.

On December 31st, the ending of the year was not announced with the ringing of church bells in the afternoon as we do but this occurred at the evangelical reformed church in New Glarus at midnight from 12 to 12:30.

The sound of the two bells is very similar to the sound of the bells in Catholic Netstal.

The Methodist church which belongs to an evangelical synod has about 25 families as members and lies in a south west direction from the other also on a small rise close to the Schwandener Street (6th Avenue) which leads to the western farms.

The cemetery is on the same street as that of the reformed church but more westerly. On the northern side you find the pretty monuments of the eager followers of the sect: Jost Zweifel and his wife, Barbara Oprecht from Dornhausen in Linthal, both are buried here in one grave.

The morning service is held by church council member Kundert, son of Paulus Kundert from Rüti, Glarus. The followers of this denomination are

invited with a strike of the bell and not with constant ringing. At eight in the evening there is another service which is led by a minister who lives out of town.

The hitting of the bell was something new for me again and I asked one of the congregation members if the tower was perhaps too narrow or weak to allow bell ringing. I received the answer that this was not the case but that it was their belief to strike rather than ring the bell. Whatever the reason I could see the advantage since striking would prevent the danger of the clapper breaking or flying off the bell.

If I were to make a judgement on the religious conduct of the colony, I must honestly say that it was not right for the citizens of our canton to leave the small church community to form their own after all the difficulties of settlement and financial problems were overcome. As this did happen I believe the citizens did it in faith in order to lead a more Godly and pious life and to find eternal rest for their soul. This could be easily done because American religious freedom does not allow a state church (no religion in schools) and the settlers could join any religious sect they choose.

Since 1860 the Methodist congregation has not increased and I doubt that it will grow in the future. It has a friendly relationship with Pastor Etter of the Reformed Church and it is my deepest wish that this remain so that the members of this faith can follow their belief on earth until such time as they are called to their eternal rest by God.

In going over from the churches to the schools I must say at the onset that after observing schools in America they lag behind ours in thoroughness of instruction. Not that the children are less capable, but less is expected of them.

The village school in New Glarus is the largest of the six school districts in New Glarus township. One hundred and fifty children attend

the school which is held in two buildings. Since 1890 the winter term of five months is divided into three parts; primary, middle and upper with three English speaking teachers giving lessons. In summer there are two divisions with two teachers one for German speaking and one for English.

Summer school is divided as follows: the first two months from the middle of April until the middle of June, the last two from the middle of August until October. Parents can decide if they want to send their children to the English or German school. If this organization is wise, I leave to the readers who understand something about pedagogie to decide.

The required subjects are: reading, writing, arithmetic, speech, geography, health and government.

In the State of Wisconsin like in all states of north America the students must provide their own materials. Daily school hours are from 9 to 12 in the morning and 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

Every teacher creates his own teaching plan, like we do, according to his judgement.

Teacher salaries are \$40.00 a month for the two lower teachers and \$60.00 a month for the head teacher.

As can be seen by this description, school conditions in New Glarus are quite decent as I observed myself and the colony strives to keep its schools up to the times and not fall behind. The village government is made up of six members elected for only a one year term. Three are responsible for the schools and the other three for city government. A general meeting is held once a year in the town hall to elect officials and take care of necessary business.

The Männerchor which was under the competent direction of the teacher,

Mr. Knobel who died in March of 1892, is presently inactive (died out). However, it is still available to perform here and there at various events such as church dedication, which usually takes place on the last Sunday in September. It is the most important festival except for the fourth of July which celebrates the independence of the United States.

New Glarus also has a city band, which is available to play even though its future is uncertain.

The shooting society only has 10 members that practice shooting from time to time with old guns on five acres they own. Dr. J.J. Blumer, a relative of mine who was mentioned in the story of the founding of the colony is active in his profession as doctor despite his early graying hair and has a large practice. He is a vital and strong older gentlemen with whom I spent many happy hours visiting.

New Glarus has nine businesses such as saloons and beer restaurants and a brewery which are all supported by the Glarners. Max Hösli owns a large hall for dances and other celebrations. The mainstay in each of these businesses is the bar counter which is 250 cm or longer, 120 cm high and 50 cm wide and is where the guests are served. Usually there are no tables or chairs in these American bars and drinks are taken while standing. This is not the case in New Glarus where the tradition from the old homeland has been kept so guests can sit comfortably at 4 place tables where they talk, play cards or throw dice. In every bar there is also an ice cabinet to keep food and beer fresh. A billiard table seems to be another mainstay.

Since wine is expensive in America, beer is primarily drunk. A three deciliter glass costs from 5 to 25 cents. The bar owner pays a yearly charge of 25 dollars to the State and \$100.00 to the local community.

Cigarettes and tobacco are also more expensive then at home. One pays 5 cents for a cigar which can be purchased at the bar and can also be lit

there from a small burning flame. The ice which is used to keep food and drinks fresh is hauled out of the pond by the mill from the northern portion of the little town. Bar owners contract for this service for the set sum of \$800 per year. The language of the New Glarus colony is overall still the genuine old Glarner-German mixed with English phrases I soon understood.

When a new German immigrant comes to the various United States communities he is often subject to many unpleasanties because he can not communicate with the officials when he speaks German, so the Swiss person coming to New Glarus has a great advantage because he can speak Swiss, even Glarner-deutsch to the officials and be understood immediately. A stranger coming here for the first time could imagine he was in a part of his dear Switzerland. How pleasant and homey it was for me that when I arrived in the friendly town of New Glarus on March 24, 1892, that I could immediately converse with my relatives in the dear familiar sound of my mother tongue. However, because of the step mother type of treatment (second class) of the German language in the school, this condition will most likely change and give in to the English language

There are many work and business places in New Glarus. Stores selling various articles are owned by citizens of the canton as well as outsiders.

A blacksmith shop and wagon shop which are so important for a new colony are also available. They are run by non Glarners and have many customers. A harness maker, born in Riedern and named Salomon Stüssi runs his business here and lives in pleasant conditions. A tin-smith shop combined with an iron works and machinery dealership is run by the brothers Jost and Rudolf Hösli.

The saw mill built by Wagner Kläsi from Luchsingen was changed to a grist mill by Fridolin Kundert from Rüti and is quite successful. He also founded a centrifugal - butter production company in 1892 (Granary). The

place where the saw mill was located is now a storage area for boards and beams. These are available in various dimensions which makes it possible to construct new buildings completely out of wood in a few weeks.

A butcher also exists in the small city, however there is not a watch maker or a lawyer.

Mr. Thomas Hefti takes care of the postal service for New Glarus and the surrounding area. Letters and packages are not delivered to the farms but must be picked up. If a letter is not picked up within three weeks it is sent back to Washington where it is dealt with.

#### SIDE TRIPS TO THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF NEW GLARUS

As I mentioned earlier when I arrived in New Glarus on March 24th I was welcomed by Mr. Fridolin Dürst and his wife and stayed with them. After I got settled in and told them my travel experiences, we had our first light meal together in the so called Schmuzen-Täli (comfort valley).

The following day, March 25th, I used to write to my wife and children and my relatives and tell them about my happy arrival in new Glarus.

On March 26th my former neighbor Georg Legler visited me. He had immigrated to New Glarus two years earlier with Niklaus Legler, both young fellows were from Diesbach. They invited me to come along with them to visit Werner Elmer from Elm, where G. Legler had served three months as a farmhand. Here we could have conversations and song. In consideration of the bad weather I could not decide as a newcomer if I wanted to accept this friendly invitation on a Saturday night, on the almost impassible road and a distance of one and one half hours. After long persuasion on the part of my friends I agreed to go and we started down the bad road. As we arrived in the little city we met, quite by



accident, a lady with a wagon who took us along to the place we were going.

After about three quarters of an hour of difficult riding we reached our goal and were greeted very graciously by these people completely unknown to me. After a very good and rich evening meal which is the main meal of the day in America, we visited until midnight and entertained ourselves with songs, harmonium playing and conversation. We then retired with the knowledge of having spent a wonderful evening among good friends.

I stayed Sunday and Monday at the Elmer family and they took good care of me. On Tuesday morning, Mr. Elmer took me back to New Glarus where we drank a glass of beer together. The same day I visited another former neighbor, Dr. Blumer. This friendly gentleman who had just lost his dear wife was just getting over his sorrow and he welcomed me warmly. I had to drink a glass of wine with him and smoke a pipe of tobacco and he showed great joy at seeing me again.

As former neighbors and relatives we reminisced about our common carefree youth and thought back to the joy of an innocent prank we had instigated with several other youthful friends which will be remembered even today by a very upstanding citizen who is a member of the Betschwanden church congregation. At his insistent invitation I stayed until the following day and did not return to my cousin Dürst to the Schuzen Täli until March 29th.

At another visit at Dr. Blumer's he lead me to a cousin of mine, Maria Freitag, ne Schiesser, who lived on a farm in the southwest part of Exeter township, Section 31.

Due to the strong north and west winds which blow here in spring, especially April, I could not undertake any long walks. For the first part of the month I visited persons who lived close by: Dr. J.J. Blumer, Mrs. Anna Hösli, ne Schiesser, born in Braunwald, Cousin Balth. Dürst and

his wife also from Braunwald, and an older couple of almost the same age, both 82. Both enjoyed good health despite their age.

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, I again attended church services. This was confirmation where 13 boys and 14 girls took their vows. This time the sermon was much clearer and fluent than at my first church visit. This service had a much more festive atmosphere with singing and organ playing than the earlier one.

On the same day I met the brothers Heinrich and Fritz Hefti from Diesbach. Heinrich lived in town so I could visit him often.

On Easter Sunday Cousin Dürst and his wife asked me to come along and visit their friends the Melchior Schlittler family at their farm located a half hour from Monticello, Town of Washington, Section 1 and 2. I spent a wonderful day with these people even though they were previously completely unknown to me.

On April 19th I visited Jakob Jefti, brewer from Ennetbühl. He lives in town and is known as a practical joker, a conversationalist and a gregarious older man. He and his family put me up in great style.

On the following day I visited Niklaus Dürst, son of the tin smith Mathias Dürst from Dornhaus, who was a good friend of my fathers. He reminded me of his previous invitation of two weeks ago to take a trip to the capital city of Madison sometime in the summer. We decided to undertake the trip the very next day. A friend of Dürst, a Mr. Schläpfer, joined us and at 4:00 p.m. we left New Glarus.

After 20 minutes we arrived at the branch station Monticello, (the town itself is 20 minutes distant) where we had to wait for one hour. We arrived at the capital city of Wisconsin that evening at 7:15. The three of us took up quarters in the well known Wilhelm Tell Hotel but we visited another hotel proprietor that evening by the name of Baumgartner

from Sernftale. Lodging in our hotel was \$1.00 a piece.

On April 20th at 8:00 A.M. we visited the Wisconsin State Capitol. It is a very large round structure, a lot larger than our own Government building in Bern. It is completely surrounded by a wonderful park with beautiful forest trees and grass. Squirrels, protected by law, play in the trees. They have gotten quite tame since their protection and live in the houses built for them in the trees. The park is a popular place in the summer for walkers and fresh air seekers. The inside of the capitol is furnished splendidly. In many large rooms there are a great number of antiques, as well as many oil paintings, pictures of members of congress and government officials, silver and copper coins from Indian times, a wall clock, a four foot long well reserved wooden pipe with cover, two 4 meter long sailing ships in the form as they are presently built one completely out of wood and the other made from bark of mighty ancient trees.

Skeletons of died out, wild animals are also to be seen, among these is a horn completely grown over with wood, left by an animal that got its horns stuck in a tree and unable to get lose, it died: One and one and a half meter thick legs of giant animals, etc. Above a doorway a large head of a buffalo hangs covered with black hair to his nose. My companions tell me that these animals have been shot by the thousands these last 10 years so that they are almost extinct. In earlier times a hide from a buffalo ox cost \$5.00. Now the same hide goes for \$20.00 or more to make covers for coachmen or teamsters at 8 - 10 dollars. One also finds the various hardwoods of the land collected here as well as stones, ancient printed and handwritten material from famous men and a large variety of other ancient objects.

After viewing the capitol we decided to visit the state fish hatchery. For this purpose we climbed on a wagon pulled by two horses and drove 5 miles northeast where the facility was located. As this was the first time I had ever seen such a place I found many things of great interest.

This state facility under the direction of a state employed administrator is fitted out very well and practical. In many large and small water container thousands of fish of all species are found from the smallest to some weighing 2 to 3 kilo. In a building where the food is prepared for the smallest there is a meat cutting machine propelled by water as well as the actual hatchery. In a large room there are 56 six meter long and 70 cm. wide troughs made of boards and standing each on four legs. Each two are connected together. Fresh water flows through a small pipe into one, flows through a sieve in the middle and over to the other trough where the dirty water then flows off. One of these containers holds the eggs and the other vat contains little fish just hatching or just hatched swimming around by the thousands.

In another room the fish are organized according to their species and size in large glass containers each of which has constant flowing fresh water in and out.

In order to obtain fish from the hatchery one has to contact the administrator and request the number and species desired. The administrator tells you when they will be available and issues a voucher. The voucher is then presented to the controller of the fish hatchery who releases the fish to the individual.

After thoroughly checking out this remarkable facility we returned to Madison where we arrived at quarter to 12 and ate our noon meal at the Wilhelm Tell Hotel. After dinner we went sight seeing in the city. It is situated nicely and the northern part is bordered by two small lakes. Madison is also a point of junction for several different railroad lines and lies about 25 miles northeast of New Glarus.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon we returned by train to Belleville where we were picked up, as previously arranged, by the coachman Heinrich Legler from Diesbach, grandson of the well know Dr. Legler from Diesbach, who took us back to New Glarus. On our arrival Nik. Dürst invited me for

supper and later we visited Jost Hösli who invited me to spend the night.

On the 20th of April I visited with Pastor Etter. We conversed until six o'clock that evening with the only interruption being a baptism that took place in the parsonage.

That evening I wanted to visit one of the first settlers of the colony, the old and well know George Legler, but beer brewer, J. Hefti, kept me from this as he invited me to stay overnight with him, which I did.

The next morning upon awakening I was greeted in Glarner deutsch by his son Fritz: "Guätä Tag, Dürst! Hest au recht guät g'schlafä, odär wie stets? Seh da, i hä där da äs Glesli, uf Ehr vom rechtä, wännt nuch nüd ganz erwachät bist, das ist ä Hauptsach; 's Wibervolch het 's mer gäd borad, äs ist bigott wia ämä Hochsüt, mach dasst i d'Hosä inä künst." Und nach einer Weile: "Nimm nuch eis, Dürst, äs thün tän uf Ehr gut, wänu sägä, uni g'Spass."

After breakfast I played several Swiss songs on the harmonium and then took my leave from these dear people.

April 22nd. Today I visited George Legler. He asked me all kinds of things about his old home town of Diesbach and told me about the founding of the colony which he knows about from his father and Mr. Streiff in Monroe. He clearly described the difficulties the early settlers had to wrestle with. That afternoon at 3:00 o'clock I took my leave with the promise to visit him again while staying in New Glarus. At 3:30 I arrived back at my cousin Dürst's place after having been gone for four days.

April 23rd. Took care of my daily journal first. Later I was visited by Joseph Schindler and his wife, who invited me to come and visit them again. Due to bad weather I had to delay further visits. In the

meantime I repaired a hand organ for a certain Rüeegg from Schänis, since I had some time to do this work. In the evening I played songs and dances on it while J. Steiner, the farm hand of F. Dürst accompanied with a triangle until it was picked up again (the hand organ) by Rüeegg.

In order not to get too complicated I will limit myself only to name whom I visited in the months of May, June and July. At first these many visits were very difficult for me due to the uncomfortable farm wagons and the bumpy roads after a while, however, I got used to it.

Among others, I visited Adam Schmid from Nidfurn, then Mathias Elmer from Elm, daughter and husband of G. Legler. At the same time I was there he was being visited by his elderly father. He was an ardent member of the evangelical congregation who once asked me if I believed in God. I answered this question with a resolute "yes". He also told me that he had raised 11 of 12 children, one had died, and from these 11 children he now had 56 grandchildren, 28 boys and as many girls. Indeed a rare growth of family. The grandfather is now 80 years old.

Further, I also visited Jakob Krieg, Balthaser Vögeli, Andreas Hösli, Daniel Dürst, Jakob Dürst from Diesbach where I stayed for two days, Joachim Dürst and his father-in-law, Fridolin Legler from Diesbach where I could entertain by playing the harmonium and an 83 year old widow, Mrs. Maria Dürst ne Streiff from Diesbach who had a remarkable memory and was able to tell about the great difficulties the first settlers had to overcome.

In Monticello, two hours south of New Glarus, on the way to Melchior Schlittler, I met the cabinet maker Plazidius Krieg from Lachen who had spent some time in Diesbach. He was occupied in adding a summer kitchen to the parsonage. As it was already 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Pastor's wife, Mrs. Rusterholz (the pastor was not home) ordered the work to be stopped and invited me somewhat later to a wonderfully served evening meal. I spent the night at Krieg's where I also received a

friendly welcome.

The next morning I drove back to Monticello with a small vehicle called a buggy (spelled "Boggi" in original). I met K. Johann Blum and we took our time drinking several glasses of beer and seeing the sights of the town. As the day continued, Jakob Vögeli, son of Jost Vögeli from Linthal joined our group and he invited me to spend the night with him. The following day I was picked up by Melchior Schlittler who took me to his farm where I spent several happy days within the circle of his family. While staying at Schlittler's he took me to a small place called Exeter where my father spent the night in a small guest house when he came to this area for the first time from Milwaukee. This guest house has now changed to a nice hotel.

Exeter is located in the southwest part of the township by the same name (Section 35). Here we met two young men from the Sernftale by the name of Riner who were working in a cheese basement. Nearby this location I had the opportunity to view the earlier mentioned lead mines. These played out mines are found in a woods near the road and consist of 23 deep shafts. With mixed feelings did I view this area where our first settlers worked hard to earn a living. At the time these mines were worked there was a lot of traffic here between settlers and Indians.

With a feeling of satisfaction at having made a most interesting tour I returned back to Schlittler's farm at 2 in the afternoon. This day I was moved to recall the exertion and difficulty my father had often talked about when the pioneers had the task of looking for and finding some suitable land.

From Schlittler's farm I returned to New Glarus in order to participate in the June 17th National celebration which commemorated the end of slavery.

This fest is celebrated in the entire United States. In New Glarus the

official celebration took place in a woods on the west side of the little city. The opening speech was given by the head of the State of Wisconsin, Governor Beck. Several songs were sung by students and the Männerchor accompanied by harmonium. Patriotic songs and the beautiful melodies by the bands of Monroe and New Glarus really helped to make the celebration very festive.

A large group of Green County veterans from the Civil War wearing their uniforms were assembled with many other folks. Fridolin Legler from Diesbach, who is a resident at the soldiers home in Milwaukee, was not present.

On this occasion I met Mr. Thomas Streiff the son of Fridolin Streiff who had come from Missouri to visit his mother who lived in New Glarus. We said our farewells in Monroe.

After the festival, I again continued my visits. Accompanied by my cousin F. Dürst, I went to the capital city of Green County, Monroe, located in the southern part. The first few days I spent by my cousin Rosine Zweifel-Vogeli from Rüti. Later I lived an entire week by the elderly Samuel Hösli from Haslen. He was completely unknown to me before this.

After this I spent a few days at Jakob Altmann, a cheese maker from Engi and cheese maker Jakob Dürst from Dornhaus who both lived in the very small town in the southernmost part of Green County called Clarno.

After this pleasant visit I returned to Monroe where on the following day I took the train to a larger town lying on the northern boundary of Green County called Belleville. I spent the night with a Heinrich Hösli from Haslen and during the day had the opportunity to get a buggy ride with Samuel Blumer from Nidfurn to the farm of Albrecht Dürst on the west side of town. On the evening of my arrival at Albrecht Dürst I visited David



Kundert and his wife from Diesbach who lived nearby, where I spent a very friendly and comfortable evening.

After spending a day Albrecht Dürst took me back and after saying a wonderful farewell I was on the next train to Monticello in order to visit cousin Heinrich Freitag and Melchior Schlettler. Later they took me back to the little city of New Glarus which ended my rural visits.

### RURAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The various visits at my relatives and acquaintances in and around New Glarus presented me with the opportunity to make many agricultural and rural observations which may prove interesting to my readers. As one would imagine agriculture and particularly the raising of animals, milk production and cheese making are the mainstays of the colony. According to reliable sources, \$75,000 worth of cheese is produced and exported yearly. Growing crops is limited because of unreliability and limited only to the most necessary. Gradually most land is turned into pasture land. Only corn, oats and rye are now planted as they thrive. These types of crops are rotated every year according to the desires of the farmer. The various fields are separated from each other by fences made from galvanized barbed wire.

In sunny places grapes are grown which make a decent table wine when mixed with sugar.

Wood needed for building and burning is found sufficiently in the forests containing several varieties of wood which cover most of the hills and are a part of every farm. A cord of wood (128 cubic feet) costs from \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Due to the expansive agricultural operations, machines play a great part

as all over America. These machines are very advantageous and practically constructed so that with their help farmers can work their farms which can range from 20 to 600 acres, with very few persons.

Machines include hand or riding plows, clump cutters which cut up the sod clumps left by the plows, planting machines, weed clearing machines, threshing machines, cutting machines called reapers, balers (a machine that cuts the crop, collects it into sheaves, binds it and lays it to the side) and many others. All these machines are powered by two horses called a "team" who do their work quite well.

The whole animal population of the entire New Glarus colony figures out to be around 4,200 animals of which 400 are beef and calves. There are very few sheep but a large number of black and red pigs with short legs.

In order to protect farmers from the large number of animals doing damage an animal insurance has been available for many years.

One peculiar practice I noticed is that some farmers have the horns of their cows cut off close to the head. I felt this was cruelty to animals but was informed that this is done because children often start milking at the age of 10 and this is done for their protection.

The stalls are arranged in accordance with the needs and are very practical. The barns are not built of logs but of thick boards and the animals are chained to the boards with long chains.

The upright Swiss have kept an old custom from their homeland in that well sounding bells from the Glarnerland are used for the cows so now the herds can be heard going to pasture. I felt very homey and glad of heart when I heard these beloved dear sounds from my homeland in far distant America. As a musical farmer I would let the lovely sound of the bells of the herds ring along with accordion harmony in order to have a better effect. Yodeling according to my view is not practiced enough and would be very fitting in this type of herding life.

The necessary water for animals is pumped up by wind mills from 50 to 60 foot deep walled suction wells into wooden troughs. When there is no wind, horse power drives the pumps mechanism.

The typical grass growth which is cut just once a year with the practical machinery does not contain as many good or healthy plants as does ours in our Alpine high lands. According to this the milk, butter, cheese and even the meat is somewhat weaker than ours, and it must be true when the farmers here tell me that their cows would produce more than ours if they had our feed. Their animals are more productive than ours and it is certain that our Swiss cows would not meet the expectations required in America.

Young boys seeking work on a farm are paid 17 to 20 dollars per month as well as room and board, a dairy man 30 to 35 dollars per month, a carpenter 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  dollars per day and a brick layer 2 to 3 dollars per day.

During spring the weather is usually very windy and dry. In the month of April there is very little vegetation so animals are fed with stored food which obviously influences milk production. When spring comes it comes fast and within 14 days animals can be driven onto the pastures usually in the middle of May. Grass now grows unbelievably rapid and milk production of the cows rises accordingly. I proved to myself that when this change occurred that cows produced 8, 10 and sometime 12 liters of milk at one milking during this time.

Milk is mostly sold to the dairies. Depending on the number of animals several farmers deliver several hundred weights of milk on a daily basis.

Milk is delivered in covered containers in wagons. At the dairy it is unloaded and weighed. A hundred weight (90 lbs according to our measure) is paid at 70 to 75 cents (Fr. 3.50 to 3.75)

Depending on their contracts farmers deliver their milk to the dairy once or twice daily. They also deliver the necessary wood and pay a cottage rent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 cents per hundred weight.

When visiting farms I often had the opportunity to see how dairies were furnished and how Swiss brie and limburger cheese was manufactured. The dairy operations were usually very practically outfitted.

Swiss cheese is tempered at 130 - 160° Fahrenheit, Limburger cheese at 85 - 95°, and brie cheese from 110 - 120°. Swiss and Limburger cheese is ready to sell in about two months, brie cheese in 4 to 5 weeks.

Eight and one-half to nine pounds of Swiss, 12 pounds of limburger and 20 pounds of brie cheese are usually produced from one hundred weight of milk. Limburger cheese is produced coarsely. The average price per pound is 10 - 12 cents for Swiss cheese,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 cents for Limburger and 9 - 10 cents for brie.

In all cheese factories I visited I found the barrel shaped butter vat showing that not only fat cheeses are produced. Different type of feed, a warmer climate and other reasons stipulate that cheese is handled different than at home.

A practiced and experienced Swiss dairyman can learn much by coming to America if he allows himself to learn despite his practical knowledge. The future for the dairy industry and cheese making is generally very favorable. However, instability of prices of all products in America in general is sometimes a problem.

In America as by us, the cheese industry has a second side. Sometimes large sums must be spent in sending products to dealers without knowing much about the solidarity of their business. As an example cheese makers in Green County lost \$15,000 in three weeks. An acquaintance of mine,

J.D. lost over \$1,000 this year, this is however, the greatest lost for a single cheese maker since 1886. This person has a yearly business of \$60,000. In a half year he purchases \$1,500 worth of milk from the farmers. They are paid on the 20th of each month. Last year he paid the following for fabrication and packing:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. For workers salaries                     | \$1,300 |
| 2. For stomachs and powder                  | \$1,300 |
| 3. For cheese cloths (190 from Switzerland) | \$ 350  |
| 4. For vats, boxes, lead and paper          | \$ 480  |

At the end of the cheese season which usually lasts eight months, a so called cheese ball is held, where the cheese makers and their affiliates have a good time after the work is done.

\* \* \* \* \*

The present inhabitants of the New Glarus colony are all Swiss and mostly Glarners, with the exception of three Norwegian and two American families. They live in good conditions as I was able to see for myself.

Some of the earlier settlers of whom very few remain are even well to do. During my stay in the colony I had the opportunity to see how the people live and sustain themselves through my many visits with families in town and in the country. Through this insight I have come to the understanding that our citizen and farmer in the homeland does not live as well and must be satisfied with more meager means than their relatives across the sea. Here in our homeland we would consider a person a waster and extravagant user if he lived as they do in New Glarus.

The economic independent position that our dear country folk delight in gives them a determined free and happy confidence; all distrustful and suppressed ways are strange to them and through their character the old proud and brave Swiss spirit emerges. I have been pleasantly touched by the fact that even though the early settlers had to undergo many serious difficulties they still keep up their own homeland spirit and pass it on to the younger generation.

In New Glarus as well as all over in America class status and difference in age does not play as great a role in getting along as it does by us. You speak to everyone with the familiar you and marks of respect are kept to a minimum as can be seen by head gear seldom being removed. The simple hard working farmer and the highest official in the state receive the same respect and certainly both have the same rights of citizenship.

Women enjoy greater freedom and more rights than in the old world. My own experiences convinced me that the "stronger" sex must give way to the "tender" sex in many areas in America. For example the man does not have the right to sell his home without the consent of his first, second or third wife.

There is not much to report regarding arrogance or haughtiness. Women as men are dressed simply but well and if a careless man should appear in a shabby coat or a defective head cover, this does not mean much, no one is offended or makes any comments about it.

Women usually take care of all household business themselves in the city as well as in the country. Washing takes place regularly every Monday which has certain advantages. They fabricate their own soap, and the rain water gathered in cisterns makes for excellent wash water. Ironing is also done by them so every married man is seen with nice white clothes.

The following are typical New Glarus prices for groceries and other needed items:

An eighth of beer which farmers usually pick up themselves at the brewery is 4 gallons (16 kilo) and costs one dollar. In the Saloons 3 deciliters of beer costs 5 cents, as does a cigar. One cord (Klafter) = 128 cubic feet oakwood cost \$3.50, other types of wood are cheaper. Fresh butter cost 20 to 22 cents per pound. Eggs vary

between 12 and 22 cents a dozen depending on the season. Potatoes cost 50 to 60 cents a bushel (60 pounds).

The bird varieties are much different than ours. There are a lot of brightly colored birds but one does not hear song birds. The largest group seem to be the titmice but no finches. There are a lot of sparrows; they supposedly immigrated too. There is a type of crow which becomes noticeable through their loud cries. I saw no swallows but did see beautiful humming birds. Instead of hearing the beautiful songs of thrushes and blackbirds on spring evenings you hear the constant call of the whippoorwill. The farmers own all kinds of chickens.

I also observed foxes, rabbits and hares, as well as a type of marmot (wood chuck) that lives in holes in the ground. Hunting these animals is free.

\* \* \* \* \*

In general the governmental situation and organization are much different from ours.

If new churches are built by congregations the pastors serving them are entirely dependent on free will contributions. The state contributes nothing to their salaries. In many congregations the birth and marriage registers are not kept at all or very poorly, which leads to many unpleasant occasions.

Taxes are raised once a year. Every spring a new valuation of property takes place which is approximately half the actual value. State, county, township, city and school district levy their own taxes which range from 75 cents to \$2.00 per \$1,000.

Cities have higher taxes than rural areas because they spend more on

public requirements. Young people are therefore moving to the cities because they have more opportunities to become wealthy and receive acknowledgement than life in the country which is simpler. On the other side these are replaced by fresh immigrants who through their hard work and thriftiness also become successful though somewhat slower.

Representatives for the law giving bodies of the state and for Congress are determined according to the population determined every 10 years. For every 17,000 inhabitants one representative is voted to the state legislature for every 50,000 one senator. The State of Wisconsin has 100 representatives and 33 senators. For every 160,000 residents a congressman is selected and every state, whether large or small sends two national senators to Washington.

In the western states every man may vote once he has reached his 21st birthday if he is born here, or if he decides to be a citizen after living in the state for one year. In the older eastern states a foreigner must live in that state continually for five years and then become a citizen before he may vote.

Voting rights in the western states are much more liberal because these states do not have the populations of the eastern states.

Every state has its own laws regarding voting so these conditions are different in each state.

In the State of Wisconsin women who have reached the age of 21 many vote in school affairs and they can even become members of school boards. In Monroe women have been school board members for years.

Every county operates its own schools and is self sufficient. A county inspector or superintendent is elected by the people for a two year term to provide supervision to the schools. His duties include testing teachers and to issue diplomas to those who qualify on a yearly basis, to



visit every school at least twice a year, to examine all complaints and to resolve them or pass them on to the state superintendent.

Teachers are paid by their local school boards who hire them. The money needed for this is usually raised through taxes on property. Every state also has a school fund whose interest is paid out to the schools on a yearly basis depending on the number of students.

Salaries of teachers vary greatly. In Green County teachers at the rural schools receive \$20.00 per month, but the salary of a head teacher could go to \$1,200 per year.

In Monroe there are 18 male and female teachers who are paid from \$35.00 to \$65.00 per month. Usually school is held only 9 months of the year and each teacher averages about 60 students.

In country schools not only teachers educated in colleges are employed but also young men who have the necessary minimum knowledge to teach. In the cities higher demands are placed on teachers.

Teachers are hired for one year at a time and often shorter times. Changing teachers is common place especially in the rural schools. It is a rare exception if a teacher stays at the same school his entire life. Women may be chosen as teachers only if they are not married and the teaching profession is often used by men as a form of gaining experience or temporary job leading to something better.

In regard to inheritance laws it is worth mentioning that a father can disinherit his son to the sum of one dollar if the son is not willing to live in accordance to the rules, leaves without permission or does not live a lifestyle accepted by the father. He can also leave his son more than his daughter or entirely dispose of his property or fortune as he sees fit.

Management and competition laws are similar to ours in most areas.

A census of the people is taken every five years. One by the state and the other one by the federal government. According to the official 1890 census the capital city of the state of Wisconsin had 14,000 people, the business city of Milwaukee 220,000, St. Paul 140,800, Janesville 12,000 and the capital city of Green County, Monroe, had 3,760 inhabitants.

### CLIMATE

The New Glarus colony lies between the 42nd and 43rd degree northern parallel and the 71st and 72nd west lateral. The daytime difference between Madison and Bern is therefore 6 hours and 25 minutes.

The climate is moderate as by us but temperatures do rise in the summer, sometimes up to 38° C which is very difficult for new comers. The inhabitants are used to it and attain a great age in this good climate. It is not seldom that one meets persons aged 70 to 80 and sometimes even 90.

The weather is similar to ours, sometimes rainy other times pleasant, but longer periods of dryness persist as by us in our mountainous and windy Glarnerland. The change in temperature is also much faster than by us so that during one day the temperature difference could vary by 10 degrees.

After a late, windy spring, summer usually sets in within 14 days combined with an unusual rapid growth of vegetation. Fall is usually good until the end of the year. Winter can get quite cold for several days with little snowfall. Thunderstorms are heavy and rain wets the land to a stronger degree than by us. So even though the colony of New Glarus lies in the moderate zone it has again a different climate than we have.

America uses the Fahrenheit system of measurement where the degrees are divided into small parts. 0 degrees Celsius is 32 degrees Fahrenheit so it is understandable when we speak of temperatures of 70 to 100 degrees.

With this I have arrived at the conclusion of my description of the New Glarus colony. With the wish that God Almighty protect the distant colony and its inhabitants in its present prosperity I would like to combine the fullest recognition to the Canton government of that time and the first pioneers who with the founding of this now flowering Swiss colony in America's far west have earned well deserved merit.

In 1895 a celebration will take place to honor the few remaining living first settlers and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the colony.

#### 4. THE TRIP HOME

The time allotted for my stay in the New Glarus colony has neared its end. Since at the same time private reports from New York told of several cholera cases, I decided to begin my trip home.

Although my friends tried to put off my departures, they could no longer hold me for those important reasons, and I took my leave from my dear relatives and acquaintances forever.

On the last evening I spent several hours at Dr. Blumer's where we emptied a good glass of wine for all the best to the Colony and to celebrate our taking leave of one another. The last night was spent at my cousins J. Heinrich. On Friday morning, the fifth of August I began

my long trip after a hearty breakfast.

At the railroad depot I once more thought of all the happy hours I spent in the colony. I let my thoughts wander to all the thankful memories and to all the friendly folks I had met who had gone out of their way to make my stay among them most agreeable.

It was particularly satisfactory for me to have been the first one from the old homeland to make a visit to the colony. As a son of one of the founders I was glad to find favorable conditions and to see that the purpose of the founding government and the earlier leaders had been completely achieved.

At 7:50 I left the little town that had become so dear to me with a hearty "so long" to go to Monroe. Here I made several more visits to my cousin Rosine Zweifel, ne. Vögeli, at Mrs. Streiff and John Luchsinger, a respected man, born in Schwanden in 1839, who came to the United State in 1845 with his parents. I also visited Heinrich Dürst and Nikolaus Dürsten from Braunwald also a well respected man. The first gave me much information which was very worthwhile, the latter I would like to thank for his friendly accommodations.

After spending three days in Monroe I took leave of my dear relatives and friends in order to continue my trip with the consciousness that I was accepted everywhere I arrived so that I hated to leave this free America.

On August 8th at 8:45 I left Monroe. In Clarno I met the well known cheese manufacturer, J. Dürst from Dornhaus. He was traveling on business so we spent an hour on the same train visiting.

At 9:45 I arrived in Freeport, an unsightly little city in Illinois. Here I had time to look at the town or travel on. I decided to take a small side trip and after enjoying a noon meal drove to Galena, a well known town my father knew, and from there across the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile Mississippi

to the City of Dubuque and then back to Freeport. On the following day at 4:45 in the afternoon I continued my trip and arrived at the world city of Chicago at 8:00 p.m. I checked in at the Exchange Hotel on 157 Thimont Place where the service was good.

The following are notes about Chicago:

The origin and meaning of the word Chicago -

A learned and inquiring correspondent from the Chicago Tribune traces the word back to the speech of the Cree Indian language which referred to the circumstance of "a gathering place of skunks" derived from "strong, stalwart and mighty". This relationship was attached by the Indians who lived here because one of their chiefs who had this name drowned at the mouth of the river now called the Chicago River. Accordingly it is called strong and mighty in accordance with history.

Historical Review --

In the year 1801 a swamp; 1811 a small military post, which was soon abandoned and was to become a showplace for an Indian blood bath; 1821 again an important outpost; 1831 a village with 12 houses but no post routes, streets or post office. In 1841 an incorporated city with 5,752 inhabitants and an export business of \$328,625.00; 1851 rapid growing commercial city with railroad connection to New York forthcoming; corn export at 4,646,831 bushels and 34,437 inhabitants; 1861 corn, pork and wood construction industries are wonderfully developed and inhabitants much increased. The fumes from the city have increased ten fold in one decade; 1871 a rich, proud and beautiful city, the most famous commercial city in and outside the country with a great future, then suddenly -- one October evening -- almost totally destroyed, only to rise to even greater fame a monument to undefeatable courage and deniable energy. 1982 a major railroad center, the largest stock yard and the first wheat market in the world and the showplace of activity for more than a quarter million eager, restless workers who were attracted here from near and far due to the cities fame, always taking large steps forward in leaps and bounds which makes this a world city. This is the short history of

Chicago, the garden and phoenix city of America, the capital city bringing forth the wealth of the west.

The growth of Chicago occurred at the same time and is partially due to the constant development and prosperity of the western states and territories. This is especially true for Illinois and Iowa. As young as the city of Chicago is, it was after it was incorporated that the now large state of Iowa was organized as a territory, at the same time Illinois, which now leads all states in the production of commodities and railroad miles and is second in manufacturing with 30,000 inhabitants which live mostly in the southern part only became a state in 1818.

The area of the city is 181.5 square miles. It is 24 miles long and 10 miles wide. In the year 1892 there were 2,335 miles of streets and 75 miles of boulevards in the city with an area of 17,880 acres.

According to the 1890 census, Chicago had 1,099,850 inhabitants. The estimated population on January 1, 1892 is 1,375,535 and the 1892 school census showed 1,428,318. With the exception of London no other city of the world can have such a large and diversified population as Chicago.

Railroad Stations - Chicago is the railroad hub for 76,865 miles of track. Seven railroad depots accept trains from 35 different companies and about 100 suburban stations comfortably bring in passengers from outside. The depots are partially very imposing buildings. Union Depot, Canal Street is used by Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Milwaukee, Southern and Rock Island lines; the Michigan Depot by Southern and Rock Island lines, Van Buren Street by Chicago and Northwestern, Wells-Kinzie Street-Corner; Dearborn Street Station and Polk Street; and Grand Central Depot.

Chicago, the monster city has many approaches. It is said that one can arrive in Chicago in a sleeping car and without leaving it continue

travel to a city on the Atlantic coast, Canada or Mexico. 175,000 people arrive and leave Chicago daily.

Several stable steamship lines carry passengers to and from the lake docks which are used much during the hot summer.

Two days after my arrival in Chicago, during which time I also took a trip to the south to visit St. Louis, my trip continued. At 10:35 I was on the train traveling into the bright night and the following morning at around 10:00 a.m. we arrived in Detroit, Michigan. Here the entire long train was carried over Lake St. Claire and Lake Eric on a ship transport.

We then continued on and at 4:00 in the afternoon arrived at the famous Niagara Falls. The train stopped here for a half hour and I had some leisure time to view the massive waterfalls.

The falls were not visible until I got to the edge of a protruding rock formation, and then this performance was beyond all praise, so grandiose it surprised me with deafening might! Now I stood here in the great reception room of the great water king in the face of this fantastic phenomenon which I had first dreamed about in my younger years in school. A name that is known in the entire world to every soul who knows something of the wonders of the world - whose existence by anyone who has seen it is uncomparable and considered almost supernatural and whose fame calls thousands and thousands of astonished admirers from all the farthest corners of the world who spread its fame and praise further. And really, the Niagara Falls deserve this fame and praise, and now as I stood near these falls on the closest shore lost in wonder and astonishment, while a light breeze brought over a cool water dust cloud from the deep and the tossing and raging falling water masses filled the surroundings and almost stunned my senses. I was overcome by a strange feeling of reverence of the god like grandeur of the creation which here has claimed one of its most wonderful works to date. If there is one place on God's earth that can bring timidity and reverence to the human soul, this is it, and the impression that this gigantic monument of God's

unfathomable creation has left on my memory is so great that it will never be weakened or snuffed out no matter what other natural wonders my eyes might light upon in later years.

What wonderful shapes water can take! When looking at this Niagara it seems as if though one has never seen this element before! Undescribably beautiful we see the picture in full clarity before us: the deep round rock basin into which the river crashes down from its high running track divides us from the small Goat Island, where the falls come down on both sides. The side, on the right is the American and left the Canadian, the latter is more impressive because here the water plunges down into the depths in the form of a gigantic horse shoe, while the American falls presents a straight, regular falling wall of water. The Horseshoe falls are more expansive while the American falls are about five feet higher at 160 feet. Between the two is the afore mentioned Goat Island.

The Niagara River is formed from the outlet of the waters of Lake Erie and several others of the great lakes which together with Lakes Erie and Ontario contain almost half of the fresh waters from the surface of the earth. The river has quite a distance above the falls where it runs wildly along from rock to rock building slopes, cataracts and falls. Just above the falls the river grows to a violent stream, turns at a right angle to the northeast and suddenly its width narrows from three miles to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. A reaching out arm from Goat Island divides it into two main streams which go around the island and join again after the sudden fall at the foot of it. The lower part of the island falls to the depths in a perpendicular direction. At the base of both falls, small and large pieces of rock are found upon which the enormous water mass lands causing a thundering din and sending thick clouds of water vapor high into the air. Whirling and foaming the water collects in the basin and becomes quiet for a short time even though it's still covered with froth. Further down the water speeds up again flowing rapidly through rocks until it forms a large water whirlpool of gigantic dimensions and might. It is here that the famous English swimmer, Captain Webb, lost



his life.

It is assumed that 100,000 tons of water flow over these falls in an hour. The average depth of the river before the falls is 20 feet, below the falls it is 100 feet.

A fleeting glance of the sharp curve of the river just above the falls is possible from the American side. The new Cantiliver Bridge (Michigan-Central Railroad) crosses the great heights close to the Suspension Bridge. It is built according to a completely new system, the first of its kind in the world. It is made entirely of steel and has no other support except for the two arms which begin at the bridge head on each side and meet in the middle and as such carry the entire weight of the bridge. The bridge looks as if it were of weak construction and seems less solid than the hanging bridge on which we are swaying above the river at dizzying heights. However, in reality it is stronger and has more capacity and at the grand opening when two trains crossed at the same time from shore to shore there was no swaying or bending observed. The hanging bridge on the other hand sways and shows some movement every time a passenger train passes over it. All trains cross the latter very slowly while the regular speed is maintained when crossing the new bridge. The Cantiliver Bridge was just opened a few weeks ago.

The enormous water mass going over these falls produce many thousands of horsepower for electrical power delivered to far away places.

At 4:30 the train continued on at the noticeable speed of 60 mph or 95.04 Km/h until we arrived in New York again on the morning of August 12th. I took the ferry boat over to the city and stayed in a well known hotel. I stayed in New York until the next evening where I had to embark. During this short time I visited our upright countryman, Mr. Rudolf Speich, master engraver from Luggelbach, who had the kindness to show me around a little bit in the large city, which I still thank him for today. During

my stay in New York, I also visited Pastor J. Schlegel, a friend of Mr. Strickler, a teacher from Betschwanden.

On Saturday, August 13, at 6:30 in the morning (New York time) the large steamship "La Bourgogne" left the harbor of New York. I had embarked on this ship which entered Havre on Sunday, August 21st at 8:00 in the morning after a very favorable voyage. The actual trip took seven days and 20 hours. The difference in time between Havre and New York is 4 hours and 57 minutes. On an eight day trip this comes to 24 hours and 37 minutes per day, and five seconds for every one of the 3,320 sea miles (5,976 Kilometer).

On this trip I joined a happy group of travelers which rotated around a very sociable gentleman from Unterwalden and his stout wife from Alsace. This childless couple came from the State of New Jersey, where they had spent many year and gathered a fortune. They were on the return trip to their homeland and the trip was pleasantly shortened (for me) with their company.

Now that I have completed two sea voyages I feel a sea voyage opens mans heart to God's wonderful creation. The overwhelming impression that this enormous expanse of water has on the soul be it storm or calm is inextinguishable. And nowhere else is man's adequateness faced by the Almighty, with the natural surroundings passed in front of his eyes as

he who travels here, unless he is entirely without thought, can make a lot of interesting observations.

One sees ships very clearly coming upon the far horizon. They get larger as they come closer and one sees how the seemingly unendless sea spreads out in proportion to the curve of the earth. The uneven day and night change is also interesting necessitated by the afore mentioned change in the time of day. On the day prior to our landing at Havre the southern coast of England clearly became visible, and one could see with

binoculars the famous Eddystone lighthouse standing on a rocky promontory.

The following compilation of time differences maybe of interest to my readers:

The time difference between

Bern and Madison - 6 hours 25 minutes

Bern and Chicago - 6 hours 20 minutes

Bern and St. Louis - 6 hours 30 minutes

Bern and New York - 5 hours 26 minutes

Bern and Havre - 29 minutes

Bern and Paris - 20 minutes

or more distinctly:

If it is 12 o'clock in Bern, the time in other places is

Madison - 5:35 a.m.

Chicago - 5:40 a.m.

St. Louis - 5:30 a.m.

New York - 5:34 a.m.

Havre - 11:31 a.m.

Paris - 11:40 a.m.

Using a well regulated clock, I most accurately observed and noted the numbers myself.

After disembarking at Havre we again had to go through customs which went well and fast. Then we had to go immediately to an extra train which was being held for us by the shipping company. We had very little time to partake in a fast "Znüni" (short Brunch) and at 9:30 a.m. we were on our way to Paris.

On this trip we mainly noticed the great difference between the American and French railroad cars. The latter are not half as nice and comfortably furnished as the former.

At 1:45 p.m. we arrived in beautiful Paris where we ate dinner at the

Hotel de la ville de New York.

After our noon meal we went sight seeing throughout the city and visited several restaurants in order to quench our thirst. We paid 50 cents for 3 deciliters of beer which seemed somewhat expensive to us.

That evening we spent eating a good evening meal. With the joy that we were so close to our homeland and being healthy and well, set the occasion for a right homey conversational party. Joyous songs with piano accompaniment and the clinking of glasses interchanged back and forth until the time for departure beckoned.

On August 21 at 10:20 p.m. the night train took us away from Paris. After having traveled on the train all night we arrived at the pretty little city of Belfort the next morning at 10:45.

Here we had time until 12:15 which I used to sight-see in the city. At 12:30 we boarded again and at 1:00 a.m. (Paris time) we arrived at the Swiss border in Delle. Here we had to change cars and all passengers had to show their tickets.

At 1:35 we climbed into our beautiful Swiss wagons and the train took us through a beautiful mountainous region across Pruntrut and Delemont to Münchenstein and Basel, where we arrived at 4:45 in the evening.

On Wednesday, August 24th at 5:30 in the evening I boarded the train car for the last time on my trip and thank God I arrived healthy and joyously in Diesbach-Bettschwanden at 9:30 p.m. where I was greeted by my wife and cousin with intimate joy.

Having returned to the house of our homeland we conversed for a time about my trip in the circle of immediate family members and again drank the first glass of love and friendship with one another after a long absence.

Thus I was able to carry out my long desired journey with best results and success without any accidents. A journey which will remain forever in my memory and a journey which will always bring me the most satisfying memories.

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