



# Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum Newsletter



An update on our progress as a Society and a Chartered Museum "A New Look at Old News From our Town"

Our annual town-wide yard sale kicked off the season with a nice turnout. Many visitors came in to look around, donate items or renew their membership. We are open now on Tuesday afternoons, 1:00-4:00 and the last Saturday of the month from 9:30-12:00, June to September. There is one exception, when we are closed during Wyoming Co. Fair Week, Aug 11-17. We hope to see you at the Fair! Come visit the historic building and see our display on cursive writing. Our next meeting will be Sept. 19 at the Schoolhouse, 7pm.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ship Manifest	1
Michael Rayhill	3
Reisdorf's Mill	4
Clara's Journal	5
Ice Harvesting	6
Schoolhouse News	7



Michael Glaeser

## MANIFEST - SHIP ANDREW SCOTT

The Ship Andrew Scott from LeHavre arrived at the port of New York on Aug. 8, 1837. Passengers included:

Gertrude Simon Glaeser, b. 1777

Her children:

Peter, b. 1804

Anna Maria, b. 1803

Peter, b. 1804

John Jacob, b. 1805,

His wife, Elizabeth Barvian, and their infant daughter Maria

Francois (Franz), b. 1800, his wife, Anna Maria Becker, and children:

Peter, b. 1824

Pierre, b. 1827

Jacob, b. 1828

Marie, b. 1830

John, b. 1834

Anna, b. 1835



Once you start researching a person, it becomes important to bring their story to life, especially when it is a large family and you have a lot of records to work with. We found an abundance of information in our Glaser family file, from a variety of sources; local descendants as well as many from out of state; about immigration, the hotel and brewery, the Reisdorf Mill, the Civil War, military records from the National Archives, a letter from a man who went in person to see what happened to his Civil War ancestors, old letters, a family history written over 25 years ago and some new additions. We just had to bring you a little more about some of these interesting people.

We received this ship's list from Michael Rayhill, a descendant of Peter and Catherine Dorsheid Glaser. He has been searching for family history and photos, and has shared his story with us in this issue. Michael lives in New York City and recently returned from renovating a historic property in LA. We appreciate submissions like this and encourage others to write to us with their stories.

## JACOB AND MATHIAS GLASER

After their arrival, Gertrude's son John Jacob and his wife Elizabeth Barvian Glaser settled in Sheldon and had nine more children. Franz and Anna Maria had six more; Elizabeth, Frank, Jacob, Mathias, and Martin. The Glaser name has been shown with various spellings, including Glaeser and Glaizer, which has at times made it more difficult to locate records. Most of the family has kept the name as Glaser.

We knew that Frank and his brothers Jacob and Mathias fought in the Civil War, but learned more after reading their official war records that had been obtained from the National Archives. Frank and Jacob were shown as living in Batavia when they signed up in Company G, 8th Heavy Artillery Regiment, NY, in August 1862. As soon as Mathias turned 18 in 1863, he also enlisted in the same unit.

Mathias was killed on May 19, 1864, at the Battle of Spotsylvania, VA. He was buried at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg, VA. Our file has photos of the grave and its location, Lot 1968.

On June 22, 1865, Frank was wounded in the Battle of Petersburg, VA. He was hospitalized for over a year, and it was not until he returned to Strykersville that anyone knew he was alive.

Jacob Glaser was promoted to Corporal on July 1, 1864. He was not killed in the war, as previous records indicated, but was mustered out at Munson Hills, VA on June 5, 1865. The last record we have of him was the town clerk's notation that he returned to Batavia after the war. It was thought that he was buried in St. Cecilia's Cemetery, but that was a different Jacob Glaser (son of John and Elizabeth Barvian Glaser).

## PETER GLASER AND CATHERINE DORSHEID



Peter Glaeser and Catherine Dorsheid

Franz and Anna Maria Glaser's son Peter was 13 when they arrived in this country. Peter married Catherine Dorsheid in 1856. They had 10 children.

One of their sons, Michael, born in 1867, married Mary Ann Grill. They lived at 316 Riley St., Buffalo, near Jefferson & East Utica. Michael was a Buffalo policeman for 37 years, and was president of the Erie Club, a police organization. He fought for and obtained a 6-day work week and other improvements for police officers. Michael and Mary Ann had three children.

Their son, Arthur Francis Glaeser, MD was a doctor in WWI and became one of Buffalo's best known physicians. His home and practice were near the corner of Delaware and West Utica. He was the Erie County Health Dept. Diagnostician and President of the Erie County Medical Society. Dr. Glaeser was Michael Rayhill's great grandfather.

By contacting various relatives he found through ancestry.com and Ancestry DNA, Michael was able to obtain family photos and eventually located someone with the photo of Peter Glaeser and Catherine Dorsheid that he had searched for so diligently.

## BRINGING FAMILY HISTORY TO LIFE



Michael Glaeser and Mary Grill, 1891

When I was growing up, my grandmother, Donnette Glaeser Hennigar, helped instill a love of family history in me. She was very proud of her Western New York roots and pioneering ancestors. After she passed away, I realized how vulnerable a lot of photo collections were and sought to try and reach out to as many cousins as possible to try and piece back together portraits of ancestors long gone.

I reached out to the Sheldon Historical Society in May 2017. Over the years I contacted individuals recommended to me by Jeanne Mest and Mary Ann Metzger including Marilyn Smithley and Sheila Bultmann. Out of the blue, Thomas Glaser contacted me on ancestry.com in May 2018, asking if I could help connect a distant cousin who had been adopted. Thomas turned out to be my mother's third cousin. He was able to share a large volume of Glaeser family history that his father Raymond Walter Glaser had assembled over many years.



Dr. Arthur Francis Glaeser, WWI

Then in June 2018, I started reaching out to some distant cousins. who mailed me photos from the turn of the century of my great, great grandparents, Michael Glaeser and Mary Grill, including their wedding photo from 1891. Encouraged by these discoveries, I endeavored to try and find photos of Peter and Catherine Dorsheid Glaeser who immigrated from Germany. This is what helped incentivize my search.

A breakthrough in my research came via the DNA ThruLines function on ancestry.com which allows you to select a distant ancestor and see graphically via the tree how specific ancestryDNA matches are related to that common ancestor (showing which branches they connect to). I reached out to one descendant who said she had a copy of a photo of Peter Glaeser and Catherine Dorsheid. I gave her my cell phone and she generously texted me the photos.



Florence, Mary, Leonard, Michael & Arthur Glaeser

Through this process I have found it much more fulfilling to connect with live cousins who may be distant, but can show despite generational differences we still have so much in common in terms of interests, values and outlooks. If it weren't for the generosity of those I reached out to, I wouldn't have been able to see what my immigrant ancestors and their descendants looked like, to preserve for future generations.

~~Michael Rayhill

### JOHN GLASER AND SUSAN SERVEY

Peter and Catherine's son John Glaser was born in 1861. He married Susan Servey and they had three daughters before his early death in 1891, at age 30. Their daughter Clara was born in 1886. Susan Servey Glaser was married again, to John Keem, and had a son, Sylvester. Clara remained single and lived with her mother and stepfather. She was awarded \$4,500 from his estate for caring for him several years until his death in 1929. Clara passed away in July 1948, just a few weeks after her mother died on June 25, the same year.

### MARIA GLASER AND PETER REISDORF

Peter Reisdorf was born in Prussia on March 16, 1824. In 1847, in Buffalo, he married Maria Glaser, daughter of Franz and Anna Maria Becker. She was 17 years old. They had 14 children, 11 of whom lived to adulthood; Mary, Catherine, Peter, John, Frank, Elizabeth, Joseph, Anna, Jacob, Edward, and Clara. Peter, Henry and Margaret died in infancy.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June in 1853 Peter and Maria purchased a farm near the creek on Dutch Hollow Road. It had been previously owned by John Demongeot and his wife Catherine, who owned other property at the North end of the village. The Reisdorfs operated a saw mill, grist mill, cider mill and the cooper shop, where he made barrels. The waterfall on the creek provided power to operate the mill and several hired men and later family members labored in the mills and farm operation.

Peter outlived Maria, who died in 1890 at age 60. He was married again in 1892 to Catherine Meyer, age 46. He was her third husband. Catherine's first husband, Peter Dellinger, had died at 33, when she was 23, leaving her with a newborn and a 3 year old child to raise. They had only been married for four years. She married again, four years later, to John Winter. They had one child in 1879 and John passed away after they were married six years. After that she was on her own for several years until she married Peter Reisdorf in 1892. He lived until 1902. Catherine died in 1925.

### CECILIA MARTIN GLASER

*"Gramma Glaser was Frank Glaser's second wife. He married her after his first wife Margaret died of a brain tumor. Gramma Glaser brought up his younger children, and some of the grandchildren; Florence, Luella, Bernard & Wilson Marzolf, who were left orphans when both parents died. She insisted that the four would stay together and she would take care of them. The county judge gave in and let her take them home. I spent many happy hours at Gramma's. She was a happy, giving person who taught me how to cook and sew and how to appreciate life."*

*~~Shirley Weatherbee, Sheldon Bicentennial Cookbook*



#### **GRANDMA GLASER'S FRIEDCAKE:**

1 egg  
1 c. white sugar  
1 c. sour milk  
1 tsp. soda  
6 Tbsp. melted shortening  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
2 tsp. baking powder

Cream egg, sugar and shortening. Stir soda into sour milk. Add dry ingredients to flour and add to wet mixture. Place on bread board and roll out. Cut into doughnuts with cutter. Fry in oil at 300-350°



Cecilia Martin Glaser

CLARA GLASER'S JOURNAL

Clara kept some interesting accounts, from 1912 to 1927, found in a book from Mary Kehl. She kept track of the outside world as well as farm, medical and personal records, which give us some insight on what life was like in those days.

Made 800 lbs of butter in one year

Titanic ship sunk; 1600 lives lost	1912
Turned cows out into pasture	April 30, 1912
Sowed grain, planted first potatoes	May 20-22, 1912
Started haying	July 1, 1912
Finished haying	July 15, 1912
Threshed grain; Had 402 bushels of oats and 32 bushels of wheat	July 15, 1912
First Frost	Sept. 30, 1912
Picked apples	Oct. 2, 1912
Finished digging potatoes; 184 bushels	Oct. 8, 1912
Built storm house	Nov. 1912
Filled ice house, six loads	Feb. 15, 1913
Father Fisher went to Europe and left Sheldon	Sept. 8, 1913
St. Cecilia's Day – Nice Day	Nov. 23, 1913
Moved on State road	Jan. 1, 1914
Good sleighing	Jan. 4, 1914
Shoveled roads for wagons	March 24-25, 1914
Awful bad roads	April 1914
Painted barns	June 1, 1914
Sylvester was vaccinated by Dr. Smith, \$75	Aug. 24, 1914
Mother had her teeth pulled	Sept. 21, 1914
Clara Glaser had operation, age 22	June 17, 1914
Whole bill, \$365, Under chloroform 55 minutes	
Moved old shed	July 28, 1914
Laid wall under the shed	July 29, 1914
Cemented new buggy shed	July 30, 1914
No sleighing, fair wheeling	Jan. 8, 1915
Bishop Colton of Buffalo died	May 1, 1915
Lusitania Ship torpedoed, 1000 lives lost	May 7, 1915
Raymond Meyer, age 5, operation for appendicitis	Feb. 16, 1916
Albert Keem had tonsils removed-Buffalo Hospital	Aug. 23, 1917
Angelina Glaser had pneumonia, pleurisy & grippe	April 13-27, 1918
Frank bought auto	June 23
Frank came up with car	1918
Frank had his car painted	1919
Cecilia Keem had flu and went to bed	March 5, 1919
Francis had flu	March 6, 1919
Frank had flu	March 6, 1919
Had Christmas dinner	Dec. 25

## Items bought in 1913-1919:

Blue serge dress (worn out in 1919)	\$7.95
Got sitting room rug	\$17.25
Ma got hair wave	\$7.00
Rocking chair	\$4.50
Blue silk waist	\$1.98
Blue cap Sylvester	\$.50
Got blue serge suit (worn out in 1921)	\$15.00
Toilet box	\$1.60
Got Nellie (pony)	
Got mother's soapstone	\$.30
Got gunmetal shoes	\$2.50
Bed spread	\$1.79
Mother got plush coat	\$15.00
Slop pail	\$2.25
Gold rosary	\$1.00
Got soft kid shoes	\$3.00
Got vacuum cleaner	\$10.00
Got barrel churn	\$3.75
Pair of horsehide gloves	\$1.48
Killed Nellie (pony)	
Bought 1 ½ hp engine	\$33.90

## Remembrance:

Got watch	Age 14	May 12, 1905
Got false teeth	Age 19	March 8, 1910
Got signet ring	Age 19	May 12, 1910
Got bracelet	Age 19	Oct. 22, 1910
Got rimless glasses	Age 20	April 3, 1911
Got gold cross	Age 22	March 11, 1913

*Hartwell, Elisa: Of Orangeville, spinster age 21, married Hiram Tuttle of Orangeville, farmer age 26 on April 14, 1842. John Hartwell and Benjamin Jones, witnesses.*

*~Name Index to marriages performed by Charles Wilder, Town of Sheldon Justice, 1838-45*



Brewery in winter: Hauling ice to the icehouse (left), large beer barrels (right)

Photo taken in back of Frank Glaser's Hotel & Brewery

### More on Ice Harvesting

The pond had to be kept clean from snow because if they let snow stay on the ice, they would have soft ice. The ice had to be at least a foot to fifteen or eighteen inches thick before it could be harvested. The ice harvesters used a board to make a straight line down the center of the pond. They used something sharp to make grooves in the ice. To get the blocks of ice they had something that tipped over to make a guide mark to the next groove. To cut the ice they used a kind of saw with teeth that were about a foot long. They were then able to use a bar on the grooves and could get blocks of ice that were even and uniform in size. The blocks were 22 inches wide and 44 inches long. The weight of the blocks was 250 to 300 pounds, depending upon the thickness of the ice. As the ice was cut, it was pulled out of the pond by a horse. There was a rope on a wheel that was something like a clothesline pulley. The rope was attached to the horse and went to a hook that was on the ice. The horse walked along the edge of the pond and drew the ice into the special house where it was stored.

Some old-timers advise cutting ice off a lake or pond when the surface has frozen only about eight inches thick (because the thinner chunks are easier to handle). Others say to wait until the ice is two feet through. All seem to agree that first-frozen ice (rather than that which has been allowed to thaw and refreeze a number of times) is best . . . and the larger the cake, the slower it melts. Pick a cold, dry, windy day for ice cutting (to lessen the chances of your chunks melting and sticking together). Scrape off the snow and plane any soft, porous ice away from the area of the lake's surface that you plan to harvest. Mark the hard ice you intend to cut into blocks (two feet by two or three feet is a good size) with a series of grooves about three inches deep . . . and have at it.

~Mary Ann Metzger



Gnome Game Board

**Our County Historian, Cindy Amrhein, has begun a new program to challenge us this summer:**

**"WHERE IN WYOMING IS THE HISTORY GNOME?"**

It's a fun project for anyone who loves local history; a great way to inspire interest in our young people. Call or email Cindy at 585-786-8818, [camrhein@wyomingco.net](mailto:camrhein@wyomingco.net), or look on Facebook for the Wyoming County Historian's Office.

### SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM NEWS:

The Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum Scholarship for \$250 each was awarded this year to the following students:

Seth Kirsch—Attica

Alexandria Speyer—Holland

Morgan Sherlock—Pioneer

Next year, look for our scholarship with its new name, the **Marilyn Smithley Memorial Scholarship**. Applications are available in the guidance office of each school and should be submitted as early as possible. It was decided to change the name in Marilyn’s memory, in gratitude for her many years of teaching in our 1890 Schoolroom, as well as all her dedicated work throughout the museum. We are still scratching our heads and saying “I wish we could ask Marilyn; she would know what to do.” After losing her so suddenly, we are all making an extra effort to share information as much as possible, to give everyone a better idea of what each person does and how we can help each other. We held an informal “workshop” this spring and learned how to run some new equipment, where to find things, and how we can better serve our visitors.

Some other changes this year are the relocation of the Town Historian’s office, which has become part of the Museum office, where we are all working together, sharing files and information, and generally having a wonderful time. The plan is to have the Sheldon Historian available on Tuesday afternoons when we are open, along with our regular assistants. We are also fortunate to have our Orangeville Historian, Laury Lakas, who has set up a great display of Orangeville history in our front room. Laury is available at the museum on the last Saturday of each month. We suggest that inquiries be sent ahead of time whenever possible before visiting, to give us extra time to look for information we can share. Please email: [townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com) or [sheldonthistoricalociety@hotmail.com](mailto:sheldonthistoricalociety@hotmail.com) with questions. Laury can be reached at: [laurylakas@gmail.com](mailto:laurylakas@gmail.com). Also let us know if you have any questions or comments about our newsletter, and send us any submissions. We are always looking for stories and interesting topics! Thank you.

#### HISTORIAN’S CORNER

This person’s Ancestry DNA test pinpoints Luxembourg, that little oval shaped area between France, Belgium and Germany that also showed up on the US map in North Dakota, where so many of the George family and other early Sheldon families relocated. This DNA report would match up to a lot of people with Sheldon roots.



#### Ethnicity Estimate

Updates t

● Germanic Europe	76%
● Germany & the Midwestern United States	
● Southern Germany & the Midwest	
● Alsace-Lorraine & North Dakota	
● England, Wales & Northwestern Europe	15%
● France	5%
● Italy	2%
● Sweden	2%

Recently I was asked to fill the town historian’s position, a job for which I feel woefully inadequate. All the real historians I know out there have so much experience, and I have so much to learn! But I’m willing to try. I’ve been receiving calls & emails inquiring about ancestors and each one is a chance to learn something new. As we get older, it’s easy to fall behind with technology, which advances so quickly. Sometimes we are afraid to use a computer or smartphone for fear of messing it up. But the benefits of trying something new are worth the risk, and it isn’t likely that you will wreck it. There’s much to discover; ways to find music you like, crafts, cooking or learning how to repair something. For me there has been so much excitement in the history I’ve been learning.

When I read **Michael Rayhill’s** comments about using **Ancestry.com’s ThruLines**, I took a quick look at my Ancestry DNA results again. They are always coming up with something new and sure enough, it found me a 4th great grandfather in Germany that I knew nothing of previously! This DNA project has been fun, as several family members have submitted samples and it really works! It is surprising how different they all come out. They show you others who match your DNA and you can contact them and share family history and photos, which is how Michael was able to locate so many relations and learn more about his ancestors.

~Jeanne Mest

**Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum**  
3859 Main Street, PO Box 122  
Strykersville, NY 14145

Previous newsletters can be seen at  
<http://www.townofsheldon.com>  
Museum open June to September, but  
assistance is available upon request. Call  
(585)457-9509, 457-3444, 457-3061 or  
(716) 474-3156. Email:  
[sheldonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:sheldonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)  
or [metzgermaryann@gmail.com](mailto:metzgermaryann@gmail.com)  
Newsletter compiled by Mary Ann Metzger  
and Jeanne Mest, with the help of many  
volunteers. Submissions welcome. Email  
or call (716) 474-3156 for information.  
Send articles & inquiries to:  
Jeanne Mest, 470 Route 20A,  
Strykersville, NY 14145

Sheldon Historical Society Officers:  
President - Michael Szucs  
Vice President - Carol Felski  
Interim Secretary - Laury Lakas  
Financial Secretary - Donna Kirsch  
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Elaine Almeter, Judie Coffey, Gertrude  
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Archival Curator / Town of Sheldon  
Historian - Jeanne Mest  
Museum Curator - vacant

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Become a member of the Sheldon Historical Society and be part of preserving history. Dues and donations support the maintenance of our museum and historical artifacts. As a member you have voting privileges, and published newsletters are sent to you at no cost. Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm from March to October at the Sheldon Historical Schoolhouse Museum, 3859 Main St., Strykersville, NY.

If you are currently a member, thank you for your support. Please remember to renew yearly. The membership year runs from June through the following July.

The Schoolhouse Museum is open June through September on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and the last Saturday of those months from 9:00-12:00.  
Email: [Sheldonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:Sheldonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

Phone: 585-457-9509    585-457-3444    585-457-3061    716-474-3156

**Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Single

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 Lifetime

\_\_\_\_\_ Wish to make a gift to Society \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: The Town of Sheldon Historical Society

Mail To: Donna Kirsch, Treasurer, 4458 Richardson Rd., Arcade, NY 14009