

woman leaving church during service, discovered the enemy, and gave the alarm; and, it is related, that the women on that day did valorous service, rolling and throwing rocks upon the enemy, and aiding, in a great measure, to gain a decisive victory over their old enemies, the Austrians. Since that time, tradition says, the right and honor are accorded to the female worshipers in all the churches of the canton of Glarus, to leave the church first, the men standing in deference while they pass out. This custom is rigidly, and without exception, kept up here, no matter what the occasion for meeting and worship.

Weddings are for the most part solemnized by the ministers; seldom by a justice of the peace. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the only days on which a Swiss will be married; the latter is the favorite day. The other days of the week are not regarded as fortunate; Wednesday is especially considered the most unlucky. Persons about to enter matrimony, some time before the ceremony takes place, go together to the house of those whom they wish to invite as guests to the wedding, and verbally request their presence. Wedding feasts are of late mostly arranged at a hotel; but formerly at the home of the groom or bride. After being pronounced man and wife, at the church or in the minister's house, the couple, with the invited guests, partake of the wedding dinner, after which dancing is indulged in till a late hour. Before and after the marriage ceremony, the lads and young men salute the bridal party with a profuse discharge of fire-arms. The more noise, the greater the honor. Very rarely do the Swiss here intermarry with people of other nationalities; almost without exception, they marry among their own country folk.

The baptism of infants is another occasion for a feast. Children are usually christened when less than three months old; and the ceremony takes place in the church, except in a few instances, a god-father and god-mother invariably witnessing the baptism at the altar. According to church rules, parents are not permitted to act as sponsors. If parents are church members, no fee is required for weddings, baptisms or funeral services; otherwise a fee is collected, which is paid into the church fund, and not as a perquisite to the preacher, as in other societies.