

DIARY OF ONE OF THE ORIGINAL COLONISTS OF  
NEW GLARUS, 1845.<sup>1</sup>

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TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF MATHIAS DUERST, BY  
JOHN LUCHSINGER.

On the 15th of April, 1845, I took leave of my friends and neighbors, and went to Mitlödi and staid at the sign of the Horse, overnight. Next morning, the 16th, accompanied by my Brother J. Balth I took the path to the Biasca expecting to meet my dear family and relatives. Our committee had also arrived. I believed that everything had been well arranged; but heavens, how we were deceived. Even before we arrived at Rapperschwyl we asked the captain of our vessel "Felder," where we were to lodge and board. He answered that is your business, that his business was merely to carry and not to feed and lodge us. Upon that there was uproar among us.

At Rapperschwyl all went to the New Ship inn, in the City Court, at my instance, because of the prior good reputation of the house. But here we found avarice in play; we had to pay double prices for everything, even for a bed 8 Batzen [40 cents]. I would warn every one to beware of this baptized Jew.

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<sup>1</sup>This is the diary from which Mr. Luchsinger freely drew, in his article, "The Planting of the Swiss Colony at New Glarus, Wis.," in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 335-382. To that article the reader is referred. The original of the diary is owned by Miss Salome Duerst, of New Glarus, but has been deposited, for safe-keeping, in the library of this Society. It is of great value as a first-hand report of the trials and impressions of the earliest Swiss immigrants to Wisconsin. It will be remembered that these colonists were from the Swiss Canton of Glarus, and emigrated to America under cantonal auspices, for Glarus had become overpopulated.—Ed.