

On the History of the Glarner Families, Particularly Those of the Sernf Valley
A Medley of Pictures from Past Days
(*Zur Geschichte glarnerischer Geschlechter, derjenigen des Sernftales insbesondere
Allerlei Bilder aus vergangenen Tagen*)

by
Gottfried Heer

Printing and publishing by Rud. Tschudy, Glarus, 1920
Translated by Sue Wolf

[All lettered footnotes and information in brackets were added by the translator]

XVIII. THE WOHLWENDS

[pg. 133]

As the first Wohlwend who is recorded in the first Matt baptism book, which was begun in 1595, a Jakob Wohlwend makes his appearance in 1596. He is married to Margreth Ginsig, and, on the 10th of *Weinmonat* [October] in 1596, brings a legitimate little daughter named Regina to baptism. From 1612 on, Konrad Wohlwend, who was probably a son of Jakob Wohlwend and Margreth Ginsig, and was married at that time to Anna Gensig, then had children to bring to baptism (Konrad in 1612, Jakob in 1613, and Regina in 1615). Undoubtedly, the above-mentioned were already *Tagwen*^a citizens of Matt, since the baptism book did not note their origin. On the other hand, they were not yet Glarner cantonal citizens. Konrad Wohlwend first purchased the Glarner cantonal right in 1704. The minutes of the Evangelical *Landesgemeinde*^b of the 30th of April in 1704 report about it: "9. Concerning the requested wish and supports, young Conrad Wohlwend from Matt, Peter's son, has been recognized and has been accepted as a cantonal citizen, and, for the cantonal right, shall pay cash and give 5 Batzen [coin] to each cantonal citizen who is 16 years old and above, and, however, he shall pay nothing into the Evangelical treasury, but this shall be free." Since the number of Evangelical cantonal citizens entitled to migrate in 1704 already amounted to around 3000¹, the purchase assessment stood at 1000 Fl. Konrad Wohlwend must, accordingly, have been a rich man, judging by comparative values of the times, and, for this reason, it is also not surprising that he was elected federal councillor by the Matt-Engi commune.

In the 1763 cantonal tax roll, 3 head-taxpaying Wohlwends were reported on from Matt with 2100 Fl. [of taxable property], and 2 additional ones in Rüti. In more recent communes, however, they have long since died out again or have migrated back to Matt. In the 1876

a *Tagwen* - an ancient Glarner term, from at least the 6th century A.D., which is still used today in Canton Glarus to denote the commune of the citizens, i.e. those who have inherited or purchased the *Tagwen* rights (this may only partially coincide with the political commune). It is derived from *Tage Wann*, meaning the work someone could perform in one day in the commonly-held fields, pastures and forests. Over the years the number of *Tagwen* in the canton has varied considerably, with the present-day number being 29. Also its duties have changed – from jointly working on and enjoying the benefits of its common property, to administering all the commune's public interests, to (today) administering and enjoying the benefits of its common property. [SW]

b *Landsgemeinde* - the Popular Assembly, which is the Glarus cantonal legislative body. It is made up of all the citizens of the communes who have full citizenship rights. [SW]

1 In 1701, according to Trümpi's *Chronicle*, their number amounted to 2970.

cantonal tax roll they were found only in Matt: 3 head-taxpayers with 14,000 Fr. taxable property. Since 1876 their number had increased somewhat, since in 1915 they were in possession of 5 *Tagwen* rights.

Concerning the origin of the Wohlwends, there is probably nothing more to be told. Also, concerning the meaning of the family's name, there is probably scarcely anything definite to say; it belongs, perhaps, to that group which held fast an often-used word of their ancestor.