

## New Glarus to Digitize Local History Materials

(Taken from the South Central Library Online Update; Vol. 9, No 5, 3/4/11, [http://scls.typepad.com/online\\_update/2011/03/ou0905.html](http://scls.typepad.com/online_update/2011/03/ou0905.html))

The New Glarus Public Library received a grant to digitize selected local history materials, focusing on the first 100 years of New Glarus and the surrounding area. The federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds are administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

This project is a collaboration among the New Glarus Public Library, the New Glarus Historical Society, and the Swiss United Church of Christ of New Glarus. Materials to be digitized include family records of the Swiss Evangelical and Reformed Church for 1850-1909 (now the Swiss United Church of Christ), a history of the church, several historical texts about the settlement and first 50 years of New Glarus, atlases and plat books of Green County, tax assessment records of the Town of New Glarus from the 1850s and early 1900s, and a selection of historical photographs including street scenes, community events and organizations, confirmation classes, high school graduating classes, and portraits of individuals and families. Janis Merkle, assistant director of the New Glarus Public Library, is the project director.

Grant funds will pay for the materials to be digitized by the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC). By the end of the project -- in December of 2011 -- digital versions of these valuable historical materials will be accessible to the public through the websites of the UWDCC, the New Glarus Public Library, the New Glarus Historical Society, and the Swiss Church. This project will preserve fragile materials for the future and will provide the general public with easy access to historical and genealogical materials that currently have extremely limited access.