

## **The History of the Glarus Families, especially 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)

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

### **XVIII. The Wohlwends**

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A Jakob Wohlwend makes his appearance in 1596 as the first Wohlwend who is recorded in the first Matt church register, which was begun in 1595. He was married to Margreth Ginsig, and, on 10 October 1596, brought a little daughter to baptism named Regina, who was born in wedlock. After that, from 1612 on, Konrad Wohlwend had children to bring to baptism (Konrad in 1612, Jakob in 1613, and Regina in 1615). He was probably a son of Jakob Wohlwend and Margreth Ginsig, and was married at that time to Anna Gensig. Undoubtedly, the above-mentioned were already *Tagwen*<sup>a</sup> citizens of Matt, since the church register did not note their origin. On the other hand, they were not yet Glarner cantonal citizens.

Konrad Wohlwend first purchased the Glarner cantonal rights in 1704. The minutes of the Evangelical *Landesgemeinde*<sup>b</sup> of 30 April 1704 report about it: "9. Concerning the requested wish and the grounds for it, young Conrad Wohlwend from Matt, Peter's son, was given a judgement and he has been accepted as a cantonal citizen, and, for the cantonal rights, shall pay cash and give 5 *Batzen*<sup>c</sup> to each cantonal citizen who is 16 years old and above, and yet he shall not pay into the Evangelical treasury, but this shall be free." However, since the number of migration-adjusted Evangelical cantonal citizens in 1704 already amounted to around 3000<sup>1</sup>, the purchase assessment came to nearly 1000 Florins. 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 from the Matt-Engi commune.

In the 1763 cantonal tax rolls, 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 cantonal tax rolls 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 possibly to that group which holds fast an often-used word of their ancestor [*Wohlwend means "well-turned"*].

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<sup>a</sup> Tagwen – an ancient 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

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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]

<sup>b</sup> 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]

<sup>c</sup> Fifteen Batzen were equal to 1 Florin. [SW]

<sup>1</sup> In 1701, according to Trümpfi's Chronicle, their number amounted to 2970.