

William Tell of Wisconsin discovers his Swiss roots!

“Swiss Roots” is hosting this year’s “Tell Spiele” in New Glarus, Wisconsin. For 69 years, the inhabitants of this southern Wisconsin village, named after a Swiss mountain area, have told the story of the Swiss national hero, William Tell, on their scenic open-air theater stage. This year, William Tell will discover his Swiss roots!

New Glarus, “America’s Little Switzerland,” continues its 69-year tradition of telling the story of how Swiss national hero William Tell, his crossbow, and an apple helped Switzerland gain independence from the Habsburg tyrant, Herman Gessler. The story was told by the famous 18th century German playwright Friedrich Schiller. It’s a live theatre presentation where you can watch frisky goats, mooing cows, and whinnying horses bring the story to life on the natural outdoor stage to create a unique theatrical experience.

This year’s Wilhelm Tell Festival is hosted by Swiss Roots. The Swiss Roots old timer postal bus will make its appearance and will participate in the festival. Look for the bus on the festival grounds and come to the Swiss hospitality tent to pick up intriguing information on Switzerland while sampling typical Swiss food and wine. Learn how to yodel in just 30 minutes, view three-dimensional pictures from beautiful Switzerland, find your Swiss roots on one of the computer terminals featuring www.swissroots.org, and participate in a sweepstakes to win flights to Switzerland. Swiss Roots highlights will also include a tree-planting ceremony to commemorate all the Americans with Swiss heritage and affinity. The Saturday evening program hosted by Swiss Roots will feature a cutting-edge Swiss music group to which everyone can dance.

The “Laternenzug” (lantern parade) on Friday evening is the official start of the Tell Festival weekend. Watch the children of New Glarus as they parade through the streets at dark. Following the parade, experience a taste of Swiss music by the New Glarus “Kinder Chor” in the Village Park accompanied by a Swiss yodeller. Saturday’s entertainment begins with the Tell Drama German presentation followed by the English presentation; on Sunday there will be a third presentation, again in English.

**Wilhelm Tell Festspiele, New Glarus, Wisconsin
September 1 – 3, 2006**

For more information see www.swissroots.org and www.wilhelmtell.org.