125 Years Gloor Family in the United States

Richard D. Gloor
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Enclosed is a copy of a narrative dated 14 July 75 about my GLOOR family. I have pieced it together by research and travel to Tell City Ind. Casper GLOOR, the immigrant from Switzerland, was a member of the Swiss Colonization Society. He journeyed from Cincinnati down the Ohio River and helped found Tell City Ind.

I am writing for advice on how to continue my research. I have seen at the Tell City Library microfilms of the records of the Swiss Colonization Society. Do you know whether or not LDS in Salt Lake City has the film and what its number is?

I have read Will Mauer's article "A Historical Sketch of Tell City Ind." Are there other articles or publications on the Swiss Colonization Society?

Can you suggest other sources of information in this country or Switzerland? Does your organization have memberships and publications available? Is there a GLOOR Family Organization? Do you know of any other GLOOR'S doing family research?

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Casper Gloor was born in Schöftland, Canton Aargau, Switzerland on 29 July 1828. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, all named Jacob, had lived there since the 1700's. This village of only a few thousand inhabitants had been the home of four generations of Gloors. The Gloors were so numerous that school teachers had to assign numbers to Gloor children with the same first name in order to differentiate amongst them. Documentation for the Gloor coat of arms design can be found in Siebmacher's Wappenbuch. The surname Gloor appears to be patronymical in origin and is believed to be associated with the Germans, meaning "descendant of Glorius, (Hilarius, the serene)."

Casper sailed to America on 20 August 1854 and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he started a confectionery store. It was in Cincinnati on 16 November 1856, a group of Swiss-German people organized a society known as the "Swiss Colonization Society." Its objectives were to obtain cheap homesteads for mechanics, industry, and small farming projects with each of these branches harmonizing to bring best results.
Its purpose was furnishing mutual aid in founding homes and places for business for Swiss settlers in the West. The constitution was adopted 14 December 1856 and on 10 January 1857, Professor J. C. Christian was elected first President; Charles Steinauer, Recording Secretary; Richard Luetley, Corresponding Secretary; and J. Goldenberg, Treasurer. Afterward, branches of the parent organization were planted at many places in the Mississippi Valley and as far as Idaho. Annual conventions were held in the interests of the society in turn at the various colonies.

The first general convention was held 19-21 April 1857, at Cincinnati, with fifteen branches being represented. Up to this time the total receipts amounted to $35,255, and the expenses to only $180. It was decided this amount was adequate to look for a suitable site for colonization. Early in 1857 a special committee was sent West to seek terrain that would recall, in a small way, their homeland. They looked for land suitable for a colony, but returned without finding any which the society would accept. In July 1857, C. Tuffili, M. Oehlman, and Charles Rebstock came down the Ohio River on the same errand, stopping at numerous places and inspecting the country. Efforts were made by them to engage large tracts of land at Rome, Cannelton, Hawesville, and perhaps elsewhere, but either the prices were too high or the quantity of land required was too small, so that no purchases were made. Finally it was decided to purchase a tract of land three miles square to be surveyed into a town or city plot. The commission was also to bear in mind a healthful climate, fertile soil, good water, timber, a location on a navigable river, and, if possible, on a railroad. They selected a large tract where Tell City, Indiana, now stands and bought extensively on 29 July 1857. This purchase was made by a branch of the parent society and contained 4,152 acres, including Judge Huntington's estate of 700 acres. The funds were raised by an assessment of $15 on each of 8,192 shareholders at first and $5 a little later. Each shareholder was entitled to two lots of land in the new colony to be drawn by lot. This fund amounted to $163,840, of which about $20,000 was never realized. Plans for streets and homes and business sites through this forest were conceived. The town was laid out in 392 town blocks containing 7,328 lots and 294 garden lots having 794 lots.

In 1858 Casper joined the Swiss Colonization Society in Cincinnati and records indicate that on 13 March 1858 he was the second man to land in Tell City in company with Charles Steinauer and Alois Kaelin. Casper helped survey the new city.

Before the settlers commenced to arrive, a name for their new town was selected. For a while it was called Helvetia (a poetical name for Switzerland). But in December 1857,
the name Tell City was substituted as it was easier for the English speaking people to remember and pronounce. It was named for the 14th century Swiss legendary hero and liberator, William Tell.

Realizing there would be need for an Inn, Charles Steinauer who with his brothers August and Andrew had arrived in New York from Switzerland in May 1852, made application to the Colonization Society to rent the Lodge and outlying buildings for the duration of two years, 1 April 1858 to 1 April 1860, for a yearly rental of $200. It became known as Hotel Steinauer in March 1858, and was in Judge Huntington’s old residence at the south end of Eighth Street. Casper Gloor became a baker at this hotel.

According to records, the leaders of the Colonization Society conducted their meetings and held their conventions at the Hotel for two years. Available original minutes of some of these meetings written in beautiful German script, are dated from 20 March to June 1859. The first Colonist Convention met there 18-25 September 1858.

The first settlers began to arrive early in 1858. The first payment on the land by the society was $20,000 in gold. The survey was made before the arrival of the first families, as was also the drawing of lots. A few families arrived early in March, and after that continued to come very rapidly. By 24 April 1858, the population numbered over 300, and by 29 May, was 616, as shown by a census taken at that time. There were 86 houses at this time. The rudest plank or log shanties were erected, from three-fourths of which was displayed the sign "Beer." The town was like one of the mining towns of the West. It sprang up in the woods and bogs like a mushroom. Extensive and active work was done on the streets. By 1 June 1858, five miles of streets had been cut through the woods. All streets in Tell City were made 70 or 80 feet wide, including sidewalks, and ran due east, west, north and south. All streets running north and south were named with numbers, while the streets going east and west were named for great men of letters, arts, and science, such as Washington, Jefferson, Gutenberg, Pestalozzi, Humboldt, Fulton, Schiller, Tell, Mozart, Watt, and others.

Appellonia Haug was born in Hohenzollern, Hechtingen, Rahendingen, Germany (near Lipsich) on 9 February 1833. She sailed to America on 21 March 1854. On 7 December 1858 she married Casper Gloor in Cannelton, Indiana, since there was no church or minister in Tell City at the time.

Appellonia was Catholic and was named for a town in the Roman Empire (now Greece) mentioned in the Bible. There was
no Catholic church in Tell City but Appellonia read her bible regularly. She made a pact with Casper. The sex of their first-born child would determine the religion of the family. If a boy, then Protestant; if a girl, then Catholic. Richard Gloor was born to Casper and Appellonia on 28 October 1859. The family has been Protestant ever since.

In about 1860, Casper and Appellonia returned to Cincinnati via Switzerland County, Indiana (or vice versa). Two more children were born in Switzerland County, Albert on 21 November 1861 in Patriot, Indiana, and Adolph on 7 June 1864 in Florence, Indiana. In 1865 Casper and Appellonia returned to Tell City. Three more children were born to them in Tell City: Charles William on 7 October 1866, Amalia Franciska on 17 October 1870, and Hermann Alvin on 10 April 1873.

During the Civil War, the Ohio River was the dividing line between the North and South. People swam the river from Kentucky to Indiana seeking safety from the war. Casper Gloor befriended many such refugees putting them up in his two story frame house in the 200 block of Main Street. Casper started the first Tell City bakery and confectionery adjoining his residence. His bakery was widely known for bread, rolls, holiday baked goods, and especially its rye bread. He must have enjoyed his own cooking because he's reported to have weighed over 200 pounds. One of the refugees he befriended, a man originally from Europe, gave him a recipe for pretzels. This recipe became the basis for the famous Gloor pretzels from Tell City. These pretzels were large, soft, and chewy and were shipped as far away as Alaska. The secret of their good flavor was the yeast that Casper made in soda bottles fermented in the attic and then stored in the cool cellar. That secret recipe was passed on to Mr. Alex Kessler who worked for Casper and then subsequently to Russell Kessler, his son. Today Russell Kessler is the master baker in the Tell City Pretzel Company where the pretzels are still hand twisted and baked in the old fashioned manner. The secret recipe carried in Mr. Kessler's head has lasted more than 100 years.

Richard Gloor was confirmed in the church in Tell City in 1874. Sometime thereafter, he moved to Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, where he became a driver for Jacob Gottlieb Lauffer in his brewery and ice house in 1893. He married Gottlieb's daughter, Margaret Katherine on 12 December 1894. He went on to become the manager of the West Louisville Brewery and West End Ice Manufacturing Company at the corner of 34th and Market Streets. He died in Louisville on 24 December 1901.

Albert Gloor became an architect, married Minnie Zahn in Evansville, Indiana, and had 5 children, the first of which
died as an infant. The sole surviving child is Norma Gloor of Oakland, California. Minnie died in 1899 and Albert married Mary Templeman in 1904 in Oak Park, Illinois. Their only child Albert Richard is married and has three grown children, all married with children. Albert died on 2 July 1938 in Chicago, Illinois.

Adolph worked as a baker and bookkeeper in Casper’s bakery. He remained single, died in Tell City on 21 December 1908, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery there.

Charles William married twice and had 6 children. After leaving home (between 1880 and 1900) he made his way down the Mississippi River and finally settled in Brookeland, Sabine County, Texas, where he went to work in a sawmill. About 1904 he married Ola Josephine Chester in Brookeland, and had four children, three of whom are still living in Texas.

Francis Charles, b. 15 June 1906, Brookeland, Texas

Annie Louise (Mary ?), b. 17 April 1909, Leesville, Louisiana, or Beaumont, Texas

Harry (died at the age of 4)

Eleanor Elizabeth, b. 5 March 1914, Jasper, Texas.

Charles lived in many towns in Texas working in mills. He went to Leesville, Louisiana to cut stave timber and finally settled in Jasper, Jasper County, Texas, where he became foreman of the T. B. Allen Co. stave mill. After divorcing Ola about 1925, he married Virginia Almeada Donahoe (born 15 June 1898, previous married name was Langford) on 8 October 1927. They had two children who are still living in Texas:

Frances Marie, b. 1 July 1928, Jasper, Texas

Charles William II, b. 5 February 1932, Jasper, Texas.

Charles contracted cancer and was operated on in Galveston, Texas. After unsuccessful treatment in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Charles died in Jasper, Texas, on 31 March 1933 and is buried in an unmarked grave in the City Cemetery there. His first wife, now seriously ill, lives in Beaumont, Texas and his second wife in Jasper, Texas.

Amalia remained single and lived her entire life in the Gloor house on Main Street. She was confirmed in the Evangelical church in 1886. She was 5 ft. 5 in. tall with grey hair, grey eyes, and light complexion. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star and was a past worthy matron of that order. She was an accomplished artist of oil paintings, having been taught
to draw at the Chicago Worlds Fair by Minnie Nebelmesser. She was active in Sunday School work all her life. Her voice in the church choir is well remembered. She took a great interest in Bible Study and was a kind Christian lady. She was a most sentimental person and lived in the past to a great extent, always holding in reverence the death days and birthdays of friends and members of her family. She was known for her fine disposition. She was brave even when faced with problems that might have caused her to give up in despair. Many friends mourned her death on 2 March 1940 when she was struck and killed by an automobile. She is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Tell City.

Hermann Alvin passed away in an Evansville sanitarium at 7:30 p.m. on 10 September 1923 after an illness of several years. He remained single and had spent his early years in Tell City and later took up mechanical drawing in Chicago and other cities. However, he came back home often enough to form fast friendships with many of the younger people of that time. He possessed a jolly disposition, as well as the finer attributes of a gentleman and made friends wherever he went. The funeral was held 13 September 1923 from the Gloor homestead opposite the William Tell Hotel. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Tell City.

Appollonia (which is variously spelled Appollonia, Apolonia, Appollonia, Apollona, Apalonia, etc.) came to this country at the age of 21 and settled in Cincinnati. When the Swiss Colonization Society came down the Ohio River seeking a location she was one of the two women among the original settlers. When the survey was being made of the present town of Tell City, Appollonia and Mrs. August Steinauer did all the cooking for almost a hundred men who were making the surveys and building the first homes of Tell City.

Appollonia was not directly affiliated with any church but was a genuine Christian lady. She read her Catholic bible everyday, took a nap every afternoon, and helped Casper make wine from the grapes that grew so abundantly on the arbor on their property. Many times the Ohio River overflowed its banks and flooded their home, but Casper didn't want to move his bakery up the hill off of Main Street from behind the wrought iron fence under the shade of the magnolia trees. Appollonia was short and there are those who say that she didn't weigh over 75 pounds. However, slight of build, she was the type of women who had made the civilization of America possible by forging ahead and daring the trials and tribulations of the wilderness.

Casper was a charter member of the Tell City Lodge Number 623, Free and Accepted Masons. He died at 8:15 p.m. on 11 August 1912 at the age of 84 years. Burial services were
held by the Lodge. Appellonia died at 11:00 a.m. on 14 February 1921 at the age of 88. The funeral was held from the residence on Main Street and the Evangelical Church. Both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Tell City.

In 1971 there were approximately 200 heads of households in the United States with the old and distinguished Gloor name. The Census Bureau estimates that there are approximately 3.1 persons per household in America which would yield an approximate total of 620 people in the United States carrying the Gloor name. Dictionaries of surnames indicate probable spelling variations such as Glohr, Klor, Glori.

Some of the living descendants of Casper Gloor's children:

**RICHARD**

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Mrs. Eleanor Gloor McCollough  
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Deweyville, Texas  77614

Mrs. Frances Gloor Warner  
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REFERENCES

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Great-Grandson of Casper Gloor