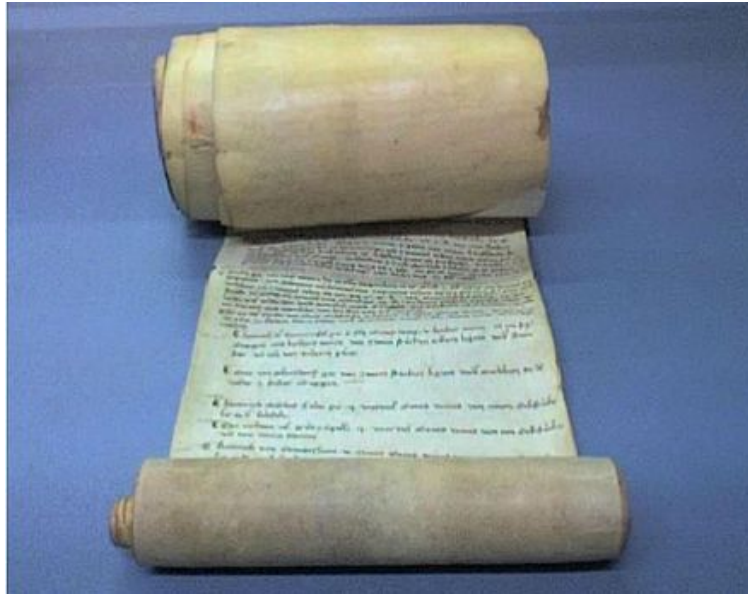


The Urbar from the Abbey of Säckinggen and the Families from Glarus

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Scroll from Säckinggen Abbey dated 1302, written in Middle High German

An urbarium (German: *Urbar*, English: *urbarium*, also *rental* or *rent-roll*), is a register of fief ownership and includes the rights and benefits that the fief holder has over his serfs and peasants. It is an important economic and legal source of medieval and early modern feudalism. Urbaria were also used to record land rent and stock.

For Glarus the respective Urbar was the one from the Abbey of Säckinggen dated 1302. Tschudi reports in his chronicle that on 29 March 1029 the abbess Berta (Berchta) transferred the *Meieramt* (land administrator office) via the possessions in Glarus to Rudolf von Glarus. He further reports that Rudolf of Glarus called himself "Schudin" (Tschudi). This family remained for many generations in the possession of the Glarner *Meieramt* of the monastery. After the Tschudi the family of Windeck (1253-1288) followed for a short time, until it finally fell to the Habsburgs.

In the so-called *Abgaberodel* (tax lists) the taxable fief ownerships and the corresponding free fief holders were listed by name. The 12 free *Wappengenossen* (free Comrades in Arms) and the 34 free *Gotteshausleute* (free family members of the Abbey of Säckinggen) were listed in this Urbar.

Melchior Schuler listed the following original families from Glarus in his history book about Glarus published 1836¹:

1. The XII (12) *Freie Wappengenossen* (free Comrades in Arms)

The free comrades in arms, the families of the lower nobility, had to serve in an emergency the abbot with spear and shield, but were exempt from all other personal services and taxes. The Urbar from the Abbey of Sädingen names the following families:

- a. Still existing: 6 (in 1836)
Aebli or Kilchmatten, **Elmer**, **Stucki**, **Tschudi** (called «Schudi» or «von Glarus»), **Vogel**, **Wichser**.
- b. Extinct: 6
Häusli, Netstaller, Rietler, Roth, Tolder, Venner

In the event that one of these 12 families should die out, the abbot was obliged to appoint another family from the free families members of the Abbey of Sädingen in place of the extinct family.

From the free Comrades in Arms were appointed, albeit not exclusively, the higher civil servant positions. Thus, among the 12 judges of 1372, 8 belonged to the free Comrades in Arms, only 1 to the 34 families of the free families members of the Abbey of Sädingen and 3 to the remaining probably more than 100 families of the country of Glarus.

According to the Urbarium, the free Comrades in Arms did not have to pay any taxes to the monastery Sädingen, but were allowed to receive 1 cow, 21 small cheeses and a sum of money per year for their services to the church. However, they also had to pay the imperial tax to the imperial reeve.

2. The XXXIV (34) *Freie Gotteshausleute* (free families members of the Abbey of Sädingen)

The free families members of the Abbey of Sädingen were personally free, but had to pay interest from their estates belonging to the Abbey, mostly in kind (sheep, cattle, cheese, grey cloth, etc.). The Urbar from the Abbey of Sädingen names the following families:

- a. Still existing: 21 (in 1836)
Am Bühl or **Büeler**, **Beglinger**, **Brunner**, **Fischlin**, **Gallati**, **Grüniger**, **Hässi**, **König**, **Lager**, **Landolt**, **Leuzinger**, **Luchsinger**, Am Mure (**Maurer**), **Salmen**, **Schindler** or Wiggisser, **Schuler** or Wala, **Speich**, **Stäger**, **Strub**, **Suter**, **Walcher**

¹ Melchior Schuler, Geschichte des Landes Glarus, Zürich, 1836, 570 pages

- b. Extinct: 13
Am langen Acker, Bisang, Eggel or Egli, Golt, von Horgenberg, Karner, Kessler, In der Krauch, Kulling, Lidig, Palp or Belp, Thierlin, Wägler

3. Other Families mentioned until 1388 (Battle of Näfels)

The other families were called *Hörige* (bondmen). In addition to the interest to be paid by the free families members of the Abbey of Säkingen, they also had to pay additional taxes (e.g. the Shrovetide chicken) and were also obligated for corvee.

- a. Still existing: 19 (in 1836)
Böninger or Böniger, Bürold, Dürst, Elsener (later Milt), Der Frowen or Fräuler resp. Freuler, Giger, Grob, Hophan, Müller von Mühlhäusern, Ott, Schiesser, Schlittler, Schneider, Steinmann, Störi, Stüssi, Trümpi, In der Wart, Weber
- b. Extinct: 40
Von Bern, Unter dem Birnbaum, Büchli, Förstler, Hagelstein, Harzer, Heini, Ir-rer, Kaltbrunner, Kalter, Kieser, Kelz, Kolly, Körner, Krämer, Landsmann, Löffler, Loreti, Lotter, Murrenbach, Neinug, Oberli, Petersen, Richwi, Schellbrett, Scherthan, Schübelbach, Schwendiner, Ab Sol, Stapfer, Summer, Sund, Süsser, Tänniberg, Thori, Thung, Träppli, Wanner, Wilhelm, Windegger

4. Families mentioned until the Reformation²

With the year 1395, when Glarus bought itself out from the Abbey of Säkingen, the differences between the different families that had existed so far were abolished.

Families which immigrated into Glarus and mentioned until the Reformation were:

- a. Still existing: 30 (in 1836)
Altmann, Arzethauser, Blum, Blumer, Egger, Figi, Feurer, Freitag, Hauser, Heer, Hösli, Jakober, Jenni, Knobel, Kubli, Küchli, Lütschg, Marti, Meyer, Michel, Oswald, Pfeifer, Pfendler, Schmid, Simen, Spälti, Stähli, Strebi, Zay, Zentner
- b. Extinct: 45
Appenzeller, Baldi, Bertschi, Brändli, Brittuner, Bussi, Diethelm, Dietrich, Elbs, Engelhard, Frei, Götz, Grässli, Haffner, Hug, Hüni, Jordan, Kessler, Kolb, Kündig, Kuri, Kurz, Leist, Listig, Zur Linden, Maad, Matthys, Möttler, Näff, Ramer, Schädler, Schilling, Schleissi, Schumacher, Stoll, Streuli, Stutz, Tönssi, Träger, Truber, Walser, Wanner, Werner, Wüst, Zollinger

² The Reformation took place in Glarus between 1525-1520

5. Families mentioned after the Reformation and still existing: 78

Ackermann, Bäbler, Bachmann, Bauhofer, Baumgartner, Becker, Bernold, Bläsi, Bos, Bräm, Britt, Burger, Cham, Dinner, Falk, Felder, Feldmann, Fluri, Gilli, Ginsig, Glarner, Hämmerli, Hefti, Heiz, Hertach, Heussi, Horner, Hunold, Iseli, Joss, Käser, Kilchmeyer, Kläsi, Knecht, Küng, Kundert, Legler, Leu, Locher, Menzi, Modler, Nigg, Norder, Oertli, Oslet, Papst, Paravizin, Reding, Reust, Rheiner, Ries, Rosenberger, Ruch, Schreyer, Schrepfer, Schweiter, Sigrist, Staub, Stauffacher, Steinmüller, Streif, Thut, Tisch, Turscher, Vögerli, Weiss, Wettinger, Wild, Winkler, Winteler, Wolwend, Ziebach, Zimmermann, Zindel, Zopfi, Zürcher, Zweifel, Zwicki