

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)

By Gottfried Heer, 1920

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

XXVI. The Madutzes

[pg. 146-47]

The 1851 *Landsgemeinde*^a memorial publication printed, as Article 18, a "final resolution concerning the cantonal rights replacement of master tailor Maduz in Matt", which read as follows: "Master tailor Maduz, from Undingen in the kingdom of Württemberg, but who already settled in Matt some time ago, wishes to be accepted into the local cantonal rights, with his 3 single sons and 1 daughter. He had purchased the Matt communal citizen rights, together with the church and school rights, with a large sum of money; certainly, one can say, with an offering that, for a professional man, like this person is, may be considered one of the most exorbitant and most extensive. Since the petitioner, with his family, now stands in the highest repute; and since the cantonal citizens have taken action a few years ago against some 'patient ones' of the Riedern commune in accordance with the principles of generous clemency, and since further offerings could not possibly be imposed on the petitioner, and he had most fully complied with all requirements of the law, thus, with all confidence in the cantonal citizens' humanitarian attitudes, the threefold Cantonal Council also allowed itself to make an appeal in this case, and to please them: master tailor Maduz, with his 3 sons¹ and his daughter, was accepted into the cantonal rights of Canton Glarus free of charge."

What recommended the master tailor, Johannes Madutz, to the members of the Cantonal Council, as to the cantonal citizens, for the granting of the Glarner cantonal rights free of charge, was probably, not least of all, the intercession and friendship of a highly respected Glarner citizen, the famous naturalist, Dr. Oswald Heer, and of Zürich professor, Dr. Arnold Escher von der Linth, who is also esteemed in Canton Glarus.

"Johannes Madutz had only had the benefit of primary school education, but his instinct toward the mountains, his hunting trips, and particularly his association with Oswald Heer, have imparted to him a fine measure of knowledge about nature. He had accompanied the world-renowned naturalist in the Glarner, Graubündner, Berner and Walliser Alps and had performed outstanding service to him as guide, had first climbed the Piz Linard [Canton Graubünden] with him², and had even surpassed Markus Colani in his ability to guide in the Bernina district, since Colani was no longer really familiar with mountain ranges higher than where the mountain goats live. Also, in other mountain groups, Madutz pointed out to the resident guides the discovery of routes which were often superior. Madutz was also the guide of Escher von der Linth and had visited the Mont Blanc group [Switzerland/France/Italy border] with him; he guided the Zürich professor Ulrich in [Canton] Wallis, and also in the Tödi district and in the Glarnisch district [both in Canton Glarus], showing the way and supporting the scholarly work of his employers; and everyone gave him the best testimonials and felt safe among his retinue. They spoke always of the skillful Madutz. From 1834-1858 the Swiss Alps

probably had few people hiking as industriously as he. He had, in 1854, conquered a peak of Mt. Rosa [Canton Wallis/Italy border]; he had also taken the pioneering lead on Tödi and Glarnisch (the ascent beyond Guppen). He was a pioneer in the Swiss Alps."³

^a 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]

¹ The last of his 3 sons, Fridolin, died in 1912 in Matt.

² Oswald Heer, Report, pg. 25.

³ Glarner News, 23 June 1917, see Dr. W. A. B. Coolidge: Johann Madutz of Matt (1800-1861).