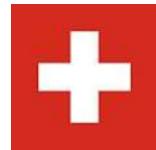


# Switzerland



## NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

**Volume 23, No. 3**

**Fall, 2014**

### **President's Message**

Gruezi!

Hope you are all doing well as we head into the final weeks of 2014. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, Dec 6, at Valley Brook Country Club. This also serves as our annual general meeting & election of 2015 officers. Please plan to attend & respond by returning the included reservation form.

I would like to extend thanks to the Nominating Committee (Fred Carlson, Frank Gloor, & Evelyn Ruffing) for their good work. The slate of nominees for terms starting in 2015 is included in this issue of the newsletter.

This month's Swiss Living Tradition is Basler Fasnacht. If you want to learn more about this topic, I am sure our resident Baslers, Annemarie Frick & Koni Ostertag, would be more than willing to oblige! Having witnessed the Morgenstreich myself, I definitely recommend placing this on your "bucket list" of things to see & do in Switzerland (despite the 4:00 am start time!).

Also, please consider bidding in the silent auction for the Stabellen-style chair that has been generously donated by SwissNationality Room master woodworker Richard Sink. This chair is similar to the chairs in the Swiss Room & the one that was auctioned at the 2013 picnic. The auction proceeds will benefit the Swiss Room Scholarship Fund. Please email your bid to [walter.schaller@zoominternet.net](mailto:walter.schaller@zoominternet.net)

Hopp Schwiiz!

Lyndall Huggler

<b><u>SASP END OF 2014 EVENTS</u></b>	
<b>December 6</b>	<b><u>Annual Christmas Luncheon</u></b> 11:30am-3:30pm, Valley Brook Country Club
<b>December 7</b>	<b><u>Nationality Rooms Open House</u></b> Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh
<b>December 13</b>	<b><u>Sami Klaus Party</u></b> Teutonia

### **News from the Swiss Singers**

Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia is preparing for the next Swiss Saengerfest in New Glarus, Wisconsin. The Saengerfest will take place June 18-21, 20

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## Swiss Ingenuity at Work in Brazil

Submitted by Board Member Beatrice Hook

Bill & I just came back from our trip to South America where we saw Swiss ingenuity & technology at work.



In Rio de Janeiro, a Swiss made cog-wheel train took us to the top of Corcovado Mountain. The smart new train was introduced in 1979. It is very safe & has four different kinds of brakes. The train transports 360 passengers per hour on a track that has a length of 3,829 km/2,373 mi.

There are a few steps to climb after one exits the train. The view from the top, which is also the base of the Christ the Redeemer statue, is breathtaking.

## Swiss representation at Randyland in the Northside

Board Member Sylvia Emmenegger-McCoy is friends with Randy Gilson, & was thrilled to represent Switzerland on the International Welcome Wall.



This fun, quirky place has been receiving much national media coverage.

## Your SASP Board

**President:** Lyndall Huggler

[lynbeth@msn.com](mailto:lynbeth@msn.com) 412.480.1660

**Vice President:** Annemarie Frick

[africkpit@aol.com](mailto:africkpit@aol.com) phone 412.761.1388

**Recording Secretary:** Jhon Smith

[jhsst7@gmail.com](mailto:jhsst7@gmail.com) phone 412.521.2584

**Treasurer:** Paul Lienhardt

[pmh3jtl4@gmail.com](mailto:pmh3jtl4@gmail.com) phone 412.835.9345

**Corresponding Secretary:** Ellen Carlson

[ecarlson118@gmail.com](mailto:ecarlson118@gmail.com) 412.335.9659

**Membership Secretary:** Richard Engel

[engel.richard@gmail.com](mailto:engel.richard@gmail.com) 724.591.2828

**Board Member 2015:** Sylvia Emmenegger-McCoy

[sylviaem@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviaem@hotmail.com) 412.901.7150

**Board Member 2015:** Jim Shock

[jrshock@icloud.com](mailto:jrshock@icloud.com) 724.941.6316

**Board Member 2014:** Nancy Flury Carlson

[nancy@carlsonstudio.com](mailto:nancy@carlsonstudio.com) 412.856.0982

**Board Member 2014:** Beatrice Hook

[bbaahook@windstream.net](mailto:bbaahook@windstream.net) 724.627.3049

## SASP Goes to University

Members of the SASP take every opportunity to discuss Swiss culture. Board member Jim Shock (aka Dr. Shock....how's that for a visual!) teaches Marketing at the Robert Morris University School of Business. This semester, Jim teaches International Marketing to juniors and seniors. Among the topics covered are the impact of culture in the various countries and how it affects business. Many guests have come to the class, either live or via Skype, representing France, Germany, Korea, China, and Australia. In order to properly convey Swiss culture, Jim invited board member Sylvia Emmenegger-McCoy to talk about her experiences living in Switzerland, the ability to speak different languages, and life as a Swiss and US citizen. Sylvia covered topics such as the quality of the food, the education system, and even things you don't think about, such as paying for a sticker, used for your garbage pick-up (in Basel, known as an Abfallmarkli). Sylvia also noted that her experiences in Switzerland gave her the idea to start her own food-related business, as quality food is important to her. She was on-hand for two, 50-minute sessions, giving the students a taste of life in Switzerland.

## Living Traditions

### Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes

### Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

Basel carnival, Swiss graphic design, *Hornussen*, & the Vevey grape harvest festival are some of the practices featured in the current "Inventory of Living Traditions in Switzerland". All of these Living Traditions share the following three features:

- they are still practiced in Switzerland.
- they are an integral part of Swiss cultural diversity & identity.
- they change & evolve.

It is precisely these three aspects that enable living traditions to connect one generation to the next as part of our cultural heritage.

### Basler Fasnacht

A jousting tournament in 1376 is the oldest documented Fasnacht (carnival) event in Basel. Since then, the Basel Fasnacht has been constantly changing. In its current form, the "drey scheenschte Däag" (three finest days)', as it is called in Basel, reach far beyond the city borders. The citizens of Basel & visitors gather at 4 in the morning on the Monday after Ash Wednesday. An eerie silence reigns over the pitch-black city center before the drum major gives the marching order "Morgestraich vorwärts marsch!", & the costumed drummers & piccolo players strike up the music that opens the Fasnacht celebrations.



*During the procession, the Basel "cliques" address topical issues with a humorous touch, 2003 © Felix Jehle/picturebâle*

On Monday & Wednesday afternoon there are enormous processions with around 12,000 participants in costumes representing countless different subjects, while Tuesday is set aside for the children's masked procession & the Guggenmusiken (brass bands).



*Schnitzelbaengg: current events are reported on with a good helping of irony, 2006 © Claude Giger/picturebâle*

A particularly important role is played by the hundred or so "Schnitzelbank" groups (a "Schnitzelbank" is a collection of humorous songs or verses), who perform their satirical verses in restaurants and vaults.

*For more information on the Living Traditions in Switzerland, go to [www.lebendige-traditionen.ch](http://www.lebendige-traditionen.ch)*



*Morgenstreich: pipers and drummers wear characteristic head lanterns on their masks, 2003 © Felix Jehle/picturebâle*

## The Tintinnabulation of the Bells?

**T**he iconic bells worn by Swiss cows are in danger! Swiss Federal Institute of Technology researchers found that the 110 to 113 decibels of the cowbells, approximately the same sound level as a chainsaw, exceed safety standards and may have made thousands of Swiss cows permanently deaf.

Those familiar with the large, loud Swiss cowbells will not be surprised at this. Indeed, in recent years Swiss farmers have participated in parades as a massed cowbell band, a loud, intimidating sound. Lolita Morena from a Swiss animal protection group, stated "Farmers will just have to spend a bit more time finding their cows in bad weather, like shepherds do." The findings were revealed in a paper by agricultural scientist Julia Johns and her team of researchers at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ). They spent months testing more than 100 cows in 25 farms, monitoring their activity, head movements, reactions to sound and feeding behavior. The paper suggests that thousands of cows – whose hearing is more sensitive than a human's – may already be irreversibly deaf.

Lolita Morena of the Swiss animal protection group told daily *Le Matin*: "We didn't need long university research to tell us that the bells are not beneficial to cows. Farmers will just have to spend a bit more time finding their cows in bad weather, like shepherds do. It's difficult work, but they chose it."

Johns suggested technology could be the answer, saying: "In this IT age we could replace the bell with a microchip and the farmer could then locate his cattle using a smartphone."

But farmers have reacted angrily to her suggestion, claiming GPS signal would be patchy at best in the remote and hilly terrain of the Swiss mountains.

"They can't be serious," responded Jacques Bourgeois, director of the Swiss Countryside Union, in *Le Matin*. "These researchers have completely missed the point. I wonder if they've even stepped out of their lab and been to the mountains."

He pointed out that the 12lb-bells used in the study were in fact size 31 and only used for one day a year on ceremonial occasions.

Swiss Tourism spokesperson Véronique Kanel was also displeased with the findings, saying: "It would be the end of a myth, of an image of Switzerland."

Submitted by Bruce Egli,  
with additional content submitted by Lyndall Huggler

## Notice of Annual Meeting of General Assembly

**T**he 2014 annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh will be held in conjunction with the Christmas Luncheon at Valley Brook Country Club on December 6, 2014. The General Assembly will elect directors and officers for 2015.

### Nominees – 2015 Officers and Directors

President	Lyndall Huggler
Vice President	Annemarie Frick
Treasurer	Beatrice Hook
Corresponding Secretary	Laine Baer
Membership Secretary	Richard Engel
Recording Secretary	Jhon Smith
Board Member (2015)	Sylvia McCoy
Board Member (2015)	Jim Shock
Board Member (2016)	Rob Domenick
Board Member (2016)	Arthur Erbe
Auditor	Fred Carlson
(one additional Auditor needed)	

### Take a Seat!

#### *and Support the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship*

**S**wiss Room master woodworker Richard Sink has recently made & generously donated a stunning chair for Swiss Room Scholarship fundraising. In the same *Stabellen*-style as our Swiss Room chairs, this meticulously handcrafted oak chair features a charming heart-shaped cutout in the seatback. It has been built to last & will surely become a family heirloom.

The starting bid for the silent auction is \$250. Email bids will be accepted through December 1<sup>st</sup>, & all bidders will receive regular updates on the highest bid. The winner will be announced at the Christmas luncheon. Please email all bids to [walter.schaller@zoominternet.net](mailto:walter.schaller@zoominternet.net)

\*Please note: The auction winner is responsible for picking up the chair in Pittsburgh, or for paying all packing and shipping charges associated with mailing/delivering it. The Fair Market Value of the Swiss chair is \$400. Therefore, the tax-deductible portion of the winning pledge must exclude that amount.

# Annual Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon Registration Form

Please advise & remit to Paul Lienhardt your pick of two luncheon choices:

**CHICKEN MARSALA** - boneless breast with mushrooms & Marsala wine sauce, redskin potatoes and green beans almandine, a salad and rolls with butter - \$23 --

or

**SALMON** - baked with fresh dill, in lemon cream sauce with cheesy risotto and green beans almandine a salad and rolls with butter - \$27.

This pricing includes PA sales tax and a 22% gratuity.

DIRECTIONS to Valley Brook Country Club: on Route 19, 5.4 miles south of the South Hills Village Shopping Center, right turn at Bob Evans Restaurant, onto Hidden Valley Road, go 2 miles to country club situated at end of road.

If driving Route 19 north from Donaldson's Crossroad, turn left at 1.2 miles.

DO BRING YOUR TOMBALA DRAWINGS for this Christmas gathering.

REGISTRATION - First & Last names as desire appear on your name tag:

**Paul Lienhardt  
1527 High Knoll Dr  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311**

---

## Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 Swiss Christmas Luncheon Registration Form

Please print first & last names as desired to appear on your name tag:

_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00
_____	\$ ____.00

**My/Our total prepayment is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00**

# The Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund

**Do students attending class in the Swiss Room  
get inspired to study in Switzerland?**

***Ja, Oui, Sì, Gea, Yes!***



Please give generously to the **Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund** at the University of Pittsburgh. This endowed fund will help Pitt students realize their dreams of **living and learning in Switzerland**.

**+ All donations made to the University of Pittsburgh – Swiss Nationality Room are tax-deductible +**  
**Questions? Contact Philip at 412-216-5144 or [buttonari@alumni.nd.edu](mailto:buttonari@alumni.nd.edu)**

**Gift Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (*required for credit card gifts*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Nationality Rooms Program  
1209 Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

**Payment Options:**

Check (payable to "University of Pittsburgh")

*Please write "Swiss Room Scholarship" in memo*

Credit Card (\$50 minimum; you can also go to: <http://www.pitt.edu/giving.html> to make an online credit card gift, but be sure to include a comment of "Swiss Room Scholarship")

Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AMEX

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

*(3- or 4-digit value printed on card or signature strip)*

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality Rooms Program/Swiss Room account: 09.01031.4400.95927.000000.00000.00000

# CAN YOU NAME THEM?

## Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh – late 1940's



**Please help us identify these Pittsburgh Swiss from the late 1940s.** We can identify: Ernie Smuts (front row, just to the right of the centerpiece), Fred Henzi (?), Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Pittsburgh (far right, front row), Marie Schneider (back row, 3rd from left), Werner Schneider (back row 5th from right), & a young Albert Flury (back row, 5th from left). Bonus points if you can name the location of this event!

This photo was recently found in the files of Albert Flury. Albert has moved back to Pittsburgh returning from Saint Louis this past summer with his daughter Nancy Flury Carlson & son-in-law Fred Carlson. He would love to see old friends from the Pittsburgh area who remember him-from when he lived here from 1947 (when he came over to the US from Solothurn) until 1955.

**Swiss Gold Initiative News** Member Jack Moore would like to share two links regarding the **Swiss Gold Initiative**, which the people of Switzerland will have a say on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The early polling is showing the majority is in favor of having 20% of the currency backed by physical gold. This is significant, since the world is very interconnected financially & we are seeing a continued recession in all countries.

Jack is an investor for over 40 years, & has a strong interest in the gold markets & the financial economies globally. Jack's maternal Grandfather, 'Opapa', ran a Swiss bank in Basel & coupled with an interest in following the gold markets in the 1970's & early 80's, has led him to follow &

meet some very influential financial contacts.

"Let me say, I receive nothing for bring these two articles to my fellow Swiss/American members, it is more of an FYI. Knowledge is power." – Jack Moore – Thank you for this information, Jack!

[http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/Broadcast/Entries/2014/10/12\\_Egon\\_von\\_Greyerz.html](http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/Broadcast/Entries/2014/10/12_Egon_von_Greyerz.html)

[http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/KWN\\_DailyWeb/Entries/2014/10/24\\_Celente\\_-\\_Switzerland\\_Is\\_Going\\_To\\_Make\\_History\\_In\\_Just\\_38\\_Days.html](http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/KWN_DailyWeb/Entries/2014/10/24_Celente_-_Switzerland_Is_Going_To_Make_History_In_Just_38_Days.html)

## **The Swiss Nationality Room Committee Invites You to Join Us!**

A new member outreach is coming your way soon to become a member of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee. All Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh members will be receiving a letter shortly asking for you, if you are interested, to become part of our Swiss Room Committee team. The new Nationality Room Council By-Laws are promoting larger more expansive committees and we are taking action to make that a reality concerning the Swiss Room. This mailing will also be in concert with a recruitment letter sent to many registered Swiss in western PA to become members of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh as well. Costs for the outreach are being split between the Swiss Room agency account and the S-ASP general fund. President Lyndall Huggler and Room Chairman Heinz W. Kunz are working with key members of both the SNRC and the S-ASP on the language of the letters at the time of this article.

The Swiss Room Committee, based on the response to the membership drive, will then be electing a new slate of officers to be reported to Pitt by March, 2015. Room Committee duties will be shared among all members to promote the scholarship funds drive, create and produce Swiss cultural programs to the greater Pitt university community as well as S-ASP members, decorate the Swiss Room for the Christmas Holidays, and when our endowment fund goals are reached, to award scholarships for students seeking to study in Switzerland. So watch closely for this mailing and please consider being a part of our work promoting Switzerland through the wonderful visibility the Swiss Room provides.

### **Nationality Room Holiday Open House Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The University of Pittsburgh will once again have this event from Noon to 4pm in the Cathedral of Learning. The Swiss Room, like many other Nationality Rooms, will be decorated for Christmas in the tradition of their respective nationality. On the first floor in the commons area will be ethnic display tables, food booths, & entertainment of many nationalities.

The Swiss Table will feature Swiss Foods & Cultural items. If you know how to make authentic Swiss baked goods or food items, please bring them between 10 & Noon that morning. Please contact Walter Schaller if you are able to bring anything or help out at the table. If you have any questions please contact Walter at [412-980-4421](tel:412-980-4421) or [walter.schaller@zoominternet.net](mailto:walter.schaller@zoominternet.net).

Please remember to remind your family and friends of the event.

### **In other Swiss Room news....**

....the new NRIEP Nationality Council Model By-Laws were approved by the SNRC at a meeting in CL 321 (Swiss Room) on August 16. This allows our Chairman Dr. Kunz to sign off on the Charter Agreement between the Swiss Room Committee and the University of Pittsburgh due in March 2015. Dues structure for committee members were passed per new By-laws that allow our own choice of dues levels. The dues levels were set at: students free, individuals \$15, family \$25. Our Swiss Room Committee felt that new member interest in joining the SNRC equals commitment and involvement with this sort of structure and is similar to current S-ASP dues. Other benefits to be offered to SNRC members include: access to student presentations, cultural presentations, and other special events.

The year-end fundraising outreach mailing to our Swiss Room donor base was mailed out the second week of November. These funds are being gathered to reach an endowment amount for scholarships of \$50,000. Our total funds available now stand at \$34,138.96.

Regarding ideas for cultural programs of interest to the University of Pittsburgh community and our membership that our Committee can sponsor for the campus community (Item 3 in Charter Agreement.) include: Dr. Kunz proposed a SWITZERLAND TODAY talk or set of talks. Fred Carlson's recent article in S-ASP newsletter on Swiss graphic design could be expanded easily into an offering of interest to the wider campus and off-campus community. We are constantly inviting the S-ASP membership to offer other ideas for presenting programming at Pitt.

Room Decorating Day November 15: The Swiss Room Holiday Decorating Team will be in action on Saturday November 15, 2014 promptly at 9:30am. Nancy Flury Carlson is leading the team this year. Swiss Room woodworker Richard Sink, Mountaineer Wood Industries, French Creek, WV, has again generously given the SNRC a Swiss *stabellen* (chair made of oak like the chairs in the Swiss Room) to auction by e-mail bidding prior to the luncheon. You can find the information regarding this auction elsewhere in this issue! We anticipate a nice donation to our Swiss Room scholarship endowment fund as a result of this auction, and we all thank Richard Sink and his family for their continued generosity to our cause!

-Fred Carlson, Vice-Chairman

### **New burial site for 727 Swiss-German souls was moved and blessed, in 2003**

#### **-the Voegty/Basel Swiss Connection to the North Side**

Originally published Tuesday, October 28, 2003 in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Originally written by Patricia Lowry, Post-Gazette Architecture Critic; edited by Fred Carlson for the S-ASP Newsletter

At 10 o'clock October 28, 2003, in an old Swiss-German cemetery at the edge of a plateau overlooking the Allegheny River, the remains of 727 people were recommitted to the earth. It had been well over a century since their bodies were buried, 16 years since they were discovered under a North Side church parking lot, a year since they were reinterred at Troy Hill's Voegty Cemetery. Since 1987, they have traveled from their not-so-final resting place to the GAI Consultants archaeology lab in Monroeville and to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Some of their teeth and bone marrow was sent to England for DNA analysis. With the granite gravestone in place, it is time for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to put these peripatetic souls

to rest, with a religious service befitting their Christian faith and German heritage.

"We have to keep thinking these were not just bones but people," said Patricia Remy, PennDOT's local environmental manager and the woman who wondered what could be learned from the Voegty graves. "In this case, even the church couldn't identify who was in the cemetery or how many," Remy said. Elders of the disbanded congregation endorsed a historical and archaeological investigation, one that would eventually yield the *largest number of 19th-century graves ever studied archaeologically in America*.

#### **Unearthing the past**

On June 3, 1987, a backhoe operator was carefully excavating near East Ohio Street for the highway construction project that would link I-279 with Route 28. Standing by, as required by state and federal law, was archaeologist Ward Sutton, who had been monitoring the excavation because the site could have historical significance. But that day, Sutton discovered something unexpected in the layer of soil peeled off by the backhoe: fragments of bones. Remy and Sutton knew there had been a church on the site; Voegty Church was sold to PennDOT for \$148,000 in 1984 and demolished the following

year. "We thought maybe this was a few scattered bones of forgotten people when they moved [the cemetery] up to Troy Hill," Remy said. "But every day we revealed more and more graves."

By the end of September, as many as 50 technicians and osteologists, working 10-hour days six days a week under the supervision of archaeologist Diane Beynon Landers, had removed, documented, numbered and packaged the remains of 727 graves. They had been found on less than a half-acre of land under an asphalt and gravel parking lot that the church had paved in 1950.

Clearly the cemetery had never been moved. But why had the church eliminated all trace of it from the face of the Earth?

### **Life in Schweizer Loch, "Swiss Hole"**

In 1817, Nicholas and Elizabeth Voegty (pronounced FECKly) sent their oldest son, 21-year-old John Jacob, to America to scout a location for resettlement of their family. He chose the neighboring cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. Five years later, the Voegtlys, their children and neighbor Heinrich Richenbach and his family emigrated from Basel, Switzerland. The families already were related by marriage; Nicholas Voegty Jr.'s wife was Heinrich's daughter, Mary. The next year, the Voegtlys and Richenbachs purchased from James O'Hara 161 acres on the north bank of the Allegheny, just east of the existing German neighborhood on Allegheny City's east side.

Known as Schweizer Loch -- "Swiss Hole" -- because of its low-lying land, the neighborhood soon became a lively mosaic of houses and businesses. By 1840, Nicholas Jr. and his brothers owned and operated the Banner Cotton Mill a few blocks south of the family compound. The immigrant families and their businesses, cemented by intermarriages and a common faith, prospered. Schweizer Loch hummed with a lumberyard, sawmill, flour mill and, to make all that work go down a little smoother, John Straub's brewery.

Ever mindful of life's spiritual side, the families attended the German Evangelical Church at Sixth Avenue and Smithfield Street. But in 1833, they and other German-speaking Swiss immigrants formed their own congregation, the First German United Evangelical Protestant Church, at the corner of East Ohio Street and Church Alley (now Ahlers Way, opposite the Sarah Heinz House.). Because the small brick building was

built on a three-quarter-acre lot donated by Nicholas Voegty Sr., everybody called it the Voegty Church.

Nicholas Voegty Sr., who died in 1852, and his wife, who died two years later, were among 823 churchyard burials recorded between 1833 and 1861. When the congregation purchased land for a new cemetery on Troy Hill, the Voegty family moved the bodies of Nicholas and Elizabeth there. Everybody else in the church graveyard stayed put.

### **Building on bones**

In 1849, the first church was razed and a red brick one erected, a modest, temple-front Greek Revival building with brick pilasters rather than columns. That same year, a schoolhouse was built next to the church, but by 1883 a three-story parsonage was on that site. The graveyard was behind both buildings.

Thirty-eight years later, in 1911, the congregation built a Sunday school addition at the rear of the church. The 1987 excavation showed its foundation was dug through 15 graves.

"Evidence suggests that this disturbance would have been obvious to the architects and builders; distal ends of human fibulas were found cemented into the foundation walls, and broken tombstones, plastered together like a deck of cards, were used to form support pillars for the addition," Landers writes.

There is no evidence that church members knew of the cemetery disturbance in 1911. Exactly how and why the cemetery was neglected and abandoned over the next 40 years was never determined, but old urban church cemeteries traditionally have been vulnerable in the competition for land.

By 1911, the Voegty Church congregation had assimilated to a point where it was beginning to lose its institutional memory. Services in English were introduced in 1913, and by 1926 Voegty Church had been renamed the Pilgrim Evangelical Church of Pittsburgh. In 1950, the old cemetery, where there had been no burials for almost a century, was paved and graveled.

The church burial records, written in archaic German script, were deteriorated and illegible, and there were no other written records or maps identifying the graveyard.

"The fact that there was a cemetery associated with the Voegty Churchyard had become lost to the collective consciousness of the congregation," Landers writes.

In 1959, church elders were told their buildings lay in the path of the East Street Valley Expressway. In 1972, the parsonage was razed. In 1975, with the death of Flora Voegty, the church lost contact with its namesake family. By 1980, the tiny congregation was meeting in the Sunday school addition to conserve heat. Twenty-one people came to the last service on Nov. 4, 1984; the church was demolished in 1985.

### Closure

With the publicity surrounding the cemetery dig, relatives and other Pittsburghers came forward with church histories and other information. Researchers also combed local historical societies, museums and libraries. One document that surfaced, translated in 1989, was the church's death records, listing the 823 individuals buried in its graveyard. Of 774 people whose sex was known, 365 were females and 409 were males. The 151 individuals for whom cause of death was listed died from cholera, tuberculosis, typhoid, scarlet fever, smallpox and other diseases. Four died in childbirth, one fell into boiling water, one was kicked by a horse and one fell from a roof while building a house.

Of the 799 for whom ages were given, 569 were under 20, 311 were less than a year old and 44 had been stillborn.

The skeletal remains of 544 people could be aged with some accuracy, reports Smithsonian anthropologist Douglas H. Ubelaker. For those who had reached at least the age of 20, the average age at death was 35.4 for women and 37 for men.

All of the coffins were six-sided and wedge-shaped. Seventy-five coffins, most belonging to children, were painted red; some had faded to a rosy pink. Because the bones of children deteriorate more rapidly than those of adults, most of the children's coffins contained only the objects that had been buried with them, such as shoes, a bell and a whistle.

By comparing coffin style and hardware ornamentation with the dates on coins found with the deceased (over the eyes or in the hand), archaeologists identified an early period of initial settlement (1833-1840) and a later period of assimilation (1840-1861). The plain and painted coffins of the early period, made by a cabinetmaker, often gave way to the professional undertaker's coffin, decorated with ornate handles and a

ribbon-like copper wire and fabric trim unique to the Voegty cemetery.

In 2002, the numbered remains, reunited with their grave goods, were packed into 200 cardboard boxes. The boxes were placed inside 25 concrete vaults and buried.

The October 2003 recommitment service was led by the Rev. Doug Patterson, pastor of Smithfield United Church of Christ, which evolved from the Voegty congregation's mother church. It included German prayers, a German hymn and a blessing of the graves. After the 20-minute service, those gathered walked to nearby Grace Lutheran Church for coffee and doughnuts.

Among those attending was Dorothy Davies, who was baptized at Voegty Church in 1923 but has no relatives among the 727 reinterred.

"Isn't it funny how you remember things? I can remember that church so plain. It was painted white [inside]. It was very stark. The pews were wooden and the floor was bare," Davies said.

"And everybody dressed up, you know, the hats and the gloves. And the men wore suits and ties and hats and the children were dressed up in their Sunday best."

Remy and others who worked on the \$500,000 project also were there for a moment of closure.

"I like to think that we handled them respectfully and did what was appropriate and added to the knowledge, extracting the right amount of information in a dignified and respectful manner," Remy said. "But it's not an experience I want to live through again. I wonder, when I meet my own end, if I'll be meeting 727 people."

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Patricia Lowry can be reached at [plowry@post-gazette.com](mailto:plowry@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1590.

**The following is a list of Cantons of Switzerland, ranked by area.** The chart shows recent census data as well so interesting population density numbers are shown. We think of Switzerland in terms of immense mountain panoramas yet we see the entire nation is only 1/3 the size of Pennsylvania. If you added together the 4 Cantons of Graubünden, Bern, Valais/Wallis, and Vaud they constitute 50% of the size of the entire country. For comparison, Ticino is about the size of Allegheny County, and the Cantons ranked below Obwalden are all less than 10% the size of Allegheny County. The 5 most populous Cantons are Zürich, Bern, Vaud, Aargau, and Geneva. (list compiled by Fred Carlson, source Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. To find square miles multiply the km<sup>2</sup> by 0.38610.)

Rank	Area km <sup>2</sup>	% of total	Canton	Pop.	Dens.
1st	<a href="#">7105</a>	17.2%	GR <a href="#">Graubünden</a>	 185,700	26
2nd	<a href="#">5959</a>	14.4%	BE <a href="#">Berne</a>	 947,100	158
3rd	<a href="#">5224</a>	12.7%	VS <a href="#">Valais</a>	 278,200	53
4th	<a href="#">3212</a>	7.8%	VD <a href="#">Vaud</a>	 626,200	194
5th	<a href="#">2812</a>	6.8%	TI <a href="#">Ticino</a>	 311,900	110
6th	<a href="#">2026</a>	4.9%	SG <a href="#">St. Gallen</a>	 452,600	223
7th	<a href="#">1729</a>	4.2%	ZH <a href="#">Zürich</a>	 1,228,600	710
8th	<a href="#">1671</a>	4%	FR <a href="#">Fribourg</a>	 239,100	143
9th	<a href="#">1493</a>	3.6%	LU <a href="#">Lucerne</a>	 350,600	234
10th	<a href="#">1404</a>	3.4%	AG <a href="#">Aargau</a>	 550,900	392
11th	<a href="#">1077</a>	2.6%	UR <a href="#">Uri</a>	 35,000	32
12th	<a href="#">991</a>	2.4%	TG <a href="#">Thurgau</a>	 228,200	230
13th	<a href="#">908</a>	2.2%	SZ <a href="#">Schwyz</a>	 131,400	144
14th	<a href="#">838</a>	2%	JU <a href="#">Jura</a>	 69,100	82
15th	<a href="#">803</a>	1.9%	NE <a href="#">Neuchâtel</a>	 166,500	207
16th	<a href="#">791</a>	1.9%	SO <a href="#">Solothurn</a>	 245,500	310
17th	<a href="#">685</a>	1.7%	GL <a href="#">Glarus</a>	 38,300	55
18th	<a href="#">518</a>	1.3%	BL <a href="#">Basel-Country</a>	 261,400	504
19th	<a href="#">491</a>	1.2%	OW <a href="#">Obwalden</a>	 32,700	66
20th	<a href="#">298</a>	0.7%	SH <a href="#">Schaffhausen</a>	 73,400	246
21st	<a href="#">282</a>	0.7%	GE <a href="#">Geneva</a>	 414,300	1469
22nd	<a href="#">276</a>	0.7%	NW <a href="#">Nidwalden</a>	 38,600	139
23rd	<a href="#">243</a>	0.6%	AR <a href="#">Appenzell Ausserrhoden</a>	 53,200	218
24th	<a href="#">239</a>	0.6%	ZG <a href="#">Zug</a>	 100,900	422
25th	<a href="#">173</a>	0.4%	AI <a href="#">Appenzell Innerrhoden</a>	 15,000	86
26th	<a href="#">37</a>	0.1%	BS <a href="#">Basel-City</a>	 186,700	5045