



# Swiss American Historical Society Newsletter

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## Front Matter

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# Swiss-American Historical Society

# Newsletter

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SWISS AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Prefatory Note:

This newsletter contains a variety of contributions. It offers, first, the report of a Swiss immigrant from 1866 who had found employment in New York City. It includes, second, some humorous bi-lingual vignettes that were collected by Ruth Harbecke Jewett. The piece is an outgrowth of her study, The Swiss Connection. The Lives and Times of Frederick Joss and Emily Bigler Joss and Their Descendants (Chicago: Privately Printed, 1983), parts of which have appeared in the SAHS Newsletter XXI, No. 3 (November 1988):3 - 47.

Of special interest is also Richard J. Castor's report on the 1987 Gerster/Castor reunion in Basel, Switzerland. It was a follow-up of the marvelous 1986 three-day gathering at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, he had helped organize that celebrated Hans Georg Gerster's and Eva Gysin's arrival in Pennsylvania two hundred and fifty years before. Those two immigrants were the progenitors of numerous Gerster/Castors who now live widely dispersed all over the United States.

The fourth and fifth pieces complement the June 1988 Newsletter which contained Walter Angst's captivating autobiographical sketch. His essay provides insight not only into the emergence of a heraldic creation, but also spells out the principles he followed in shaping a symbol that is at once thematically appropriate, esthetically appealing, and formally compatible with tradition. A list of his publications and samples of his ideas for American State flags conclude the issue.

*To all a happy holiday season!*

Leo Schelbert, editor