



2009

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#### Recommended Citation

Geiser, John III (2009) "Burials In The Tomb Of The Swiss-American Society New Orleans," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 45 : No. 1 , Article 4.

Available at: [https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs\\_review/vol45/iss1/4](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol45/iss1/4)

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## Burials in the Tomb of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans

John Geiser III

A history of the Swiss Society of New Orleans written in 1955 by Laura Geiser Muehlemann and Herman A. Dieth on the occasion of the Society's one-hundredth anniversary states:

On July 3, 1871, an improved constitution was adopted and a burial ground in Greenwood Cemetery was purchased. The yellow fever epidemic of 1878 caused the entire plot of ground to be filled and compelled action on the building of a suitable vault, which was completed and consecrated with appropriate ceremonies on October 5, 1879.

Greenwood Cemetery records list the old burial ground as the Swiss Society Lots but give no location. As burials are recorded in these lots after the building of the tomb, it can not be supposed that these lots are where the tomb was built.

The tomb is located on lots 44, 46, and 48 on Live Oak Avenue in Greenwood Cemetery. The Society acquired these lots October 12, 1878. The tomb is built of brick covered with stucco and has a white marble facing on the front. There are thirty vaults in five rows of six vaults each. The vaults on the top four rows are numbered one through twenty-four and the vaults on the bottom row are designated by the letters A to F. In the center of the tomb above the vaults is the name "Swiss Society" with a Swiss cross in a circle on each side of the name. Below the name are two clasped hands and on each end of the



Photo by John Geiser, III

Members of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans at the society's tomb in Greenwood Cemetery on All Saints Day (November 1), 1971. Left to right: John Geiser, Jr., Marjorie P. Geiser, Laura Geiser Muehlemann, Earlie Gutknecht, Fritz Gutknecht, Consul General Erich Messmer and Paul Muehlemann, Sr.

front is a downspout in the form of a face with a copper horn. The tomb presents the same appearance as it did when first built with the exception that a statue of an angel which was originally on top of the tomb was destroyed by a hurricane. Herman A. Dieth records in his history prepared on the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary that "The great storm of September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1915 destroyed the angel on the tomb and caused considerable damage."

The name of the Swiss Society of New Orleans was changed in 1959 to the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans. In 1970 the Society voted to designate the Special Collections Division of the Tulane University Library as the repository for the records of the Society. These records include a "Liste d'Enterrements dans le nouveau tombeau de la Société Suisse de la Nouvelle Orléans., E. U." which lists burials from May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1883 until July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1958, two diagrams of the vaults of the tomb, and a plan on the back of one of the diagrams of a plot which was used for burials before the tomb was built.

The information about burials in the tomb which follows includes inscriptions on the tomb (in bold), information from Greenwood Cemetery records (in parentheses), and information from the records of the Society.

Vault # 1: **Melchior Winteler, September 17, 1880, aged 22 days.** Son of M. Winteler. (Native of New Orleans. Removed to receptacle vault June 20, 1892.)

**Henry C. Winteler, July 17, 1884, aged 1 year, 6 months.** Son of M. Winteler. (Native of New Orleans. Removed to receptacle vault June 30, 1892.)

**Marie Charlotte Müller, October 23, 1892, aged 5 months, 10 days.** (Native of New Orleans. Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)

Vault # 2: **Bernard Wieser, November 7, 1880, aged 60 years.** (Native of Breitenbach, Solothurn, Switzerland. Removed to receptacle vault June 20, 1892.)

**P. (Pierre) F. Sunier,** November 12, 1892, aged 18 days. (Native of New Orleans.)

**O. (Otto) Aeppli, July 1, 1894, aged 24 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)

**Mrs. Louisa Rod, October 27, 1912, aged 76 years.** Widow of Louis Rod. (Native of Ireland.)

Vault # 3: **Maria Fatzer, April 18, 1883, aged 35 years.** Wife of John Fatzer. (Native of Germany.)

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**John Allemann, October 22, 1895, aged 71 years, 9 months.**  
(Native of Switzerland. Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)

**Mrs. Mary Allemann, January 9, 1909, aged 75 years.**  
(Native of New Orleans.)

Vault # 4: **Hartmann Schwarzenbach, November 1, 1885, aged 56 years.** (Native of Zurich.)

**George H. Grandjean, June 17, 1900, aged 51 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)

**Josephine Francine Fremaux Grandjean** (Frances Grandjean), **September 4, 1939, aged 87 years.** (Native of Louisiana.) Widow of George H. Grandjean.

Vault # 5: **Barbara Fatzer, June 24, 1881, aged 5 years.** Daughter of J. Fatzer. (Removed to receptacle vault June 30, 1892.)

**Sophie Fatzer, May 29, 1882, aged 1 month, 20 days.**  
Daughter of J. Fatzer.

**John Fuchs, May 20, 1896, aged 7 months.** (native of Algiers, Louisiana. Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)

**Jules Vernay, February 23, 1895, aged 4 years, 6 months.**  
(Native of Louisiana.)

Vault # 6: **J. (Joseph) Kuster, February 28, 1881, aged 40 years.** Native of St. Gallen. (Removed to receptacle vault June 30, 1892.)

**John Schleiniger, April 22, 1895, aged 61 years.** (Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)

**Mrs. R. (Elizabeth) Hunziker, July 12, 1914, aged 51 years.**  
Widow of Rudolph Hunziker. (Native of Louisiana.)

Vault # 7: **John Fatzer, April 22, 1883, aged 32 years.** (Native of Thurgau.)

**A. (Albert) Enderli, September 1, 1899, aged 63 years.**  
(Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)

**Henry Ernst, July 13, 1909, aged 57 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)

**John Fatzer, February 12, 1937, aged 58 years.**

Vault # 8: **Theodore Babey (Barbey), March 13, 1886, aged 53 years.**  
(Native of Canton Bern.)

**Casimir Vernay, September 25, 1902.**

**Newborn child of Henry Moecklin, August 17, 1907.**

**Newborn child of Henry Moecklin, 1909.**

**Austin Mason Gillespie, June 11, 1969.**

**Berthe E. Ammen-Debaz, March 31, 1902 – March 19, 1973. (Buried in vault # 4, March 21, 1973.)**

Vault # 9: **Anna C. (Cecilea) Bachmann, June 22, 1886, aged 14 months.** Daughter of R. Bachmann. (Native of New Orleans.)  
**Marie Madelaine Muehlemann, March 26, 1930 – March 7, 1936.** Daughter of Otto Muehlemann.  
**Otto Muehlemann, October 1, 1888 – November 3, 1952.**

Vault # 10: **Albert Boch, January 11, 1888, aged 32 years.** (Native of Biel, Canton Bern.)  
**R. (Rudolph) Hunziker, February 15, 1901, aged 42 years.** (Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)  
**E. (Émile) Qurrer (Zürer), June 21, 1916, aged 58 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)  
**Otto L. Spoerri, January 17, 1868 – September 11, 1942.**

Vault # 11: **Steph. Dolfini, (Sr.), March 6, 1891, aged 58 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)  
**J.C. Willy, M.D., April 18, 1903, aged 51 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Removed to lot 19, Tulip Avenue, between Cedar and Aloe, Greenwood Cemetery August 13, 1903.)  
**Louis H. Perret, May 29, 1908, aged 67 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)  
**Robert Brupbacher, April 22, 1888, aged 63 years.** (Native of Wädenswil, Canton Zürich. Removed to own place.)

Vault # 12: **Charles E. Seul, May 14, 1883, aged 30 years.** Native of Baselstadt.  
**Mrs. Louise Barbey, December 1, 1907. Aged 71 years.** (Native of France.)  
**Jakob Staub, November 26, 1947, aged 85 years.**

Vault # 13: **Marie Louise Egloff, August 8, 1886, aged 3 months, 21 days.** Daughter of J. Egloff.

Vault # 14: **Peter Schneller, 1889, aged 49 years, 8 months.** Native of Vallendas, Graubünden. (Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)

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- J. J. Bryner, September 22, 1908, aged 61 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)  
 Louise Adele Muehlemann Spoerri, November 19, 1875 – August 4, 1952.  
**Felix Spoerri, born September 16, 1908, died December 23, 1981.** (Buried December 26, 1981.)
- Vault # 15: **Gaspard Scherer, September 7, 1895, aged 61 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)  
**Mrs. L. (Adrienne) Rittener, March 12, 1926, aged 63 years.** (Native of Louisiana.)  
**George Hablützel, October 30, 1889, aged 39 years.** (Native of Wilchingen, Schaffhausen. Removed to own place.)  
**Dr. Rudolf Spoerri, August 10, 1906 – July 29, 2003.**
- Vault # 16: **John Darms, January 25, 1890, aged 56 years.** (Native of Graubünden. Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)  
**Mrs. H. (Barbara M.) Jacober, March 16, 1934, aged 78 years.** (Native of Louisiana.)  
**Émile Dieth, May 6, 1915, aged 54 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Removed to Metairie Cemetery December 10, 1915.)
- Vault # 17: **Berthe Rittener, June 1, 1890, aged 6 months.** Daughter of Louis Rittener.
- Vault # 18: **Martin Wyss, November 3, 1890, aged 33 years.** (Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)  
**Mrs. E. Brunner, December 12, 1910, aged 88 years.**
- Vault # 19: **Daniel Darms, March 28, 1891, aged 51 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)  
**Louis Rittener, July 23, 1934, aged 81 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)  
**Charles Alfred Dally, December 31, 1949, aged 69 years.**  
**Fanny K. Dally, July 28, 1958, aged 80 years.** Widow of Charles A. Dally.
- Vault # 20: **Mrs. John (Katherine) Darms, March 15, 1890, aged 46 years.** (Native of Alsace. Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)

**Henry Jacober, February 18, 1923, aged 73 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)

Vault # 21: **Conrad Fatzer, June 12, 1891, aged 30 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Brought from Charity Hospital Cemetery.)

Vault # 22: **Henry Oettli, May 27, 1891, aged 41 years, 11 months.** (Native of New Orleans. Removed to receptacle vault July 9, 1908.)

**Mrs. Constance Perret née Vallet, September 3, 1911, aged 67 years.** Wife of L. H. Perret. (Native of Louisiana.)

Vault # 23: **J. A. Erath, December 2, 1891, aged 55 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Removed to receptacle vault July 15, 1913.)

**F. V. De Coppet, November 15, 1916, aged 75 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)

**Marie L. Müller Blattmann, January, 1884 – October, 1956.**  
**Ernest (Émile) Blattmann, April, 1884 – February, 1971.**

Vault # 24: **Antony Vogel, July 15, 1892, aged 44 years.** (Native of Switzerland. Removed 1901.)

**Mrs. Louise Steffan, April 18, 1907, aged 64 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)

**Christian Maurer, February 19, 1940, aged 71 years.** (Native of Switzerland.)

Vault A: **Otto L. Muggli, born March 31, 1915, died June 11, 1999.**

Vaults B, C, D, and E have no inscriptions.

Vault F: **Werner Ernest Blattmann, October 27, 1914 – October 11, 1989, Mizpah.**

**Margaret Drown Blattmann, March 8, 1914 – August 12, 2003.**

### **Receptacle Vault:**

The Following persons were originally buried in the Swiss Society lots (old burial place) in Greenwood Cemetery and were moved to the receptacle vault of the new tomb on December 22, 1893. These burials are recorded in the Greenwood Cemetery records:

Louis Rod, died October 5, 1872, aged 39 years.

Alexander de Brunner, died June 28, 1875, aged 27 years.

Elizabeth Fatzer, died November 22, 1877, aged 2 months.

Bertha Marugg, died August 3, 1878, aged 8 months.

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M. Robert L. Marugg, died August 4, 1878, aged 1 year, 3 months, 29 days.

Fritz Holtzer, died August 27, 1878, aged 13 years.

Catherina Wattenhoffer, died September 10, 1878, aged 24 years, 9 months.

Emma Eliza Naef, died October 3, 1878, aged 23 years.

Jacob Zobrist (alias Fischer), died August 6, 1879, aged 33 years.

The diagram of the former burial place of the Society shows the following burials. The Society "Liste d'Enterrements dans le nouveau tombeau" also notes the burials in this old burial place of Christine Stucky, Mina Danegger, and Otto Steffan. Information added by Greenwood Cemetery records is in parentheses.

Louis Rod, October 5, 1872, aged 39. (Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

Elizabeth Fatzer, November 27, 1874, aged 3 months. (Native of New Orleans.)

Alexander de Brunner, June 28, 1875, aged 27 years. (Native of Switzerland.) Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

William Zweifel, June 31, 1877, aged 38 years. (Native of Switzerland. Removed to lot 57, Cypress Avenue between Hawthorn and Cedar, Greenwood Cemetery August 22, 1887.)

J. (John) F. Dilger, October 31, 1877, aged 63 years. (Removed to Cypress Grove Cemetery Number Two December 22, 1893.)

Bertha Marugg, August 3, 1878, aged 8 months. (Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

M. Robert L. Marugg, August 4, 1878, aged 1 year, 3 months, 29 days. (Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

Catherine Holzer, August 22, 1878, aged 57 years. (Native of Switzerland. Removed to Masonic Cemetery December 22, 1893.)

Catherina Wattenhoffer, September 10, 1878, aged 24 years, 9 months. (Native of Germany. Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

Emma Eliza Naef, October 3, 1878, aged 23 years. (Native of Switzerland. Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

Jakob Zobrist (alias Fischer), August 6, 1879, aged 33 years. (Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.)

Christine Stucky, December 19, 1886, aged 42 years. Wife of Fred Stucky. (Removed to lot 23, Live Oak Avenue between Cedar and Aloe, Greenwood Cemetery, December 16, 1893.)

Mina Danegger, June 1, 1887, aged 32 years. Wife of Émile DANegger. (Native of Germany.)



Otto Steffan, April 2, 1888, aged 48 years. Native of Wädenswil, Zurich. (Removed to Cypress Grove Cemetery Number Two December 22, 1893.)

George Darms, aged 7 years, 2 months.

Bertha Boehm

The following additional burials in the old Swiss Society lots are recorded in the Greenwood Cemetery records:

Stillborn infant of J. Scharrar, September 11, 1873.

Eulia Darms, November 23, 1873, aged 9 months. Native of Switzerland.

Unnamed child of Joseph Marugg, February 2, 1875.

Female child of Daniel Darms, March 29, 1875, aged 14 days.

Child of Barbara and Daniel Darms, June 6, 1877.

Bartholomey Zweifel, July 31, 1877, aged 38 years. Native of Switzerland. Removed to lot 57 Cypress Avenue between Hawthorn and Cedar, Greenwood Cemetery.

Selina Hoehn, October 17, 1877, aged 36 years. Native of Switzerland.

Elizabeth Fatzer, November 22, 1877, aged 2 months. Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.

Fritz Holtzer, August 27, 1878, aged 13 years. Native of Switzerland. Removed to new tomb receptacle vault December 22, 1893.

Anna Fahrner, October 11, 1878, aged 26 years. Native of Switzerland.

Mary Fatzer, October 21, 1878, aged 3 and a half years.

Émile Fatzer, December 30, 1879, aged 7 days. Native of New Orleans.