

Johannes Hitz II

(1797 – 27 Jan 1864)

Hitz. On the 27th instant, at a quarter to three o'clock p.m., John Hitz, sr., Consul General of Switzerland, aged 67 years, a native of Switzerland but for 32 years a citizen of the United states during 20 years of which he was a resident of Washington City. The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, without further notice, on Friday, the 29th instant, at half past two o'clock p.m., from his late residence, No. 29 south A street, Capitol Hill.

The Evening Star, January 30, 1864

The Funeral of Consul General Hitz

The funeral of John Hitz, Esq., Consul General of Switzerland, took place from his late residence on Capitol Hill, yesterday afternoon, and was attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends, among them President Lincoln, Secretaries Seward and Usher, Attorney General Bates, Postmaster General Blair, Assistant Secretary Seward, Professor Henry, Mayor Wallach, and Judge Olin. The diplomatic corps was largely represented, among others by Baron Stoeckl, Minister from Russia; Senor Tassara, Spanish Minister; Schleiden, Minister for the Hanseatic Towns; Count Pourtales, Coast Survey; Count Piper, Minister of Sweden; Blondeel de Cuelebroock, Minister of Belgium; Lisboa Minster of Brazil; Boccanegre, Portuguese Minister.

The body was attired in a full suit of black cloth, and the appearance of the corpse extremely natural. The coffin (which was made by Harvey & Co., the undertakers) was of mahogany, covered with black cloth, and was mounted with silver, three heavy handles on each side, with a silver plate on the top, containing the name, with date of birth and time of death of the deceased.

The ceremonies at the house were conducted by Rev. Dr. Channing, Chaplin of the House of Representatives, and Rev. S.B. Finckel of the German Lutheran church, each of whom delivered short addresses, paying a high but just tribute to the memory of the deceased; after which the corpse was removed to the hearse--M.R. Schleiden, Minister from the Hanseatic Towns, G.A. Natile of the Interior Department, Count F.L. Pourtal of the Coast Survey, Major B.B> French, James Adams, and John Cranch, pall-bearers--and the solemn procession was formed, the Swiss Relief Society leading, and wended its way to the Congressional cemetery, where the exercises were conducted by the clergymen, and after the Swiss Society had sun a funeral dirge, the coffin was lowered in the grave.

The duties of the Consulate will be continued until a successor is appointed by Mr. John Hitz, Jr.

The Evening Star, January 27, 1868

The Swiss Benevolent Association

Mr. Kelly introduced in the House, today, a bill to incorporate the Swiss Benevolent Association, which was referred to the District Committee. The bill names John Hitz, John Wermuth, Florian Hitz, Henry Erni, L.F. Pourtales, Bernard Scheitlin, Wm. Guinand, Mathias Alig, Gottfried Mathys, Chas. J. Ost, and others, as incorporators, with the title of Swiss Benevolent Association of Washington, D.C., and fixes the amount of property to be invested at \$25,000 or less, other than what may be invested in a building to be used as an asylum.

The Evening Star, February 10, 1864

Orphans' Court, Judge Purcell

The will of the late John Hitz (Consul General of Switzerland) was fully proven and admitted to probate. He gives to each of his children \$50 as pocket money, and after all lawful debts shall have been paid, all the rest and profits of his estate goes to his widow during her life. Five hundred dollars is bequeathed after her decease to each of his grandchildren, with interest, on their arriving at 21 years of age. The value of 10,000 Swiss francs in U.S. currency is bequeathed to the Commune Davos and Commune Klostars, each to be divided between the school and poor funds. To indemnify the creditors of his father, the late Hans Hitz, in Switzerland, he leaves the value of 5,000 Swiss francs. The value of 500 Swiss francs is bequeathed to his cousin, Conrad Hitz, Canton Geison. He bequeaths \$1,000 to the Unitarian Church--one half to go to the church fund and the other half to constitute a fund which the church trustees are to invest securely, and to apply the interest accruing therefrom towards maintain a good choir, or for other purposes tending to improve the music of said church. This sum is to revert back to his estate for the benefit of his legal heirs, unless previous to the expiration of two years from the time of his decease a like sum in like manner is set apart for the same purpose, by some person or persons, or by the church itself. One thousand dollars is bequeathed towards establishing a Swiss Benevolent Society, similar to the one in New York. He bequeaths to his four children--John Hitz, George Hitz, Margaret Scheitlin, Rudolph Hitz, and his son-in-law, James Casparis, to each and every one of them an equal portion of the remainder of his estate, upon the condition that his executor shall pay to each and every one of them one third of such portion in cash, and invest the remainder in such real estate as each may designate for himself or herself. Lastly, all his real and personal estate is bequeathed to his son, John Hitz, who, is appointed executor in trust for the payment of all his just debts, and the legacies above specified.