

1-10-20

Hi Harrison,

These are the lgbt women who I've found while researching Pgh's history. Note that none of the (very limited) sources I found on Drs. Farrar & Sperry said that they were a couple, but once you read their stories I'd be interested to see if you agree with my conclusion that they were lifelong, loving partners.

I've included the stories of Edna Schoyer, suffragist, Pauli Murray and two artists

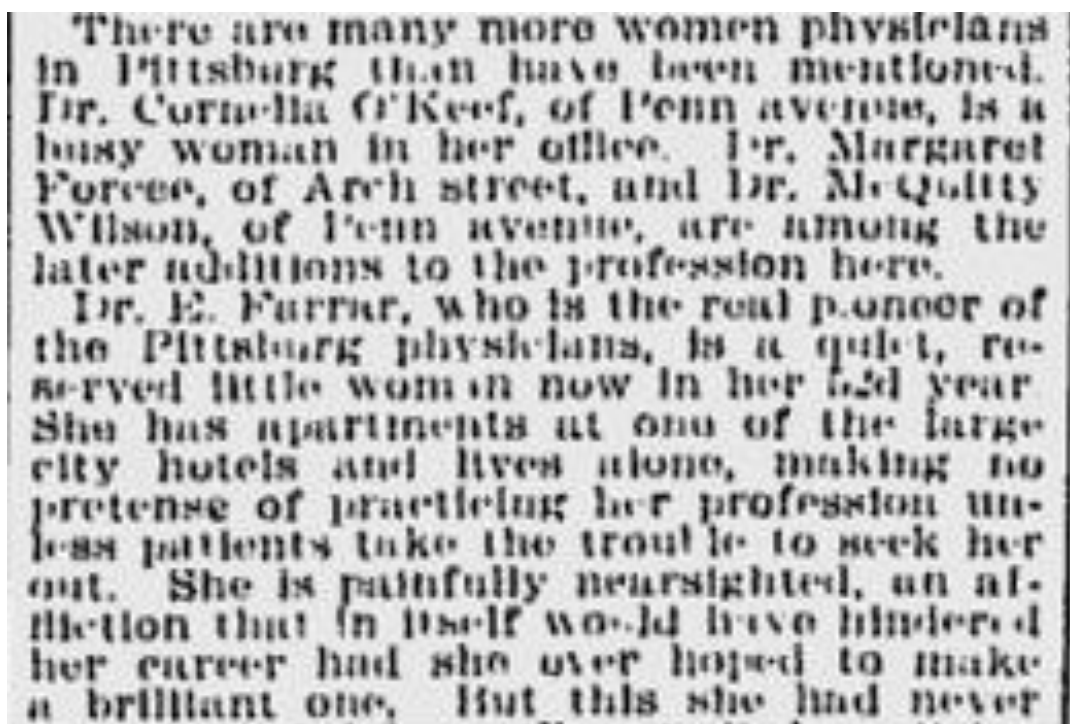
FYI: I am retiring at the end of January, this is my personal email: [contact information removed]

DR. EMMA FARRAR & DR. EDLA SPERRY

Pittsburgh's first female physicians

**SOURCE: Pittsburgh Press * March 28, 1897 * reporter: Jeannette Barbour
Pittsburg's Pioneers in Woman's Progress**

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/141585207/>



There are many more women physicians in Pittsburg than have been mentioned. Dr. Cornelia O'Keefe, of Penn avenue, is a busy woman in her office. Dr. Margaret Forcee, of Arch street, and Dr. McQuitty Wilson, of Penn avenue, are among the later additions to the profession here.

Dr. E. Farrar, who is the real pioneer of the Pittsburg physicians, is a quiet, reserved little woman now in her 63d year. She has apartments at one of the large city hotels and lives alone, making no pretense of practicing her profession unless patients take the trouble to seek her out. She is painfully nearsighted, an affliction that in itself would have hindered her career had she ever hoped to make a brilliant one. But this she had never

out. She is painfully nearsighted, an affliction that in itself would have hindered her career had she ever hoped to make a brilliant one. But this she had never dreamed of doing. She studied medicine merely that she might go through college with a friend to whom she was devoted in her girlhood, and to whom she has been devoted ever since. This was Dr. Edla Sperry, a clever, enthusiastic young girl with high ideals and aspirations, who wished to study medicine and devote her life to its practice. The two girls entered the Woman's Medical college at Philadelphia, graduated and then went abroad to remain there for two years. They entered the Hospital of Maternity in Paris, but returned to this country at the end of a year, being compelled to leave the hospital in Paris because of an epidemic of typhoid fever.

The two young women started their practice here in 1873. Dr. Farrar had had no intention of practicing even after her years of study but the influence of her enthusiastic friend could not be resisted. But after seven years of conscientious work Dr. Sperry died of cancer of the tongue, and with her died Dr. Farrar's interest in her profession. She cherishes now a miniature of Dr. Sperry painted during their student days at Paris which shows her a broad-browed sweet-faced girl with deep, tender eyes the face of a woman who would pass serenely along while she considered the path of duty, entirely undeterred by any obstacles that might be placed before her—the ideal face of a pioneer.

— • —

This is the part that makes me think the reporter was trying to tell us more about the relationship than her editors/the era allowed:

“She (Dr. Farrar) cherishes now a miniature of Dr. Sperry painted during their student days at Paris...”

Their office locations:

Pittsburgh Press 14 Mar 1896, Page 2

Miss **Emma Farrar** M. D., who has resided at the Hotel Schlosser for a number of years, is now living at the Monongahela house.

Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette 08 Jul 1873 Page 1

ALLEGHENY CITY, PA.

Edla Snary M.D.	Emma Farrar, M.D.
VICE HOURS:	OFFICE HOURS:
11 A. M. to 1 P. M.,	9 to 11 A. M.
2 to 5 P. M., and	1 to 3 P. M.,
7 P. M.	5 to 7 P. M.
NO. 48 ROSS STREET	
Corner Third Avenue.	
MIAMI MEDICAL COLLEGE	

Dr. Emma's sister was insane:

Pittsburgh Press 18 Nov 1889 Page 5

services at the jail, has visited 150 different prisons in two years... Detective Fitzgerald left for Warren to place a sister of Dr. **Emma Farrar** in the insane asylum... A Forty-third street citizen is reported to have such an aversion to dogs

<https://books.google.com/books?id=C64DAAAYAAJ&pg=PA145&lpg=PA145&dq=%22Dr.+Emma+Farrar%22+pittsburgh&source=bl&ots=OOhIvFfI4F&sig=ACfU3U2EOtI5Fw7bt7Tv0E1v15f8b1yGdQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjL06KwyrTgAhVDON8KHxzBb4Q6AEwAnoECAIAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Dr.%20Emma%20Farrar%22%20pittsburgh&f=false>

ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION

OF THE

WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 17TH AND 18TH, 1900.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

1900.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. *Rachel Robbins, M.D., Class of 1898.*

In 1874, Dr. Emma Farrar and Dr. Edna Sperry, two of our graduates, opened an office in Pittsburg. Two months later they were joined by Dr. Millie Chapman, a graduate of the Homœopathic Medical College of Cleveland. The early struggles of these women are like those of all our pioneer women, but so entirely different from our experience to-day that we can scarcely believe their history was made only twenty-five years ago. Dr. Chapman had spent almost everything she had upon her education; so she took up her abode in two little rooms furnished as simply as possible, did all her own work, getting up before daylight in the morning in order to get her floors scrubbed and her windows cleaned before the arrival of possible patients. The curtains were washed the night before and hung up so that they would be dry before morning. The neighbors considered her a mystery; they thought of her as something weird and uncanny. Finally the first patient came, a poor sewing-girl; gradually more poor people came, and at the end of the year she had collected \$186. Many people were very kind, and probably few of them guessed that at one time she had subsisted for six weeks on bread, tea and apple-

146 REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS STATES.

sauce. Her practice gradually grew, and during the third year she collected \$500. To-day there is not a more widely known or highly respected woman in Pittsburg than Dr. Chapman. She numbers among her patients some of our most influential people. She has been President of the Homœopathic County Society and Vice-President of their State and national societies. She is on the medical staff of the Homœopathic Hospital, Attending Physician of the Children's Temporary Home, and the Curtis Home, and one of the Directors of the Brookville Memorial Home. She read papers before the World's Medical Congress in 1891 and 1893. The paper of 1893 was translated into German, French, Russian and Indian. She also has a paper before the Congress which meets in Paris in 1900.

Dr. Farrar was fortunate in belonging to a family of wealth, so she and Dr. Sperry were saved some of the sufferings of Dr. Chapman, yet their struggle was a long and hard one. They took a little house and lived in the simplest manner. They were not recognized by the other physicians, and in those early years there was only one druggist who would accurately fill their prescriptions. At the end of seven long, hard years, just when their success seemed assured, Dr. Sperry was stricken with the dread disease which has taken so many of our noble women from us. Dr. Farrar gave up her work and home, and devoted herself to her friend until the end came. Dr. Farrar then returned to Pittsburg, planning to live at a hotel. It was with the greatest difficulty that she could find one that would take her in; they made all manner of excuses.

Dr. Farrar lived a quiet, retired life, doing good of which no one knew. Her patients were her friends, and it is through them that we are now learning what she had done for women in the medical profession. She gave up her work here three years ago to devote the remainder of her life to her invalid sister. Her patients are continually seeking the younger women physicians. They all tell the same story of her noble character, devotion, and skill. In spite of the good work done by these women, Dr. Jane Vincent, who was graduated from our college in 1882, found much pioneer work to be done when she came to Allegheny in 1883. Of her success I scarcely need speak, for her reputation as a surgeon is more than local. It is to Dr. Jane Vincent more than any one woman that we owe our present position in medicine in Western Pennsylvania. She has broken down the prejudices to women physicians, one by one, until to-day we are judged with fairness.

The number of regular women practitioners in Western Pennsylvania is about thirty, and there are many more homœopaths. Of the regular practitioners, twenty-five are graduates of our college. Almost all who are eligible are members of county societies, and some are members of the State society. Some occupy positions on hospital and dispensary staffs. Dr. Vincent is on the surgical staff of Passavant's Hospital, and Dr. Blair is resident at the Dixmont Hospital for the Insane.

Among those doing especially good work, aside from those already

THE EAST.

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mentioned, are Drs. Forcee and MacDonald, of Allegheny; Drs. Winston, Shrom, Dranga and Stanton, of Pittsburg; and Dr. Ida Blackburn, of Greenburg; Drs. Elizabeth McLaughrey and Mary Christy, of New Castle; Dr. Ada McKee, of Oil City; Dr. Ellen McMillan, of Cannonsburg; Drs. Buttermore and Wakefield, of Connellsville, and Dr. Mallison, of McKeesport.

BULLETIN
of the
Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania

VOL. LXXVII

NOVEMBER, 1926

No. 3

One of the 'lost alums'

Dr. Margaret R. Evans, 1906
 Dr. Emma Ewing-Hardee, 1869
 Dr. Emma Farrar, 1871
 Dr. Mary J. Finley, 1881
 Dr. Almira Fowler-Ormsbee, 1853
 Dr. Augusta H. Godman, 1871
 Dr. Martha E. Garner, 1889
 West Gate, Shanghai, China
 Dr. Caroline Gould-Marr-Keller, 1880
 Dr. Edith Gould-Formes, 1878
 Dr. Mary E. Griswold, 1895
 Dr. Genevieve Gustin-Sweetland, 1903
 , Dr. Elizabeth Hargraves-Smith, 1882
 Dr. Ara Harris-Schuyler, 1907
 Dr. Verina Harris-Morton, 1888
 Dr. A. Marion Harron, 1905

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https://books.google.com/books?id=8dkCAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA579&lpg=RA1-PA579&dq=Dr.+Edna+Sperry+pittsburgh&source=bl&ots=ebiOlH_GOm&sig=UdHQuwiAj42pblbAtgPe9xQHV1A&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDocnA8LrdAhUIvVkKHRn_A24Q6AEwCXoECAAQ_AQ#v=onepage&q=Dr.%20Edna%20Sperry%20pittsburgh&f=false

1876-77 Directory of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Embracing a General Directory of the

BUSINESS DIRECTORY,
REGISTER
OF
Public Institutions, Benevolent Societies and City Governments,
DIRECTORY
OF THE
STREETS, SECRET SOCIETIES, SCHOOLS & CHURCHES.

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STEVENSON & FOSTER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, COR. WOOD ST. AND THIRD AVE.
1876

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STEVENSON & FOSTER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, COR. WOOD ST. AND THIRD AVE.
1876.

Dr. Edla & Dr. Emma shared office at 24 Fifth

FARRAR FRANCIS, MD, 1 Duquesne way
Farrar C W, supt **Pittsburgh** Acid Works,
267 Penn av
Farrar Emma, physician, 24 Fifth
Farrar J S, wid Thos, 37 Forty-fourth
STORI

Sperling Frederick, tailor, 1911 Mary, s s
Sperry Miss Edla, physician, 24 Fifth
Speth John, shoe maker, 4027 Butler
Snickert Philip, gardener, Euclid av. aa

1895 – Emma's office at 31 6th St.

Pittsburgh Daily Post 09 Jun 1895 Page 5

THEIR SKILL IN MEDICINE.

**Male Practitioners Have a Very High
Opinion of Them.**

FAIR MARTYRS TO SCIENCE.

Without any blare of trumpets or the shout of heralds to announce her coming, the woman physician, with a strong, healthy dislike to being called a "lady doctor," arrived some years ago in this city, and now there are about a dozen of her in good repute in Pittsburg and Allegheny. The exact date of the arrival of the pioneers, Drs. Sperry and Farrar, is not ascertainable, but it was some time in the early '70s that they hung out their shingles here, and began to make inroads into the practice of their brethren. Dr. Sperry has since died, but Dr. Emma Farrar is still attending to patients, her present location being 31 Sixth street.

The number of women physicians will be seen not to have grown with startling rapidity. There are various reasons advanced for this. Some of the ladies who have been established for a number of years say the prejudice against them was strong at first, and the securing of a practice was uphill work. Then, those people who were not

prejudiced against them did not take them seriously, while others were afraid to trust them with the duty of attending to the sick. These feelings, however, have pretty well died out by this time, and the doctors are not a little proud that they have killed prejudice, levity and mistrust, while not doing their patients any mortal injury. Pittsburg is now considered a very promising field for women physicians, and it is growing more so, though it is the desire of several veterans to warn newly-made medicos that they must not descend upon the town in hordes, expecting to find large, ready-made and profitable practices awaiting each one of them. They will have to work, and work hard, but their efforts will not be so arduous as were those of the women who arrived here earlier.

The practice of the women physicians of this city is mostly among those of their own sex and children, though all the doctors aim at a general practice, some of them numbering many men among their patients. Their practice, too, is not confined to the city, one of them, Dr. S. Cornelia O'Keefe, having patients in several of the outlying towns. The explanation of this out-of-town practice is that the smaller towns as yet have no women physicians. There are no specialists among them, and only one surgeon, Dr. C. Jane Vincent, of 150 North avenue, Allegheny, who is reputed to be particularly clever in this line, though she has also had much success as a medical practitioner.

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/86399985/>

THE PITTSBURG POST, SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 1895
OUR WOMEN PHYSICIANS.

DOCTORS WHO WEAR SKIRTS AND MAKE A SUCCESS OF THEIR PROFESSION. THEIR SKILL IN MEDICINE. Male Practitioners Have Very High Opinion of Them. FAIR MARTYRS TO SCIENCE. Without any blare of trumpets or the shout of heralds to announce her coming, the woman physician, with a *strong, healthy dislike to being called a lady doctor*," arrived some years ago in this city, and now there are about a dozen of her in good repute in Pittsburg and Allegheny. The *exact date of the arrival of the pioneers, Drs. Sperry and Farrar, is not ascertainable*, but it was some time in *the early '70s* that they hung out their shingles here, and began to make inroads into the practice of their brethren.

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<https://books.google.com/books?id=C64DAAAYAAJ&pg=PA146&lpg=PA146&dq=Dr.+Farrar+Dr.+Sperry&source=bl&ots=OQgAoIdR8E&sig=zJzuqyrvMxVk6vfkIxom2sjnliI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwihlZmg15XcAhWwneAKHV0rCzkQ6AEISzAD#v=onepage&q=Dr.%20Farrar%20Dr.%20Sperry&f=false>

Transactions of the ... Annual Meeting of the Alumnae Association of the ...

By Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Alumnae Association

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION
OF THE
WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA
MAY 17TH AND 18TH, 1900.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. *Rachel Robbins, M.D., Class of 1898.*

In 1874, Dr. Emma Farrar and Dr. Edna Sperry, two of our graduates, opened an office in Pittsburg. Two months later they were joined by Dr. Millie Chapman, a graduate of the Homœopathic Medical College of Cleveland. The early struggles of these women are like those of all our pioneer women, but so entirely different from our experience to-day that we can scarcely believe their history was made only twenty-five years ago. Dr. Chapman had spent almost everything she had upon her education; so she took up her abode in two little rooms furnished as simply as possible, did all her own work, getting up before daylight in the morning in order to get her floors scrubbed and her windows cleaned before the arrival of possible patients. The curtains were washed the night before and hung up so that they would be dry before morning. The neighbors considered her a mystery; they thought of her as something weird and uncanny. Finally the first patient came, a poor sewing-girl; gradually more poor people came, and at the end of the year she had collected \$186. Many people were very kind, and probably few of them guessed that at one time she had subsisted for six weeks on bread, tea and apple-

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PAULI MURRAY

<http://www.lesbiannews.com/wonder-mystery-pauli-murray/>

The wonder and mystery that is Pauli Murray

Pauli Murray was the best of us. In her lifetime, she became a poet, a writer, a feminist, a labor organizer, a civil rights lawyer, and then finally, an Episcopal priest.

However, not many knew of her or her contributions, whether fighting for women's rights or the civil rights movement.

Born in 1910 in Baltimore, Murray was orphaned after the separate death of her parents and went to live with her aunt and grandparents in Durham, North Carolina.

She wrote articles and poems in a number of magazines, as well as a novel, **Angel of the Desert**, that the **Carolina Times** serialized. She had a collection of her work published in 1970.

She became friends with the poet Langston Hughes when she was younger, had a long-term friendship (23 years!) with Eleanor Roosevelt, and then **helped found the National Organization for Women** with noted feminist Betty Friedan.

She later was **involved in the fight against segregation** in public transport when she was arrested and imprisoned in March 1940 for her refusal to sit at the back of a bus in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1941, Murray went to law school to become a civil rights lawyer. During that time, she helped articulate the intellectual foundations for two of the most important social justice movements of the 20th century.

In 1960, President John F. Kennedy appointed her to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights. In 1977, she became the **first African American woman to become a Episcopal priest**...

"She, at the end of her life, lived as a lesbian, because by the time we had the language for trans identity, she was a civil rights attorney, she was very well-respected, and respectability politics wouldn't have allowed her at that late stage of her life to go back and adopt the trans performance that she was so searching for in the 1930s and '40s," Cooper said.

In 1985 the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray passed away due to pancreatic cancer in **Pittsburgh**, PA where she lived with a lifelong friend, Maida Springer Kemp."

Maida & Pauli co-owned the house they lived in during Pauli's last years in Pittsburgh

<https://books.google.com/books?id=Ojb4DQAAQBAJ&pg=PA355&lpg=PA355&dq=%22Pauli+Murray%22++point+breeze+home+in+pittsburgh&source=bl&ots=kjKAhoAl1c&sig=ACfU3U2c3j3kqZo6W6kH6cIsIrogiAsZJg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjmxqCXgO7gAhWNP8KHeE6B7IQ6AEwAXoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Pauli%20Murray%22%20%20point%20breeze%20home%20in%20pittsburgh&f=false>

Maida Springer Kemp and Dr. Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray, childhood friends from Brooklyn, New York, shared a **home** on Thomas Boulevard until Murray's death **in** 1985. Murray was a lawyer, educator, civil war activist, and author, as well as the first black woman to be ordained as an Episcopalian priest. After the completion of her book *Songs in a Weary Throat*, Murray went on to write a second book, an autobiography dedicated to Kemp, **in** which she describes teaching at Brandeis, looking for her roots **in** Ghana, befriending Eleanor Roosevelt, helping to found NOW (the National Organization for Women) **in** the 1960s, and working **in** the law profession. Described by Murray as an "incomparable companion, critic and guide on the pilgrimage," Kemp was a lifelong labor activist **in** the United States and abroad. Previously married, Kemp was survived by her son, who lives **in** Pittsburgh, at the time of her death **in** 2005. This image of Thomas Boulevard was taken near the childhood friends' **home**. (NPBPDC.)

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*“Eleanor Roosevelt Was the Most Visible Symbol
of Autonomy”*

In 1984, Pauli Murray and Maida Springer-Kemp, both retired septuagenarians, embarked on “a joint venture in cooperative yet autonomous living.” They moved into an old house with “twin apartments” in the North Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh. Maida lived on the first level, and Pauli occupied the upstairs unit. North Point Breeze was a friendly, racially integrated neighborhood, rich in architectural history, less than thirty minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. It was an ideal location for Murray, who loved to walk in Westinghouse Park with Christy, an elderly Doberman she adopted after Roy died, to the Homewood Branch of the Carnegie Library, and on the University of Pittsburgh campus.

Life in North Point Breeze nurtured Murray’s writing. By the year’s end, she had completed a draft of her autobiography and finished half the revisions her editor had recommended. Murray’s social life was enriched by her relationships with Maida’s son Eric Springer, who had become a distinguished attorney; his wife, Cecile, a highly regarded regional planner; and the congregation at the Church of the Holy Cross.

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/146285574/>

August 13, 1987 The Pittsburgh Press Detailed autobiography tells broader civil rights tale
Doug Rice BOOH REVIEW i. SONG IN A WEARY THROAT: An American Pilgrimage by Pauli Murray. . Harper & Row. (23.95. By Wilma B. Smith r. . Long before the sit-ins of the 1960s, or the case of Rosa Parks, or a Montgomery boycott, Pauli Murray challenged and combatted segregation and) inequality. "Song in a Weary Throat" is a detailed chronology for black Americans of mid-20th century efforts that ultimately set the civil rights movement in motion. 5" A member of the Pittsburgh community recently referred to Ms. Murray as the "Renaissance Woman" as she introduced and welcomed this posthumously Sublisbed autobiography. While not a Pittsburgher by birth, Ms. Murray developed lifelong friendships here, notably Maida Springer Kemp, to whom the book is dedicated. "A life filled with "firsts" dominated Ms. Murray, including first black female Episcopal priest and the first Negro to be awarded the J.S.D. from Vale University Law School. She mastered careers as an author, teacher, lawyer, journalist and civil rights activist. Boundless energy, a constant striving for excellence and a tireless fight against inequality characterized her pathway to mastery.

1st black female Episcopal priest

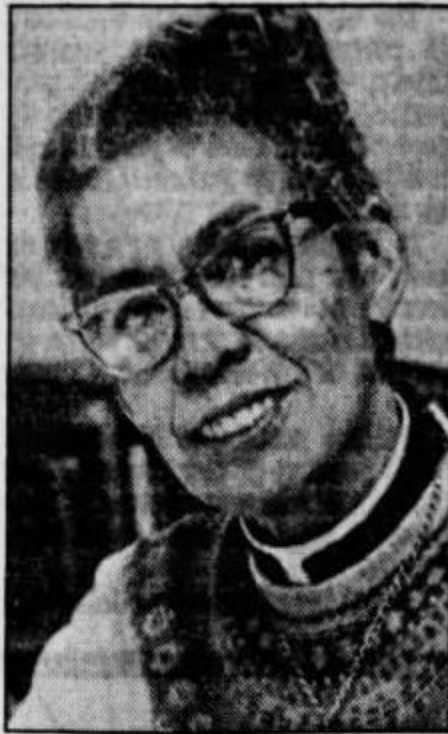
The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, the first black female to be ordained an Episcopal priest, died Monday of cancer at her Point Breeze home. She was 74.

A human rights activist, the Rev. Murray, of Thomas Boulevard, was a friend and adviser to former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt during the planning of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal government and later an adviser to the Rev. Martin Luther King.

In a biography of Eleanor Roosevelt by Joseph Lash, "A World of Love: Eleanor Roosevelt and Her Friends, 1943 to 1962," the author said the Rev. Murray and the first lady met at a black workers' camp. The author said Mrs. Roosevelt relied upon the Rev. Murray and others for their opinions on issues concerning minorities.

The Rev. Murray was ordained in her hometown of Baltimore in 1977. She was most recently serving as a priest at the Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood.

During her career, the Rev. Murray was a deputy attorney general in California, the first black woman to hold the position in the state's



Dr. Pauli Murray
In 1977 photograph

divinity cum laude from the General Theological Seminary in New York City in 1976.

She received numerous honorary degrees, including Woman of the Year from the National Council of

in California, the first black woman to hold the position in the state's history. She held administrative positions at several colleges and universities and was a published author.

In the 1950s, she was a senior lecturer to the Ghana Law School in Accra, where she was involved in the drafting of the constitution of that African nation and authored the Constitution and Government of Guyana in 1961. She wrote such books as "Dark Testaments," "Proud Shoes" and "Race and Color."

A 1933 graduate of Hunter College in New York City, the Rev. Murray received her law degree cum laude from Howard University in 1944, her master's of law from the University of California at Berkeley in 1945 and her doctorate in law from Yale in 1956. The Rev. Murray received her master's of

She received numerous honorary degrees, including Woman of the Year from the National Council of Negro Women in 1947 and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award from the National Education Association in 1972.

She was a life member of the NAACP, a member of the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the National Association of Women lawyers. She served as vice chairwoman of the Committee on Human Rights during the 1960s.

Surviving are her sisters, Mildred Fearing and Rosetta Stevens, both of Washington, D.C.

A mass of resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday at the Washington Cathedral, Washington, D.C. Burial will be in Washington. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Gaines Funeral Home Inc., Pittsburgh.

EDNA SCHOYER – SUFFRAGIST

Edna met her partner, Anne Richardson, & they both lived out their lives in CT They were activists on a number of issues, including Women's Suffrage. Edna's nephew owned Schoyer Books in Squirrel Hill.

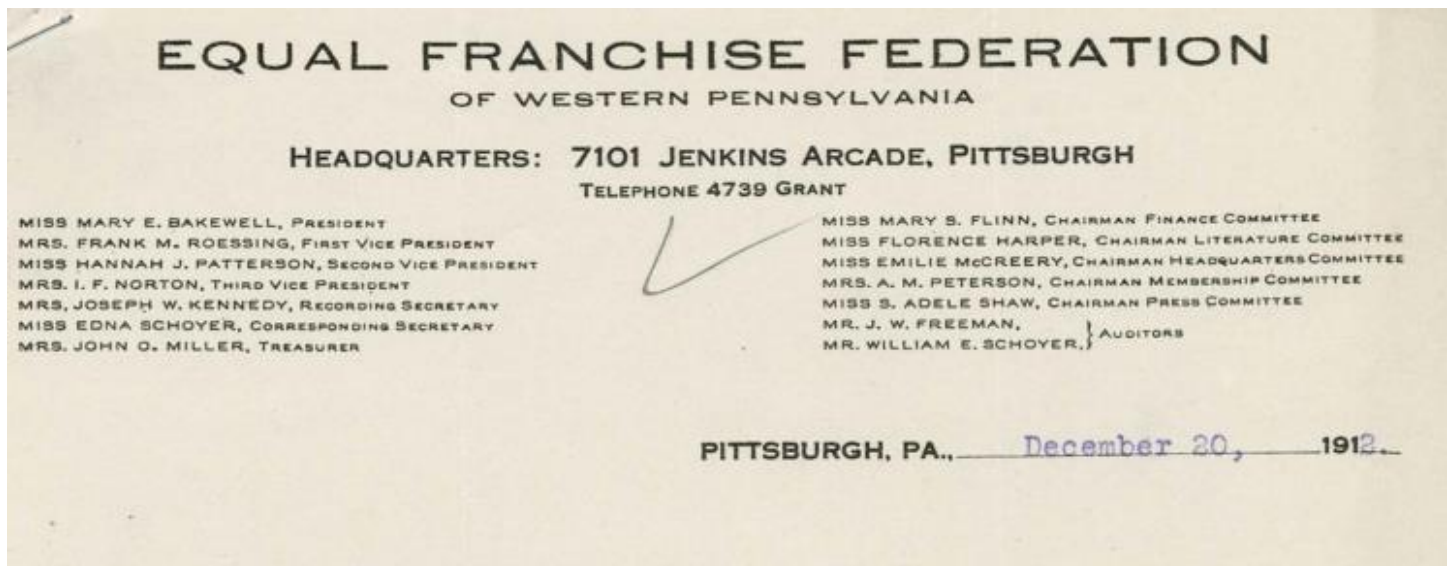
Edna participated in suffragist actions at Ft. Pitt hotel, link:

https://www.newspapers.com/clip/2901791/woman_suffrage_bazar_1913/

Pittsburgh Daily Post

[11 May 1913](#) • [Page 25](#)

<http://images.library.wisc.edu/WI/EFacs/AdaJames/JamesB17F3/reference/wi.jamesb17f3.i0122.pdf>



<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Schoyer-2>

Edna Schoyer

Born **5 Dec 1880** in **Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA**

Daughter of Samuel Chadwick Schoyer and Eliza D. (Preston) Schoyer

Sister of Barclay Preston Schoyer and William Edgar Schoyer

Died **4 Aug 1946** in **New York, New York, New York, USA** 📍

Edna shares her burial stone with Anne Richardson. In the US Census, they shared a residence in Redding, CT and called their relationship "Partner." They also traveled the world together.

<http://jackfsanders.tripod.com/S-Z.htm>

Edna Schoyer: Civic Leader

As an advocate of suffrage, of education, and of community service, Edna Schoyer was a leader in Ridgefield. A native of Pittsburgh and a longtime companion of Miss Anne Richardson (*q.v.*), Miss Schoyer came to Ridgefield around 1915 and immediately became active in the woman's suffrage movement. She then led the organization of the League of Women Voters, serving as its president from its beginning in 1921 until 1933. She and Miss Richardson were twice elected together to the school board, serving from 1936 to 1942. She was also head of the Ridgefield Garden Club from 1939 to 1941, and had been long active in the club's Village Improvement Committee. Her brother, novelist Preston Schoyer, who often stayed at her home, spent much time in China and Miss Schoyer was involved in raising money for China relief before the war. She also chaired the United War Fund, served as the Red Cross home nursing chairman, sang with the Ridgefield Choral Club, and, as The Press put it in her 1946 obituary, "participated in a multitude of community affairs, serving on committees and working for the betterment of Ridgefield."

<https://archive.theridgefieldpress.com/69410/richardson-donor-of-the-park-and-more/>

In 1939, Richardson, a Republican, and **Schoyer, a Democrat**, were elected to the Board of Education, serving three years. (Ridgefield High School and Scotts Ridge Middle School stand on part of her farm; the land was purchased by the town from her estate for a relatively small price.)

DECOUX & MILLER

JANET DECOUX – aunt of Barbara Luderowski/Mattress Factory

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JANET DECOUX

Sculptor of stone, bronze works

By Carmen J. Lee

Post-Gazette Education Writer

A sculptured oak leaf perches on the hat brim of the 18-foot bronze statue of William Penn in the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg.

A seemingly small detail, but Janet deCoux used it in her masterwork to represent the oak tree under which Penn signed the pact with the Indians, allowing him access to land that would become Pennsylvania.

"It says so much. I thought it was a beautiful little touch," said retired Pittsburgh Post-Gazette art critic Donald Miller. "I doubt a man would have done that. She was such a wonderful sculptor and I think her work was made better because she was a woman. She had sensitivity to the humanly emotional aspects of her subjects."

Miss deCoux, whose works in stone, bronze and slate grace many churches and homes in the region, died Saturday in her Richland home. She was 95.



1989 photo

Janet deCoux

expanded several times, but it was, at first, less than adequate for the growing family of seven."

After two years of study at Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University, in the 1920s, Miss deCoux had apprenticeships with five sculptors. She also studied at the New York School of

ism and abstraction in her work for a very powerful impact."

"She was able to blend modernism with a kind of timeless appreciation of the human figure," he said. "She appealed to lovers of realism and lovers of abstract art."

Among her many works are a bas-relief for a Girard, Erie County, post office; a sculpture of Adam and Eve for Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina; a Moses in slate for Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.; and a 35-foot bell tower and columbarium for St. Thomas in the Fields Episcopal Church in Richland.

Miss deCoux's brother-in-law, Paul Simpson, an architect who worked on the Pennsylvania State Museum, asked her to do a piece to commemorate the state's founding.

"They wanted me to do something, so I chose William Penn," she told Donald Miller in the 1995 interview. "It had to be done in pieces and they were cast [in bronze] in Mexico. I started in 1960. The plaster was done in '63 and it was put in place in 1965."

Besides her sculpting, Miss de-

Born in Niles, Mich., Miss **deCoux** was the youngest child of the Rev. C.J. **deCoux**, a French-Canadian Episcopal minister, and his wife, Bertha.

In 1914, Miss **deCoux's** parents moved, with her and her four siblings, to the Richland area which was then a rural village.

Miss **deCoux** would describe to her friends the simple pleasures from her childhood.

She told Miller in a 1995 Post-Gazette interview that her mother maintained a spring house, and the family owned a cow and a horse.

"The children would drag their bedclothes out of that tiny house to sleep on the grass whenever the weather permitted," said Eliza J. Miller, 84, also an accomplished sculptor and Miss **deCoux's** housemate for more than 50 years. "They and their parents grew many of the foods their family needed, storing much of the crop in a capacious ice-box or preserving it by canning or other means. The house has been

Industrial Design, Rhode Island School of Design and School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Miss **deCoux** was a Tiffany Fellow and studied at Laurelton Hall, the Oyster Bay, N.Y., home of Louis Comfort Tiffany, the famous designer of windows, jewelry, lamps and other objects.

From 1942 to 1945, Miss **deCoux** was a resident instructor at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield, Mich.

While at Cranbrook, Anne Lindbergh, wife of flier Charles A. Lindbergh, asked her and Eliza Miller to stay in an apartment above the Lindberghs' garage while her husband served in World War II. The three women formed a close friendship that lasted for decades.

After 1945, Miss **deCoux** returned to Richland to devote herself to her art. She moved into the family home and converted a 2 1/2-story barn into a studio.

In describing her style, Donald Miller said she "blended both real-

Coux enjoyed writing poetry. A book of verse by her, privately printed in 1994, also includes her sketches.

Miss **deCoux** received numerous awards including the Carnegie Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lindsay Memorial Prize, the Widener Gold medal and Pittsburgh Artist of the Year honors.

Among the sites where her work has been exhibited are the Carnegie Museum of Art, the University of Pittsburgh and the National Sculpture Society in New York City. She was a member of the National Academy of Design, the National Sculpture Society and Pittsburgh Associated Artists. She also was featured in the 47th edition of Who's Who in America.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. today in St. Thomas in the Fields Episcopal Church in Richland, where a funeral service will begin at 1 p.m. tomorrow. Donations may be made to St. Thomas in the Fields, 4106 St. Thomas Drive, Richland 15044.

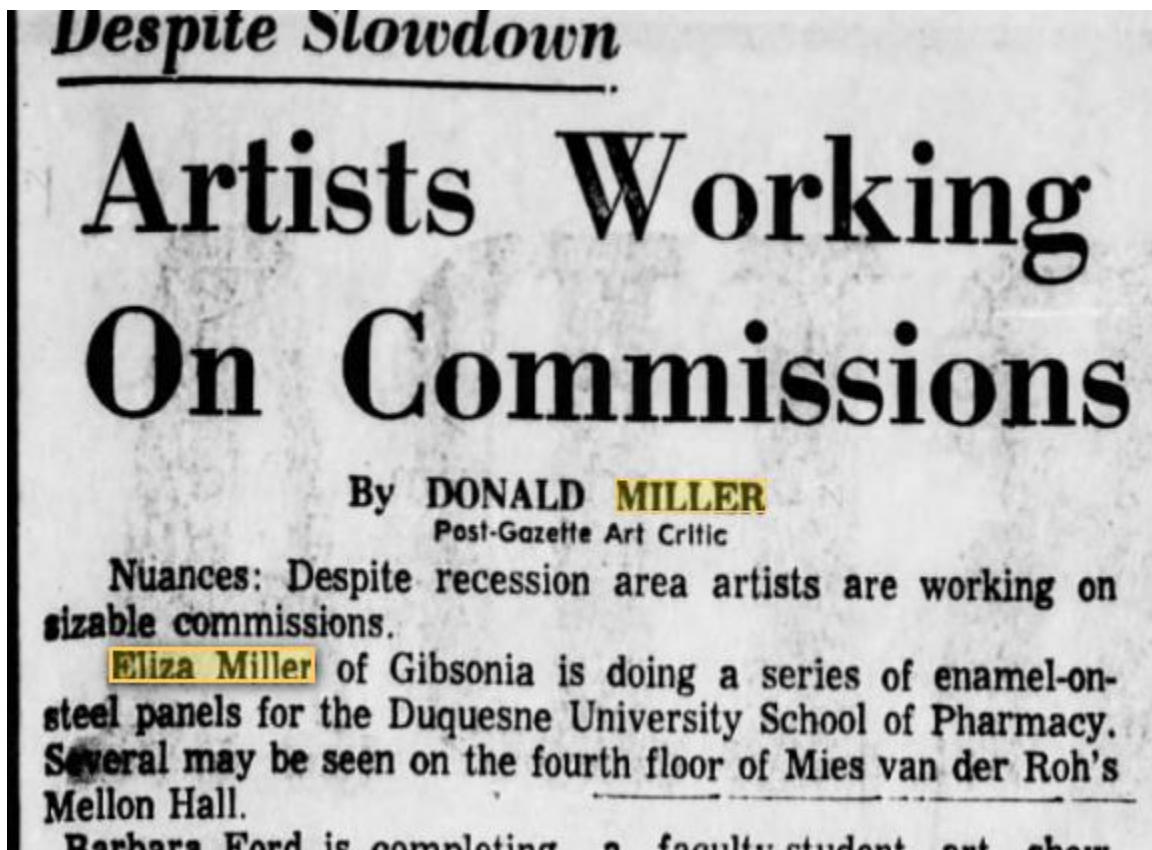
<http://www.pittsburghartplaces.org/accounts/view/602>

This steel structure depicts figures swimming and diving. It is installed over the inside entrance of the Highland Park pool, offset from the cement structure supporting it. This protrusion allows for shadows of the cut steel to change dependent on the position of the sun and time of day.

Public sculptures in this period tended to be made of highly durable materials (such as steel) to mitigate maintenance issues. At this time, most civic public art programs were invested in establishing a permanent relationship between the artwork and its site, both in content and material.

Steel was a natural material for artist Eliza Miller, who also did work in ceramic, bronze, wood, and stone. Her grandfather was Julian Kennedy, an engineer who was notable for designing many steel-mills in the Greater Pittsburgh area, and who named the Eliza Furnace mill after his granddaughter.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/88153143/?terms=Eliza%2BMiller>



<https://www.newspapers.com/image/91134069/?terms=Eliza%2BMiller>

Miller, also interested in architecture, made a large sun dial for Ellis School. You can tell time on it at night by focusing on the North Star. She recently completed seven torch-cut and welded steel panels in a 20-foot layout for the Highland Park bathhouse.

UNTITLED

1981

ELIZA MILLER

