

TRITT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Richard L. Tritt, Editor

Issue Number 7, February 1987

Connie J. Tritt, Typist

THE EUROPEAN ORIGIN OF HANS PETER AND CHRISTIAN TRITT

by H.M. Hegyessy, Jr.

Tritt Descendant, Historian and Accredited Genealogist

The arrival at Philadelphia of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt aboard the Ship, "Robert and Alice," 3 September 1739, has been known for many years by Tritt/Dritt Family Researchers. That they settled, first, near Reamstown, Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and were members of the Muddy Creek Reformed Church was also known.

Hans Peter Tritt married twice, first, to a Catharina (Bechtel?) and had four children: Gen. Jacob Tritt/Dritt, christened 30 March 1746 at Muddy Creek Church, plus three other children, Catharina Barbara, Anna Elizabetha, and Eva. Secondly, he married Anna Maria Barbara Dellinger about 1751, and had the following five children, Johann Paul (my ancestor), Johann Peter, Maria Margaretha, Maria Barbara, and Joseph, sometimes called Joshua. Christian Tritt married and moved to Robeson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The solution of the mystery of their place of birth and parentage eluded all researchers for nearly a century until I was fortunate in eventually solving the puzzle, piecing together clues found in "on-the-scene" research at the Heimatstelle Archives at Kaiserslautern in the Rhineland-Pfalz in Germany, the Regional Archives at Stuttgart, Wurttemberg, and Parish Registers at Erzingen and Onstmettingen, villages adjacent to the Hohenzollern Castle south of Stuttgart; St. Stephan, Bern Canton, Switzerland; by correspondence with the Bas-Rhin District Archives, Strassbourg, Alsace Lorraine in France, and on microfilm of a specific parish register at the world-famous LDS Genealogical Library at Salt Lake City, Utah.

The various branches of the Tritt/Dritt/Triette Families had differing opinions as to their ancestry and the spelling of their surname. Most could trace their roots to York County, Pennsylvania, but no further. One oldster believed that his ancestors were Spanish. One firmly claimed English ancestry since Pennsylvania was an English Colony. One dear old lady was more right than she knew when she stated that she believed that they came from France. In a History of York County, an account alluded to the birthplace of Gen. Jacob Dritt's father, Hans Peter, as Elsass (Alsace-Lorraine) and that the family was driven out and spent some years in the Lower Palatinate which may have some substance as we shall see. Nothing, however, was conclusive and I strove for a number of years seeking proof in Primary Record Sources.

Obscured by these controversies were historical facts which pointed to an origin in Alsace-Lorraine and earlier Tritt generations in Bern Canton, Switzerland. The Deed Files, Probates, and Censuses of York and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania, contained a host of Swiss-German-Elsass surnames.

Of significance was the construction of the Tritt/Dritt Mansion on the banks of the Susquehanna River, circa 1758, by Hans Peter and inherited by his oldest son, Gen. Jacob Dritt in 1768. The construction of this house incorporated the typical cobblestone/masonry outer walls common in the Bas-Rhin District, Alsace-Lorraine. The thick-walled, arched basement, the tiny off-center window at the peak of the roof, the limestone ledges beneath each window course, and the unusual "carrying-out door" on the main floor pointed to Swiss origins.

People in those days built evidences of their ancestry in the first homes that they built in Pennsylvania. However, I did not know this, early, in the search.

In 1959-1962, I commanded a U.S. Air Force Squadron at Sembach Air Base in the Rhineland-Pfalz not 100 miles from the village in Alsace that eventually became known as the birthplace of Hans Peter and Christian. After my retirement, I returned to Heidelberg, Germany, not far from Sembach, and I was able to begin my research in earnest.

Dr. Fritz Braun at the Heimatstelle Archives, Kaiserslautern, stated that the Tritt surname was Swiss. He recommended that I go to the Regional Archives at Stuttgart in Wurttemberg which have extensive Swiss immigrant records. In Stuttgart, I found reference to a Christian Tritt/Tritten at Erzingen, and an Anton Tritt/Tritten at Onstmettingen near the Hohenzollern Castle south of Stuttgart. Not far away, still in existence, dating from 1675, were long brick barracks known as "Braunhaupten" that were used to house Swiss religious and economic refugees.

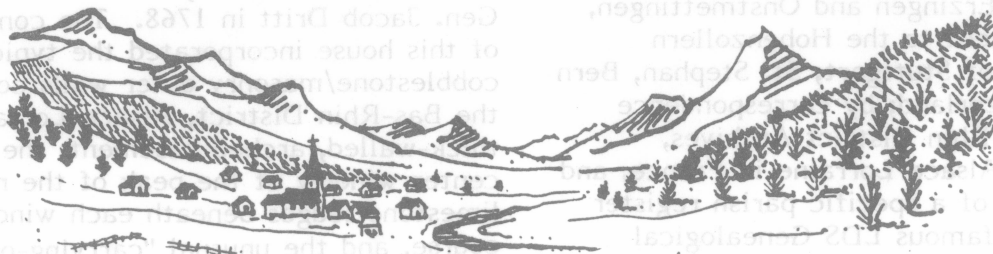
To my surprise and delight, in the parish registers of these villages, I found their place of origin - both from the village of St. Stephan, Bern Canton, Switzerland, in the Obersimmental Valley in the high Alps of the Bernese Oberland. A week later I was in St. Stephan and met Herr Kummer, the Gemeinde Schreiberie (Town Clerk), now well known to the Tritt Family organization, and he gave me access to the ancient St. Stephan Parish Registers. For two days I copied, minutely, the Tritt, Dritt, Tritten christenings back to the 1580's. However, to my sorrow, I did not find recorded the births of our Hans Peter or Christian. I did find recorded a Friedrich Tritt who had a brother, Anton. This Friedrich later proved to be the grandfather of our Hans Peter and Christian. Herr Kummer cautioned me:

"Herr Hegyessy, Tritt, Dritt, Tritten, dieselben Familien" - the same Family - just variations in spelling in the Parish Register.

However, I returned to the U.S. disappointed since I had not really solved the problem. Because of my research experience in Swiss-German Record Sources, I have spent some 12 years as a Volunteer Consultant to the public on the European Reference Desk at the LDS Library in Salt Lake. While serving there, my attention was directed to Obituary Extractions from the old (1700's) German language newspaper, "The Pennsylvania Dutchman." This Philadelphia publication carried many obituaries of York and Lancaster Counties. To my surprise, I noted in 1752, in Windsor Township, York County, the death of an Anna Wampfler, daughter of a Jacob Tritten, and wife of a Christian Wampfler who came to what became York County in 1747. The account said they were from "Berrothau," Alsace. In the Deed Files, I found that their land virtually adjoined that of Hans Peter. Was she a cousin of sorts???

Both Hugh Law, French Expert at the LDS Gen. Soc., and myself, searched diligently for this Berrothau in several French Gazeteers with no luck. Hugh recommended that I write to his friend, Dr. Christian Wolf, Archivist of the Bas Rhin District, Alsace, at Strassbourg. A beautiful reply came back stating that Berrothau was an aberration of Baerenthal, but that a Hans Peter Tritt and a Friedrich Tritt were known to be in Diedendorf Parish about 40 miles northwest of Strassbourg, first appearing there in 1704. He referred me to a book just published by a Robert Greib, concerning Swiss immigrants into Alsace-Lorraine after the 30 Years War. He gave specific entries from the Diedendorf Parish Register.

We had just received a copy of this book at the LDS Gen. Library and I found that there was indeed a Hans Peter Tritt (Sr.),



a son of Friedrich Tritt from St. Stephan, Bern Canton, Switzerland. This Hans Peter Tritt or Triette as he was known in France, was a tailor to Baron Otto Eberhard von Streist von Cawenstein, owner of the huge castle in Diedendorf. This Baron was a witness to the christening of at least one of the sons of Hans Peter, Sr. Hans Peter, Sr. had married a Veronica Kern, daughter of Johann Jacob Kern from Buchberg, Schaffhausen Canton, Switzerland, 6 January 1711.

A second surprise was that the Diedendorff Parish Register had just been microfilmed by the LDS Gen. Soc. in Strassbourg and a copy had just arrived from the Processing Department. My cousin, Marilyn Hegyessy Moffitt, past President of the Utah Gen. Soc. and I, sat with tears in our eyes as we read the ancient German-Gothic handwriting. We found the marriage entry of Hans Peter Tritt (Sr.) and Veronica Kern. We found the christenings of their four children, two of whom were our Hans Peter and Christian.

Otto Tritt/Triette christened 21 Oct. 1711
Ursula Maria Tritt/Triette christened
8 Nov. 1713
Johannes (Hans) Peter Tritt/Triette
christened 13 Aug. 1715 came to PA
Christian Tritt/Triette christened
1 Jan. 1719 came to PA

The burial entries of the Diedendorf Parish Register were very sketchy with many gaps, but we did find the death of Otto in 1720 (child).

Hans Peter Tritt, Sr. must have died shortly after 1720 since we find his widow, Veronica Kern Tritt, remarrying, 7 May 1724, in Diedendorf Parish, to a David Buhler, formerly from Schwanden, Bern Canton, Switzerland. They had two sons prior to 1730 and they then disappear from the Diedendorf Parish Register and may have fled, according to the legend, to the Lower Palatinate prior to 1739 when Hans Peter and Christian came to Philadelphia.

On that same ship, "Robert and Alice," were David Bieler and one of the sons of he and Veronica, born at Diedendorf. Since the Shipping List contained 57

unnamed females, we can only assume that Veronica Kern Tritt Buhler was one of them. In a record in Lancaster, a Veronica Kern is mentioned. David Buhler/Bieler/Boller and a son, Anton, were among the founders of the Muddy Creek Reformed Church near Reams-town where the first few children of Hans Peter and Christian were christened.

And so the long search was over with conclusive proof from Primary Records! From Friedrich Tritt of Diedendorf and St. Stephan, it has been possible to extend the Tritt pedigree back to roughly 1560. The Tritt Family Delegation, who journeyed to St. Stephan in the summer of 1985, met Herr Kummer in person, who permitted, once again, the copying of the ancient St. Stephan Parish Register as described in an earlier article by Marilyn Hegyessy Moffitt in the Tritt Newsletter.

Subsequent to the delegation's visit to St. Stephan, I and my wife, Phyllis, and son, William Hegyessy, and his wife, Inger, visited Diedendorf and found still existing the ancient church, virtually unchanged, inside and out, where Hans Peter and Christian were christened. Embedded in the inner wall of the church was the tombstone of Baron Otto Eberhard von Streist von Cawenstein. We also met the Diedendorf Town Historian, Lillie Lichty, who showed us a copy of the ancient Parish Register, copied in 1802. The original is in the Archives at Strassbourg. She also took us to the castle where Hans Peter Tritt, Sr. was employed as a tailor.

It is hoped that in 1989 a host of Tritt descendants can also visit Diedendorf and St. Stephan to find their roots!

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WALTHER AND ERNST TRITTEN OF LENK, SWITZERLAND

by Donald G. Tritt, President

In the last issue of this newsletter, we reported to you regarding a most important and delightful meeting in 1985 with these two brothers - actually the patriarchs of the Trittens in this place of our ancestry roots. Having this contact in the area of our common origin, can, we expect, facilitate contact with Tritts of other parts of the world. Already, this contact brought about a query from France and is described in the next article.

We wanted to commemorate our visit with Walther and Ernst and chose to do this by preparing a notebook addressed to the Trittens of Lenk with the following note:

"All members of the Tritt Family Research group wish to thank you for the kind hospitality given to us last summer during our visit to Lenk.

Tritt Family Research is a group of interested people from around the world committed to the goal of researching and eventually publishing a thoroughly documented history of the Tritten-Tritt-Dritt family.

The year 1989 will be the 250th anniversary of the immigration of the first Tritts to the United States. It is our hope to be able to bring a group of about 50 Tritts and Tritt descendants to tour Switzerland and to trace the various migrations the Tritts took through Europe and then to lands beyond Europe.

We are pleased to give you this book as a memento of our important and most enjoyable visit with you in the summer of 1985.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald G. Tritt
President"

This book contained photographs of our visit with them plus a complete collection of all past issues of the Tritt Family Newsletter. This was sent to Walther and Ernst and they responded with

a letter paraphrased here after translation from German:

"Dear Prof. Donald G. Tritt:

We received undamaged your most interesting and extensive documentation of the Tritt-Tritten families.

We want to thank you very much for your great time-consuming study of the genealogy of our Tritt-Tritten families and their ancestors. Many ancestors of our Tritten families emigrated to Germany, France (probably to the Alsatian part) and America. In those days, there were no domicile records in our Swiss municipalities and communal administrative offices. The Swiss confederation did not have agreements with the countries mentioned above about an exchange of registers of births, marriages, and deaths. At the moment, there is only an agreement with Germany about an exchange of documents.

We also thank you very much for the nice pictures which will always remind us of your friendly visit in our country. Also kind regards from Walter Tritten (Hotel Krenz) and Hansruedi Schneider (Zivilstandsbeamter).

We will keep your documentation in a safe place until you visit us again in Lenk.

With our friendliest greetings,

Walter & Ernst Tritten"

I trust we all look forward to a visit with the Trittens of Lenk during our 250th anniversary tour in 1989.

OUR FRENCH CONNECTIONS (BY VIRTUE OF MIGRATIONS)

by Donald G. Tritt, President

As you know, when our early ancestors left Switzerland in the early 1700's, some of them went to Alsace-Lorraine, an area which today is part of France. Through diligent work over a long number of years, Harold M. Hegyessy, Jr., a member of the Tritt Family Research group, identified the area where our ancestors resided from 1704 until 1739 - the period between their sojourn from Switzerland and their immigration to a land which was later to become the United States. The village of Diedendorf is located about 35 miles northwest of Strasbourg, France. During our visit in 1985, we met with the current town historian, Ms. Lilly Lichty, of Diedendorf, a vivacious lady who has an interest in researching the residences occupied by the early Swiss immigrants. Hopefully, over the years to come, she will be able to supply us some important missing information. It is our desire in 1989, during the 250th anniversary trip, to visit this community, talk with Ms. Lichty, tour a nearby castle where our ancestors were known to have worked, and participate in a church service in what may be the very same sanctuary where our ancestors worshipped two and a half centuries ago.

Late in December of 1986, we received a letter from Micheline Tritten Furon of Chatillon Sur-Seine, an area about 150 miles southwest of Diedendorf and about 150 miles directly west of Basel and the Rhine River. In her letter, she describes the 1984 reunion of 114 descendants of Peter and Magdalena Tritten who originated from the Obersimmental, Switzerland - the same area of our earliest known ancestors. Her research interest is to locate the American descendants of Peter Tritten, born November 24, 1861 and who immigrated to the United States about 1883. Perhaps those in the United States who still carry this form of the Tritt name are descended from this individual. When we have sufficient return of the Tritt Family record sheets and have pieced together this line, we will respond to her query. Perhaps it might be possible during the

1989 "remigration" tour, to join together in a reunion with people of this area.

MINUTES OF THE 1986 TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH MEETING

by Connie Tritt, Assistant Secretary

The annual Tritt Family Research (TFR) meeting was held on July 2, 3 and 5, 1986 at the Holland Union Building of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Those attending the meeting, or portions thereof, were: Bruce Gray (PA), Harold Hegyessy (UT), Mary Kelso (PA), Betty and Wendy Smeltz (PA), Don and Marilyn Tritt (OH), Emra Tritt (PA), Harry Tritt (PA), Leonard and Connie Tritt (PA), Richard and Susan Tritt (PA), Wayne Tritt (PA), and Cindy Wagner (PA).

Don Tritt (OH) opened the meeting with introductions and then showed slides of Switzerland taken by those who went there for research and sightseeing in 1985.

Don Tritt thanked Richard Tritt and Connie Tritt for editing and typing the newsletter and to others for their involvement in the past year in working at the cemetery and general projects undertaken by some.

Letters of appreciation for the newsletter and other work done by TFR were read by Wayne Tritt. Letters received were from Mrs. Kent Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Tritt (WI), Marion A. Tritt (AZ) and Mrs. Wade Dexter (KS).

Don Tritt read letters from Sarah Tritt Murphy (TN) who sent a family tree, Pastor Freiburg of the church in St. Stephan, Switzerland and from Lilly Lichty of Diedendorf, France, who also sent some information on ancestors from that area. It was suggested that TFR send her a monetary contribution for her expenses in postage and research.

Dick Tritt reported on the mailing of the 1985 newsletter - 806 mailed within

the United States and 48 to foreign countries at a cost of \$170.00 in postage plus printing costs of \$240.00.

Wayne Tritt presented his financial report which was approved.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the preservation of the Dritt mansion in York County, PA. The cost estimate to purchase the mansion is \$150,000.00[±], provided the owner is willing to sell, which is far beyond TFR's reach. Ways to purchase the property were discussed.

The slate of officers for 1986-88 were presented as follows:

President - Don Tritt (OH)
Vice President - Richard Tritt (PA)
Treasurer - Wayne Tritt (PA)
Secretary - Wendy Smeltz (PA)
Assistant Secretary - Connie Tritt (PA)

The above were unanimously elected to fill these positions for 1986-88.

The group did some research at the Carlisle Historical Society trying to get some ideas on how we can do our own volume of Tritt family history.

The trip to Switzerland to see the places of our ancestors is planned for June 16 to July 1, 1989. A tentative itinerary was planned and those present who are interested in going along signed up.

The next meeting of TFR is scheduled to be held on July 9-12, 1987 at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. on July 5.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Wayne Tritt, Treasurer

I'm happy to report that in 1986 we received donations of \$678.00 which is

the highest amount ever contributed in one year. In 1985, the amount given was \$380.00. You may recall that in last year's newsletter I commented that I felt that the low donation amount for 1985 was only temporary. Happily, you have proved that to be a correct statement.

Income in 1986 from the sale of Hans Peter Tritt trees amounted to \$70.00, while \$108.00 was derived from sales of notepaper. An additional \$56.40 was acquired as interest on our bank account balance.

The list of donors for 1986 is as follows:

Harold and Evelyn Tritt	Newald, WI
Gary and Janet Wagner	Kirkland, WA
Claude and Lillian Tritt	Kelso, WA
George and Virginia Hill	Iowa Falls, IA
Johnny and Margaret Tritt	Alexandria, OH
Kent and Nancy Snyder	LaGuna Beach, CA
Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Tritt	Vanderhoof, B.C., Can.
George and Helen Myers	Webster City, IA
Tom Tritt Myers	Webster City, IA
Margaret Mae Tritt	Port Moody, B.C., Can.
J.A. Tritt	Denton, TX
Mrs. Wade H. Dexter	Lawrence, KS
Marion and Beulah Wisniewski	North Canton, OH
Don and Marilyn Tritt	Granville, OH
Lloyd R. Tritt	Kenosha, WI
Harold and Marian Tritt	Phoenix, AZ
Wayne and Esther Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Jack and Betty Smeltz	Harrisburg, PA
Dale and LaDessa Smelcer	Burke, VA
Richard and Nancy Tritt	Boiling Springs, PA
William Dritt	Oak Ridge, TN
Harry and Frances Tritt	Dover, PA
James and Sarah Murphy	Trenton, TN
Mary T. Kelso	Carlisle, PA
Harold M. Hegyessy	Pleasant Grove, UT

If you contributed in 1986 and your name is not listed above, please let me know so that we can give you proper recognition and the record can be corrected.

Expenses for 1986 amounted to \$752.81. Of this amount, \$418.34 can be attributed directly to the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter. Other costs included the material and postage required for planning and announcing the annual meeting, answering queries, postage for sending notepaper, etc. Additionally, a

one-time gift of \$50.00 was made to Lilly Lichty of Diedendorf, France, in appreciation for her hours of research on behalf of TFR and to help her cover material costs.

The research of our family background, compilation and mailing of this newsletter, indeed all facets of the work for TFR, continues to be a labor of love by all who participate. To those of you whose participation is only financial, we are most grateful and we solicit your continued support. If you have not provided time, talent or funds towards the goals we share, why don't you join the effort. We think you will be pleasantly surprised.

CORA A. WEBER LINDSAY PAPERS

by Donald G. Tritt, President

From the time most of us have been working on the Tritt genealogy, we have known that no publication existed accounting for Tritt family history. However, we were aware of the David C. McCulloch work in the late 1800's resulting in the 1906 tree of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt, the systematic work of Cora A. Weber Lindsay around the turn of the century, and the work of Frank L. Crone some years later. Error did appear in their work, but this is certainly to be expected in a task of this magnitude. Those of us pursuing this research, have been greatly helped by their early ground-work.

By virtue of the issuing of the 1906 tree, we long have had use of the McCulloch work and Frank L. Crone saw the wisdom of depositing copies of his research paper in several pertinent libraries around the country. However, the

papers and notes of Cora A. Weber Lindsay have long eluded our best efforts to obtain the originals or copies.

We are now pleased to report that through the persistent and diligent work of Constance Rood Fisher (Glendora, CA), a descendant of Ms. Lindsay, copies of her work have been given to Tritt Family Research. Our next step is to carefully review and cross check these notes for additional information and new leads. Following our review, this set of materials will be placed in the Tritt Family Archives in the Hamilton Library, Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pennsylvania to be held in perpetuity for all future researchers to use.

On behalf of all those concerned with piecing together the full account of Tritt family history, we extend our most sincere appreciation to Connie for making it possible, for the first time in this large effort, for all known Tritt research papers to be collected in one place.

As you consider a safe repository for Tritt items you may have or know about (pictures, artifacts, deeds, accounts, licenses, writings, etc.), we hope you will give serious consideration to the Tritt Family Archives. We would be most willing to assist your visit to these facilities before your gift.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRITTS

We thought you might be interested in a frequency count by state of those Tritt-Tritten-Dritt descendants on our current mailing list:

Pennsylvania -- 133
Ohio -- 69
Wisconsin -- 63



- California -- 62
- North Carolina -- 56
- Georgia -- 50
- Florida -- 49
- Tennessee -- 45
- New York -- 34
- Illinois -- 26
- Missouri -- 21
- Virginia -- 19
- Kansas and Washington -- 15
- Utah -- 14
- Oregon and Texas -- 13
- Nebraska and Maryland -- 11
- Idaho -- 10
- Alaska, Indiana and South Carolina -- 9
- Arkansas, Colorado, Massachusetts and New Jersey -- 7
- Alabama, Kentucky, New Mexico and Oklahoma -- 6
- Arizona -- 5
- Iowa, Louisiana and Montana -- 4
- Michigan and Wyoming -- 3
- Minnesota, Mississippi and West Virginia -- 2
- Delaware, District of Columbia, Nevada and South Dakota -- 1
- Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Vermont -- 0

information and reservation forms for this meeting. If you are coming for the first time, let Don know so he can send you registration information. Write:

Dr. Donald G. Tritt
 4072 Goose Lane
 Granville, OH 43023
 (614) 587-0213

1988 MEETINGS

The following dates are given here so that you might plan well in advance a trip to Carlisle, Pennsylvania:

SECOND NATIONAL REUNION, JULY 7-10, 1988

More details will be given in the next issue of the newsletter. We plan to offer a variety of events and activities which will be informative and enjoyable to a wide range of ages.

ANNUAL RESEARCH MEETING, JULY 6-7, 1988

Those of us who have been involved in the basic research of Tritt family history, will meet early to make final preparations for the reunion meeting.

The 1988 Tritt Family Newsletter will be mailed a month later, next March 1988. It will contain complete information about, and registration forms for, the 1988 Second National Reunion in July 1988 at Carlisle, PA.

1987 MEETING

The 1987 annual meeting of Tritt Family Research will be held:

**July 9-12, 1987
 Carlisle, PA**

The work activities will center around completing details for the Second National Tritt Family Reunion to be held in 1988. In addition, we will continue work on the very important project of transferring our accumulated data to the family group sheet format. Planning will proceed for the 250th anniversary tour to Europe.

If you have attended a research meeting in the past, Don Tritt will send you

1989 - YEAR OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
TOUR TO EUROPE

Approximately June 16 -
Approximately July 1, 1989
(plus an optional return date for
those wanting to travel longer on
their own)

As we have reported, the earliest known Tritt immigrants to these shores were Hans Peter, Jr. and his brother, Christian, in the year 1739. It seems befitting to commemorate this event by tracing their route from the Obersimmental (St. Stephan, Lenk), Switzerland through Alsace-Lorraine (now France) and then to these shores. Along the way and as time permits, we would hope to take in some traditional sights in Switzerland.

Due to general logistics, European bus sizes and accommodations at places we wish to visit, it does appear necessary to limit the size of the group to 50. As of this date, we have a verbal expression of interest from approximately 20 persons. In the next issue of the newsletter, we will set up a deposit schedule. At that point, we will put in place the only fair policy of "first come, first served", i.e., early deposits will assure a spot, later deposits a place on the waiting list. With the dollar dropping in value, it is nearly impossible to estimate a fee so far in advance. You can count on us to do everything possible to keep the cost down.

The following poem was written by Harry A. Tritt of Dover, PA. He is a very active, enthusiastic and dedicated member of TFR. We appreciate his many contributions:

HEY COUSINS -- Guess what's coming
In nineteen eighty - eight?
Once more the call is sounded
For the TRITTS to congregate.

The first reunion was a dandy
We hope to make this one better
Dates and final details
Will come in next year's letter.

And don't forget in eighty-nine
To Switzerland we go
To meet our fourteenth cousins
So start saving up your dough.

They know that we are coming
And say that they will be
Awaiting our arrival
With great expectancy.

We'll visit some big cities
And some villages quite small
We'll learn to blow those Alpine horns
We're going to have a ball.

So start to make arrangements now
As we grow closer to the time
When the TRITTS go back to Switzerland
In Nineteen Eighty-Nine.

CAUTION -- ONCE AGAIN!!

Some of you may have been sent a solicitation from a Sharon Taylor of Halbert's, Inc. (Bath, Ohio), advertising yet another book, this time entitled "The Complete Registry of the Tritts in America."

Since our last newsletter, we have examined this item and find that the only material pertaining to Tritts is a list of mailing addresses and telephone numbers, many unusable. As such, it certainly is not a complete registry of Tritts and Tritt descendants in America. It lists no Trittens or Drittts.

In all fairness, we cannot endorse this book, even as a list of addresses and phone numbers. We regret this sort of advertising as it raises the concern of those doing legitimate genealogy research.

CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WILLIAM TRITT (1864)

William Tritt, of Poygan Township, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, was the founder of the Tritt family in Wisconsin, where many of his descendants live today. He was born in Newville, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on June 15, 1819. His family moved to Trumble County, Ohio, in 1822, and on to Wisconsin in 1850.

He served his country faithfully as a soldier in the Civil War. He enlisted in 1862 in the Twenty-First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Company F, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. Among the battles in which he participated were Perryville, Hoover's Gap, Nashville, Murfreesboro and Chattanooga.

It was at Chattanooga that he was taken prisoner and confined for 17 months in the prisons of Richmond, Andersonville, Florence and Gouldsborough. He was one of the few who survived the terrible treatment and starvation to which prisoners were subjected. His remarkable constitution served him well in this hour of peril, and when rescued, he was sent to St. Louis, where he remained in the hospital for some time. He was transferred from there to Benton Barracks, then to the Marine Hospital, where he was honorably discharged from the service, on June 14, 1865.

William Tritt died on August 5, 1909 at the age of 90 years, one month and three weeks, in the Township of Poygan, Winnebago County. He fell off a stack of barley, striking the top of his head and dying the same day.

A diary that William Tritt kept during his imprisonment, encompassing the year 1864, has remarkably survived. This tiny book, about 3½ inches across, was written in pencil on poor quality paper. It was kept by one of William's older daughters, Ida. She passed it on to her granddaughter, with whom she lived the last years of her life. She gave the diary to her daughter, Mrs. Wade Dexter, who is the current owner.

Mrs. Dexter spent countless hours transcribing the diary. The paper had deteriorated badly and the penciled text was extremely difficult to decipher. The task seemed almost insurmountable, but with the

use of a magnifying glass and a great deal of patience, she completed the task in 3½ months. We sincerely thank her for an outstanding job.

Mrs. Dexter sent a copy of the diary to Tritt Family Research. Richard Tritt read the diary and then consulted with Civil War experts at the Institute of Military History at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA about its significance. Mrs. Dexter has kindly consented to allow TFR to have the diary printed, in booklet form, with an introduction, a biography of William Tritt, and annotations. Any profits realized from the sale of this booklet will be used by TFR to further their work.

The title of the diary "Apple Trees Look Gay in Bloom" was suggested by William Mitchell, Director of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library on the campus of the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. He encouraged Mrs. Dexter to transcribe the diary and later read the final transcription. He was deeply moved by the April 27 entry with the poignant juxtaposition "this imprisonment is all that I can bear. Apple trees look gay in bloom."

If you would like to buy a copy of the diary, please complete the order form on the last page of this newsletter. Deadline for orders will be April 30. Booklets will be printed and mailed by June 1987.

PAST ISSUES

This is the seventh annual issue of the Tritt Family Newsletter. Copies of previous issues are available at \$1.00 each from the newsletter editor:

Mr. Richard Tritt
204 Forge Road
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

ORDER FORM: 1906 HANS PETER TRITT FAMILY TREE

Please detach this form and mail to: W. Wayne Tritt, 24 Old Stone House Road, Carlisle, PA 17013.

I would like to order _____ copy/copies of the 1906 Hans Peter Tritt Family Tree at \$10.00 each, including postage.

Mail to: Name _____ Amount Enclosed _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

CHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTICE

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