

Editor's note:

The following article was written by Lilly Lichty, town historian of Diedendorf, France, and herself an Obersimmental Swiss descendant. Diedendorf is the birthplace of the immigrants Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. and his brother, Christian. Lilly was the main person responsible for our emotional visit of June 24-25 to Diedendorf during the Remigration Tour of 1989.

Diedendorf

Little Diedendorf, "in the middle of Nowhere", has a very old history. In its meadows, on the banks of the river Sarre, a lot of Roman tiles can still be found, and during the years 1954-56, quite a number of bits and pieces of Roman monuments were discovered in the riverbed, near the mill, and at the old ford, our children's playground in summertime. Some of our fieldlanes are said to be ancient Roman, or even Celtic roads, and a lot of small pools in the surrounding woods are, in the opinion of some historians, the remainders of Celtic habitations.

After the decline of the Roman Empire, (end of 5th century), the German tribes of the Franks settled in our country, and mingled with the autochtons. They converted to Christianity, as did their king Clovis, whose descendants, called the Merovingiens, ruled this country for about 3 centuries.

During their reign, a small church was built in the valley, on the ruins of a pagan sanctuary, and in the old cadastre, this place is still called "the gardens near the old church of Diedendorf."

The substructions of the chapel were discovered by sheer luck in 1884: hoeing his potatoes, a farmer hit upon a large sandstone, and notified his discovery to a local archeologist, Mr. H. Schlosser, who undertook the exploration of the site. The sandstone was part of a sarcophag, built with the material of the Roman monument, bearing Latin inscriptions, and it was buried inside the church, the foundations of which Mr Schlosser could localize during his very thorough search.

This leads to a hypothesis: since, after the conquest, the Merovingien kings shared the country between their faithful followers, who founded the majority of the still existent towns of this area, and since ours is said to be the village of the Frank chief Dido, the discovered sarcophag might be the tomb of the founder of Diedendorf.

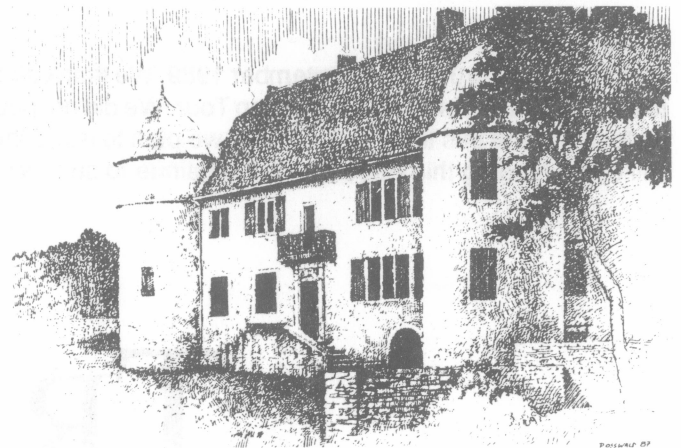
During the following centuries, the most powerful of the Frank landlord-dynasties enlarged their possessions and realm of influence, and thus small counties were constituted, which became vassals of the Church, or of the Great Roman Germanic Empire.

From the early Middle-Ages on, up to the annexation by France in 1793, Diedendorf and the surrounding villages were part of the County of Saarwerden, which was at-

tached, 1513, to the House of Nassau-Saarbrucken. The language of the population was, and still is, though it's slowly overcome by French now, the German dialect of the Franks, (who, by the way, gave their name to France...)

The Reformation having been introduced by Count Adolf von Nassau-Saarbrucken, the County became a shelter for the persecuted protestants of the neighbour duchy of Lorraine: in the year 1559, seven ruined villages, (among them Diedendorf) were repopulated and rebuilt by a considerable number of refugees, mainly from the area of Metz, capital of Lorraine. These people were French speaking and Calvinists, (or "reformed"), while the autochtons were of Lutheran faith, and the localities, where the immigrants settled, were called the "Welsh villages" of the County. Through French school and church service, they could hold their language for about 3 generations, then by and by it got absorbed by the local idiom.

At that time, the baillif Johann Streiff von Lauenstein got invested by the Count with a fief in Diedendorf. He built the castle (1577), then the church (1588), and protected the welsh minority against the Lutherans, who considered the Calvinists more or less as heretics.



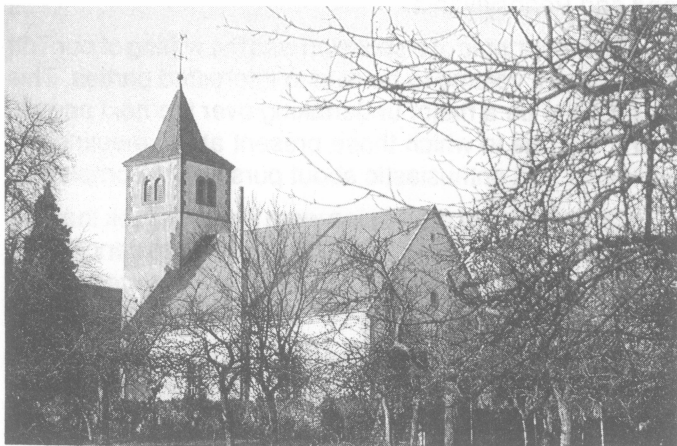
Diedendorf Castle built in 1577

The Streiff family held the castle for one and a half century, then it got sold, 1730, to the baillif Baron von Luder.

During the last decades of the 17th century, the Swiss immigration began, mainly caused by economical recession in Switzerland after the "30 years war", (1618-1648). The Swiss people, of Calvinist faith, chose of course to settle, if possible, in the reformed parishes of the County.

With the arrival of Samuel de Perrouet, who lived in Diedendorf from 1698 to 1748, our village had become the capital of the reformed diaspora in the County and nearby Lorraine. Indeed, Perrouet was the only Calvinist minister for this area, and a lot of his parishioners had to undertake quite a journey for the ceremonies of their weddings, christenings, and services in memoriam of their dead. Secretly and in disguise, they even came from Metz (about

60 miles), where Protestantism was still repressed, and with such a big and far scattered flock to tend, Perroudelet for sure couldn't afford to be a lame duck...He was an outstanding personality. Offspring of a noble French family, he had fled to Switzerland, where he absolved his studies and married a Swiss minister's daughter. He spoke perfectly French and German, he was a "man of the world", and your ancestors knew him well, since he christened, confirmed, married and buried them. With his wife and children, he rests in peace in our little church, where the tombstone of one of his sons can still be seen, while on his own one, lefthand near the altar, the faithful's feet have erased the inscriptions.



The Church of Diedendorf, built in 1588

As for the Lord of the castle, Otto Eberhard Streiff von Lauenstein, (1646-1722), Perroudelet's friend, he'd been officer of a French regiment of cavalry, before retiring to Diedendorf, where he lost his wife and newly born in the year 1688. They too are buried in the church (rebuilt 1700), where Otto Eberhard's tombstone, beside the one of Perroudelet's son, is fixed against the wall, to your right, near the entry.

I'll quickly sum up the principal historical events through the following centuries, before coming back to the "Tritt era" in Diedendorf.

Alsace-Lorraine stayed French until 1870, when Napoleon III lost the war against Germany. The ancient County of Saawerden is now called "Alsace Bossue", for, geographically, we don't belong to Alsace, but to the plateau lorrain, and for those of the Plain, we are a people of hillbillies, with a different dialect and mentality. Indeed, this area is a rather isolated corner, a kind of "end of the world", saved so far from tourism, which, of course, is not to the liking of everybody, though much to mine...

Well, in 1870 Alsace-Lorraine had to change sides again, and my grandfather and father grew up as subjects of the Kaiser.

At the end of World War I, (1918), our province went back to France, and at the beginning of World War II, (1940) back to Germany.

The 23rd of November 1944, we got liberated from Nazism by the G.I.'s, and for sure more than one Texan among them wondered, what this cursed war was about, since the people, who came out of the cellars hollering Hallelujah! were German speaking.

Now we do hope that the ping-pong game is over for good, and that our fate of children of the border will stay at last a peaceful one in United Europe.

When the Swiss settlers came to Diedendorf, the country was still suffering from the troubled times which lay behind: endless wars, troupes of mercenaries wasting the crops, burning the houses, killing the peasants, famines, epidemics, and so on. However, the wars were over, and the new century would be a peaceful one.

As many of our villages, Diedendorf had been devastated, and the inhabitants had fled to more secure places. In 1640, says the Chronic, there was but one family left. Then, from 1647 on, when the Lady of the Castle came back with her children and servants, the survivors by and by followed her example, to rebuild ruined little Diedendorf.

Still, there was room enough left for the Swiss immigrants. A great number of them settled on our hill, and 1742 almost half of the 50 households were of Swiss origin, so that "Welsh Diedendorf" should have been rechristened "Little Switzerland".

Like the Tritts, the settlers came mainly from the Berner Gebiet, as weavers, tailors, shoemakers. However most of them got hired as "cowboys", shepherds, milkers, because of their skill with cattle, and their reputation of trustworthiness. The most fortunate became "Hofmann" on big farms, like Michael Gruenewald (ca 1678-1754), a relative (perhaps a brother?) of Friedrich Tritt's wife Christine Gruenewald. Michael was Otto Eberhard Streiff's Hofmann, that is manager of the landlord's farm, and thus it could well be, that he provided his relative Friedrich Tritt with a job at the castle. Although Friedrich is said to have died in Saarbrucken which was the administrative capital of our County, this doesn't mean that he was permanently established there.

The lack of evidence about his whereabouts, or about the birth of his son Hans Peter, is due to the fact that, scattered all over various parish registers of the area, there are only a few records left of the time previous to 1698 when Perroudelet started the first register in Diedendorf. There the name Tritt appears for the first time in 1701: Hans Peter Tritt is said to be witness at a christening, (which means that he was at least 14 years old then), while his confirmation, (generally at age 14-15) is mentioned in the year 1707. That's no proof, yet it amplifies the probability that Hans Peter, Sr. grew up in Diedendorf.

When his widow, with her second husband and children, left Alsace, it wasn't a flight, as your family chronic surmises, or let's say it was flight from poverty, for, during that era (the whole 18th century), nobody suffered from persecution in our Country. They crossed the Rhine, certainly

in order to join an assigned place and group of fellow travelers, for the emigrants' journeys were generally organized by agencies.

In the year 1747, two members of the Gruenewalds in Diedendorf also emigrated to America: Anna and Jacob G., son and daughter of Henrich and Barbara Rubi, of Swiss origin too. Might well be that Anna and Jacob joined the Tritt settlers in Pennsylvania.

Many others left Diedendorf for the new world. One of them was Hans Niklaus Hauer, born 1733 in our village, who "went to America as a tradesman, without buying himself free", (for people were in a condition of bondage to their Lord and country), and who "relinquished his heritage by a letter of July 1771", perhaps because the heritage consisted mainly of debts. Anyway, he was one of the numerous "reported missing" of Diedendorf, whose destiny, unless a miracle, would stay a mystery forever.

Yet, in his case, the miracle occurred: in a monumental thesis about the emigrants of Alsace-Lorraine, by Norman Laybourn, journalist in Strasbourg, I met Hans Niklaus Hauer again.

If ever you happen to pass by Frederick, Maryland, stop by at the Museum "Barbara Fritchie home", where you'll see his Bible, with his date and place of birth, as well as the date of his departure from Diedendorf: 18th of May, 1754.

For H.N. Hauer is the father of Barbara Fritchie, who was born 1766 in Lancaster, then established with her parents in Maryland, where she married the glovemaker John Casper Fritchie. She was 96 when the Confederates invaded her town, and she became a Yankee heroine, by brandishing the flag of the Union above the heads of the troupes passing beneath her window.

It's not impossible that, having collected the available addresses of acquainted overseas settlers, Hans Niklaus Hauer, at his arrival in Lancaster, went to look up the Tritts, and that together they talked about far distant little Diedendorf...

Anyway, Barbara Fritchie's Alsatian grandfather, the hatmaker Otto Hauer (1701-1775), sold his small house in Diedendorf in the year 1768 to my ancestor Anton Lichty. The act of this transaction is still in my possession, and the house still belongs to one of my cousins.

I'll conclude with an anecdote about the proverbial honesty of the Swiss immigrants: behind the woods, at a distance of about 2 miles from Diedendorf, the estate of Gutenbrunnen (Bonne-Fontaine) was propriety of the Counts of Nassau-Saarbrücken, and employed many Swiss settlers. In order to renew the race of the cattle, the manager sent one of them to the Berner Oberland, with the mission to buy some Simmental cows. The guy went off, by foot, of course, and during the journey back, he let the cows graze along the roads and sold their milk.

So, at his return, the good man handed over to his boss not only the cattle, but also a sum of money, which exceeded the price of the cows.

While telling me this story, the present regisseur of the forest of Bonne-Fontaine, who has peeped into the archives there, looked kind of nostalgic, and I said: "No wonder you miss the good olden times..."

Lily Lichty

June, 1989

MINUTES OF TFR ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 17 and 18, 1990

The annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held on August 17 and 18, 1990, at the home of Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. Those present came from California, Utah, Tennessee, Ohio, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The main topic of discussion was the writing of our Tritt history into a volume to be sold to interested parties. This will prove to be a major undertaking over the next several years, but one in which those present at the meeting are dedicated and enthusiastic about pursuing to completion.

Other topics of discussion were the cookbook that you will read about in this newsletter, correspondence from other Tritts around the world and other miscellaneous items.

The 1991 annual meeting of contributing researchers and authors will be held on July 18, 19 and 20 in Granville, Ohio, hosted by Don and Marilyn Tritt.

All present at the meeting enjoyed an evening meal together at a fine restaurant in Carlisle and a picnic at a local park the next evening.

We all left the meeting glad to have been with family and friends and the promise to meet next summer in Ohio.

Connie J. Tritt, Secretary

The following people were present at the 1990 Annual Meeting and Author's Conference:

Gladys Cramer of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Jeanette Cramer of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Bill and Wilda Dritt of Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Harold Hegyessy of Pleasant Grove, Utah
Barbara Holloman of Silver Spring, Maryland
Ernie and Doris Trait of Long Beach, California
Dave and Judy Tritt of Canton, Ohio
Donald and Marilyn Tritt of Granville, Ohio
Harry Tritt of Dover, Pennsylvania
Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA
Wayne Tritt of Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Cindy Wagner of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
The following authors were not present:
Connie R. Fisher of, California
Lorene Tritt Wagner of Johnson City, Tennessee

WRITING OF THE FAMILY HISTORY

by Donald G. Tritt, President

The central focus of the 1990 meeting of Tritt Family Research was discussion of an eventual publication of Tritt Family History. From our founding in 1977 our goal has been to publish a thoroughly researched and fully documented account of Tritt Family history from as early a point in history as data are available. At this point in our research the earliest ancestor from which we all derive appears to be JACOB TRITTEN, born 1562, St. Stephan, Bern, Switzerland. This may change as we pursue earlier records regarding a Petrus Tritten from the Simmenthal who witnessed a legal act in 1485 in Sion on the southern side of the Alps. Although we will list the line of descent from these earliest ancestors we may have to limit the story components of our publication to all known Tritten-Tritt-Dritt immigrants to the western shores of the Atlantic and an account of their descendants.

One important outcome of our first author's conference this past summer was the creation of a working outline to guide our writing efforts. Establishing this outline helped to identify additional components in need of further research. Various individuals and subcommittees volunteered their time to pursue these matters over the coming year.

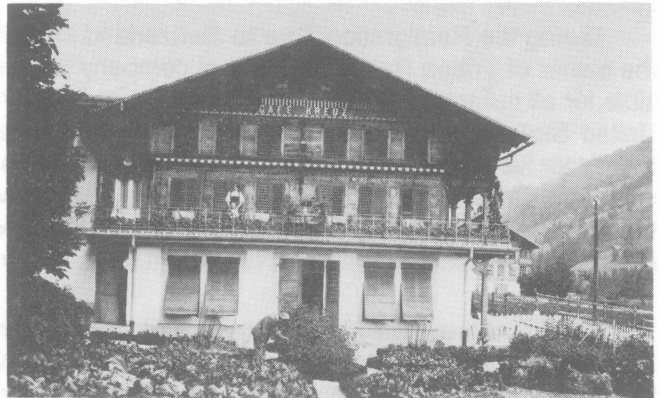
Given this massive undertaking and the extensive data available we full well expect that the writing stage of our work will take several years. In this regard our yearly meetings will continue to take the form of an annual conference of authors. At these meetings new data will be integrated and drafts will be reviewed. At this point nearly 15 persons are working as contributors. Clearly there is the need for additional persons to take on other research and writing components of this project. To discuss your interests contact me at the Granville address or call me at (614) 587-0213.

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY AND RESEARCH MATERIALS WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN SWITZERLAND THIS SUMMER

In 1991 the Canton of Bern will celebrate its 800th Anniversary while Switzerland will be celebrating its 700th Anniversary. One event in this celebration will be an exhibit "Bern in the USA" between June 17 and September 15, 1991 at the castle of Wrob near the city of Bern. The intent of this exhibition is to answer the questions "Why, when, how and where did Bernese emigrate to the USA?" Tritt Family Research has sent a complete copy of the Tritt Family Newsletter (1980-1989), items and written accounts pertaining to the 1989 Remigration Tour, the Pennsylvania Schematic Map of Tritt Sites, a copy of Tritt Family Research notepaper, and other items.



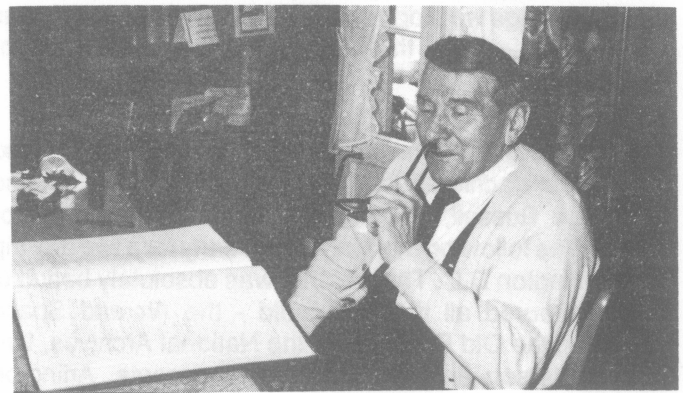
CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF THE HOTEL KREUZ, LENK, SWITZERLAND



The Hotel Kreuz in 1926

Early in March 1990 we were notified that Walter and Hilde Tritten are no longer the owners of the Hotel Kreuz. The Kreuz, a four-star hotel, is the largest hotel in Lenk. Because of the Tritten-Tritt connection the Kreuz has long been a gathering place for family members returning to Lenk. Those wanting to make reservations may contact the new owners as follows: M. and G. Luderer, Hotel Kreuz, CH-3775 Lenk, Switzerland

DEATH OF WALTHER TRITTEN, LENK, SWITZERLAND



Walther Tritten

It is our sorrow to report that Walther Tritten passed away on March 26, 1990. Following an accident in the mountains at the age of 8, Walther spent the remainder of his life as a paraplegic. For over 40 years Walther was the Civil Registrar of Lenk responsible for all public records, documents, and archives. At the time of his death Walther was 83 years old. As we have reported to you in earlier newsletters, Walther and his brother, Ernst-Theodor, were the patriarchs of the Trittens in Lenk, the root place of our common ancestry. To those of us visiting Lenk over the years, Walther and Ernst-Theodor have always been most gracious hosts. We will miss this very special uncle and we look forward to a continued association with uncle Ernst-Theodor.

JAKOB AND LYDIA TRITTEN VISIT USA

By Nancy S. Tritt

During the Remigration Tour to Switzerland in 1989, the owner of Tritten Reisen (the travel company responsible for all our travel in Europe) promised to come to the United States in 1990. American "cousins" offered their homes for his visit. On November 19, 1990, Jakob and his wife Lydia arrived in New York City. On Tuesday they drove their rented car to Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania and became the guests of Richard and Nancy Tritt for nine days.

Sharing the culture and countryside of south-central Pennsylvania included trips to several local towns. We began with a tour of Carlisle where the Trittens learned about the settlement of early Tritts in the Cumberland Valley. Jakob and Lydia toured the Cumberland County Historical Society Museum, where Richard works as a curator. There they saw the original land grants in Cumberland County from William Penn to Peter Tritt. The following day the Tritts and Trittens visited the 1758 Tritt house, located near Wrightsville, the home of General Jacob Dritt.

Both Jakob and Lydia were impressed with this beautiful old stone house and took several photographs. We travelled to Lebanon to see bologna being made then drove to Hershey to learn about the benevolence of Milton S. Hershey who's family was from Switzerland. After driving through the town, we visited Founders Hall, Chocolate World and walked through the park. On the return trip to Boiling Springs we stopped to visit a truck stop. Jakob was very impressed with the huge trucks on American highways.

Thursday, November 22, was Thanksgiving Day so we had our traditional Thanksgiving meal and Mary Kelso and Mary Russell, 1989 tour participants, joined us for dinner. The following morning we left early for a two day trip to Washington D.C. The weather was absolutely beautiful and we toured all that we could - the Air and Space Museum, the Old Post Office, the National Archives, Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington Monuments, Arlington Cemetery and the Kennedy graves, and the White House. We were joined on this tour by Barbara Holloman. At dinner that evening Barbara Powell was also able to visit. Saturday included visits up the Washington Monument and to the Naval Academy and Capital in Annapolis, Maryland. The Washington/Maryland tour was made possible through the hospitality of David & Ann Smith.

Sunday, Lydia, Jakob, Richard and Nancy went to Reading, Pennsylvania to visit the famous outlets. Guess who bought blue jeans? They were such a terrific bargain in the United States! The weather was so cooperative that we were able to have a picnic lunch. A gathering of the Pennsylvania Tritt clan was held Sunday evening and everyone enjoyed visiting and sharing with Jakob and Lydia.



Lydia & Jakob Tritten

Tritten Reisen is examining the possibility of bringing a group of Swiss people to the United States in 1992 so we visited a local bus company - Rohrer Bus in Duncannon. We toured their facility and various buses. Following this visit we drove to Harrisburg to see the very beautiful state capitol building. While there, Jakob and Lydia were presented with a beautiful 3' x 5' state flag of Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, November 27, the Cramer family from Shippensburg took Jakob and Lydia to visit a local farm and gave them an extensive tour of Gettysburg, (the Civil War Battlefield). After a delicious meal in Maryland they returned to Boiling Springs for their last day. That day was spent in Newville, Richard and Nancy's hometown and also the home of many Tritts. We visited our homes and also early Tritt graves. It was then time to say goodbye to two very wonderful Tritt cousins from Switzerland. When Jakob said he and Lydia would come to America it seemed like a dream. Finally, 18 months later, he and Lydia were here living with us and our two dogs, and such strong bonds developed in just nine days. It was a terrific experience for us and learning to know them in this way made them truly seem like cousins. We love them and look forward to the next visit.

Thursday morning Jakob and Lydia left for Canton, Ohio to visit with David and Judy Tritt. Following that visit they went to Donald and Marilyn Tritt's home in Granville. After spending four days in Ohio, they spent their last five days in New York. A trip to Niagara Falls was also on their agenda.

The visit of our Swiss cousins was the highlight of 1990 for us. Our only wish would have been that all the tour participants could have also visited with Jakob and Lydia. The United States is just too large for a three week visit.

PARTICIPANTS ON THE 1989 REMIGRATION TOUR

Persons have inquired regarding the family members who made up the 1989 remigration group. These persons were:

Gladys V., David and Jeanette Cramer,
Shippensburg, PA
William S. and Wilda F. Dritt, Oak Ridge, TN
Stanley H. and Mary Tritt Harper, Urbana, IL
Harold M. Hegyessy, Jr., Pleasant Grove, UT
Barbara R. Holloman, Silver Spring, MD
Mary Tritt Kelso, Carlisle, PA
Nancy Trait Lira, Oklahoma City, OK
Shirley M. Murray, Carlisle, PA
Barbara A. Powell, Adelphi, MD
Mary E. Russel, Carlisle, PA
Wendy Smeltz, Harrisburg, PA
Ernest J. and Doris H. Trait, Long Beach, CA
David A. and Judy K. Tritt, Canton, OH
Donald G. and Marilyn C. Tritt, Granville, OH
Howard C. Tritt, Freeburg, IL
Ray L. and June A. Tritt, Montgomery, IL
Richard L. And Nancy S. Tritt, Boiling Springs, PA
W. Wayne Tritt, Carlisle, PA
Cynthia J., Justin and Jeremy Wagner, Harrisburg, PA
David L. and Robyn Tritt Wampler, Gardners, PA

From New Zealand:

Frederick N. and Lorna Tritt, Taupo, New Zealand



SWISS-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Donald G. Tritt, President

Issue #10 (The Remigration Tour Report issue) of the Tritt Family Newsletter received an important honor this past year. We were asked by the editor of the Swiss-American Historical Society Review for permission to reprint our issue #10 for distribution to all members of the Swiss-American Historical Society. The Swiss-American Historical Society is an organization of historians, scholars, and interested persons in the U.S.A. and Switzerland concerned with researching Swiss-American relations in many fields of interaction.

Members of the Editorial Board saw our efforts as an important example of Swiss-American genealogical research and of building and maintaining close personal ties to family members in Switzerland.

From one of the readers of the SAHS Review we received the following letter and thought we ought to share it with the readers of the TFR Newsletter.

Joanne A. Smith Mello
4391 Kruk Trail
Placerville, CA 95667
(916) 644-3342

14 August, 1990
Tritt Family Research
4072 Goose Lane, S.W.
Granville, OH 43023

Dear Family Tritt:

As a member of the SWISS AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, I recently read with great interest the recent publication of the REVIEW which centered around the TRITT Family Newsletter and the account of their 1989 trip to Switzerland and Germany.

This letter is being written, not as a member of the Tritt family (though I dearly wish I were!!), but as a "fan" of your family association. You can be assured that I read each and every detailed account of that trip with much enthusiasm and with much envy. Yes, envy! I am envious that I do not belong to such a group. I am envious that I could not come along with you on your journey to your fatherland! It is noteworthy that such a large group was able to share those experiences and to share in the excitement. I have visited the countries of my ancestors in the past few years and had many of the same experiences as those who wrote the articles in the REVIEW.

The Tritt family is to be applauded for encouraging the continuation of such a fine family association.

Sincerely,

Joanne A. Smith Mello

TRITTS IN URUGUAY

by Richard L. Tritt

Micheline Furon-Tritten of Chatillon-sur-Seine, France, has located a long lost branch of the Tritten Family in Uruguay, South America.

Micheline and her immediate family in France had known for years that her great uncle, the firstborn, had left for "America" with a cousin many years ago. At that time there was no work in Switzerland. After a sad love affair he wanted to start a new life in Uruguay.

Micheline's grandfather, Gottfried, the youngest of his family, always talked about this brother Peter whom he had never known or heard from. Micheline organized a family reunion in France in 1984 to please her father Armin and in hopes of learning more about this lost branch of the family.



Micheline Furon-Tritten with her father Armin Tritten

Her efforts were intensified after she learned of TFR and received a visit from Donald Tritt. Micheline's big breakthrough came when her aunt found an old letter that Peter had sent to one of his sisters in 1885 from Uruguay. Her parish priest advised her to write to the Swiss Embassy in Montevideo because he knew that many Swiss had left for Uruguay around 1881. She was overjoyed when she received a response.

Peter Tritten (1861-1945) married Bibia Fernandez in Uruguay. They had seven children and 39 grandchildren. Two of Peter's daughters are still living, Maria 81 and Irene 78. There are 14 great-grandchildren who carry the Tritten name and one is now living in Westminister, California.

Members of the family in Uruguay expressed a wish to establish contact with the family in Europe. They are now corresponding regularly. There is a language problem since Micheline does not speak English or Spanish so letters must be translated.

We hope that we will learn to know our newfound cousins in South America and will meet them in the near future.

THE TRITTS IN NEW ZEALAND

In 1848 a group of gentlemen, among them Robert Godley, in London decided to buy land from the New Zealand Company (associated with the name E.G. Wakefield) on which to found a 'Church Colony'. The area chosen became the Province of Canterbury and its capital Christchurch in our South Island.

When European settlement began in this area in the 1840's there were fewer than 500 Maori inhabitants. A few decades earlier the number was much larger but raids by North Island Maori warriors had wrecked havoc with the local people. The staple food of the Maori, kumara or sweet potato, did not grow well in this area and the Canterbury Maori depended largely on fish, fern root and waterfowl for food supply. However the area had been an important centre for fashioning tools and ornaments of West Coast greenstone (nephrite), the basis of barter with the northern tribes.

The main body of 730 immigrants, 106 of whom were land purchasers, arrived in four ships in December 1850 and were soon engaged in subduing a wilderness of swamp and tussock. The province of Canterbury was established in 1853. In the census of 1861, 73% of the overseas-born population was of English descent. Of the 13,000 assisted immigrants between 1857 and 1870, 45% were of Irish or Scottish birth.

Heavy demands on patchy and meagre forests near Christchurch led to the development of sawmilling settlements. One of these was Oxford in a valley closer to the Southern Alps and as early as 1856 a wagon load of timber was taken to Christchurch. About this time some German sawyers arrived in the area. An early settler writes "One of these was Mr. Charles Luers and they lived in one of the wings of my house and used to sing German songs very nicely after work and take my children out for rides on their backs into the bush every Sunday afternoon." In the '70s there was a great influx of immigrants not only from the British Isles but also from Europe. The immigration Agents in England received payment for each emigrant they procured. Pamphlets which circulated in Europe, not entirely true, spoke of a land of engines and machinery where work was not hard and wages good.

We think that it was this scheme which brought our Tritt forebear, Gottfried, to New Zealand. This Gottfried was the son of Maria and Gottfried, a bootmaker in Reichenbach a town in Prussia. We are not certain of its exact location but believe it is near the East German border.

The younger Gottfried, born about 1827, married Catharina Kroll on 12 August 1855. Their eldest son, Carl Wilhelm, was born about 1859 but he remained in Reichenbach when his parents and his young brother Freidrich emigrated to New Zealand.

Carl Wilhelm married Wilhelmina Stahl in Germany. He did not come to New Zealand until the 1890s following the death of his wife. He married for the second time in NZ at the age of 41 and for a third time at the age of 48. He had seven sons and four daughters.

Gottfried's second son was my grandfather Friedrich and he travelled with his parents to New Zealand. He married Wilhelmina Augusta Louise Blank in Oxford NZ in 1890 and they had five sons, one of whom died in infancy. Wilhelmina had been born in Blumberg, Pomerania in 1867. Her family was one of many German families to have settled in Oxford. Her parents were Carl Blank, born 1844 in Blumberg, Pomerania, and Augusta Cecilia Loff, born about 1849. They came to New Zealand in 1872 when Wilhelmina's brother, Carl August Blank, was only one year old. He had been born in Stettin.

My father Phillip Godfrey had two daughters and three sons one of whom was killed in the Middle East (Battle of El Alemain).

Lorna and I have done our bit for the next generation in producing four sons. We now have four grandsons (one adopted) and two granddaughters (one adopted).

So all things considered there are plenty of male Tritts in New Zealand to carry on the family name.

Our youngest son Stephen is busy tracing the families of our cousins and other more distant relations. There are in excess of 100 Tritts in New Zealand at the moment.

Another Tritt, Carl Oscar Eugene Tritt, came to New Zealand on the barque "ASHMORE" from Germany arriving on 1 November 1908 at the age of 17 but there appears no close connection. He was born in Potsdam on 16 October 1891. His father's name was Oscar Weiss. His mother's maiden name was Justina Tritt and apparently Carl went by his mother's name.

We would be glad to hear of any Tritt that has knowledge of the Tritts from Reichenbach in Prussia or of any contacts or sources we could get in touch with.

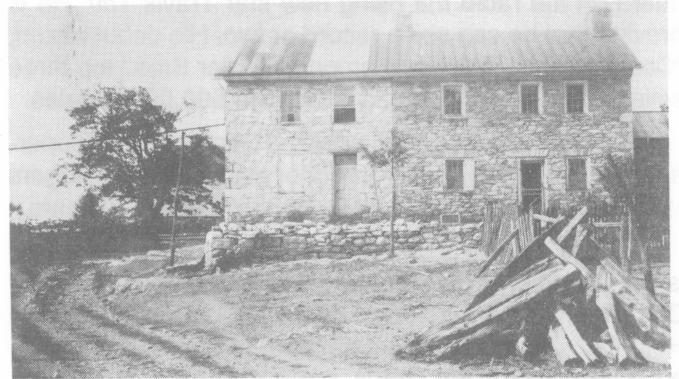


We are
Our address

Phone

Lorna and Fred Tritt
91 Taupo View Road Taupo
New Zealand
074 87302

MAJOR ADDITION TO THE TRITT FAMILY COLLECTION



An early view of the Peter Tritt, home near Newville, PA

On October 5, 1989, Dr. Richard L. Tritt, of Winnipeg, Canada, passed by Carlisle on his way to North Dakota. He stopped for a short time in Carlisle to leave two framed documents at the Cumberland County Historical Society. They are now an important part of the Tritt Family Collection.

The 1790 deed and mortgage are for the Peter Tritt farm in Cumberland County, PA. Peter Tritt was the founder of the Tritt Family in Cumberland County and the trunk of the extensive family tree. Through time, these documents were passed along and eventually ended up in Canada. They convey the land in West Pennsboro Township from the Penn Family to Peter Tritt. They are printed on sheepskin and are in excellent condition. The Society was so pleased with the documents that they were put on permanent display in the museum. We sincerely thank Dr. Tritt for bringing this valuable part of our family heritage back "home" again after 200 years.

DO YOU KNOW?

That Charles Tritten (England) was the English Translator for the classic Swiss novel Heidi: A Story For Children and Those That Love Children by Johanna Spyri. He has written two sequels to Heidi, Heidi Grows Up and Heidi's Children.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of a Nancy Tritt, a/k/a/ Nikki Thomas, who was the centerfold in a 1976 issue of Playboy magazine?

Harold Hegyessy of Utah has donated to TFR 221 family group sheets from families in Lenk and St. Stephan with which we should be able to link the family lines.

Might you know the name of a Tritten killed at Normandy during the Second World War? People in France are very interested in knowing the particulars of a Tritten killed at Normandy during the Second World War. We have only a possibility that he may have been a Herman Tritten from Oneida County, New York. Please send what information you may have to the editor.

TRITT FAMILY COUNTRY SINGER

Many family members have seen on television or heard on the radio the rising new star Travis Tritt. He is proving that he can sell a record or two. His debut album, "Country Club", has been among Warner Bros.' top three sellers in all categories and is close to 500,000 in sales.

The buzz about the 27-year-old Georgian drew super-agent Ken Kragen - best known for guiding Kenny Rogers - who took on Tritt as his first entry-level act in 20 years.

Travis has the grizzled sound of a veteran. His sound is part-Southern, part-"outlaw". His first single, "Country Club", went top 10, followed by his No. 1 single "Help Me Hold On". His most recent single "I'm Gonna Be Somebody", is climbing the charts.

Some of the Pennsylvania Tritts heard Travis in person at a concert in Maryland. He was given a Tritt hat and information about our organization. We have not determined exactly how he is related and would appreciate help from any of our readers to determine that relationship.

We know that six years ago he worked in Marietta, GA for a company that distributed heating and air-conditioning equipment. He gave up job security to sing at night in American Legion halls for pay that would hardly cover necessities. He finally hooked up with Warner Bros. Records and gained recognition last year in the world of country music.

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 1989 to December 31, 1990

<u>Balance July 1, 1989</u>	\$1312.20
Income	<u>2055.19</u>
Total before Expenses	\$3367.39
Less Expenses	<u>1678.89</u>
<u>Balance Dec. 31, 1990</u>	\$1688.50

Our thanks to all of you who have been supportive of TFR whether by your monetary gifts or your gifts of time and talent. Without your continued efforts the project cannot proceed to fruition, so we urge your continued involvement.

As you may recall, space limitations in our last newsletter (#10) required the omission of the list of donors for the prior year. Therefore, the list below includes the names of all donors to TFR from July 1, 1988, to Dec. 31, 1990. Please inform us if you made a contribution and your name does not appear below. We are grateful for your involvement.

W. Wayne Tritt
Treasurer

TFR Donors

July 1, 1988 to Dec. 31, 1990

Leonard & Connie Tritt	Carlisle, PA
George & Virginia Hill	Iowa Falls, IA
Harold Hegyessy	Pleasant Grove, UT
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Jon Karl Tritt	Ipswich, MA
Betty Ruhl	Pasadena, MD
Jean Saufley	Hummelstown, PA
Helen Tritt Bott	Kresgeville, PA
Laberta Mabe	Toledo, OR
Don & Sarah Long	Carlisle, PA
Buster Tritt	Ratcliff, AR
Faye I. Mix	Grass Valley, CA
Helen R. Myers	Webster City, IA

WARNING - ONCE AGAIN!!

Some of you have been sent a solicitation from a Mary Whitney of Ottsville, PA advertising yet another book this time entitled "Tritts Across America."

The only material pertaining to Tritts is a list of mailing addresses and telephone numbers, many unusable. It lists no Dritts, Traits, or Trittens. The other information is of a general nature and can be found in any "how to" book.

We do not endorse this book, even as a list of addresses and phone numbers. This sort of advertising raises the concern of all those doing legitimate genealogy research.

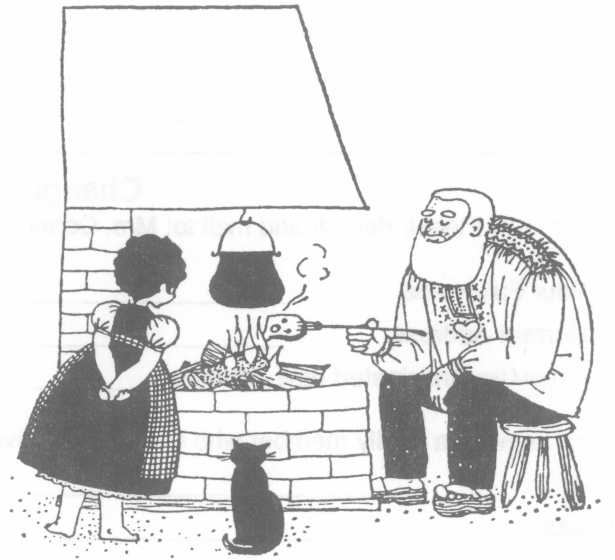
TFR COOKBOOK

The cookbook that we have been talking about in the past several issues of the TFR Newsletter will become a reality in the next few months. We anticipate printing and receipt of the cookbooks sometime in June 1991, with shipment to you immediately thereafter. The cookbook sells for only \$7.50 per book, and why not order an extra copy or two for a gift! There are over 200 recipes featured, some new and some old dating from the 1800's. (These recipes are interesting just to read, and, for the adventuresome, to try, as they are printed with no directions for completion of the recipe) Recipes have been gathered from across the United States and we know you'll find a recipe for any occasion. TFR is excited about this project and we know you will be too. Why not stop right now and fill out the order form below and send for your copy now!

Send this form to:
Mrs. Connie J. Tritt
7 Ironstone Drive
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

THE VIRGINIA LINE OF TRITTS

Lorene Tritt Wagner has graciously offered to write a section of the family history on the Tritts in the Virginias. She has been gathering material on this component of the overall story for more than 20 years and has corresponded with many persons throughout the United States. Any information you might have would be greatly appreciated by Lorene. She can be reached as follows: Mrs. Lorene Tritt Wagner, Appalachian Christian Village, 2101 Christian Lane, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601. Telephone: (615)



Heidi and Her Grandfather

I wish to order _____ cookbooks @ \$7.50 per book, including postage and handling.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

The following items are available for purchase from TFR. Please complete the following order form and mail to:
Mr. Richard Tritt, 204 Forge Road, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007. Postage and handling will be paid by TFR.

- _____ Wooden lead pencils with TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH inscribed - lot of 25 - \$4.00
- _____ Civil War Diary of William Tritt - \$5.00
- _____ Annual Newsletter - Issues 1-11 (Specify Issue Number(s) _____) - \$1.00 each
- _____ Stationery with the Tritt House on the front - \$4.00
- _____ Schematic Map of Tritt sites in Cumberland, York and Lancaster Counties, Penna. - \$1.00
- _____ 1906 Tritt Family Tree - \$10.00
- _____ "The Church of St. Stephan" - an 18 page booklet with a translation from the original German text - \$2.50
- _____ "Tritt" Luggage Tag - a 2 1/2 x 4 1/4" tag with TRITT in 1 1/8" black letters on front and ID card on back. - \$2.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____

Change of Information Notice

Please detach and mail to: Mrs. Connie J. Tritt, 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

Your Full Name _____
Current Address _____
If moving, anticipated new address _____

Do you know of a family member who does not receive the Newsletter, but would like to. If so, please send his/her

Name _____
Address _____

Other Changes:

- Births:
- Marriages:
- Deaths:
- Other:

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH
4072 Goose Lane, S.W.
Granville, Ohio 43023

U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 8 Boiling Springs, PA

Address Correction Requested