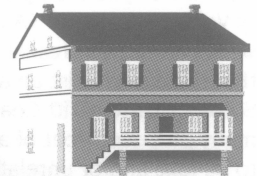


TRITT



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

With pertinence to the following known name variations — Tritten, Dritt, Trait, Trate, and Treat

Dritt Mansion SOLD

by Richard L. Tritt Boiling Springs, Pa.

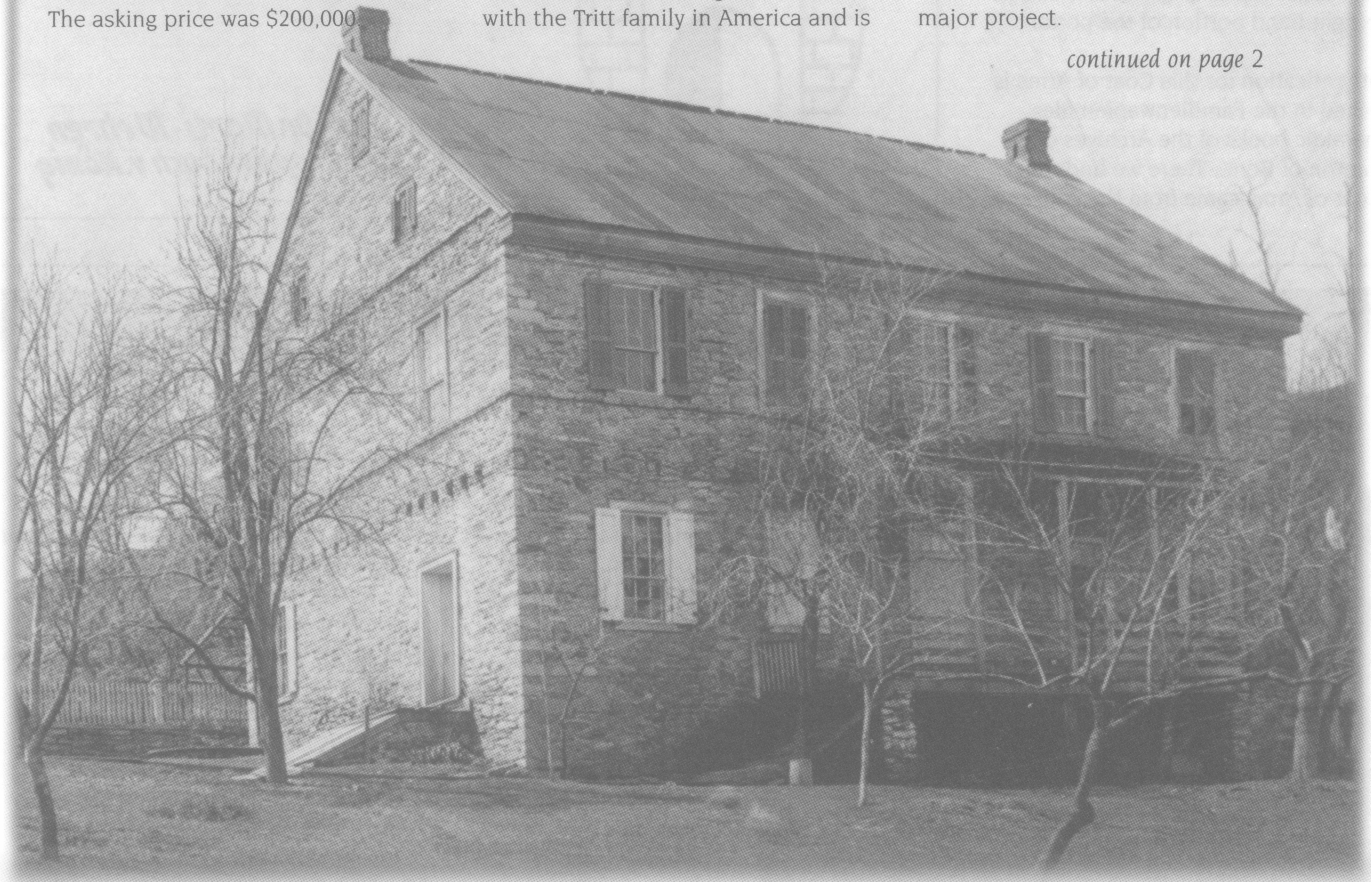
We were informed in January of this year that the Dritt Mansion at Long Level in York County was for sale. The owner, Ken Wallick, had owned the house since 1958 and had concluded that it was time to sell the historic stone house. The asking price was \$200,000.

The house was built in 1758 by Jacob Meyer and purchased by Jacob Dritt around 1783. It was owned by the Tritt family for several generations and a family cemetery is located on the hill behind the house. It is the earliest known building associated with the Tritt family in America and is

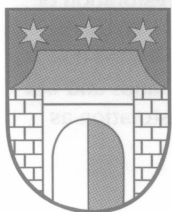
listed on the Pennsylvania and Federal Registers of Historic Properties. TFR has been concerned about the condition and future of this property for many years, but determined that it did not have the resources to take on such a major project.

continued on page 2

DRITT
CEMETERY
MARKER
see page 7



Dritt Mansion, c 1875



TRITTEN/ TRITT COAT OF ARMS

by Donald G. Tritt
Granville, Ohio
see page 2



A CHRISTIAN MARTYR

by David E. Tritt
Mechanicsburg, Pa.
see page 4



TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

see page 7

TRITTEN/TRITT COAT OF ARMS

by Donald G. Tritt

In the last issue of the newsletter we reported to you that, prior to publication of Volume I of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, we would attempt to research the possibility that there may exist an authenticated St. Stephan Tritten/Tritt Coat of Arms. (So many proposed coat of arms have shown to be fake and/or unrelated to descendants of St. Stephan.) In June of 1997, I conducted such a search in the Archives of the Canton of Bern and am pleased to report there does exist a documented St. Stephan Tritten/Tritt Coat of Arms.

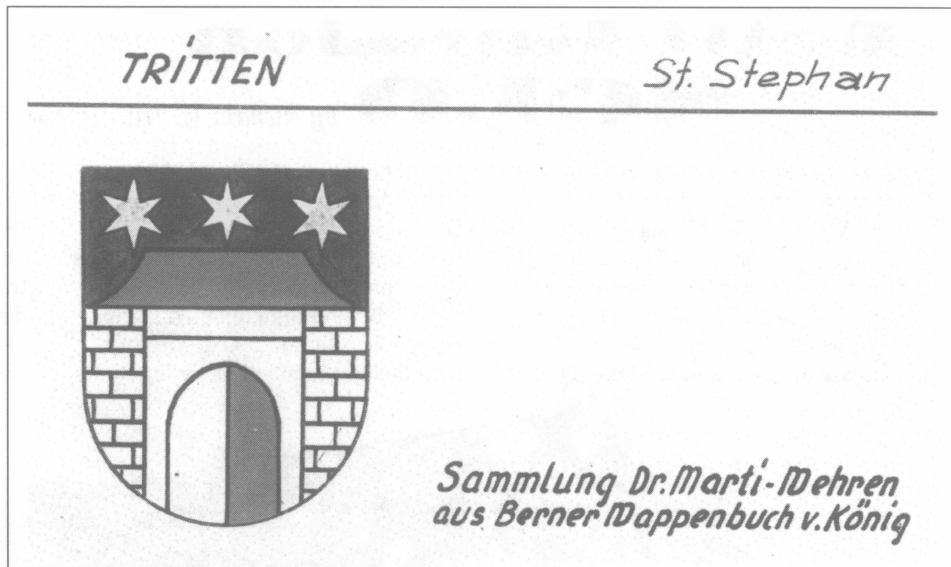
If finances permit, a color version will be included in Volume I. At the time of publication, we hope to have available for sale full color 8½ x 11 frameable prints of this Coat of Arms. At that time, we will present its blazon, i.e., its heraldic description. In terms of its colors, you might like to know the three stars are gold, the surrounding sky is a dark blue and the larger cap over the door is red as is the right hand portion of the portal door.

Authentication for this Coat of Arms is contained in the Familienwappen files and heraldic books of the Archives of the Canton of Bern. There we find that our Coat of Arms came from the collecting

and research efforts of Robert Marti-Wehren (1885-1970). Our Coat of Arms is located in the Wappensaammlung (Coat of Arms card collection), "Inventar der Archivabteilung, Personliche, Nachlasse," File #33, Item #125, Staatsarchiv der Kantons Bern, Bern, Switzerland.

By presentation of our family Coat of Arms here in this newsletter, we hereby declare its official and legal protection by assigning its copyright to Tritt Family Research, Inc. This means that use of this design can be used only with the written consent of Tritt Family Research, Inc.

A black and white rendition is given here.
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Dritt Mansion SOLD from page 1



Date marker in bedroom of Dritt Mansion.

The house has not been modernized except for the installation of a bathroom.

It is basically in its original farm house condition. The property has 200 feet of water frontage on the Susquehanna River and extends about 250 feet beyond the rear of the house. Water floodage rights are owned by the Safe Harbor Power Company. The house contains eight rooms, four on each floor with a wide center hallway. There are two

fireplaces on each floor and a full attic and

a vaulted cellar under the front half of the house. An artesian well and a septic system provides ample water and sewage disposal.

We learned in June of this year that the mansion was sold in the spring to John Zimmerman of Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania. Mr. Wolf grew up in the area of the house and knew Ken Wallick personally. His goal for the house is a complete, historically accurate restoration. He is consulting with several historical architects and plans to have a new roof on the building before winter. Mr. Zimmerman is a past president of the York County Historical Society and was active in the society's restoration of the Plough Tavern and Gates House in historic York. We are very pleased that the house is in such good hands and will be anxious to follow the restoration as it progresses.

JAMIE'S VISIT TO LENK

by Margrit Tritten
Lenk, Switzerland



Left to right: Walter, Pascal, and Margrit Tritten, Jamie Tritten, Micheline Furon-Tritten

In February 1997, I received a letter from France. A young American girl, staying in Besancon, wrote to me that her name was Jamie Tritten and that she would like to come to her ancestors' homeland. I sent a copy of this letter to Micheline Furon-Tritten, a French cousin. She got in touch with Jamie and arranged a trip to Switzerland. In April, Micheline, her husband, Jean-Louis, and Jamie came to the Obersimmental for a weekend. On the way to Lenk they saw Gruyere Castle and the church of St. Stephan. Used to seeing the Californian desert, Jamie was quite astonished about the green pastures along the way.

To become acquainted with Jamie, the Furons, my family and I spent Saturday night together, having a good dinner. On this occasion, Jamie told us about her ancestors who emigrated from St. Stephan

to the United States.

On Sunday, we went up to Buehlberg to show her the view over the Obersimmental. Unfortunately, fog appeared and even some snowflakes fell down, so we decided to visit the capitol of Switzerland, Berne. On the way to Berne, we saw a few beautiful old Simmental houses. In Berne, we visited the famous clock tower, the heraldic animals in the bear pit, the cathedral and we strolled under the arcades where a man was playing the Alphorn for the pleasure of Jamie. Via Thun, we drove to Spiez to see the lovely castle ashore of Lake Thun. Seeing the chateau, Jamie cried: "Oh, if someone would offer something to me, that's what I would like to have!" Back in Lenk, we spent another pleasant evening. After some shopping on Monday morning, and a visit to the archival records in St. Stephan, the Furons and Jamie had to return to France.

ON THE RESEARCH TRAIL

by Dave & Judy Tritt
Canton, Ohio



This past year has been very eventful in our lives. The births of two new grandchildren have kept us quite busy. We have continued the task of helping to enter data into the Civil War Soldiers System. This project of the National Park

Service, the Civil War Trust and several genealogical societies, including the Ohio Genealogical Society is to have a database containing facts about all soldiers, both Union and Confederate, a list of regiments, major battles and suggestions for further research. The data entry of Ohio men and women is nearing completion and we look forward to using the computerized list to be available at most of the Park Service's Civil War sites in the near future.

Also this spring, we joined Carol Cozad in becoming members of the Ohio Genealogical Society's First Families of Ohio. Membership is attained by proving lineage to a pioneer man or woman who resided in Ohio before 1820. Each step must be proved by using birth, death and marriage records or records nearly as exact. The work involved in quite worth the effort to honor those pioneer ancestors who came to the "wilds of Ohio" to begin a new way of life.

The Society of Civil War Families of Ohio is another group organized this past year by the OGS. Membership includes proving your lineage by either direct or collateral lines to an ancestor who lived, died or served from the State of Ohio. Dave proved a collateral line to Jacob A. Tritt, a great-great uncle and Judy proved to Joseph Stiner, a great-great grandfather. The steps are the same as for First Families of Ohio with the addition of proving relationship to and actual record of a Civil War relative. What a great way to honor those who have served!

We continue to search for records of any descendants of Joseph and Catherine Rhodes Tritt and for any records of other Ohio Tritt families.

SOME MORE TRITT NAMED LOCATIONS

Tritt Creek
Yukon-Koyukuk County
Alaska

Tritt Lake and Dam
Logan County
Arkansas

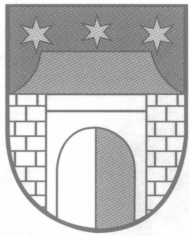
Tritt Gap
Union County
Georgia

Tritt Knob
Jackson County
North Carolina

Tritt Cave
Lee County
Virginia

Tritt Ridge
Elementary
School
4435 Post Oak
Tritt Road
Marietta, Georgia
30062

1998 MEETING, TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH



**Thursday, July 30 -
Sunday, August 2**

On Thursday evening, Friday and part of Saturday, further editorial work was done on Volume I of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY. The annual business meeting of TFR was held on Saturday afternoon, starting at 1:00 P.M. In addition to our work sessions and meal times together, participants had time to socialize and renew friendships. All meetings were held at the Days Inn in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Since this year's newsletter is being mailed at the annual meeting, a more complete description of the 1998 meeting will appear in the next newsletter.

NATIONAL REUNION IN 1999

To coincide with the issuing of Volume I of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, we are planning a National Reunion to be held in 1999 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The dates for this event are Thursday, June 24, through Sunday, June 27, 1999. We invite you to put this on your calendar and come to Pennsylvania. Reunion details will be given in the 1999 newsletter. However, for now, we would like you to know the national reunion weekend will offer a wide range of activities for you to explore places and events in your own early history and identify individuals in your own ancestry. The feedback we received from the past two national reunions (1983 and 1988) were that these reunions were quality events, well planned and conducted. Perhaps more importantly, these gatherings, we were told, fostered a close sense of family. As we look ahead to 1999, we are hopeful that some of our cousins from foreign places may join with us.

A CHRISTIAN MARTYR

by David E. Tritt
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Recently my wife and I accompanied our son, Andrew, on a visit to Columbia International University (Columbia Bible College) at Columbia, South Carolina. During our tour of the campus, we entered a building called Memorial Hall. On the wall inside the front entrance were bronze placards with the names of Christian martyrs who had died doing service for the Lord. One of the names on the placards was Edward R. Tritt from Omro, Wisconsin.

After our trip back home to Pennsylvania, I wrote a letter of inquiry to CIU about the story behind this young man's tragic death, and they sent a very informative article, portions of which follow.

"Walter Erikson's and Ed Tritt's remains found October 23. Went on trip to interior September 10 to be gone for six weeks. Four natives were with them." The November 7, 1952, telegram sent shock waves through campus. Erikson and Tritt, killed in New Guinea, were Columbia Bible College's first two martyrs. They would not be the last.

On a survey trip into Netherland New Guinea's interior, Erikson ('49) and Tritt ('51) were murdered with machetes and clubs while they slept. Their native guides, who had abandoned them, later admitted the killings.

Early in 1952, Erikson had made survey trips into the south coastal area, reporting "...hundreds of square miles of unexplored swampland inhabited by some 60,000 headhunters ... constant warfare ... rivers alive with man-eating crocodiles."

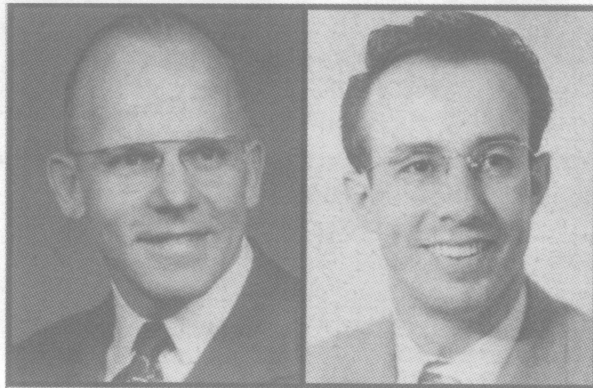
His efforts resulted in The Evangelical Alliance Mission's (TEAM's) decision to open a work in the untouched area of New Guinea. Tritt joined him there July 1, 1952. In a letter home, written in May 1952, Erikson had said, "I could wish I had A THOUSAND LIVES, A THOUSAND TONGUES, that the days were longer, that I might reach more of these precious souls

for Christ."

Erikson, of DeKalb, Illinois, had served in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Coast Guard. He attended Los Angeles Church School, Wheaton College, Northern Illinois State Teachers College, University of Oklahoma School of Linguistics, and

graduated from CBC in 1949.

Tritt, an Omro, Wisconsin resident, attended the University of Oklahoma School of Linguistics, Los Angeles Church School and Columbia Bible College before heading for New Guinea. He had served during the war



Walter Erikson

Ed Tritt

Erikson and Tritt, killed in New Guinea, were Columbia Bible College's first martyrs, but not the last.

in the Marine Corps and was saved in February 1942 while serving with the Marines in Pearl Harbor.

After his death, copies of Erikson's last letters, urging that more laborers be sent to the harvest field, were distributed. "I have malaria again, but there is no time to stop; souls are perishing" Within 10 years 30 CBC graduates, touched with the same fiery concern for the lost, had gone to New Guinea as missionaries. The Student Foreign Missions Fellowship collected \$7,494 for a Piper Pacer Float Plane to evangelize New Guinea's interior. Others responded. Tritt's World War II Marine buddy donated a Cessna airplane.

A 1975 brochure produced by TEAM said that in the Bird's Head, the area where Erikson and Tritt were killed, large groups openly burned their fetishes and professed faith in Christ. Native graduates of the Erikson-Tritt Bible Institute are doing evangelistic work in the land that challenged Erikson and Tritt.

I would like to express thanks to Mr. Tom Edwards (Alumni Executive Director) and Dr. Richard Belcher (Professor) for so graciously responding to my request for information regarding this story. The above excerpts were taken from an article in Volume I, Issue 4 of the 75th Anniversary Publication Faithfulness, titled "The Martyrs."

URUGUAY TRITTS

by Ray L. Tritt
Montgomery, Illinois

I was part of a Christian Builders Team of United World Missions from October 9 to 25, 1997, in Florida, Uruguay. This city of 32,000 inhabitants is located 60 miles north of Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. We were there to help build a new church. I had

read in the TFR Newsletter about a family of Tritts that lived in Uruguay. Before I left I contacted TFR secretary, Connie Tritt, who gave me the address and telephone number for a Maria Carmen Tritten of Durazno, Uruguay.

After arriving in Uruguay, I made a telephone contact with Maria through a translator. Maria is 68 and lives about 80 kilometers from Florida. She retired from nursing last year. She was very excited that I called and said she would come to visit me in a couple of days, which she did. She was with her oldest sister, Blanca Tritten, who lives in Florida. They had old pictures of their family. It was their great grandfather who immigrated from Lenk, Switzerland on November 11, 1861. His name was Petro (Peter) Tritten and his brother, Godfried Tritten. We had a visit of about 30 minutes. They had one of our newsletters and kept pointing to Donald Tritt's name.

On October 20, I had a visit from a son of one of the sisters who came to visit me. His name is Juan Luis Tritten and he lives in Montevideo. Juan took a bus from Montevideo, a trip of 80 kilometers. He is a carpenter and appeared to be about 50 years old. We talked for a while and he gave me a Matte Cup, a national drink like tea made

from a gourd, a metal stem/straw and a holder. He came back after work and I gave him a wooden shelf that I had made. We hugged each other and I think we both felt a kinship that was closer to a close relative than any other feeling I can describe. He

also had a Tritt newsletter. He too could not speak English and alas I can speak no Spanish. Although we had an interpreter, we did some communication through our eyes and hearts. Juan has a

daughter Iris who lives in Anahem Hills, California. He visited her during November and December 1997.

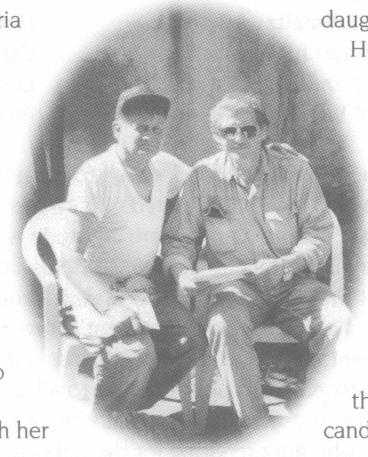
After lunch the Tritten sisters arrived with a third sister and they were excited that we could visit again.

They had more photos, both old and new. They wanted something to remember me by so I gave them some extra caps and candy that I had with me. The middle sister's name is Maria Luisa Tritten de Martinez, wife of Jose Martinez. Again they had some issues of Tritt

newsletters. Maria Luisa is also a retired nurse. They had some letters with them from Tritten relatives in France. We said our last goodbyes with hugs and kisses on the left cheek (Uruguay custom) and some tears and a promise from me that more American Tritts will come to Uruguay to keep our new found fellowship alive. I hope this will stir interest for someone to go and visit our extended family. No one in their family has ever been back to Lenk, but I detected a strong desire for them to maintain contact with the worldwide family.



Three Tritten sisters with Roy Tritt, L to R: Maria Luisa Tritten de Martinez and husband Jose Martinez, Roy Tritt, Blanca Tritten, Maria Carmen Tritten.



Roy Tritt and Juan Luis Tritten (holding Tritt family Newsletter)

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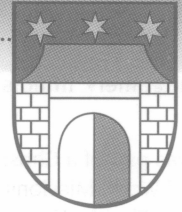
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1997 TREASURER'S REPORT

**January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997**

Balance January 1, 1997.....	\$ 8,942.80
Income All Sources.....	3,774.82
Total Expenses.....	1,963.45
Balance December 31, 1997 (includes \$7,000 CD).....	\$10,754.17

Income during 1997 was down nearly 19% from the previous year and this fact has raised the concern of whether sufficient funds will be available to produce the next newsletter. The costs to print and mail Newsletter Issue No. 17 (1997) was slightly more than \$1,104. While giving to the general fund was \$1,235 for this year, our total expenses were \$1,963.45, so there is a shortfall of about \$740 in the general fund. The moral to the story is that, if each of you who receive a copy of this newsletter would contribute one dollar, the problem would disappear. I urge all who read this report to give serious thought to this matter. We urgently need your support. Designated income to the 16th Century Research Fund amounted to \$365 making this total \$2,335 toward our goal of \$4,000. Designated giving to the Patron Donors Book Fund amounted to \$1,600 increasing that total to \$7,900.

Expenses unrelated to the newsletter as outlined above include the printing of new notepaper, additional reprints of the Hans Peter Tritt tree, costs attributed to our annual meeting and other miscellaneous charges including computer materials. The largest expense was the installation of a granite marker at the Dritt Cemetery in York County, Pennsylvania; however, an anonymous donor provided these funds. See the separate news article elsewhere.

The following is a listing of individuals who joined our Patron Donors Book Club during 1997. Each will receive a special signed copy of Volume I of Tritt Family History for each \$100 gift.

Elizabeth Ann Tritt Larsen	Houston, TX
Richard L. Tritt	Atlanta, GA
Arnold G. Tritt	Salt Lake City, UT
Nancy Tritt Snyder	Newport Coast, CA
Clyde E. Tritt	Glendale, CA
John and Deb Tritt	Glenellyn, IL
Marie Tritt Mischitz and Ron	Bradenton, FL
Robert L. Tritt	Kansas City, MO
James R. and Betty Tritt	Broken Arrow, OK
Harold M. Hegyessy, Jr.	Pleasant Grove, UT
Wendy Smeltz	Harrisburg, PA
John E. Tritten	New Hartford, NY

The following people also made monetary gifts to Tritt Family Research:

Walter and Susan Tritten	Heimberg, Switzerland
William and June Tritt	Punta Gorda, FL
Donald G. Tritt	Granville, OH
Margaret M. Tritt	Burnaby, BC, Canada
Robyn and David Wampler	Gardners, PA
Oliver and Olive Tritt	Humboldt, TN
Wayne and Esther Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Pauline Raiser Kee	Monett, MO
Harley and Beverly Bupp	Webster City, IA
Hollis Clark Tritt	Spokane, WA
James and Becky Tritt	Camp Hill, PA
Samuel Tritt	Delray Beach, FL
Barbara R. Holloman	Silver Spring, MD
Harold M. Hegyessy, Jr.	Pleasant Grove, UT
Leonard and Connie Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Gladys V. Cramer	Shippensburg, PA
Jeanette and Richard Miller	Shippensburg, PA
Wendy Smeltz	Harrisburg, PA
Betty T. Smeltz	Harrisburg, PA
David and Judy Tritt	Canton, OH
Ernest and Doris Trait	Long Beach, CA
Jean T. Warf	Brownsville, TN

These contributors donated to the general fund and some also made designated gifts to the 16th Century Research Fund. Our sincere gratitude is extended to all of our supporters for their ongoing dedication. It is our intent that all gifts to TFR be acknowledged. If you have sent us a donation and have not yet received an acknowledgment, please let us know so that our error can be corrected. My personal and special thanks to all our volunteers who spend many, many hours of service. A special thank you to those who are preparing for the publication of Volume I of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Wayne Tritt
Treasurer

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



The annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, August 16, 1997. This meeting marked TFR's 20th anniversary and was noted with a special cake to celebrate the occasion. Those present for the meeting were:

Gladys Cramer of Shippensburg, PA
Harold Hegyessy of Pleasant Grove, UT
Barbara Holloman of Silver Spring, MD
Richard and Jeanette Miller of Shippensburg, PA
Ernie and Doris Trait of Long Beach, CA
David and Judy Tritt of Canton, OH
Donald Tritt of Granville, OH
Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, PA
Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA
Wayne Tritt of Carlisle, PA

An expanded list of libraries around the United States in which to deposit copies of the Tritt Family Research newsletter were given to the secretary. Libraries currently receiving copies of the newsletter include:

Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron, OH
Fort Wayne-Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
Stark County District Library, Canton, OH
Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Cleveland, OH
Ohio Genealogical Society Library, Mansfield, OH
State Library of Ohio, Columbus, OH
Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, OH
Berks County Historical Society, Reading, PA

Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, PA
Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, PA
Newville Historical Society, Newville, PA
State Library of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA
York County Historical Society, York, PA
Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT
Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C.

One of the highlights of the meeting were the stories told and the pictures shown by those present who had the opportunity to be a part of the trip to Switzerland in June. Those who had the privilege of visiting our second home are eager to return.

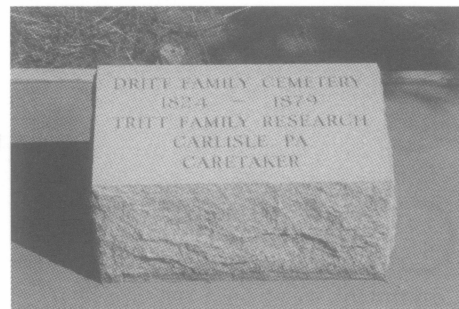
Dave and Judy Tritt of Canton, Ohio, very graciously volunteered to take the family group sheets and enter them on the computer and make back-up disks of their work for distribution to others for safekeeping, as well as keeping intact the hard copy of the group sheets. This is a big undertaking and TFR is most grateful for all their work on this job of some magnitude. They will begin entering the first volumes of family group sheets needed for publication of the history.

The meeting for 1998 is scheduled for July 30, 31, August 1 and 2 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie J. Tritt
Secretary

DRITT CEMETERY MARKER

by Leonard Tritt
Carlisle, Pa.



On August 30, 1997, a marker was placed at the Dritt Cemetery in Lower Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania. The marker is of grey granite quarried in Vermont, beveled and polished on top, inscribed "Dritt Family Cemetery, 1824-1879, Tritt Family Research, Carlisle, PA, Caretaker." The presence of the marker signifies that the cemetery is not abandoned and is under present, limited Pennsylvania law regarding private cemeteries. The "caretaker" designation makes it less likely the cemetery will be tampered with.

The cost of the marker and materials to place it was met by a gift from an anonymous donor. Placement of the marker was performed by Wayne Tritt, his cousin, Donald Long, son of Pearl Tritt Long, and Leonard Tritt.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WELCOMED

by Richard L. Tritt, Editor

The editor of this newsletter solicits article for inclusion in future editions. We would welcome news items and historical articles from our readers all over the world. If you have written a story or article of interest to the Tritt family that you would like to see published, please mail it to the editor by January 31, 1999. If possible, articles should be typed double-spaced. The editor will reserve the right to edit or submitted articles.

CHRISTIAN TREAT FAMILY

by Richard L. Miller Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

On Thursday, August 14, 1997, some members of the Tritt Family Research Publication Committee went on a research trip to discover new facts about the Christian Treat (d. 1801) family. Christian Treat (Tritt) was the younger brother of the immigrant Hans Peter Tritt and came with him to America in 1739. He is the lesser known of the two immigrants. Nancy S. Tritt, Richard L. Tritt, and Harold M. Hegyessy, Jr. traveled to the Chester County Archives located in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Judy K. Tritt, David A. Tritt, Jeanette C. Miller, and Richard L. Miller went to the Berks County Historical Society and the Berks County Courthouse in Reading, Pennsylvania. The following "new facts" were reported:

1. The most significant discovery found was a land deed[1] at the Berks County Courthouse that list the eight children of Henry Treat (Trait) (1743-1793) and his wife Elizabeth (1749-1815). Henry Treat was the oldest son of Christian Treat (d. 1801). This land deed was between Christian Trait (the oldest son of Henry Treat) and Catharine, his wife of the one part, and Nathaniel and William Dickeson of Robeson Township of the other part, for 222 acres and 69 perches of land. The deed mentions an Indenture of Release bearing the date March 23, 1806, signed by Jacob Trait, (?Christina) Maria, his wife, John Trait, Daniel (?David) (?Kline) and Catharina, his wife, Samuel Trait, Elizabeth Trait, Isaac Trait and Abraham Trait. Unfortunately, the handwriting of the document was

difficult to read causing the uncertainty of the names in the preceding sentence represented with the question marks. Note that the year 1806 is the first year that the mother Elizabeth Treat (1749-1815) is not listed on the tax lists for Robeson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Evidently, she had given the land to her oldest son, Christian Trait (1770-1882) which required the signing of a release by her other children.

2. Land deed[2] dated May 19, 1768, of Christian Treat (d. 1801) buying 138 acres of land in Uwchlan Township, Chester County from John Phipps and Sarah, his wife. This property was part of 400 acres that John Phipps owned. This record proves that Christian Treat (d. 1801) moved to Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1768.

3. Land deed[3] dated April 12, 1803, between "Lewis Reese of the Borough of Reading in the County of Berks in Pennsylvania, Lumber Merchant (Sole Executor named in the last Will and Testament of Christian Treat late of Uwchlan Township in the County of Chester in Pennsylvania aforesaid deceased) of the one part and Abner Jones of the said Township of Uwchlan, Miller of the other part." Lewis Reese was definitely a son-in-law to Christian Treat and is confirmed to be living in Reading, Pennsylvania. One of Christian Treat's daughters, Freney, was married to a "Jones" but further research is needed to determine if this Abner Jones who bought the Christian Treat property was her

husband.

4. A bond dated November 2, 1801, and an inventory[4] dated December 11, 1801, of James Benson, deceased of Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, where Lewis Reese, Joseph Jones, and Joshua Benson will be held responsible for settling his estate. The inventory also states that there was "a Dower (280L, 15s, 8p) Due at the Death of the widow of James Benson the older." These two documents give possible leads to the names of the husbands of two of the daughter of Christian Treat (d. 1801). Catherine Treat may have married a James Benson, Jr., and Freney Treat may have married a Joseph Jones. However, both of these possibilities need to be confirmed.

5. The Will[5] of Lewis Reese, of Reading, Pennsylvania, was dated February 8, 1828, and proved April 13, 1846. A codicil was added on March 3, 1846, stating that his wife, Elizabeth had died before him and his entire estate went to "my trusty friend" Lot Benson, of Reading, Pennsylvania. Catherine Treat, a daughter of Christian Treat (d. 1801), married a "Benson." Further research will be needed to prove if there is a relationship between Lot Benson and Catherine Treat Benson.

6. Research on the family of Lot Benson shows that he went by the name Dr. Lot Benson.[6] He married Elizabeth Eckert who was the daughter of Peter Eckert and had three children: David Eckert Benson (1831-1901), Susan Elizabeth Benson (1832-1910), and Mary Catharine

Benson (1835-1872). None of these three children married, and all of the family's assets came down to the last surviving child, who was Susan E. Benson. Her will[7] is quite interesting to read. The value of her estate was \$307,799.59 in the year 1910, and was distributed among 19 organizations and 26 individuals.

The research trip was enjoyable for all who participated and yielded some interesting findings. Yet at the same time it generated some new mysteries that need to be solved. Hopefully, in the near future, additional research will clear up those mysteries and discover new details about the children of Christian Treat (d. 1801).

[1] Deed Book Vol. 30, p. 144, Berks County Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania

[2] Deed Book Vol. 15, p. 299, Chester County Archives, West Chester, Pennsylvania

[3] Deed Book Vol. X2, p. 134, Chester County Archives, West Chester, Pennsylvania

[4] Original Administration Record of James Benson (d. 1801), Chester County Archives, West Chester, Pennsylvania

[5] Will Book Vol. 9, p. 107, proved April 13, 1846, Berks County Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.

[6] Obituary, July 14, 1882, on microfilm, Berks County Historical Society

[7] Will of Susan E. Benson, proved January 10, 1910, Berks County Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY

A Progress Report

by Richard L. Tritt

Since the last newsletter, work has progressed on Volume I of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY. On the day prior to the 1997 annual meeting of TFR, two groups visited Berks and Chester Counties to conduct research on Christian Tritt, the 1739 immigrant. At the annual meeting, drafts of completed article were critically reviewed by a number of readers. David and Judy Tritt of Ohio accepted the responsibility of computerizing family groups sheets and producing printouts in a form suitable for publication in the book.

Donald Tritt of Ohio met with Richard Tritt in Pennsylvania for three days in April of this year to review drafts, identify areas that needed additional research, and discuss publication plans. Revisions by the third editor, Harold Hegyessy of Utah, were made via mail. A final reading of drafts is scheduled for the 1998 annual meeting.

The next step will be to select a designer to lay out the book with selected photos and illustrations. This will be financed by funds generously donated to the TFR Book Fund by our patron donors. The designer will produce camera-ready pages for the book. We will then produce a mailing to announce the availability of the book and solicit orders. After orders are received and the number of copies needed has been determined, the book will be printed and then distributed.

To give our readers a preview of Volume I of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, we are including an outline of the contents at the end of this article. All members of the Tritt family will be interested in this first volume to learn more about the origin and early history of the family. This will be the first time ever that such a complete and documented history of the Tritt Family has been published.

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY

Volume I

Section I:

- Preliminary pages, including a color rendition and description of the St. Stephan Tritten Coat of Arms

- Dedication, Preface, and Important dates in Tritt family history
- Pedigree chart, Jakob (1562) through children of the immigrants Hans Peter, Jr., and Christian Tritt
- Glossary of terms used in the book
- Introduction
- Reminiscing
- St. Stephan, Swiss heritage from 1562 to Frederick Tritten (5 generations)
- Diedendorf, Alsace, France
- From Diedendorf to Philadelphia
- Hans Peter Tritt, Jr.
- Chapters about each of the 9 children of Hans Peter Tritt, Jr.
- Christian Tritt
- Chapter about the children of Christian Tritt

Section II:

- Family Group Records for the generations covered in the book, with index

Section III:

- Tritt legends
- Etymology of the name Tritt
- Tritten surname variations
- Discovery of the European origins of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt
- A single origin of the Tritt families?
- Early times in the Simmental (prior to 1700)
- Early history of the Church of St. Stephan
- Early history of Diedendorf, Alsace, France
- Other Tritt/Tritten progenitors
- History of the Dritt Mansion and Dritt Cemetery, York County, Pa.

Section IV:

- History of Tritt Family Research
- History and content of the Tritt Family Archives
- Schematic map of Tritt sites in Pennsylvania
- Index



DELLINGER FAMILY



by Jeanette C. Miller
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

Through the years, much research has been done on the Tritt Family Genealogy. One of our ancestors who immigrated with his brother, Christian, in 1739 was Hans Peter Tritt (1715-1768). Hans Peter married twice. The focus of this article is his second wife, Maria Barbara Dellinger and her family.

According to the authors of **The Chronicles and Genealogy of the Jacob Dellinger Family of York County, Pennsylvania**, the exact location of origin for the Dellinger family has not been established. The name "Dellinger" is of German origin and may mean "one who came from a Delling(cove)." It is believed to be a name of two places in Germany.

Maria Barbara's father, Jacob Dellinger, was born about 1700. The most probable region of his birth encompasses the present day German states of Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse and Baden-Wuerttemberg, all of which adjoin the Rhine River or the Alsace-Lorraine region. He was a farmer by occupation. His wife, Maria Barbara (maiden name unknown), was born about 1705.

Due to less than ideal conditions in the "Old World," Jacob turned his attention to Pennsylvania and the promise of freedom and land. After several weeks at sea, Jacob, Maria Barbara and their one son, Frederick, arrived in Philadelphia on the ship "Elizabeth" on 27 August 1733. At the courthouse, Jacob had sworn his loyalty to King George II of England. Soon afterwards, the family was en route to Chestnut Hill which was several miles north of the city of Philadelphia.

It was here that a very important event took place! Maria had her second child, a girl, on Christmas day, December 1733. In keeping with the tradition of naming children after their parents, she named her baby Maria Barbara. A few weeks later, in January 1734, she was baptized by Rev. John Casper Stoever at a small church in Chestnut Hill. Andrew Klebsattel and Elizabeth Keufer were baby Dellinger's sponsors at the baptism.

What amazes me as a descendent of Maria Barbara is the fact that her mother was pregnant with her as the family crossed the perilous Atlantic Ocean. She was born four months later, healthy and normal. What a tribute to the heartiness and bravery of our ancestors!

The route that Jacob and his family took



Jeanette Miller in the cemetery at the church of St. Stephan, Switzerland.

from Chestnut Hill to York County (then Lancaster) is not specifically known. The most direct would have been from Philadelphia County through a portion of Chester County to the already settled Lancaster County and thence across the Susquehanna River by Wright's Ferry. The first white settlements were made within the present limits of York County about 1729, when Lancaster County was formed from Chester County. At first the settlements were few and the county, for the most part, was occupied by Indians. The first authorized white settlements west of the Susquehanna River were made at Kreuz Creek and at "Digge's Choice," now Hanover.

The first land record discovered so far is Jacob's Warrant for land in 1762. He may have lived on the same site some years before requesting the Warrant, Survey and Patent as was typical in many cases. The Dellinger name first appears in the Canadochly Union Church records in 1755. The area in which Jacob finally settled was originally part of Hellam Township, which was formed in 1738, while part of Lancaster County. The area later became Windsor Township in 1758 and remained so until 1838 when Lower Windsor Township was created.

The family of Jacob and Maria Barbara continued to grow until there were seven children. They were: Johan Frederick, Maria Barbara (our subject), Unknown Daughter, Joseph (Joshua), Johannes, Anna Elizabeth and Jacob.

Our subject, Maria Barbara, grew into a young woman. About 1751, she married Hans Peter Tritt/Dritt. The Tritt name is sometimes recorded as Dritt. Peter Tritt was a widower with four children whose first wife, Catharina, had died. He was eighteen years her senior. How they met is lost to history, but it is known that the Tritt family also lived in Windsor Township and worshipped at the Canadochly Union church. Maria Barbara and Peter had five children: John Paul, John Peter, Maria Margaret, Joshua (or Joseph) and Mary Barbara.

On 12 February 1776, the elder Jacob Dellinger (immigrant) recorded an Agreement (Deed Book "F", York County Court House) whereby he gave land to his two sons, Jacob and John. The son Jacob was to pay the other heirs a total of 80 pounds and to provide for Jacob Dellinger, the elder, and Barbara his wife, for the rest of their lifetimes. The homestead parcel of 104 acres was also willed to his youngest son Jacob. The land is near Mt. Pisgah, south of the Kreuz Creek Valley. It is in present day Lower Windsor Township on Miller Spring Road. Jacob, the immigrant, died sometime between 1776-1783 in Windsor Township, York County. His wife, Maria Barbara, died after 1776.

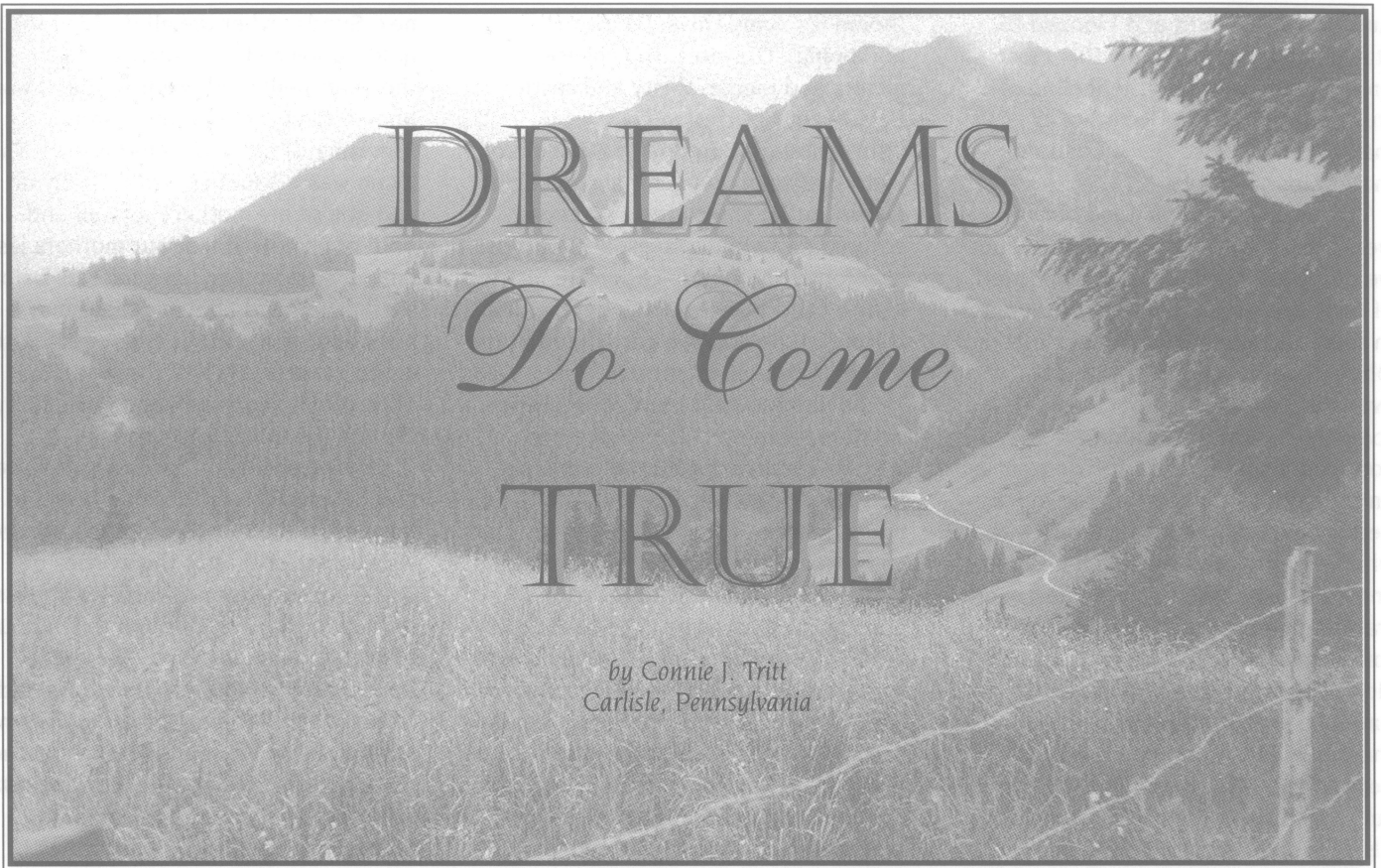
Early in March 1768, Hans Peter Tritt died. Maria Barbara acted as the Administratrix of her late husband's estate. She died before 1776, probably in Wrightsville. Although the life of our early ancestors was difficult, it is a tribute to their hardworking and industrious virtues that they adapted and passed on these virtues to their progeny.

For further information about the Dellinger Family, please contact:

Donald F. Billet
53 Pineland Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Sources for this article:

1. Donald Franklin Billet and Edward Albert Dellinger, *The Chronicles and Genealogy of the Jacob Dellinger Family of York County, Pennsylvania*, (York, 1993).
2. Tritt Family Group Sheets.



In the movie *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner was asked by one of the baseball players who came to play on the ball field he had built if this place was heaven. Kevin's reply was simply, "It's Iowa." If asked this same question about the land we were about to visit, I could very well reply "It's Switzerland." Kevin then turned the tide and asked the ball player if there was a heaven and the reply was "heaven is a place where dreams come true." Switzerland itself and the opportunity to have visited this land is both of these to me. It is both a piece of heaven on earth and a place where my dreams came true. As a young child, I had the burning desire to visit Austria, Germany and Switzerland. That childhood dream was fulfilled during the weeks of June 17 through July 8, 1997.

We arrived in Geneva, Switzerland on the morning of June 18, and, while the mountains were visible in the distance, it wasn't at all what I had expected to see. But I thought of the old adage, don't judge a book by its cover. In reading a book, it always takes a few dozen pages at least before the story unfolds and grabs your attention. So I

thought I'll read the scenery for a few kilometers before passing any judgments. We boarded the bus and headed for Lenk and, just like a good book, the scenery kept getting better with each page turned or kilometer traveled. By the time Toni (our able bus driver) turned off the highway to take the narrower roads that would lead us to Lenk, the mountains were becoming more majestic and the scenery so beautiful and unbelievable that it was hard to keep my overtired eyes open, but I didn't dare go to sleep in fear of missing something more beautiful or spectacular than what I had already witnessed. During the weeks we were there, Leonard and I often stated to each other, how can you possibly describe this country to anyone. You can't. You just have to see the beauty and majesty for yourself to believe it.

Upon our arrival in Lenk at the chalet where we would be living, Toni dropped us off at the bottom of a long, steep driveway and proceeded to unload our luggage. I looked at that hill and our luggage and thought, well, if I want to stay, that luggage has to get up to that chalet somehow. I started

thinking of how great a shape I would be in after having to walk up and down that driveway at least twice a day. Thank God for luggage on wheels! Then we got to the top and found out that we would then have to carry that luggage up four flights of stairs to our room at the top, no elevator! I was beginning to think someone knew I needed to get some exercise, but I always thought you were to start out gradually. We met our roommates for the duration, Al and Jan Tritten from Oregon, and settled in by unpacking and visiting the Coop (grocery store) downtown for breakfast and snack foods.

Due to all the rain we had (it rained at some point everyday we were there, including the week we were in Germany, except for July 7 and 8), we were not able to get up on the mountain for hiking as much as we would have liked to, but the two days we did go up the cable cars to the mountains, it was by far the most awesome sight to behold. Going up the highest mountain we walked, I felt like the von Trapp family fleeing the Nazis in *The Sound of Music*. The mountain peaks were exactly as in that movie with the paths along the way for the hikers to climb.

And I know Leonard and I longed to stay much longer to enjoy this most breathtaking view and the feeling of truly being closer to God who so majestically formed these beautiful mountains.

I'm not sure who planned our two weeks in Switzerland with all the tours we did, but I know that Margrit Tritten of Lenk was probably very instrumental in this task, along with Donald Tritt of Ohio. Margrit was there with us everyday and she kept her flock together so that we wouldn't leave someone behind. The trips we went on and the things we saw were so much better because we had someone with us who knew the area quite well and who knew where to take us. If we had been traveling on our own, we would have totally missed seeing many things. How Toni drove that huge bus up those one-lane mountain paths and around those curves with no guard rails is beyond me. (He once admitted that in such tight places he just simply closes his eyes and keeps driving!) I could totally appreciate why bus drivers there must attend school for years to learn their trade.

We traveled by bus and train to places all over Switzerland, and I would be hard pressed to say what I enjoyed the most. We went to Brienz (shopping), Interlaken (Jungfrau mountain peak), Bern (the bear pits, old city and government building), Montreux (Castle of Chillon), Aigle (a wine making castle and unexpected flea market), Gstaad (shopping), Altdorf

(home to Army knives), Lucern (shopping), Gruyeres (the cheese factory and medieval city and castle), Ballenberg (Switzerland's Williamsburg), Burgdorf (a museum of Swiss artifacts), Langenthal (porcelain factory outlet store), through snow covered mountain passes, and who can ever forget the Nestle chocolate factory, truly a chocolate lover's delight with all the chocolate you can eat offered at the end of their presentation.

The reunion held the first weekend we were there was also spectacular. Who can ever forget all the planning that went into such an event and the many memories that will linger for years to come and, most of all, the many new friendships made with cousins from far away. The banquet held Saturday evening will really live on in my memory, with the alphorn players and the snow-capped mountain peaks and waterfall as a backdrop, the cow bell ringers (my ears are still ringing!), the yodelers and the three-piece band that played so well so that those who were good at dancing, and those who were not, could get on the dance floor and have a wonderful time dancing to such good music.

The church service on Sunday morning at St. Stephan was very moving. It was just so humbling to realize that my husband's ancestors sat in that church at one time and worshiped just as we were doing. It moved me to tears to just be in such a place. Another service that was very meaningful and moving happened the

next Sunday when we all decided to hold our own church service in one of the apartments. All went well and was fine, until at the end we all sang "Amazing Grace" led by Bill Naiva. This hymn was his mother's favorite hymn and one of my mother's as well and, both of us having lost our mothers last fall, at least we two were in tears before we finished and I believe there may have been some other moist eyes in the group as well. Both of these services affected me very much and I will always cherish the memory of them.

My husband and I took an extra week and traveled by car to visit a friend in northern Germany. We had a great time visiting with her after the worries of finally meeting face-to-face, as opposed to only having met through the medium of letters, were absolved. We then traveled to the south to Wurzburg and followed the Romantic Road to the end of the road at Fussen which lies on the Austrian border, stopping along the way to visit the concentration camp at Dachau and medieval walled cities along the route where we had the pleasure of hearing the organ being played so majestically in one old 12th century cathedral, and culminating at King Ludwig's castle, Neuschwanstein, at Schwangau. Visiting this castle was also a childhood dream because I always thought maybe King Ludwig was in my ancestry as my maiden name is Ludwig, but was just a bit dismayed when I learned that this was not his last name at all but one of four Christian names. Oh well, this still did not dampen the amazement that I was actually there and able to see firsthand this beautiful castle. (Actually, I found some Ludwig names in Switzerland as well, so maybe I am Swiss instead of German as I always thought!) After leaving Germany, we drove through Austria, Liechtenstein, back to Switzerland and then through France to Geneva, the city where my dream vacation began and where it would end as we headed home.

So my childhood dream of visiting this area of Europe was fulfilled in all respects and more. There are still places in Europe that I want to see and visit, but, alas, they will just have to wait for another time and another dream to come true.



The Tritten bus parked at Brienz while the group is shopping.

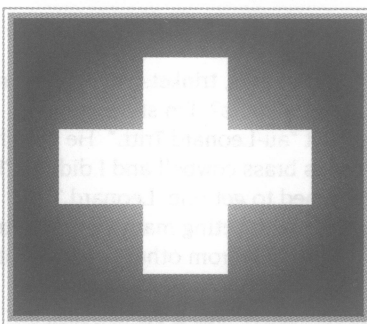
SWITZERLAND

Switzerland! I have never been as pleased as I was this year for the 1997 Tritt/Tritten World Reunion trip to Switzerland. There is no place like Switzerland. There is no place like our ancestral "hometowns" of St. Stephan and Lenk. (President of TFR, Don Tritt, explains that our ancestors first lived in St. Stephan, but many of them moved about three or four miles up the valley to newly-established Lenk about 500 years ago.)

Nestled near the head of the Simme River valley, Lenk is surrounded by mountains on three sides.

The beauty and majesty of the mountains is paramount. The Swiss mountains are incomparable, absolutely magnificent. As you travel among them or on them, on foot or in a vehicle, you feel a reverence for them. They make you know you are in the presence of God.

Larger lakes are brilliant blue. Higher mountains are snow-covered all year. Streams derived mainly from ground water are crystal clear; those largely from glacial melt water are grayish. Waterfalls are common. Everything green is a deep, rich green. There are many hills higher than Pennsylvania mountains, green with grass all the way to the top. In season, alpine flowers of various colors populate the hills. At



by Leonard W. Tritt
Carlisle, PA



Tritt family members watching the mechanical clock in Bern.

every chalet and most businesses, flowers dress gardens and window boxes.

During our trip, we saw much of central and western Switzerland. From Lenk, we traveled to Altdorf, Brienz, Interlaken, Thun, Lucern, Langenthal, Gruyeres, Fribourg, Gstaad, Montreaux, Bern, Schwyz and lots of other smaller towns. We drove along lake shore roads, along rivers, among the hills and mountains, and over mountain passes. We traveled four and six lane highways and roads only as wide as our bus -

literally. We hiked mountain trails.

There are many highlights of our trip, but a most notable one was to worship in the church in St. Stephan where our forefathers did 500 years ago, to go to the steeple and see the church bell with the names of two Trittens (and others) inscribed in the 1500s as contributors to its casting. A few of us, a couple of days after worshipping at the church, stopped at a gift shop in St. Stephan. We bought

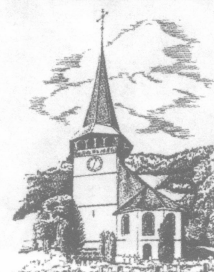
a medallion there with a picture of the St. Stephan church, since the church now had such meaning to us. But attached to the picture is an inscription in German. We asked the girl behind the counter what it said. She replied, "Meeting in the native land." Coincidence? I don't think so.

We thank Jakob Tritten for providing our bus, his son, Tony, who very capably did most of our driving, and Hans Tritten, of Lenk, for his hospitality. And, thanks to Lenk Mayor Albert Kunz and the many citizens and businesses of Lenk for their forbearance of us, their visitors. But, special thanks go to Margrit Tritten and her husband, Walter, of Lenk, who sacrificed much of their time for us. And, finally, thanks to Margrit and TFR President Don Tritt who organized the whole trip.

CHURCH OF SAINT STEPHAN NOTECARDS

The pen and ink drawing of the Church of Saint Stephan shown on this page was commissioned by TFR. This church is the ancestral home of the Tritten/Tritt family and is located in the village of Saint Stephan in Switzerland. It is where the

earliest known records of the family are recorded. This drawing is reproduced on our newest TFR sale item, a pack of ten notecards. There are priced at \$5.00 and can be ordered using the form at the end of this newsletter.



THE TRITTEN FAMILY REUNION

by Al Tritten
Eugene, Oregon



The Tritten family reunion in Switzerland was a wonderful experience. But in order to write on everything the group did and experienced, I've condensed my observations into short staccato briefs - those thoughts and feelings that stick in my mind, tickle my funny bone and won't be forgotten. There is no particular order to these thoughts; they just pop into mind.

Laughing: The constant laughter on the bus trips. We have a lot of humorous people in the Tritten family and everybody was in stitches much of the time.

Candy: I ate so many chocolate samples at the Nestle factory, I couldn't look at another candy bar. And there was all that candy at the sales room.

Sightseeing: Greatly enjoying the beautiful panorama that is Switzerland. It truly is a beautiful country.

Gift shops: What would a trip to your ancestral homeland be without bringing

back lots of gifts, trinkets (cowbells) and homemade crafts? I'm still eating my heart out "au-Leonard Tritt." He bought a gorgeous brass cowbell and I didn't. "I'm determined to get one, Leonard."

Banquets: Meeting many of the Tritten and Tritt family from other countries at the big banquets. Sometimes the communication was a bit difficult, but interesting, more or less. At our table was Ernest Tritten who was a chef in a prison in Zurich. He told about his work there. Very interesting. His wife was also nice.

Visits to: My favorite one was Ballenberg. History is one of my favorite subjects. Going back in time to visit Switzerland in the 16th and 17th centuries was looking at perhaps my Swiss ancestors' way of living. With the help of Donald Tritt, in the archives in St. Stephan, I traced my grandfather's line back to the mid-18th century. It would appear that I have many relatives still living in the Simmental Valley today. I visited the church in St. Stephan where my grandfather was baptized. I climbed to the steeple and found Tritten names on the enormous bells.

Entertainment: We listened to the Alphon players demonstrate their art and then they let us try to produce sounds on

the horns. We were entertained by the men's chorus singing traditional Swiss songs followed by the bell ringers.

Walking: Riding the ski lifts up the mountains and then hiking the trails, taking in the beautiful panorama of the mountains.

Bus trips: Really appreciated the driving skills and professionalism of Toni Tritten, our bus driver. He got us out of more tight squeezes than I thought possible and did it with a calm assurance that he knew what he was doing.

Our leaders: "Thank you" to Margrit Tritten. She was our Swiss guide, interpreter and "mother hen" who helped keep the group together. She put in a lot of time and effort to make sure our group would enjoy our stay in Switzerland. She succeeded! "Thanks, Margrit."

Thank you, Donald Tritt, for helping me search for my ancestors, organizing the family reunion, keeping a very diverse group of people together, taking steps to solve problems when things didn't go right, always being "up beat," being a good listener and, above all, the "guiding light" of the whole enterprise.

Afterthoughts: Hopefully the research on the Tritten and Tritt families will continue and my wife and I can come to another family reunion in Switzerland!

THIRD INTERNATIONAL TRITT FAMILY REUNION

by Mercedes Woolsey Alpine, Utah



Don Tritt leading the group on an outing.

When Perry and I left the Salt Lake Airport for Switzerland, we were a little worried as we didn't know anyone who was going on the trip. Waiting in the New York airport, our worries soon vanished when Connie Tritt spotted our TRITT luggage tags. She was so very friendly and quickly took us to where other U.S. Tritt "cousins" were congregating. It didn't take long to really feel like cousins with all of them. Now we consider them "close family." Looking back on the trip, it was truly the most fun that we have ever had in our lives. Perry told me he was glad he married me because he "likes my relatives."

What a thrill it was to meet all of the relatives from the various countries - Switzerland, Germany, France and the U.S. It was especially fun trying to learn some words in each other's languages and trying to converse with each other. We found that the international language is

OUR TRIP TO ST. STEPHAN

by Jan Tritten
Eugene, Oregon

The trip to Al's ancestral valley in St. Stephan was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am so happy we seized the moments of those two weeks. We experienced what life might have been like for my husband's grandfather (our three children's great-grandfather), as well as a whole line of other ancestors. There was an amazing sense of family that developed immediately in our group. I thought it was like "we're family without having had time to have grudges and problems that often ensue in families." Our cousins share an incredible sense of humor, so laughing and joking was what I remember most. A real bonding took place.

I feel as though living in Lenk for the two weeks gave us a sense of what life might have been like fifty, one hundred or even two hundred years ago. Except for a bit of new technology, life hadn't seemed to change that much. The milk and cheese were moved around in trucks instead of by horse and carriage, but many people were still deeply involved in farming. Families moved up to the "Alps" in summer. If they were too far from town, they made the cheese up on the summer farm. If they were close enough to town, they brought the milk down. Many families are involved in farming as Al's grandfather was before he moved to the U.S. when he was a young man. Here he made a



Looking at family records in St. Stephan.

living as a chicken rancher and grew a lot of the food his family ate. Certainly his farming background in the Obersimmental Valley helped.

The things that I loved most about the trip, besides the wonderful relatives from both the U.S. and Europe, were centered around "our valley." The cows' bells, ringing at 4 a.m. going to summer pasture up in the hills, were delightful. Indeed, the cows' bells ringing, anytime I heard them, made a sound I loved. Our chalet overlooked what was, to me, the prettiest view anywhere. I think the attachment to the view came from its beauty as well as imagining all of our family that looked at it, lived with it and dreamed under

it through so much time. This view was ever changing with the weather, yet in some ways, remained untouched in the long eternity since way before the Romans inhabited the hills.

Though we took many great side trips out from our valley, nowhere, to me, matched how beautiful or special our home was. Whenever we got back from a trip out, it was like coming home. A sense of belonging to this place developed fast. I wonder if anyplace on earth is prettier and I ponder why I think that. It's partly that sense of belonging as we have so many special relatives still living right here. Most of the highlights for me

came right out of being there: walks in the mountains, finding ancestors in the St. Stephan's records office, walks in town, cooking in our chalet and eating on the porch overlooking the view, a visit to the farm, seeing Hans Tritten's cheese aging in the old bomb shelter and tasting it, all the family reunion events, including the food and venue, but, mostly, the great people, going to the St. Stephan church service and climbing the tower, the beauty of the buildings, watching the farmers, just tasting and drinking in this wonderful valley with a beautiful group of people. I'm ready for the next trip - I wouldn't miss the opportunity and you shouldn't either!

LOVE - and because we are all family we were able to bridge the language barrier.

We certainly became very fond of Margrit Tritten who took such good care of us for the entire two weeks. She provided us cousins from the U.S. with a great education of the culture of our ancestors. We also pay tribute to Don Tritt who took such good care of us and became our "Dad," so to speak. We all feel very special towards both of them and will always have a special place in our hearts for each of them because of the wonderful experience they made possible for us. Perry and I are especially grateful to my cousin, Harold Hegyessy, for urging us to go to the reunion. We would do it again in a minute!!! We just regret that Harold was not with us. Everyone was disappointed that he wasn't able to attend. We also pay tribute to him for all the years of work he has done on our family research. Without him and the work of many others, none of us would have had this great experience.

Switzerland is such a beautiful place - and especially St. Stephan and Lenk, the home of our ancestors. The people were so charming and thoughtful. One gentleman even went up on the Alp early in the morning and picked enough Alpine Roses to give a bouquet to each of us at the reunion. As we were shopping in St. Stephan, some of us "cousins" were drawn to a medal of St. Stephan. A couple of us decided to get one. As it had some writing on it that we didn't understand, we asked the clerk if she could tell us what it said in English. As she spoke very little English, she looked it up in her dictionary and said it means "Meeting in the Native Place." How perfectly appropriate that was. Before we left Switzerland, several more of the cousins also purchased one of the medals.

We love the culture of our "Native Place." We decided that no one could possibly be unhappy or crabby while listening to Swiss music, whether it be the

haunting sounds of the Alphorn, the yodeling, the concertina playing a polka, or the tinkling of cowbells on the Alps - it must stir some "family thing" deep inside of us and it was unforgettable! We will also never forget Toni Tritten squeezing our bus through impossible places; all of us laughing until tears came to our eyes; Sandy and I closing our eyes when our bus was on the edge of a cliff (which it was most of the time); and the walks in the Alps through the wildflowers, with Jan and I goofing off singing "The hills are alive with the sound of music" and Al and Perry just rolling their eyes at us.

One of the hardest things we "cousins" had to do was to leave each other and go back to our various homes (I wanted to bring everyone home with me). We truly feel an eternal bond with each person, and will never forget our special "cousins" both in the U.S. and in Europe. We look forward to someday being together again "IN THE NATIVE PLACE."



Ode to Switzerland

1997 TRITT FAMILY REUNION TRIP

I. It was with delight that the Tritts awaited their flight. As we soared into the sky and said "goodbye" to the U.S.A., we were anticipating Geneva!

II. Since we had been awhile sittin', it was nice to meet our tour guide cousins, Margrit and Toni Tritten. They took us on a two hour bus trip back to Lenk, our home for two weeks. Following not too far, was a rented car with the Cramers and Millers.

III. The scenery was stunning and Toni was cunning as he maneuvered over hill and dale. Within a short time, our Chalet rooms were assigned; it wasn't long before my brother David was checking his E-mail!

IV. Lenk is a splendid little Swiss village with so much charm Tourists can easily walk here at night feeling no alarm. The towering Alps rise above the town and the hot springs are renowned.

V. Within a few days, we visited the "rich and famous" town of Gstaad, followed by Brienz and Ballenberg. At



Jeanette Miller's Brother, David Cramer, enjoys the alpine countryside.

Interlaken, snow-covered Jungfrau loomed majestically above our heads.

VI. We looked forward to meeting our European cousins at the Hotel Kreuz for brunch. After a slide presentation and a look at old Tritten records, my conclusion was this: What a wonderful bunch!

VII. Simmenfalle restaurant was the site of a wonderful night of entertainment and food. We danced to accordion music and heard an Alphorn trio play. The yodelers sang and the cowbells rang!

VIII. The weather has been rainy and cool. Overnight, the mountains were tipped in white from snow. We are going

today to St. Stephan to worship where our ancestors did so long ago.

IX. At this point, the path with our fellow travelers must diverge. We will be visiting with Friedrich, Christel and Andreas Tritt in Waldenbuch, Germany.

X. We sailed along the Autobahn, visited a castle and the cities of Tübingen and Esslingen. We renewed acquaintances and toured a factory named Mercedes-Benz. The Ritter candy is simply dandy!

XI. In our heart, we know that we must part. With a hug and a kiss and a friendship we will miss, we begin our return trip to Lenk by way of a building so fine: the castle in Bavaria named Neuschwanstein. Isn't it sad that they thought King Ludwig II was mad?

XII. Our family of four now rejoins the tour. We "link" up again in Lenk! Our group visits the museum at Burgdorf, and the porcelain factory outlet at



Langenthal. Both of these places are in the valley named Emmental.

XIII. A train ride was next to the city of Montreux. What a view from the Crystal Express! The warm tropical breeze put our group at ease, as we toured the Chateau de Chillon made famous by Lord Byron. We return to Lenk by way of the Col de Pillon pass.

XIV. Our last Sunday arrived. We held an informal worship service in our suite led by Rev. Bob Spann. Our praises were raised to our Heavenly Father thru singing and prayer. I don't believe that there was a dry eye in the place!

XV. As the clouds surrounding the mountains dissipated we took the chair lift to Betelberg/Leiterli. While I walked



Friedrich and Christel Tritt of Waldenbuch, Germany, with Don Tritt.

along the footpath, I came across these words engraved on a plaque: "Of all the beauty of Heaven and Earth, nothing should come between myself and the Love of Jesus."

XVI. Today we traveled to William Tell Country and visited Atdorf. We ate fried chicken, Swiss style, and visited the

Schwyz Archives. Of course, we can't forget those Swiss Army knives at Victorinox! We "accidentally" stop in Lucern for dinner where I purchased watch bezels.

XVII. The last day of the trip arrived. We said our goodbyes to those staying longer. Our Tritt cousins were great and the friendships and

memories we made will last a lifetime. As our plane soared into the sky, and we said "goodbye" to Switzerland, we were anticipating the U.S.A.!

by Jeanette C. Miller
October 14, 1997

1997 HOMESTAY IN LENK, SWITZERLAND AND THIRD INTERNATIONAL REUNION, JUNE 17 TO JULY 1

The following persons participated in the 1997 trip to Lenk and their thoughts and reflections are given elsewhere in this newsletter:

David L. Cramer
750 Prospect Avenue
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Richard and Jeanette Miller
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Shippensburg, PA 17257

Thomas T. Myers
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Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Bob and Ann Tritt Spann
5105 Marchand Drive
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Donald G. Tritt
81 Donald Ross Drive
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The 1997 Tritt Family Reunion in Lenk, Switzerland

**David and Robyn
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4 Peach Court
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630 Charles Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Helen R. Myers
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Al and Jan Tritten
86390 Sanford Road
Eugene, OR 97402

Perry and Mercedes Woolsey
13418 North Alpine Cove Drive
Alpine, UT 84004

OUR TRIP TO SWITZERLAND JUNE 16 - JULY 1

by Betty Ann Tritt Spann
Nashville, Tennessee



Betty Ann Tritt-Spann with her husband Bob Spann.

These are some of the events and memories we would like to share with our cousins everywhere. In the last four years, our world and family have become much larger, closer and more special.

We arrived in Geneva on Monday, June 16, and met other families from the states at the airport on Tuesday, June 17. From Geneva, the group traveled to Lenk and stayed in a chalet apartment building facing the Alps.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22, the families from the U.S., including California, Iowa, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Utah, were joined by Tritts from Germany and France for a reunion at the Hotel Kreuz, that was owned by the Tritten family for about fifty years, until five years ago. We appreciate the Mayor of the town of Lenk who rolled out the red carpet. He escorted the group to the church in town to view the family records preserved for hundreds of years.

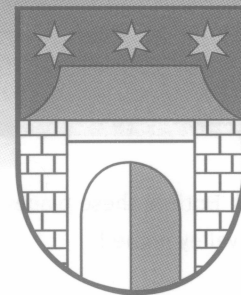
We want to thank all our Swiss cousins including Jacob and Lydia Tritten and their daughters, Bridget and Angelica, and sons, Toni and Stephan, who own the Tritten Motor Coaches. Walter and Margrit Tritten, and their son, Pascal, were especially gracious hosts. Margrit accompanied our group on daily tours as we traveled by motor coach and panorama express train to other parts of

the country. We also took the lift to mountain tops for hiking across and down the Alps among wildflowers and waterfalls. The group attended services at the church at St. Stephan on the first Sunday and climbed the tower to see the bells with the names of Tritten ancestors. The second Sunday, we had a group devotional service in the chalet.

Some of the places we visited included: Brienz, famous for the only wood-working college in the world; Lucern, famous for the covered bridge connecting two parts of the town; Montreaux on Lake Geneva, where they have a metal sculptured statue of Elvis Presley. We enjoyed visiting castles, wineries, chocolate and cheese factories, and, especially, we appreciate Hans Tritten for taking us to his cave where the cheese is aged.

The family group traveled to Geneva on July 1 for the flight back to the states with plans to meet again. We appreciate our Tritt Family Research President, Don Tritt, who keeps us informed and no doubt did a lot of work that made our trip a success.

I am Betty Ann Tritt Spann and my husband is Bob Spann. We live in Nashville, Tennessee. My father was Oliver Daniel Tritt from Crockett County, Tennessee, and my grandfather was David Omer Tritt from North Carolina.



FAMILY GROUP RECORD SHEETS

If you want information regarding yourself and your family included in the eventual publication of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, we ask that you complete a series of Family Group Record Sheets. This sheet is the standard form for the initial recording of all genealogical information. For your use, we have included a copy of this form in this issue of the newsletter. Since you will probably need several such sheets, you might copy the one included here. One sheet is to be completed for each family, i.e., each marriage unit. If there is a second marriage, then a second sheet is to be completed.

Ordinarily, three completed Family Group Record Sheets, one each for (a) you (and all your children), (b) your parents (and all their children), and (c) your Tritt grandparents (and all their children) in combination with our own considerable collection of pre-20th century sheets could result in the delineation of your own multi-generational pedigree chart, perhaps as far back as the 1500s. Should you be able to provide an additional sheet containing information about your Tritt great-grandparents (and all their children), the likelihood is increased of being able to provide you with such a lengthy pedigree chart. Without these sheets, the linkages cannot be made and information is not readily available for future generations.

In listing all dates, please be sure to use the convention of day/month (in words)/full year, e.g., 18 July 1876. In addition, please be sure to give maiden names of all females. Both of these practices help to eliminate many errors.

Send your completed Family Group Record Sheets to:

Donald G. Tritt, President,
Tritt Family Research,
81 Donald Ross Drive,
Granville, Ohio 43023-9794.

**FAMILY
GROUP
RECORD**

To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the family representative, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

HUSBAND

Born _____ Place _____
 Chr. _____ Place _____
 Marr. _____ Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 HUSBAND'S FATHER _____ HUSBAND'S MOTHER _____
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE

Born _____ Place _____
 Chr. _____ Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 WIFE'S FATHER _____ WIFE'S MOTHER _____
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

SEX M F	CHILDREN List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth Given Names Surname	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE TO WHOM	DAY MONTH YEAR
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY		
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

OTHER MARRIAGES

The following items are available for purchase from TFR. Please complete the following order form and mail to: Wm. Wayne Tritt, 24 Old Stone House Road-North, Carlisle, PA 17013-9773.

- _____ Tritt Family Cookbook - \$7.50
(100 pages of Tritt family recipes, new and old, from all over the U.S.)
- _____ Civil War Diary of William Tritt - \$7.50
written in 1864 by the Wisconsin Tritt patriarch while confined in Danville and Andersonville prisons)
- _____ Annual Newsletter - Issues 1-18 (Specify Issue Number(s) -\$1.50 each
(If you're new to TFR, catch up on the issues you missed!)
- _____ 1906 Tritt Family Tree - \$10.00
(an amazing original size copy of the descendants of the 1739 immigrant, Hans Peter Tritt)
- _____ The Church of St. Stephan - \$3.00
(a translation of the 18 page German illustrated booklet published by our ancestral church in Switzerland)
- _____ Pack of 10 Notecards with the Church of St. Stephan - \$5.00
(our newest sale item with our own original drawing)

CHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTICE

Please detach and mail to: Mrs. Connie J. Tritt, 7 Ironstone Drive Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-9705

Your Full Name _____

Current Address _____

If moving, anticipated new address _____

Please check here if you would like to have your name removed from our mailing list.

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

81 Donald Ross Drive
Granville, Ohio 43023-9794

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Address Correction Requested