

# TRITT FAMILY Newsletter



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

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## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECT

by Donald G. Tritt of Granville, OH

In 1977 Tritt Family Research (TFR) started off with little more than sitting around a kitchen table in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. For a decade or more a few persons had been known to each other by letters and notes sent periodically when information about Tritt ancestors became available. The mid-1970's television series *Roots* inspired us to get organized – and Becky Tritt offered her kitchen table. In attendance were three members of the Smeltz family, Betty, Donald and Wendy (Harrisburg, PA); James and Rebecca Tritt (Mechanicsburg, PA); Richard and Nancy Tritt (Boiling Springs, PA); Wayne and Esther Tritt (Carlisle, PA); Lorene and Jack Wagner (Chattanooga, TN); and Donald and Marilyn Tritt (Granville, OH). As an all-volunteer group we identified our goal as the researching, writing and publication of a well documented Tritt family history from as early a time as original, primary records were available. To make contact with others, previous work had established a mailing list of 600 addresses in 38 states. To these we sent a letter of introduction and a questionnaire. Response to this began our genealogical database which now, 40 years later, contains about 24,000 names from around the world starting with the earliest known progenitor Jacob Tritten born 1562 in St. Stephan, Canton Bern, Switzerland.

Since our founding, TFR has met every year for working meetings to report on findings, the review of written drafts, planning of publications, and to volunteer for research assignments for a coming year. Meetings have been held mostly in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a few in Granville, Ohio. Below are listed some major findings, events, and accomplishments.\*

- St. Stephan, Canton Bern, Switzerland identified as the origin of the Tritten/Tritt/Dritt surname.
- Date of earliest primary family records, 1562, St. Stephan.
- Out-migrations from Switzerland began late 1600's.
- The Tritten surname (plural) often changed to Tritt (singular) when settling in a new country.
- Descendant name variations: Trait, Trate, Treat, Treet, Dritt.

- First arrival in USA: Philadelphia in 1739.
- 26 July 1977: founding meeting of TFR.
- *Tritt Family Newsletter* (annual) Issue #1 published in 1980. (This no-fee publication has been financed solely by voluntary donations.)
- The Tritt Family Archive was established in 1982 at the Hamilton Library, Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, PA. (Materials are housed in a secure and climate-controlled space.)
- National Reunions held in 1983 and 1988.
- TFR Incorporated 1984 in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- First research trip to St. Stephan, Switzerland in 1985.
- By 1987 all earlier research notes and papers (going back to 1896) were now housed in one place, the Tritt Family Archive.
- Publication of the Civil War diary of William Tritt, *Apple Trees Look Gay in Bloom*, 1987.
- 1989 Remigration Tour and World Wide Reunion, Switzerland and France. (Subsequent World Wide reunions held in 1993 and 1997.)
- In 1991, the *TFR Newsletter*, Issue #10 was honored by the Swiss American Historical Society as an excellent example of re-establishing contacts with original Swiss ancestors.
- Published, 3 Volumes of Tritt Family History:  
Volume I (1999) "Ancestry, Life and Times of Brothers Hans Peter & Christian Tritt, Immigrants to Pennsylvania in 1739, and their Children." (Editor-in-Chief: Richard L. Tritt)  
Volume II (2007) "Johann Paul Tritt, born 1752 in York County, Pennsylvania, and his Descendants." (Editor-in-Chief: Melissa C. Clayton)

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Volume III (2014) “Christian Tritt, Immigrant to Pennsylvania in 1739, his son Henry Tritt, born 1742, and their Descendants.” (Editors-in-Chief: Jane S. Ward and Melissa C. Clayton)

(Family history libraries have praised these volumes for their narrative style, documentation, layout and the use of geographical endpapers.)

As TFR begins its 41st year, we are pleased to report TFR is nearing publication of Tritt Family History, Volume IV, Joseph Tritt (1786-1873), the ancestor who ca. 1814 moved with his wife from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where they had a large family and many descendants. (Lead Publication Coordinator: Randy Waite.)

Volume V, Christian Tritt (1796-1871). Most of this family remained in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He was a prosperous farmer owning several farms which were inherited by four of his sons. (Lead Publication Coordinators: Richard L. Tritt and Leonard W. Tritt.)

I trust our newsletter audience can see we have been hard at work over these 40 years. All our accomplishments have been by volunteer efforts. However, that is only one part of these years. Something else of lasting meaning has been happening. Along the way we have enjoyed a special camaraderie and fellowship. By so doing we have created a special sense of family working well together. Regrettably, some contributors have passed on, leaving us wondering how we will ever be able to continue telling the story. But then others, hearing of this working family history group, have joined and taken responsibility for their part of the Tritt Family History – all the while being helped by others. It is in this spirit that we look to the future years and invite your visit, your participation, and your support.

*\*For a more complete account of the history of Tritt Family Research, see pages xviii-xix and pages 149-160 of Tritt Family History, Volume I.*

by Richard Tritt, Boiling Springs, PA

## TRITT FAMILY ARCHIVES

In 1981 the decision was made to utilize the Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, as the permanent home of the Tritt Family Research Collection. Since that time, the collection has been continuously growing. In the future, this is where researchers will come to see all the research generated by the organization, as well as books, documents, artifacts, and photographs that were donated to or collected by TFR. This article is an overview of what is currently in the collection.

The CCHS Library Collection houses copies of about 20 Tritt-related books. These include books published by TFR (Tritt Family History, Volumes I, II and III) as well as books related to the Tritt family or written by Tritts. One example is a copy of a book of poetry titled *Hill and Vale*, written by Claude Shryock Tritt in 1920. There are several books about Tritt-related sites in Europe, specifically Lenk in Switzerland and the Alsace region of France. The Joseph Tritt Bible, 1833, is in the Society’s Bible Collection. It contains hand-written family records for the early Ohio family of Joseph Tritt. An unpublished *Lefever History* by Jacob Lefever III is another unique holding.

Housed in the CCHS Manuscript Collection are five large boxes of Tritt family records, papers, legal documents, etc. This collection includes all the original Tritt Family Record Sheets that have been sent to TFR from all over the world. Information from these sheets has been entered into a master file. These include all connected as well as unconnected family lines, such as those Tritts in the states of Wisconsin, Virginia and the Carolinas. Also in this collection are copies of U.S. Census Records from 1790 forward for Tritts, as well as Social Security Administration Records for Tritts. TFR correspondence and

research files generated by Donald G. Tritt, ex-President of TFR, are also housed here. The papers of Rev. Claude S. Tritt, an early Tritt family researcher, are also stored in this collection. Of special interest is the original hand-drawn copy of the Tritt Family Tree, 1896, as well as a framed copy of the 1906 Tritt Family Tree that hangs in the CCHS library’s reading room. The original deed and mortgage for Peter Tritt’s farm in Cumberland County are another significant holding. Two copies of the hand-typed 1906 *Tritt Family Genealogy* are also found in this collection.

The CCHS Photo Archives contains hundreds of Tritt-related photos of various types and ages. There are nine original family photo albums containing 19<sup>th</sup> century carte-de-visite and cabinet card photos. Photos of people, places and events are housed in nine subject boxes. There are also photos and slides taken at TFR meetings over the years, as well as of TFR trips to Switzerland, Germany and France.

There are a few artifacts housed in the CCHS Museum Collection. These include a handleless china cup and saucer from a set of six that was a wedding gift to Christian Tritt and Lydia Stough in 1820. There is also an oil painting of the Peter Tritt House in Cumberland County. Another item is a china pitcher given by Sarah Agnes (Tritt) Myers to her granddaughter, Mary Myers Edmonds.

During the past year, Richard Tritt, Leonard Tritt and Carol Tritt have been working at CCHS on a weekly basis to organize, number and catalog the Tritt Family Collection. They have concentrated first on the Tritt-related photos in the photo archives. They have entered approximately 1100 images into the Society’s computer catalog that is used by clients to search the Society’s collections.

The Cumberland County Historical Society is located at 21 North Pitt Street in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. It is open six days a week, including evening hours on Monday and four hours on Saturdays. For more information, see their website at [www.historicalsociety.com](http://www.historicalsociety.com).

## SYNOPSIS OF AUGUST 2017 MEETING

*Connie Tritt, Secretary, Carlisle, Pennsylvania*

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 17 through 19, 2017. Those in attendance were:

Jaime Dritt of Blairstown, NJ	Dwight Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA
Jeanette Miller of Shippensburg, PA	Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, PA
Ernie and Doris Trait of Long Beach, CA	Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA
Robert and Bev Treat of Oley, PA	Randy Waite of Fairlawn, OH
Carol Tritt of Mechanicsburg, PA	Jane Ward of Delta, PA
Donald Tritt and Nancy Noecker of Granville, OH	Violet Ward of Delta, PA

Thursday evening, we met at the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for a showing of the video made of the 1989 Tritt Family Research Remigration Tour. A time of socialization with light refreshments followed.

Friday was spent discussing Volumes IV and V of Tritt Family History on the Joseph and Christian lines. Articles for these volumes were also proofread. In the evening, we gathered at the home of Dave and Robyn Wampler for a picnic supper prepared by Robyn and Dave.

Saturday morning we conducted our annual business meeting.

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of Tritt Family Research will be held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 16 to 18, 2018.

## CHRISTIAN TRITT VOLUME OF TRITT FAMILY HISTORY

Christian Tritt (1796-1871) is the subject of a volume of Tritt Family History that is currently being researched and written. It will likely follow the publication of the volume about Joseph Tritt, Christian's brother, who established a major line of the Tritt Family in Ohio. Many of Christian Tritt's descendants remain in Pennsylvania, but many others are scattered throughout the country.

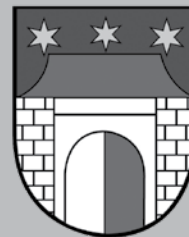
Since I am a direct descendant of Christian, this volume is my responsibility. I am receiving a great deal of assistance from Leonard Tritt and Carol Tritt who are also in the Christian line. We have been and will continue to work together one day each week to process information that has been gathered over many years, as well as to search for new information. We are attempting to bring the lines of thirteen of Christian's children up to date. Other members of TFR are helping to write various chapters of the book that focus on related subjects. We are fortunate, but also challenged, that so much information has been sent to TFR from many of Christian's descendants. The result should be an informative and well-illustrated book.

As we work through all the information that we have, we may be contacting some of you to verify that the information that we have is correct. We may also request updates of what was sent to us some years ago. If you have family data, biographies, stories, or photos of people in the Christian Tritt line, please feel free to contact me by mail, email, or phone. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Richard Tritt's Information:

33 Silver Maple Drive, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007

Email: [rn.tritt@centurylink.net](mailto:rn.tritt@centurylink.net); Telephone: (717)258-6181



## OFFICERS OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

**Donald G. Tritt**, *President Emeritus*

**Leonard W. Tritt**

*President*

7 Ironstone Drive

Carlisle Pennsylvania 17015-9705

Telephone: 717-258-4176

**Richard L. Tritt**

*First Vice President*

33 Silver Maple Drive

Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007-9598

Telephone: 717-258-6181

**Jane S. Ward**

*Second Vice President*

168 Slab Road

Delta, Pennsylvania 17314-9221

Telephone: 717-862-3008

**Dwight A. Tritt**

*Treasurer*

7 Southern Cross Drive

Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007-9789

Telephone: 717-249-6933

**Connie J. Tritt**

*Secretary and Newsletter Editor*

7 Ironstone Drive

Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015-9705

Telephone: 717-258-4176

**Melissa C. Clayton**

*Layout Editor*

6464 Stage Coach Trail

Brownsburg, Indiana 46112-8628

Telephone: 317-409-5007

**W. Brent Clayton**

*Associate Layout Editor*

6464 Stage Coach Trail

Brownsburg, Indiana 46112-8628

Telephone: 317-409-5007

**Margrit Tritten-Stauffer**

*Secretary*

for Switzerland and Germany

Lenkerstrasse 18

CH-3775 Lenk, Switzerland

Telephone: 011 41 33 733 17 27

**Micheline Furon-Tritten**

*Secretary for France*

11, Rue President Camot

F-21400 Chatillon Sur Seine, France

Telephone: 011 33 80 91 14 81

[www.tritt.org](http://www.tritt.org)

[trittfamilyresearch@comcast.net](mailto:trittfamilyresearch@comcast.net)

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Every year it seems that this story is the same. Well, of course, it is the same. How else do we get from California, where we live, to Geigertown, Pennsylvania, except by way of Philadelphia, Lancaster, Carlisle and Morgantown. But there **IS** a reason for this. Whether this is known or not is a good point. The Tritt Family Research group has been very accommodating to us ... meaning, Doris and I.

Through the years, it has been the 'norm' for the Berks County group of Treats, Trates and Traits to meet on the 3rd Sunday of August. The middle of August was not always the meeting time for Tritt Family Research. It varied considerably at times.

When I became involved with TFR, my travel arrangements were noted. Along with other needs, it was decided to set the days preceding the 3rd Sunday of August as a good time for TFR to meet for workshop and business. This has been a successful arrangement since. I call that "ACCOMMODATION" in capital letters. We also have a very good time.

Therefore, as we did last year after the TFR meeting, we returned from Carlisle to Lancaster for Saturday night and didn't have too far to drive Sunday morning to reach St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Geigertown.

The mid-morning air was delightful in warm sunshine. Leaving early, we expected to take our time and enjoy the scenes of country life we don't see in California. It always brings back some memories of the past. Passing through those settlements along Route 23 to Morgantown are endearing when there is no traffic to contend with. Encountering an inhibiting horse-n-buggy is more an item of interest than hindrance. Of course, the camera was never available when needed.

Arriving at the church just past noon, the parking area looked quite empty. I hoped we were just 'early'. Our greeting at the door was by two youngsters bursting through with the hoopla that follows such activity. These were the youngest of the attendees this day, the grandchildren of Louise and Herb Strunk. So good to see some younger blood flowing.

Inside the hall were the usual activities of setting up the food and drink arrangements. We were warmly welcomed by Bill and Marlene Oatman, who were just inside the door. Across the room were President Gerald Trate and Louise Strunk in conference with Herb standing by.

While others prepared the food table, the aforementioned youngsters, Jacob and Kaleigh, were active in the back of the hall with parents Matt and Melissa (Strunk) Sarnocinski. Added to them is Carter, another grandchild of Louise, and whose parents standing by are Mark and Lisa Strunk.

As it became time for lunch, blessings were asked and a moment of silence given for two of our associates who have passed away this year, Mary Jane Christman, fiancé of Tom Trate died on 27 March, and Betty M. (Byler) Kauffman, daughter of the late Oscar Warren and Grace (Gross) Byler, passed away on 18 May 2017.

Lunch is always time for visiting and enjoying each other's company. Finding out the goings-on in other's lives is what reunions are all about.

I made a point to try to visit with more folks this year, but I don't think I made much progress, I'm sorry to say. Time just runs too short.

The business meeting after lunch was as I like them .... **Short**. Gerald announced the winners of his famous "Guessing-Of-The-Package-Contents" game and admitted to becoming 'expert' at "sound-deadening" these days. The eatable contents never seem to get beyond the doors.

I was called upon to report on Tritt Family Research happenings. Work goes on for Tritt Family History, Volumes IV and also V. Volume IV will deal with the family and descendants of Joseph Tritt, born 6 January 1786, a grandson of Hans Peter Tritt (Jr), who was the brother of our immigrant ancestor, Christian, born 1718. Volume V will deal with Joseph's brother Christian, born in 1796.

I was asked how I came about the TRAIT/TRATE/TRITT connection. I grew up next door to my paternal grandfather, Aaron G. Trait, in Reading, Pennsylvania. After I became involved in our family history and genealogy, I was talking to my first cousin, son of my father's sister and who was still living in the same house. He mentioned that there was some 'stuff' in their attic but did not know what it was, as it was in German. So, I took a look.

There were two volumes of tintype photos and some rolled scrolls. Upon examination, I found that the scrolls were Frakturs, an early Pennsylvania-German design that was used between 1740 and 1860, usually colorfully embellished by the owner.

One of these Frakturs was a birth announcement for "... AARON TRITT, son of PHILIPTRITT and wife SUSANNA, daughter of PETER GLAS ... born 12 June 1858". This Aaron is my grandfather, born a TRITT; though the family for years has been known by and used the TREAT spelling as the family name, it is not the original. The offspring of this family used various spellings of Treat, Trate and Trait. None followed the original Tritt.

Another Fraktur was a birth certificate for CHRISTIANTRITT born 23 November 1806 "at one o'clock in the morning of father CHRISTIAN TRITT and mother CATHERINA GLASSIN", who then lived in Robeson Township, Berks County. This newborn became the father of PHILIPTRITT, my great-grandfather.

Therein lies the connection.

I have felt that with advancing age something needs to be done for these Frakturs and other family history materials, so I have decided to present them to the Cumberland County [Pennsylvania] Historical Society. Though the locale for my family and me is Berks County, the connective genealogical resources are in the Tritt archives under the care of this unit for further continued research. We also have our own TFR personnel working with the facility. I presented this proposal to the folks present at the reunion and found no objection.

Thus ends a fun day in Berks County. I have really enjoyed the visit.

# ABOUT THE DRITT CEMETERY....

The Dritt Cemetery is situated on a hill behind the former Dritt Mansion in Lower Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania. The cemetery and house are so named for Johann Jacob Tritt (1746 - 1817), firstborn child of Hans Peter Tritt (Jr.) (1715 - 1768) and his first wife Catharina (died about 1750). For unknown reasons, Jacob chose and used "Dritt" as his surname in adulthood. All his children were given the Dritt name.

When Jacob was 22, his father died (March 1768). Jacob eventually obtained the 200 acres his father owned. Maria Elizabeth Beyer/Boyer became Jacob's bride in May 1768. Jacob became an enterprising entrepreneur early in his adult life and greatly expanded his business and land holdings after his service as a captain in the Revolutionary War. By the late 1790's, he owned about 600 acres and had operated or was operating farms, a ferry traversing the Susquehanna River near his house, a wine and liquor business, a distillery, a sawmill, grist mill, and flax and hemp mills. He also made wealth in real estate, buying and selling land and properties. In 1811, he laid out and sold lots at what became today's unincorporated town of Washington Boro in Manor Township, Lancaster County, across the Susquehanna from his home. He even owned islands in the river, shown on old maps as "Tritt's Islands".

The Dritt Mansion, as Jacob's house came to be known after his many business successes, was probably purchased by Jacob after the war and remained in his Bonham descendant's (his daughter Margaret married Samuel Bonham) family ownership until the 1860s. The property encompassed much acreage behind the house, including the quiet, scenic hilltop where the family cemetery was initiated in the 1820s, what we know today as the "Dritt Cemetery".

While the Dritt Cemetery holds remains of some of Jacob Dritt's family members, Jacob's grave is not there. On 17 December 1817, Jacob and an assistant named Griffith were attempting to return home to York County after tending to business that day across the river in Lancaster County. During the day the weather turned windy, and combined with large ice chunks floating in the river, made crossing the river in a small boat very risky. But Jacob made a fatal mistake and tried crossing the river anyway. A large, wind-driven chunk of ice struck their boat, throwing Jacob and Griffith overboard. They drowned in the cold, wind-churned water. Five months later, their bodies were found along the east side of the river somewhere downstream in Maryland. Those who found them buried them on-site, a location now unknown. Sometime after Jacob and Griffith were buried, they were identified



Dritt cemetery

by silver buttons taken from Jacob's coat sleeve before he was buried.

Jacob and Elizabeth Dritt had 11 children, five sons and six daughters, but only two of their children are known to be buried in the Dritt Cemetery. Youngest daughter Margaret (Dritt) Bonham (1794 - 1824) is the oldest/first known burial there. Also buried there are Jacob's second oldest son, Christian (1776 - 1854), along with Christian's wife, Frances (1776 - 1843). Others buried there are grandchildren and

great-grandchildren to Jacob. The oldest person known buried there is Jacob's wife, Maria Elizabeth Dritt (1751 - 1826). Why others of the eleven children and/or their descendants are not buried in this cemetery is unknown.

While the Dritt Cemetery was in the hands of Dritt and Bonham descendants, we can assume it received good care. But without family ownership and care for well over a century, it has undergone quite a metamorphosis. The cemetery is surrounded by farmland. While that land was cropped, the cemetery was not affected, except for trees starting to grow. As ownership changed, the cemetery became part of a pasture and cattle used the shaded cemetery to get cool, damaging or knocking over tombstones. Nature took its toll with frost action and weathering affecting the stones.

No one now affiliated with Tritt Family Research (TFR) even knew about this cemetery until the mid-1960s. After TFR was organized in 1977, several members visited the site, noting it needed much work. But with the cemetery being 50 miles away, rather inaccessible on private land, and no money to do what was needed, it continued unabated for several more years. Later, with owners' approval and access, several TFR members did annual clean-up work to control vegetation for many years. About eight years ago, a local volunteer group completely cleaned up the cemetery, and shortly afterward York County obtained possession of the land for a county park. Since then, the York County Parks Department has provided excellent grounds care at the cemetery, as it is now part of Native Lands County Park.

Why are you reading all this? Because tombstones in the Dritt Cemetery need attention. A few are broken, others are cracked. We have contacted a grave monument company in York County, but they have not yet fully assessed the scope of repairs needed. There are about 13 graves in the Dritt Cemetery; that small size limits the overall scope, and thus the repair costs. But for certain, repairs are essential; and Tritt Family Research does not have the funds to cover those

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costs without impairing publication of our next two volumes of *Tritt Family History*. So, at its 2017 annual meeting, TFR decided to do what it could to repair the tombstones in the Dritt Cemetery with an appeal to our faithful members and supporters.

Tritt Family Research many years ago assumed "caretaker" status for the Dritt Cemetery under state law to preclude the cemetery being deemed 'abandoned' and subject to destruction by possible land development. The county parks department grooms the grounds, but the tombstones are TFR's responsibility. We feel it imperative to repair these tombstones to maintain the cemetery and respect for Jacob Dritt's wife, children, and grandchildren interred there. Jacob Dritt was the second American-born Tritt (his cousin Henry Tritt/Treat was the first) and a Revolutionary War officer, deserving of support for the burial place of his wife and some of their family. If you agree, you are asked to



Tritt Family Research caretaker marker

send a contribution toward these tombstone repairs to our Treasurer, Dwight Tritt, 7 Southern Cross Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. Please make your check payable to "Tritt Family Research", writing "Dritt Cemetery" in the NOTE line on the check. Whatever you contribute will be greatly appreciated.

As an aside, the Dritt mansion still stands. Bought and completely refurbished by Mr. John Zimmerman some years ago, it is officially named the "Zimmerman Center for Heritage"

and houses offices of Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, at 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368, telephone 717-252-0229. By appointment, they provide informative tours of the entire house, and are especially pleased to show it to Tritts. If you visit, be sure to tell them you are a Tritt/Dritt or Tritt/Dritt descendant.

By Jaime Dritt of Blairstown, NJ

# BRANCHING OUT: A FUTURE MONOGRAPH ABOUT THE DRITT BRANCH

This past August (2017), I had the opportunity to attend the annual Tritt Family Research meeting in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for the second time. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect once again with my extended family and to learn more about our shared heritage. About a week before the meeting, Leonard Tritt invited me to lead an effort to create a monograph (small book) about the Dritt branch of the family. This idea was brought forward at the meeting, and other Tritt family members were equally excited at examining the Dritt line in more detail.

The focus of this monograph will be to collect and publish information about General Jacob Dritt and his descendants in one book. (I am a direct descendant of General Jacob Dritt through his grandson, Johannes Dritt, who settled in Missouri in 1839.) Possible topics may include the following:

1. How and why family members took on the name Dritt instead of Tritt
2. Family life at the Dritt Mansion in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania (now the Zimmerman Center for Heritage)

3. Dritt family cemetery near the Zimmerman Center for Heritage
4. General Jacob Dritt's military experience
5. General Jacob Dritt's impact on his community (his businesses, the development of Washington Boro, and so on)
6. General Jacob Dritt's powder horn
7. Tracing and connecting various Dritt family lines from York County to other places in the United States

Because I have just started a full-time graduate program, most likely it will take a few years before this monograph is in full production mode. However, I wanted to announce this idea to the rest of Tritt Family Research and start collecting information and ideas for topics. If you have any information about the Dritts or research tips that you would like to share, please pass them along. Here is my contact information:

Jaime Dritt  
75 Union Brick Road  
Blairstown, NJ 07825  
jaime\_dritt@yahoo.com  
908-319-4251

Thank you in advance for your support of this effort!

# FRAKTUR

According to Wikipedia, Fraktur is German for a form of Germanic writing and type-setting font.

When listed under 'Folk Art', Fraktur is described as "...A highly artistic and elaborate illuminated folk art created by the Pennsylvania Dutch, named after the Fraktur script associated with it. Most Fraktur were created between 1740 and 1860."

"Fraktur drawings were executed in ink and/or watercolor and are found in a variety of forms: the Taufscheine (birth and baptismal certificates), marriage and house blessings, book plates, and floral and figurative scenes. The earlier Fraktur were executed entirely by hand, while printed text became increasingly common in later examples. Common artistic motifs in Fraktur include birds, hearts and tulips as well as italic calligraphy."

I am in possession of three Frakturs pertaining to the Tritt Family line and my Trait family. The question has been asked as to how I made the connection. The answer was quite simple once I found these items.

I grew up living next door to my grandfather, Aaron G. Trait. I knew nothing then except that we all spelled our name as Trait and we had country cousins who spelled their name differently, like Trate.

Later, when working on family research, my first cousin living in grandfather's house said there was 'stuff' in the attic that he couldn't

read because it was in German. I had a look at his 'stuff'. There were two big volumes of tintype photos and three scrolls of old paper. But what a find it was.

One Fraktur is a birth certificate for my grandfather, Aaron Tritt, born to Philip Tritt and Susanna Glas on 12 June 1858. My grandfather was born a Tritt, so why was he using Trait? That is a question I have never found an answer for.

Another Fraktur was for Aaron's father, Philip, showing that he was born 22 March 1830 of parents Christian Tritt and Justina Schlauch. This Christian was born 23 November 1806, the son of Christian Tritt (1770-1822) and Catharina Glassin, a grandson of our immigrant ancestor Christian Tritt, born in 1718. This ties us directly to the Tritt Line.

Time does not seem to slow or stop and so it is imperative that I make a decision on records and/or materials that are in my possession. With that idea in mind, I have decided to post these Frakturs and whatever source materials I may have to the Cumberland County [Pennsylvania] Historical Society for future research of TRITT/TRATE/TREAT lineage and safekeeping. Though the locale of the materials referenced is Berks County, Pennsylvania, Cumberland County seems to be a major research source and activity for Tritt family research. My materials will be held in the Tritt archives at the historical society.

## STATUS OF THE JOSEPH TRITT VOLUME

by Randy Waite of Fairlawn, OH

Murder! Fist fights! Mayhem in the air! All mixed with milled flour and ending at week's end with worship in the family church, a church that was once referred to as Tritt's Bethel. These are a few of the things that will be revealed in the upcoming volume dealing with the family of Joseph Tritt.

Joseph, born in Pennsylvania in 1786 (the son of Johann Peter Tritt and Elizabeth Lefever), and his wife, Catherine Sweigart Rhodes, brought their growing family to wild and untamed northeast Ohio in the early 1800s. The family ended up with twelve children, eleven of whom grew to adulthood. One of the daughters married into a family whose name remains prominent in northeast and central Ohio. A daughter married a German immigrant whose name is currently associated with a park, a street, and the Akron-Canton regional airport (built on his farm). Another daughter married the son of the first legal white settler in what was to become Green Township, Ohio. Another daughter married a canal boat pilot; three of their sons joined the circus and one of them went on to worldwide circus fame. Two sons followed their father into the milling business – one of their flour mills is currently a historic Summit County, Ohio site.

Joseph and Catherine's family grew. We have identified about 4,000 descendants (and spouses). Many of the descendants remained in Ohio,

but a large number moved westward to Indiana. Others moved to Michigan and Missouri. Now we can find descendants and their families in about thirty different U.S. states.

A large number of articles have been written, reviewed and edited. These include histories of the area of Ohio that welcomed Joseph and his family, conditions with which they had to contend, and discussions about the family business. We have also prepared family stories which include the aforementioned murders, fights and circus acts, along with stories of various other family members.

We are nearing the end of our efforts and hope to move soon to put our efforts into print media. However, it is not too late to help out. We would like further assurance that our Joseph Tritt genealogy is complete and accurate. We are also seeking interesting family stories to add to the ones we already have, and we would absolutely love to include more family photographs in this volume.

If you would like to help double check our genealogy, or contribute stories or donate photographs, please send an email to [randy.waite@mindspring.com](mailto:randy.waite@mindspring.com). If you find yourself in northeast Ohio and just want to talk family, please send an email. With the efforts of many, the next volume of the Tritt family will soon come to fruition.

# THE TREAT ARTISTS

My father-in-law, Robert Treat, Sr., picked up his paint brush when he retired and enjoyed painting, in oil, watercolor, and pastels. He was very talented and we loved to receive wonderful paintings as gifts over the years.

He painted for pleasure and entered art exhibits locally in the Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania area. When we visited the Christian Treat log cabin in 2016, the owner of the cabin, Elaine Fiant, shared how she saw the name R. Treat on a painting on exhibit at the Reading Hospital Art Show and wanted to meet the artist. She had researched the original owner of her home, Christian Treat, and wanted to find out if the artist was a descendant. They met and ended up arranging for Bob and his wife, Ginny, to come over to the cabin for a picnic. We knew that Bob and Ginny had met the owners and visited the Christian Treat log cabin; but, we never knew how they connected until Elaine shared the story last year when we visited the Christian Treat log cabin with the Tritt Family Research group.

Bob wasn't the only Treat artist. In my genealogy research, I discovered that Bob's great-uncle, Albert Treat, was a listed landscape artist in Reading, Pennsylvania in the late 1800's. Albert was born in 1850 and died in 1885 of tuberculosis. (January 1885 is the correct date of



a Robert Treat painting



an Albert Treat painting

death. He died of tuberculosis, as did his father, John, and his brother, Jacob.) He is noted in Volume II of the *Historical and Biographical Annals of Berks*

County published in 1909 by Morton L. Montgomery, as follows:

ALBERT TREAT, an artist Reading from 1870 to 1884, was born in that city Dec. 25, 1850. He was educated in the public schools and afterward worked in the coach-making shop of his father at painting until he drifted into landscape painting, which he followed until his decease in 1884.

With this information, I began searching for paintings by Albert Treat at antique stores and auctions. I have been very fortunate to have located a few of his paintings. Albert's brother, Jacob, was also listed in the Reading City Directories as a painter; not sure if he was also a landscape painter or a painter in the coach-making business.

Finally, Bob Treat's cousin, Alice Treat, was a well-established artist in York, Pennsylvania in the 1950's. She worked mostly in stained glass. But, she also did some sketches that I found on eBay. I haven't located any of her stained glass work; but, I will keep searching.

I brought a painting by Bob and Albert and a sketch by Alice to the Carlisle meeting and a picture of their work is included with this article.

So far none of my children or grandchildren have shown that they inherited the Treat artist skills; but, as history repeats, I am sure the artistic talent will as well.



a sketch by Alice Treat

## FIRST TRITT CONTACT AND IMPRESSIONS

To share first impressions about our experience in 2017 participating in the Tritt family meeting, I will first go back to review a little history. I first heard of Tritt Family Research through a newsletter found among my father-in-law's possessions after he passed.

I started working on our Treat family research a few years ago and was not making progress on the Treat line. I was looking through some research material when I came across that Tritt newsletter again saved from my father-in-law, Robert William Treat, Sr., from 1996. I wondered if this group was still active and did an internet search.

I was happy to find the Tritt Family Research website last year. I ordered the three Tritt volumes [Tritt Family History, Volumes I, II

and III] and found the missing link to connect our family directly back to Christian Treat. The timing of my first contact with the Tritt group in 2016 was fortunate since we were able to be included in the visit planned to the Christian Treat log cabin in Berks County, Pennsylvania. We were invited to join the Tritt family meetings last year; but had other commitments and were not able to attend.

This year we were happily able to attend the viewing of the 1989 Tritt remigration tour to Switzerland and day-one of the two days of meetings in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. We really enjoyed seeing the sights and sounds of the trip to Switzerland. What a beautiful country and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



# KERN CONNECTION

After making the link in the lineage of my husband, Robert Treat, to Christian Tritt/Treat (1719), I was surprised to find that Christian's mother's maiden name was Kern. So is mine! More surprising, there is a family connection between Veronica Kern Tritt and my ancestor Abraham Kern. Both the Tritt and Kern families emigrated from Diedendorf [now in France] and both immigrated to the Bowmansville area of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The following information was found in a book titled *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America* by Annette Kunselman Burgert (spelling variances were as listed) KB = church register

## **Tritte (Tritt), Christian** (p 501)

*Robert and Alice, 1739*

European Records- Diedendorf Reformed KB:

Hans Peter Tritt, citizen and tailor at Diedendorff, son of Friedrich Tritt from St. Stephan, Canton Bern m. 6 Jan 1711 Veronica, daughter of Jacob Karn potter at Buchberg, Schaffhausen Gebiet Buchberg

Children:

1. Otto bp. 21 Oct. 1711
2. Ursula Maria bp. 8 Nov. 1713
3. Johann Peter bp. 13 Aug. 1715 father residing in Vinstingen
4. Christian bp. 1 Jan 1719, father residing in Stensel conf. 1733

Veronica Kern, widow of Peter Tritte from Niederstinsell m. 26 May 1724 David Buhler born in Schwanden, Canton Bern

Children: (p 96, Buhler, David)

1. Marx bp. 2 Mar. 1725
2. Joh. Jacob bp. 28 Sept. 1727 d. 30 June 1728
3. Johann Bernhardt bp. 6 May 1731

American Records – Muddy Creek Reformed KB, Lancaster Co., PA

Christian Trit and wife Catharine had:

1. Maria Margaret bp. 25 May 1746
2. John Werner (Triet) bp. 26 May 1751

Peter Trit and wife Catharine had:

1. John Jacob bp. 30 Mar. 1746
2. Catharine Barbara bp. 29 Aug. 1747
3. Anna Elizabeth bp. 7 Dec. 1748

Peter Tritt and wife sponsored (baptism) a child of Abraham Kern in 1747, Muddy Creek Lutheran KB

## **Kern, Abraham** (p 287) age 28

*Britannia, 1731*

with Katherina age 22 &

Elizabeth Kern age 55

European Records - Diedendorf Reformed KB:

Hans Kern son of Georg Kern m. 24 Sept. 1706 Elisabetha, daughter of the late Ulrich Gruber.

Hirschland Lutheran KB:

Hans Kern (also Johannes) b. in Hochfurstl Anspach, now residing in Kirburg Ev. Lutheran Religion and Elisabetha nee Gruber, Reformed Religion, born in Switzerland, had a son:

Abraham bp. 16 July 1708

Langensoultzbach Lutheran KB:

Abraham Kern, son of Hans Kern born in the Hochfurst, Ansbachischen, and former citizen at Kurberg, Nassauischen Graffschafft, m 18 Feb. 1731 at Sultzbach Catharina, daughter of Conrad Muller, former schoolmaster at Lehmbach.

American Records – Muddy Creek Lutheran KB, Lancaster Co., PA  
Abraham Kern had children:

1. Joh. Christophel b. Feb. 1735
2. Heinrich b. 24 Sept. 1737
3. Maria Catharina bp. 19 July 1743
4. Anna Catharina b. 14 Apr. 1746
5. Joh. Peter b. 1 Aug. 1749 bp. 1 Aug. 1749 Sponsored Peter Tritt and wife

I think it is absolutely amazing that the Tritt/Treat and Kern families were connected in Diedendorf, and reunited in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in the mid-1700's; and, somehow, over 240 years later, Robert William Treat, Jr. and Beverley Ann Kern find each other and marry without any knowledge of our long lost family connection. Serendipity!

## FIRST TRITT CONTACT AND IMPRESSIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

what an incredible reception the group had, especially in Diedendorf.

Both Bob and I also felt welcome, comfortable and happy to meet and be part of our new long-lost family. Since we were new to the group, we were lacking the knowledge and history acquired over time, so were a little lost with some of the updates on ongoing research

and family connections. We participated as best we could and we appreciate that everyone was patient and sharing.

I wish we had been engaged years ago to help with compiling the information for Volume III, Christian Treat. The family history from my research would have dovetailed nicely to expand the information gathered for our Berks County Treats.

# TRITT HERITAGE

My Aunt Mary (Tritt) Kelso introduced me to the Tritt Family Research efforts over 25 years ago. At the time, it interested me but I was busy pursuing a career in the Air Force and just never seemed to have enough time to focus on the family tree she gave my father, Brinton Tritt, and me. However, I did appreciate all of the hard work that had gone into the research that had produced the tree, and it gave me a feeling of connection to my family heritage. This connection has stayed with me over the years, and also manifested itself in a deep interest in history and in antiques, traits which seem to be fairly common in many of my Tritt relatives, like Richard Tritt, his father Selden Tritt, and my father, who were all in the antiques business at one time or another. I remember as a teenager visiting Selden and asking him to show me some of his Newville-produced stoneware pieces and having a connection to these beautiful objects that may have been used by one of our relatives over a hundred years earlier. It also made me consider what life must have been like before cars, phones, and airplanes, in many ways making me appreciate what I have with all these modern conveniences and which I often take for granted; but at the same time making me envious of a life which was, in some ways, much simpler and closer to the land, like those Swiss mountains and valleys of our shared homeland.

Well, time passes, and, after spending 20 years in the Air Force, where I was lucky enough to have served my country in such diverse jobs as supporting the Strategic Defense Initiative (also referred to as Reagan's Star Wars program); improving integrated circuit manufacturing at the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratory; writing specifications and technical orders for fuels, lubricants and chemicals used by the Air Force; managing the Air Force's contracts for environmental and occupational, health, and safety sample testing; running a laboratory to test fuels and aviator's breathing oxygen to ensure their quality; acting as United Nations Chemical Weapons inspector in Iraq; serving on Air Staff at the Pentagon, and monitoring nuclear and chemical weapons arms control treaties, I retired in May 2005 and found myself in a government civilian position working at the CIA. After hearing me describe these jobs, many people have commented that I can't hold a job, and I would have to agree.



Randy Tritt studying an original Civil War model 1859 "Berdan" Sharps rifle. These rifles were made famous by the 1st and 2nd United States Sharpshooter regiments and the 42nd Pennsylvania regiment (aka the Bucktails), at such battles as Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, to name a few.

All this would change in August 2005 when I met an interesting guy named Joe. He came to my office and asked if I would be interested in standing up a new organization, National Counterproliferation Center at the newly formed Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). You need to imagine Joe's imposing physical stature. He looks like he could be a linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers. It's hard to say no to a guy like Joe. Within a few weeks, I was one of the first five people working in the NCPC. The NCPC's mission is to better integrate and optimize the Intelligence Community's efforts aimed at protecting the US and its Allies from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Well time passes again and in 2017, after 11 years in NCPC, the longest time I had ever stuck with one thing in my whole life, except for my wife and children, I decided to take a new job in another part of the ODNI. But Joe, being the true gentleman he is, could not see me leave without giving me a very special and personalized send off. Joe spent weeks researching my career and background, to include my family history. He even took a 240 mile round trip from northern Virginia to Carlisle, PA to meet and talk to my mother, Thelma. We all had a wonderful lunch together, which I will always remember, and we talked a lot about our family history.

During his research for my going away from NCPC, Joe discovered the Tritt Family Research website, which includes pages of information about the Tritt family; and, most importantly, contacted and connected with Leonard Tritt to obtain even more information about the Tritts. Joe ended up gifting me Volumes I through III of the Tritt Family History for my going away from NCPC. Joe's efforts have led me to a renewed connection to my family and my Tritt heritage. I want to thank Joe and Leonard, and encourage everyone to connect to their heritage, which for me has led to a deeper appreciation of who I am and where I come from, which might finally help me figure out where I want to go next.

*(Randall 'Randy' Tritt is currently the Deputy Chief Financial Executive at the ODNI. He is an avid Penn State football fan and antique collector, with a special interest in US military small arms and accouterments.)*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Dwight A. Tritt, Treasurer, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

<b>Checking Account Balance July 31, 2016</b>	<b>\$11,981.82</b>
<b>Income Received</b>	<b><u>\$1,354.50</u></b>
	<b>\$13,336.32</b>
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b><u>\$1,534.05</u></b>
<b>Checking Account Balance July 31, 2017</b>	<b>\$11,802.27</b>

**INCOME**

Merchandise Sale	\$142.00
Merchandise Shipping	\$10.00
Book Sales	\$635.00
Book Shipping	\$65.00
Newsletters	\$16.50
Patron Donations - Joseph Volume	\$0.00
Patron Donations - Christian Volume	\$200.00
Donations (General)	<u>\$286.00</u>

**TOTAL** \$1354.50

**EXPENSES**

	Actual	Paid
Administration and Supplies	\$15.00	\$0.00
Annual Meeting	\$318.00	\$318.00
Newsletter - Printing	\$819.38	\$819.38
Newsletter - Mailing	\$221.25	\$204.00
Shipping Expenses	\$93.87	\$0.00
Website	\$232.67	\$192.67
Book Publication Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Graphic Services for Book	\$0.00	\$0.00
Book Patron Donor Shipping	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$1,700.17 \$1,534.05

**EXPENSES DONATED** \$166.12

**EXPENSES FOR TRITT FAMILY HISTORY**

**VOLUME III, 2013 THROUGH 2016**

Graphic Services	\$2,332.00
Publication Expenses	6,896.01
Patron Donor Books Shipping	\$0.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$9,228.01

**PATRON DONATIONS FOR**

**TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, JOSEPH VOLUME**

Total Patron Donor Contributions as of 7/31/16	\$700.00
Patron Donations 8/1/16 through 7/31/17	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PATRON DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 7/31/17</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>

**PATRON DONATIONS FOR**

**TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, CHRISTIAN VOLUME**

Total Patron Donor Contributions as of 7/31/16	\$500.00
Patron Donations 8/1/16 through 7/31/17	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL PATRON DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 7/31/17</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>

Tritt Family Research wishes to thank all those who made contributions to TFR during the past year. Your financial support is much appreciated.

Leonard and Connie Tritt	Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Walter and Susann Tritten	Steffisburg, Switzerland
Dr. William B. and Melissa Clayton	Brownsburg, Indiana
Myrtle Taylor	Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Donald Tritt	Granville, Ohio
Jean Kelso Alaniz	Yorkville, Illinois
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Dwight and Patrice Tritt	Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania
Randy Waite	Fairlawn, Ohio
Joseph Pritchard	Falls Church, Virginia
Lennard Roberts	Framingham, Massachusetts
Dorothy Trate	Birdsboro, Pennsylvania
Ray and June Tritt	Sycamore, Illinois

Tritt Family Research is very much dependent on receiving donations from individuals and families in order to meet the costs of operating the organization. Funds are required for administrative costs, newsletter printing and mailing, website expenses and publishing new volumes of Tritt Family History. At this point in time we have begun work on the publication of the next two volumes of Tritt Family History, which we hope to have published in the near future. Accordingly, we must plan for and accumulate the funds necessary to cover the costs that will accompany these publications. We realize that, in today's economy, monetary decisions are important for all of us and that it is not always easy to find extra funds to contribute to organizations like ours. We have appreciated and are grateful for the generosity of all of those who have donated in the past, and would just ask that if possible you would continue to consider donating to Tritt Family Research in the future. Your contributions may be sent to our treasurer at the address listed below, with all checks made payable to "Tritt Family Research". Thank you for your continued support.

Dwight A. Tritt  
7 Southern Cross Drive  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789

**NEXT MEETING OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH**

**AUGUST 16 - 18, 2018  
IN CARLISLE, PA**



For information about the meeting, contact:

**Leonard W. Tritt**

7 Ironstone Drive,  
Carlisle, PA 17015-9705

or email Connie Tritt at

trittfamilyresearch@comcast.net

# Special Offer:

Buy *Tritt Family History, Volume I* for \$35.00. Buy *Tritt Family History, Volume II* and *Volume III* for \$40.00 each. Buy any two **DIFFERENT** volumes together for ONLY \$65.00 and save \$10.00, or buy all three volumes for ONLY \$100 and save \$15.00. Shipping and handling for mailing will be \$15 to mail three books, \$10 to mail two books and \$5 to mail one book.

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*Christian Tritt, born 1719 in the Alsace region of France, and his descendants*



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# URGENT REQUEST

Tritt Family Research must have current, accurate information for its publications. Unless you are certain we have your current information, please provide us the following data about yourself and your family. Also provide updates/corrections regarding births, deaths, and marriages. Please complete the form below, using maiden names for women.

Mail the completed form to Connie J. Tritt, Secretary, Tritt Family Research, 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015-9705. Thanks for your help. **Remember** - we cannot be sure that accurate information about you will appear in our publications if you do not provide it.

## MY FAMILY

**Name of my father -**

Date and place of birth -

Date and place of death -

Date and place of marriage -

**Name of my mother -**

Date and place of birth -

Date and place of death -

**Your name -**

Date and place of birth -

Date and place of marriage -

**Name of spouse -**

Date and place of birth -

Date and place of death -

*(Continued on back)*

**Your children**

(Please list children and, for each person, include date and place of birth and death, name of spouse, and date and place of marriage.)

1.

2.

If you would like, please use this space to provide any information about yourself or spouse, such as your profession or occupation, interests and achievements. These may be used in a short paragraph that will accompany your family entry.

If possible, provide the names of your Tritt-related grandparents and great-grandparents to help us connect you to a family line. Please include their dates of birth and death, if known.

Please provide your mailing or email address so that we can contact you if we have any questions.

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The following items are available for purchase from TFR. Please complete the following form and mail the form and your check payable to "Tritt Family Research" to: Dwight A. Tritt, 7 Southern Cross Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789.

Please add a \$2 shipping and handling charge to all orders \$10 and less; \$3 shipping and handling charge to orders \$11 and above. **THESE SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES DO NOT APPLY TO VOLUMES I, II AND III OF TRITT FAMILY HISTORY AND THE 1906 TRITT FAMILY TREE (see the shipping and handling charges for those items below).**

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- \_\_\_\_\_ The Tritt Cookbook — \$7.50  
(100 pages of Tritt family recipes, new and old, from all over the U.S.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Church of St. Stephan — \$3.00  
(A translation of the 18 page illustrated booklet published in German by our ancestral church in Switzerland)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pack of 10 note cards depicting the Church of St. Stephan — \$5.00  
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Luggage tags with the name "Tritt" on one side — \$3.00
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Tritt Family History - Vol. I — \$35.00 (Our European origins through the first generation 'American' Tritts born to Hans Peter and Christian Tritt)  
(plus \$5 shipping and handling for one book, \$10 for two books and \$15 for three books; add \$3 per book for the fourth and subsequent books)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tritt Family History - Vol. II — \$40.00 (Johann Paul Tritt, born 1752 in York County, Pennsylvania, and his descendants)  
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Tritt Family History - Vol. III — \$40.00 (Christian Tritt, born 1719 in the Alsace region of France, and his descendants)  
(plus \$5 shipping and handling for one book, \$10 for two books and \$15 for three books; add \$3 per book for the fourth and subsequent books)
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As we near completion of the next two volumes, we need to make an appeal for publication funds. Each volume requires a fund of about \$10,000. For all previous volumes, funds have been graciously provided by differing levels of Patron Donations, Gold (\$500), Silver (\$300) and Bronze (\$100). Patron Donors receive, respectively, five, three and one copy/ies. Names of Patron Donors are printed in each volume with your dedication, "in honor of" or "in memory of" whomever you choose.

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### For Volume IV

Volume IV, Joseph Tritt (1786-1873), the ancestor who ca. 1814 moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where he had a large family and many descendants.

*(Lead Publication Coordinator: Randy Waite.)*

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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*Total Volume IV*    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### For Volume V

Volume V, Christian Tritt (1796-1871). Most of this family remained in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He was a prosperous farmer, buying several farms which were inherited by four of his sons. *(Lead Publication Coordinators:*

*Richard L. Tritt and Leonard W. Tritt.)*

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