

TRITT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Richard L. Tritt, Editor

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1981 MEETING

The annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held July 17 to 19, 1981 at the home of Don and Marilyn Tritt, Granville, Ohio. The meeting was attended by Jayne and Esther Tritt (Carlisle, PA), Richard and Nancy Tritt (Boiling Springs, PA), Leonard and Connie Tritt (Carlisle, PA), Betty Tritt Smeltz and Wendy Smeltz (Harrisburg, PA), David and Judy Tritt (Canton, OH), James and Betty Tritt (Tulsa, OK), William and June Tritt (Cshkosh, WI), James Patrick Tritt (Columbus, OH), Bill and Mary Jane Tritt (Johnston, OH), Gladys Cramer and Delora Mitten (Shippensburg, PA), Tim and Linda Tritt (Plainfield, IN), Wilma Tritt (Columbus, OH), and hosts Don and Marilyn Tritt.

The group arrived at Granville Friday afternoon, settled into their rooms and then assembled for a social evening at Don Tritt's home. After a delicious dinner, the group enjoyed a slide presentation of Tritt homes and artifacts in Pennsylvania.

A formal business meeting was conducted Saturday morning. Accomplishments were reviewed, information was exchanged and decisions were made regarding future goals and objectives. In the evening, dinner and fellowship were enjoyed at the Swiss Club in Columbus, Ohio. Don Tritt's grandfather (one of our known immigrants) was a founding member of this club which is located in the beautiful restored German Village section of Columbus.

Sunday morning the group met again informally to exchange information and become better acquainted. This year seven new people attended the research meeting. We hope you too will plan to join us in 1982.

AUGUST WORK SESSION

About six weeks after our annual research meeting, a group of ten Pennsylvania Tritts met for a one day work session on Saturday, August 29, 1981, at the home of Richard Tritt in Boiling Springs, PA. The purpose of the session was to index all Tritt and Tritt-related names which have been collected but not connected to the Hans Peter Tritt branch of the Tritt family. We now have indexes of all information gathered to date. These indexes will facilitate future research.

ARTIFACT COLLECTION

Each year it becomes more important that all known Tritt items (e.g. Bibles, pictures, diaries, records) be located and safeguarded for future reference. For this reason we are pleased when items are identified and either copied or sent for placement in a permanent research archive.

At the 1981 meeting of Tritt Family Research, it was decided to utilize the Hamilton Library Association (Cumberland County Historical Society) as a repository for items donated in support of the Tritt Family Research project. This library, in Carlisle, PA, was selected for several reasons. It is located in the area in which the greatest concentration of Tritts now exists and from which nearly all known Tritts stemmed in the late 1700's and early 1800's. It is located conveniently for many of those actively researching the family's past. It is a well-established organization with modern facilities, offering a safe, secure repository for irreplaceable items important to family research. If you have any diaries, papers, letters, photographs, Bibles, copies of the preceding, or any other items related to Tritt history, please contact Richard Tritt, R.D. #1, Boiling Springs, PA 17007, or Dr. Donald G. Tritt, 4072 Goose Lane, S.W., Granville, OH 43023, who will see that the materials are directed to the library.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following gifts which have been placed in the Tritt collection:

1. A copy of the book HILL AND VALE by Claude Shryock Tritt, donated by his son, Marlowe Claude Tritt.
2. A copy of William Tritt's Civil War Diary (1864), transcribed and donated by Joyce E. Dexter, Lawrence, KS.
3. Three books related to North Carolina families donated by Nell Tritt Joyce, Sanford, NC.

PROJECT FUNDING

A project of this size and importance entails considerable expense in the printing and mailing of materials. In the past these expenses have been met by the voluntary donations of those conducting the basic research. Last year we made the decision to attempt a periodic newsletter with the hope that if others viewed it as a worthwhile effort, they might be willing to support it by a financial donation. This year, we are pleased to acknowledge the following persons who have made contributions to the newsletter and to the Tritt family research project as of November 30, 1981.

Jack and Betty T. Smeltz	Harrisburg, PA
Don and Marilyn Tritt	Granville, OH
Richard and Nancy Tritt	Boiling Springs, PA
Jim and Rebecca Tritt	Mechanicsburg, PA
Selden and Emma Tritt	Shippensburg, PA
W. Wayne and Esther Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Lorene T. Wagner	Johnson City, TN
Sally Savage Cole	Winnetka, IL
Nell T. Joyce	Sanford, NC
Beth Tritt Bialson	St. Louis, MO
Marlowe and Ruth Tritt	Trenton, IL
Stanley and Rita Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Clair and Mary Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Geoffrey and Glenda Line	Doylestown, PA
William Tritt	Bassett, VA
Wilbur J. Tritt	Dillon, MT
William E. Tritt	Newark, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Tritt and Wayne Tritt	Brownsville, TN
Mrs. Gladys M. Tritt	Newport Beach, CA
John W. Tritt	Vanderhoof, British Columbia, Canada
Eugene F. and Glenna D. Tritt	Saratoga, CA
Edgar H. and Laverne M. Tritt	Magalia, CA
Miriam E. Myers	Evanston, IL

The donors listed above have contributed a total of \$432.50 since the beginning of our fund raising efforts in 1978. Our only other source of income is the small net profit from the sale of copies of the 1906 Hans Peter Tritt Family Tree. Members attending the annual meeting in July decided the charge for this tree should be increased to \$10.00 per copy, including postage. This increase will help to offset the higher costs of materials and postage.

Total expenses up to October 1, 1981 were \$655.96. This amount was used for such items as postage, printing of trees, stationery, filing systems, research information and materials, etc. 22% of expenses can be directly attributed to publishing our initial newsletter.

It should be noted that many of our members have volunteered many hours of time and effort in promoting this project, doing such things as searching courthouse and church records, visiting cemeteries, upgrading files, maintaining financial records, visiting libraries and typing, not to mention the time and cost of travel required.

The information contained in this article was provided by our treasurer, W. Wayne Tritt of Carlisle, PA.

MAJOR FINDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 1981

1. Location of the Tritt ancestral home in Switzerland and the names of Hans Peter Tritt's parents and grandparents.
2. Fencing in of the Dritt Cemetery behind the Dritt Mansion, York County, PA by Lauxmont Farms. A new sturdy rail fence and gate now form a rustic protective circle around the cemetery. Restoration of the area and stones is planned for the Spring of 1982.
3. Transcription by Mrs. Wade Dexter of the William Tritt Civil War Diary (1864).
4. Location of the Christian Tritt (born 1796) Bible and Family Album, the Lydia Bol Duncan Tritt collection including a personal family history notebook, pictures and picture albums, and personal artifacts. Carlisle, PA
5. Location of a picture of General Jacob Dritt and a 1900 picture of the Dritt Mansion, York County Historical Society, York, PA.
6. Location of drawings and references to Dritts in Lewis Miller Sketches, the work of an early York County folk artist.
7. Location of the Dritt family grandfather's clock in the Bonham House Museum, York, PA.
8. Review of the Benson Family Bible, York County, PA.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. There are at least two Tritt Roads. Those we know of are located in Marietta, Georgia and in Omro, Wisconsin. Do you know of any others?

2. To our knowledge, the earliest book published by a Tritt in the U.S.A. is An Illustrated History of North Idaho...Nez Perce, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties by Samuel H. Tritt, 1903, Western Historical Publishing Company. We have not seen an extant copy of this. Might you know of an existing copy?

3. Two articles pertaining to Tritts have appeared in the Alaska Magazine. The February, 1970 issue contains notes regarding Allen Tritt and the May, 1980 issue describes the work of Margaret Tritt of Arctic Village, Alaska. Another article mentioning Tritts in Alaska is found in the October, 1971 issue of National Geographic, pp. 485-517.

4. On the Hallmark Christmas card #PX595-7 appears the following notation: "This reproduction is from an original painting by the famous German painter, Wolfgang Tritt". Might anyone of you know of this painter or be willing to do some research tracing down this person and his works?

5. William and Julissa Hubbard Tritt came to Wisconsin about 1848. A family reunion was started in 1867 to celebrate William's safe return from the Civil War. It continued for approximately 100 years and we are hoping to secure some records from those reunions. Part of the original Tritt farm is still owned by Mrs. Harry Tritt, age 86, and worked by her son, Robert.

6. September 3, 1989 will be the 250th Anniversary of the immigration of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt.

NOTICE

Some of you may have been sent a solicitation from a Beatrice Bayley of Sterling, PA advertising a book called "The Family Heritage Book". She further states this book "is personalized to the Tritt family".

Our research group has examined this item and we wish to make the following statement:

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH DOES NOT ENDORSE THE BOOK PUBLISHED BY BEATRICE BAYLEY, INC. TITLED "THE FAMILY HERITAGE BOOK".

TRITT NAMES

We all hope that the Tritt name will be carried on by many future generations. From our research effort we have learned that there are hundreds of young male Tritts in the United States who will aid in the perpetuation of the Tritt name. Have you ever wondered what names were most popular in the Tritt family? Perhaps in the future you would like to give a good Tritt family name to a child. If so, the following will be of interest to you.

The first two Tritt immigrants were named Johann (Hans) Peter and Christian. These two names were used by many Tritts in succeeding generations. Other popular male names were Charles, David, Edward, George, Jacob, James, John, Joseph, Robert, Russell, Samuel and William. Often used female names were Anna, Barbara, Catherine, Elizabeth, Lydia, Mary and Sarah.

Some of the names given to Tritt children reflected the religious heritage of the family or the times in which they lived. Some examples are: Mary Magdalene Tritt, John Calvin Tritt, Benjamin Franklin Tritt, and Martin Luther Tritt.

We have found some rather unusual Tritt names. Some unforgettable examples are Adda Agness Tritt, McDonald McCandlish Tritt, Olive Birdie Tritt, Elsie Emma Tritt, Ephrian Sylvanius Tritt, Marcellus Francis Tritt, Zerelda Cecelia Tritt and Tennessee Lloyd Tritt.

HELP!!!

Those researching the early Tritt families in the United States have come upon several family lines which cannot be connected to the remainder of the family because of insufficient or unconfirmed information. Any information which you can supply about the following names will be greatly appreciated.

CAROLINAS - According to tradition, three brothers came to Charlestown, SC about 1760 from Germany and moved by wagon train to Lincoln County, NC. Balsher Treit remained in North Carolina and died about 1809. His brothers Jacob Tritt and Henry Tritt went west to Tennessee and Ohio. We have no proof of the three brothers' arrival in South Carolina. We do not know what happened to brothers Jacob and Henry. We do have Balsher Tritt's descendants to the present.

LOUISIANA - We know that an Anne Hortense de Tritt (married a Bowles) was born and lived in New Orleans. We would like to know the name of her Tritt father. Her mother, Maria, came from Cuba and was of Spanish origin. She died in 1893 at the age of 85.

OHIO - We need the parents of the following Tritt men who lived in Ohio:

1. William M. Tritt (1832-1900) married to Katharine Carlyle (d. 1897).
2. Joseph Tritt (1847-1907) married to Mary Varner (1852-1937).

PENNSYLVANIA - We need the parents of an Andrew Dritt (b. 1795 d. 186?) who married an Elizabeth Fishel. They had one son Daniel Dritt (b. 1826). Andrew and Daniel moved to Cass County, Indiana from Pennsylvania in 1848.

VIRGINIA - We need the parents of a Henry Tritt (d. 1793 in Virginia) who was married to an Elizabeth Hoover. They established the present-day Tritt family in Virginia.

WISCONSIN - We need the parents of a Christian Tritt, who according to tradition was a native of Germany. He married an Elizabeth Vanderbilt about 1822. They had a son William Lloyd Tritt, Sr. who was born June 15, 1819 in Newville, PA. We cannot confirm this birth. William moved to Trumble County, Ohio in 1822 and then to Wisconsin about 1848. He married a Julissa Hubbard (b. March 11, 1826). The Tritts in Wisconsin today descend from this family.

MISCELLANEOUS - We need the parents of a William H. Tritt, born 1840, who married Cornelia A. Johnson, born May 3, 1847.

TRITT FAMILY RECORD SHEET

As we get closer to eventual publication, we want to be sure all information is included. To assure that information pertaining to you is included, please be certain to fill out the Tritt Family Record Sheet sent to you earlier. If you have lost or misplaced your sheet, write for another copy to: Dr. Donald G. Tritt, 4072 Goose Lane S.W., Granville, Ohio 43023.

1982 MEETING

The 1982 meeting of the Tritt Family Research group will be held July 8-11 in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. We earnestly invite your involvement. With extensive work to be done in order to fully document and authenticate all records, it is essential to have as much help as possible. We hope you will be able to join us. For details regarding the 1982 meeting please contact: Dr. Donald G. Tritt, 4072 Goose Lane, S.W., Granville, Ohio 43023; telephone (614) 587-0213.

1983 NATIONAL TRITT REUNION

At the 1981 annual meeting of Tritt Family Research, it was agreed that an attempt would be made to hold a "National Tritt Reunion" in 1983. We are suggesting the reunion be held in the York, Pennsylvania area since it is in the center of many important Tritt historical sites. The likely date for the reunion is for sometime during the month of June or July. This reunion will be held in conjunction with the 1983 Tritt Family Research annual meeting. The purpose of the reunion will be to give members of the Tritt family the opportunity to meet relatives, to share or obtain information relative to their branch of the family, and to visit historical sites relative to Tritt ancestry. This meeting will be a general get-together and not restricted to those conducting the basic research. During the 1981 meeting, James Tritt of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, offered to coordinate plans for this first National Tritt Reunion. Therefore, please forward any ideas or suggestions that you may have concerning this reunion to: James R. Tritt, 1625 South Chestnut Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; telephone (918) 258-0471.

HANS PETER TRITT FAMILY TREE

During the last year we have made some additional discoveries about the seven generation Hans Peter Tritt Family Tree which was produced by J. H. McCulloch in 1898. John Howard McCulloch, born in 1865, was a great-grandson of Hans Peter Tritt, through

his mother Tabitha Tritt McCulloch. He drew the tree approximately ten years before he published it in 1898. The data were gathered by Miss Jennie Tritt and Mrs. Belle Duncan, great-granddaughters of Hans Peter Tritt. The original tree was printed on a three foot square piece of Irish linen and could be used as a wall map on a roller, framed and hung on the wall, or placed on an easel in a sitting room or parlor. The price at the time was \$3.50. No original trees have been located but many people throughout the country have copies of the version that was redrawn by C. H. Cline of Steelton, PA in 1906.

J. H. McCulloch also drew and published in 1898 a McCulloch Family Tree similar in style and size to the Hans Peter Tritt Tree. As far as can be determined, these two trees were a personal project, showing the lineage of his parents' families. The McCulloch Tree was also redrawn by C. H. Cline of Steelton, PA in 1906. The McCulloch family has recently updated part of their tree and are now reproducing copies for interested people.

Thanks to Clarinda Smith of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for much of the information contained in this article.

TRITT EUROPEAN ORIGINS

We have learned during the last year of major research work conducted by Colonel Harold M. Hegyessy of Pleasant Grove, Utah. He has compiled a great deal of information about the European roots of the Tritt family. He has traced the family back three additional generations. He will make a presentation of his work at the 1982 annual meeting of Tritt Family Research. This article contains a brief summary of his findings.

Hans Peter Tritt and Christian Tritt were young brothers who came to America in 1739. They came from the Bas-Rhin District of Alsace, now in northeastern France. Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. was born August 13, 1715 and Christian was born in 1719. They had one other brother, who died young, and one sister.

The parents of Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. and Christian Tritt were Johann Peter Tritt (Sr.), born about 1686 in Switzerland, and Veronica Kern, born about 1690. Johann Peter Tritt (Sr.) was a tailor to the local gentry and nobility in Alsace. He died young (1719 or 1720) shortly after the birth of his youngest child, Christian Tritt. His wife Veronica remarried in 1724 to a David Bieler. David Bieler, his step-sons Hans Peter, Jr. and Christian Tritt, and, we believe, Veronica Kern Bieler, migrated in 1739 to America and first settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The parents of Johann Peter Tritt (Sr.) were Friedrich Tritt (born 1654) and Christina Grunenwald. About 1695 they migrated from Switzerland to the Bas-Rhin District of Alsace. Alsace was a haven for Swiss economic or religious refugees.

The parents of Friedrich Tritt were Jacob Tritt and Maria Zyss. They lived at St. Stephan in the Ober-Simmental Valley in Bern Canton, Switzerland. The town of St. Stephan is surrounded by gorgeous Swiss Alps, snow-covered peaks, picture-green meadows, dark green pine forests, delightful Swiss chateaus and villages.

As far as we are able to tell, this area in Switzerland is the likely source of the Tritt surname.