

TRITT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Richard L. Tritt, Editor

Issue Number 5, February 1985

Connie J. Tritt, Typist

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH - JULY 5-8, 1984

The annual Tritt Family Research meeting was held at Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA from July 5 to July 8, 1984. The first meeting session on July 6 was opened by Don Tritt (OH). Don welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special thank you was extended to Dick Tritt (PA) and Connie Tritt (PA) for their work on completing the newsletter. Also, Cindy Wagner (PA) was thanked for her effort in planning and organizing the trip to the Dritt Mansion and Lancaster County which was taken during the 1983 meeting.

Don Tritt reviewed the correspondence received during the previous year including letters from persons unable to attend the meeting this year. Letters from interested persons have been received from Germany, Alaska and New Zealand.

The financial report was received. The checking account showed a balance of \$1,247.34. Wayne Tritt (PA) reported that a mailing permit costs \$40 and each mailing must have at least 200 pieces.

It was decided to purchase stationery with a Tritt Family Research letterhead to be used for official correspondence. The letterhead would be designed and the paper purchased as soon as possible.

Dick Tritt (PA) reported on the Tritt collection being housed at the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle. An index of the material is needed and should be considered as a work project.

Various research findings were discussed. A Jennie Tritt family album has been located. Also, a Susan Tritt prayer book dated 1799 has been found. Harold Hegyessy (UT) presented copies of Hans Peter's and Christian's confirmation rolls from 1730. Harry Tritt (PA) reported on a Tritt's Mill Grocery Store.

A Christian Dritt has been located on the census records of 1810 in Chester County, PA. It is believed this Christian Dritt was born in Germany.

A listing of TRITTEN names is being prepared. A separate mailing will be sent to them.

At the last meeting, incorporating under the name of Tritt Family Research was discussed. At that time, authorization was given to go ahead with incorporating. Alfred Hanson, who was looking into the procedure was unable to attend the meeting this year. Wayne Tritt (PA) reported on incorporating in Pennsylvania as a non-profit organization. Wayne will continue his efforts in this matter.

The Tritt cookbook project was discussed. Some recipes have been collected, but many more are needed. Another appeal for recipes will be made.

The possibility of using computers for the Tritt Family Research was considered. Estimated costs for the equipment setup would be around \$4,000. It was felt the cost was prohibitive at this time.

Harry Tritt (PA) reported on the efforts made to secure an historical marker for the Dritt mansion and cemetery. An application was sent to the Commonwealth to have a marker erected. The application was denied. Harry will reapply in 1985. As an alternative, a sign could be made for about \$200.

Fund raising was a topic of discussion. One idea was to print note cards with a sketch of the Dritt mansion and/or other Tritt-related designs to sell. Another suggestion was to design Christmas cards. Also, a map could be made of the Central (Continued on Page 2)

Pennsylvania area with locations of interest to Tritts designated on it. Various types of memberships were also mentioned as a means of raising money. However, no decision concerning memberships was made at this time.

One concern discussed was safeguarding and protecting the Dritt mansion. The group feels the mansion is an important part of our heritage and would like to see it preserved for future generations to see and enjoy. The current owner has shown interest in preserving the mansion, but uncertainty about the future is a concern. One group who buys and renovates historical places, known as CLIO, was mentioned. CLIO uses these places as an investment, yet preserves the historical aspects.

Tritt Family Research does NOT endorse the book 'The Amazing Story of the Tritts in America' by Sharon Taylor, published by Holbert's Inc. of Bath, OH. The group is still searching for an authentic coat of arms for the Tritt family.

During the afternoon session, Greg Ramsey, Chief of the Division of Preservation Services for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Historical Preservation, presented a discussion on the National Register of Historical Places. The group extended their appreciation to Mr. Ramsey for taking the time to come to our meeting and for his informative talk.

At another session, Harold Hegyessy (UT) talked on research methods and compiling data. He instructed the group on how to complete the Family Group Data Sheets. Primary and secondary sources of information were discussed. One work project for the Tritt Family Research is to compile all the information collected on the Family Record Sheets.

In 1983, WGAL-TV in Lancaster, PA, featured the Dritt mansion on television as part of the ongoing series of 'Our Heritage' which is a section of their news program. The feature was a result of the efforts of Betty Tritt Smeltz (PA). Dick Tritt (PA) also contributed information for the presentation. A videotape

of the presentation was shown during an evening get-together. Films of Switzerland were also shown.

A work session was held on Saturday. Some persons began transferring information to the Family Record Sheets. An identification chart was prepared for the group picture taken at the 1983 meeting.

Saturday afternoon, Rev. Edward Rosenberry was present and gave his account of publishing a family record book for the Rosenberry family. Rev. Rosenberry discussed the methods they used for their book and also many of the problems they encountered. Since one of the goals of Tritt Family Research is publication of a family history, there was much discussion and many questions were asked. Rev. Rosenberry was very cooperative and the group thanked him for his insight into the efforts and time required to publish a family history.

After the talk, the group discussed publication of the Tritt family history. Areas discussed were whether to publish one large book or divide it into two volumes, and what methods should be used to list the lineage. A collection of pictures and anecdotes would also need to be prepared. One suggestion was to have a mailing two years prior to publication to update all the information. Financing the project would need to be arranged. No decisions were made on any of the topics discussed at this time. It was suggested that various family histories be collected and reviewed for ideas on how to write our family history.

Tritt Family Research is planning a trip to Switzerland in the summer of 1985. Work tasks for the trip were outlined.

An agenda for the 1985 meeting was prepared. The 1985 meeting will be held on June 14, 15 and 16, 1985, at Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, providing the accommodations are available at the College. Persons going on the Switzerland trip will be leaving from the meeting on June 15. (Continued on Page 3)

Progress on transferring information to the Family Record Sheets will be reviewed. Publication of the family history will be discussed. Persons attending will be asked for their ideas and suggestions on methods to be used. Please bring any samples of other family histories that are available. An outline for publication will be written.

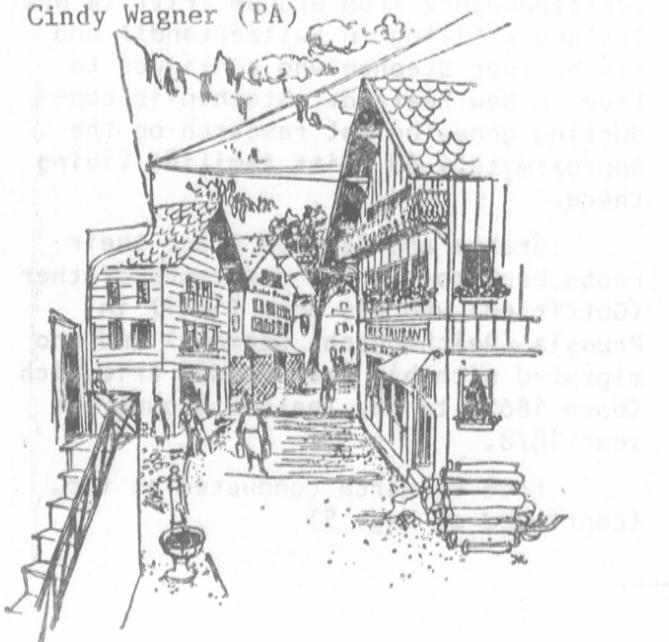
Authorization to have note cards, stationery and maps printed for sale was given. Hopefully these items will be available for the newsletter or for the 1985 meeting.

As in previous years, the accommodations and hospitality at Dickinson College helped to make the meeting very enjoyable. At mealtimes, the food was 'good and plenty'. It was nice to renew old friendships and develop some new ones.

-Wendy Smeltz, Recording Secretary

THOSE ATTENDING THE 1984 MEETING:

Harold Hegyessy, Jr. (UT)
Betty Tritt Smeltz and Donald 'Jack'
Smeltz (PA)
Wendy Smeltz (PA)
Wayne and Esther Tritt (PA)
Leonard, Connie, Jill and Randy Tritt (PA)
Harry and Frances Tritt (PA)
David and Judy Tritt (OH)
Timothy Tritt (OH)
Richard and Nancy Tritt (PA)
Seldon and Emma Tritt (PA)
Donald Tritt (OH)
Carol Tritt (PA)
Harold W. Weigel (PA)
Cindy Wagner (PA)



FINANCIAL REPORT

We again express appreciation to those of you who have shared financially in support of Tritt Family Research. Without your ongoing help many of our efforts would need to be curtailed and perhaps even abandoned.

Thank You

In 1984, you provided a total of \$496 in cash contributions. In addition, Harold Hegyessy graciously donated pads of data recording forms with a monetary value of over \$58. Also, 12 copies of the Hans Peter Tritt Tree were sold to interested people producing a net gain of \$96. You may be interested to know that a copy of the tree was donated to Rev. Isaac Tritt, an Alaskan Eskimo living in Arctic Village, Alaska. Hopefully, we may be able to discover how Eskimos may have acquired the Tritt surname. Late in 1984, we began selling boxes of stationery on which the Tritt mansion is featured. By the end of 1984, this effort had produced a net gain of \$55.

The following list of people have provided direct financial support during the 1984 calendar year:

Carol Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Stephen P. Tritt	Napier, New Zealand
Grace and John Reese	Hershey, PA
Edna and Joe	
Clippinger	Carlisle, PA
Marilyn and Donald	
Tritt	Granville, OH
Margaret Mae Tritt	Victoria, B.C., Canada
Evelyn and Harold	
Tritt	Newald, WI
Glenna and Eugene	
Tritt	Sarasota, CA
Harold Hegyessy	Pleasant Grove, UT
Marian and John Orso	Morristown, NJ
Mrs. Wm. B. Tritt	Newport Beach, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Sam	
Tritt	Massillon, OH
Frances and Harry	
Tritt	Dover, PA
Judy and David Tritt	Canton, OH
Virginia and George	
Hill	Iowa Falls, IA
June and William	
Tritt	Oshkosh, WI

(Continued on Page 4)

Mr. and Mrs. R.L.

Youngson

Grace Tritt James

Yvonne Hartshorn

Helen and Roy

Whiteacre

Oshkosh, WI

Bedford, PA

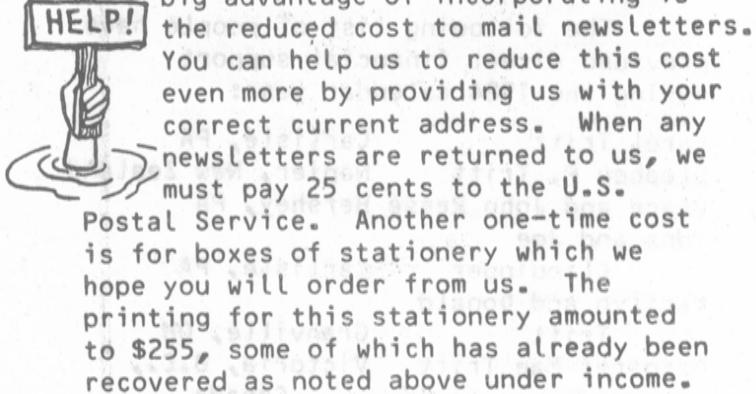
Peninsula, OH

Cumberland, MD

It is the custom of Tritt Family Research to recognize all cash donations by publishing names in this newsletter. If you made a contribution during 1984 and your name does not appear above, please let us know so that you can be recognized in the next newsletter.

We also want to recognize all of the volunteers who provide many hours of time in researching, typing, filing and who help to prepare this newsletter for mailing. Thank you for your help and participation.

Expenses for 1984 amounted to \$1,009.53. This is somewhat higher than usual but includes some one-time costs which should not be reoccurring. One such cost is the amount of \$114.83 representing the total for the incorporation of Tritt Family Research. The big advantage of incorporating is the reduced cost to mail newsletters.



You can help us to reduce this cost even more by providing us with your correct current address. When any newsletters are returned to us, we

must pay 25 cents to the U.S.

Postal Service. Another one-time cost is for boxes of stationery which we hope you will order from us. The printing for this stationery amounted to \$255, some of which has already been recovered as noted above under income.

Thank you again for your past support. Your continuing contributions mean that you share with us in trying to discover information about our family background.

-W. Wayne Tritt, Treasurer

TRITTS AROUND THE WORLD

Tritts in ALASKA

This past year we were very pleased to hear from Rev. Isaac A. Tritt of Arctic Village, Alaska. He confirms what meager information we have about Tritts in Alaska. One account is from the 'National Geographic' magazine and the other from the magazine 'Alaska'. Rev. Tritt tells us there are many TRITTS in Arctic Village and all are Athabascan Indians. We are hopeful someone will take on the responsibility of writing an historical account of this group of Tritts.

Tritts in EUROPE

A letter this past year from Karl Friedrich Max Tritt of Munich, Germany, informs us his efforts to locate Tritts in Europe has resulted in a list of about 50 names and addresses.

We look forward to the possibility of meeting Karl, his wife, Jugeborg, and his mother, Mathilda, during our 1985 summer research trip to Europe.

Tritts in NEW ZEALAND

This past year we received correspondence from Graham Tritt (a New Zealander living in Switzerland!) and his brother Stephen who continues to live in New Zealand. Stephen is conducting genealogical research on the approximately 60 Tritt families living there.

Graham and Stephen trace their roots back to a great-great-grandfather (Gottfried) who was born (1829) in Prussia (Reichenbach, Germany) and who migrated with his teenage son Friedrich (born 1861) to New Zealand around the year 1878.

From research conducted so far,
(Continued on Page 5)

it appears there were at least three ships bringing TRITTS from Germany, the last one arriving in New Zealand around 1908. One of the early immigrants was reportedly a family of 12 brothers. Further indications are there were migrations to Australia at about the same time period.

We greatly look forward to the genealogical and historical account that Stephen will write. In addition, we are hopeful we may be able to meet with Graham during our 1985 summer research trip to Europe.

Announcing

Tritt Family Research, INC.

We are pleased to inform you that as of August 27, 1984, Tritt Family Research has been incorporated. Henceforth, if we choose, we can suffix our name with 'Inc.'

The rather involved process of obtaining corporation status was carried out by W. Wayne Tritt. Wayne labored long and hard on this task which included voluminous bookwork and reporting. We appreciate all the time and effort he devoted to this project.

With non-profit incorporation status, we are now eligible for lower mailing rates. This means a considerable savings for newsletter distribution. There are also numerous tax advantages.



Châlets in winter

PETER TRITT

Peter Tritt was the founder of the Tritt family in Cumberland County, PA. Peter was born in Windsor Township, York County, PA, on May 5, 1755. The record of his birth is found in the records of the Canadochly Church which is located not far from East Prospect.

Johann Peter Dritt, born to Peter Dritt and wife Maria Barbara, nee Dellinger, May 5, 1755. Sponsors, Paul Michel and wife Christina.

Peter was the third son of Peter and Maria Dritt. He was raised with his six brothers and sisters along the Susquehanna River on the Dritt homestead. His father died when he was only 13 years old. He continued to live in his father's house with his mother and his eldest brother Jacob.

In 1775, Peter Tritt married Elizabeth Lefevre, the daughter of Ensign George Lefevre and Barbara (Slaymaker) Lefevre. Peter was 20 and his young bride only 14. Elizabeth Lefevre was born December 8, 1761. Her father, George Lefevre, was an Ensign or First Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War and served in the Third Battalion under Colonel David Jamison. It is interesting to note that his son-in-law, Peter Tritt, also served in the same battalion.

Peter Tritt entered the service in York County as a volunteer in July 1775. He was a Private First Class in the First Company of the Third Battalion of the York County Militia commanded by Capt. Jacob Beaver. The Revolutionary War Pension Record of Peter (5-23974) is found in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. He was a participant at Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton and the crossing of the Delaware with George Washington. The following anecdote in Peter Tritt's own words took place in July 1776 and is included in his pension record.

'There was a small church on Long Island near where we lay and we kept watch for the arrival of the English Fleet from the steeple of the church. I remember seeing (Continued on Page 6)

the approach of the vessels from that station. We saw them first on Saturday about noon and they arrived in the evening at the light house where an English man-of-war had previously been stationed. The fleet consisted of sixty-five ships. On Sunday about dinner time they hoisted sail and approached so near that by speaking loudly we could converse with them from the waters edge. It was in cherry time and they told us if we would bring them some cherries they would pay us well for them. We replied, if they would come on shore we would give them cherries and charge them nothing. Captain Miller & two others who were standing some distance from me fired their rifles at the vessels. They then commenced firing and we withdrew from the shore.'

After returning from the war, Peter and his wife lived with or near his brother Jacob and helped him to manage the homestead. Jacob and Peter are listed together in the tax lists of Windsor Township. In the tax lists of 1779, Peter Tritt owned two cattle. In 1780, he owned one cow.

Peter is not listed in York County records after 1780 because he moved to Cumberland County. The author feels that he moved to the Newville area of Cumberland County because his father-in-law, George Lefevre, had settled there. The Lefevre's were family friends and lived near the Dritts in York County. After George Lefevre sold his property and left York County, he purchased a tract of 260 acres about one mile east of Newville. On this farm is a private graveyard which contains the graves of George Lefevre, his two wives, and other members of the Lefevre family.

In 1782, Peter Tritt left York County and moved to Cumberland County. He purchased an estate in West Pennsboro Township about three and one-half miles south of Newville. The deed for this purchase is dated May 3, 1790. The 'plantation' was deeded from John Penn, the younger, and John Penn, the elder, to Peter Tritt. On this farm, Peter Tritt built a fine stone house of ten rooms which is still standing. Peter Tritt became a successful wagon manufacturer and farmer. Peter Tritt

is listed in the tax lists of Cumberland County, West Pennsboro Township of 1782 as owning 100 acres, one horse and two cattle, all of which were taxable. Little is known about Peter Tritt's life in Cumberland County. He apparently was successful because during his lifetime he bought land and developed six farms for his sons. He and his wife remained on the same farm all their life and raised 12 children there.

On May 20, 1833, at the age of 79, Peter Tritt was granted a pension for his military service in the Revolutionary War. We find Peter Tritt at a meeting of Revolutionary soldiers and officers held at the county hall of Carlisle on January 3, 1832. This meeting was held on the anniversary of the Battle of Princeton to devise ways and means for their mutual benefit.

Peter Tritt's wife Elizabeth died February 7, 1835 at the age of 74. She was buried in the Lefevre graveyard with her parents on February 8, a dreadfully cold day, according to John Lefevre who attended the funeral and noted it in his diary. Peter Tritt died on February 24, 1839, at the age of 83 years. The following notice of his death appeared in the Carlisle newspaper at the time:

Died on Sunday Feb. 24, 1839, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, Mr. Peter Tritt, Senior, of West Pennsboro Township. The deceased was a soldier of the Revolution, having served his country faithfully in the memorable struggle, both as an enlisted soldier and as a militia man. He was honored and respected by all who knew him as an honest and industrious man and exemplary citizen. Shortly before his death he made a clear deed of a farm to each of his sons, the earnings of a long life of industry and frugality.

Peter Tritt was also buried in the Lefevre graveyard. An early Cumberland County photographer took a picture of the graveyard which clearly shows the tombstones of Peter and Elizabeth Tritt. Today, however, those same stones are found in the Big Spring Presbyterian graveyard in Newville.
(Continued on Page 7)

The graves were moved there because Peter Tritt's son, Major Samuel Tritt, was an active member of that church and wished to have his parents' graves with his own in Newville.



**Jacob Dritt House 1758
York County, PA**

TRITT NOTEBOOK. . . .

The above sketch of the Jacob Dritt House was drawn using early photographs and depicts the house as it probably appeared in the 18th Century. Boxes containing 16 informal notes and envelopes featuring this sketch on the front are available for \$4 including postage and handling. If you wish to order notes, please complete the order form found on the last page of this newsletter. We thank Mrs. Selden Tritt who has accepted the responsibility of

obtaining and distributing the notepaper for our organization.

MEMORIES OF THE 1983 FIRST NATIONAL TRITT FAMILY REUNION - WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO CYNTHIA J. WAGNER

Those of us in attendance remember, with great appreciation, the splendid and most interesting day of touring TRITT sites in York and Lancaster Counties. There was the visit to the City of York, the Dritt mansion and cemetery, White Chimneys (the Slaymaker homestead) and Carpenter's cemetery, all well-timed and in the comforts of an air-conditioned bus. Our day closed with a fine Pennsylvania Dutch meal served family style.

This day-long event was conceived, organized and conducted by Cynthia J. Wagner (Harrisburg, PA) and assisted by her mother, Betty Tritt Smeltz, and sister, Wendy Smeltz. Unfortunately, Cynthia's name was somehow omitted from the list of those who contributed to such a fine reunion. Here we wish to acknowledge Cynthia's initiative, concern for detail and conscientiousness in giving us all such an outstanding day.

PERSONS WITH THE TRITTEN NAME

In our last newsletter we made an appeal for names and addresses of persons carrying the TRITTEN surname. We are pleased to report that because of your response we now have a collection of about 45 names and addresses. Each of these has been sent a special mailing describing the TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH project and asking for information pertaining to their particular genealogy.

From research recently confirmed, it appears very likely early ancestors (Continued on Page 8)

of TRITTS went by the name of TRITTEN (a plural form of TRITT). To have genealogical information from persons who still carry the name TRITTEN will be very helpful in identifying the various migration trails our common ancestors took or had to take throughout Europe and elsewhere.

NEED FOR A TRITT ATTORNEY

Those of us working on the Tritt genealogy and history are all volunteers. From the beginning our shared goal has been to prepare a well-researched and thoroughly-documented account of Tritt family history. As the project increases in scope and complexity and, as we approach plans for publication, we have felt the need for guidance in legal matters. In the spirit of trying to contain costs, we would like to make an appeal for the periodic services of a Tritt, or Tritt descendant, attorney. If you can possibly give us some assistance, please contact Dr. Donald G. Tritt at the Granville, Ohio, address.



CAUTION !!!

Some of you may have been sent a solicitation from a Sharon L. Taylor of Holberts, Inc. (Bath, OH), advertising a book called 'The Amazing Story of the Tritts in America'.



OUT

Since our last newsletter, our research group has examined this book and find it to be principally a list of addresses. Therefore, we wish to make the following statement:

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH DOES NOT ENDORSE THE BOOK PUBLISHED BY SHARON L. TAYLOR OF HOLBERTS, INC. (BATH, OH) TITLED 'THE AMAZING STORY OF THE TRITTS IN AMERICA'.

SCHEMATIC MAP

Sometime in the near future we hope to have available a schematic map of Pennsylvania showing places of interest in Tritt family history. Harry Tritt of Dover, PA is working on the preparation of this map.

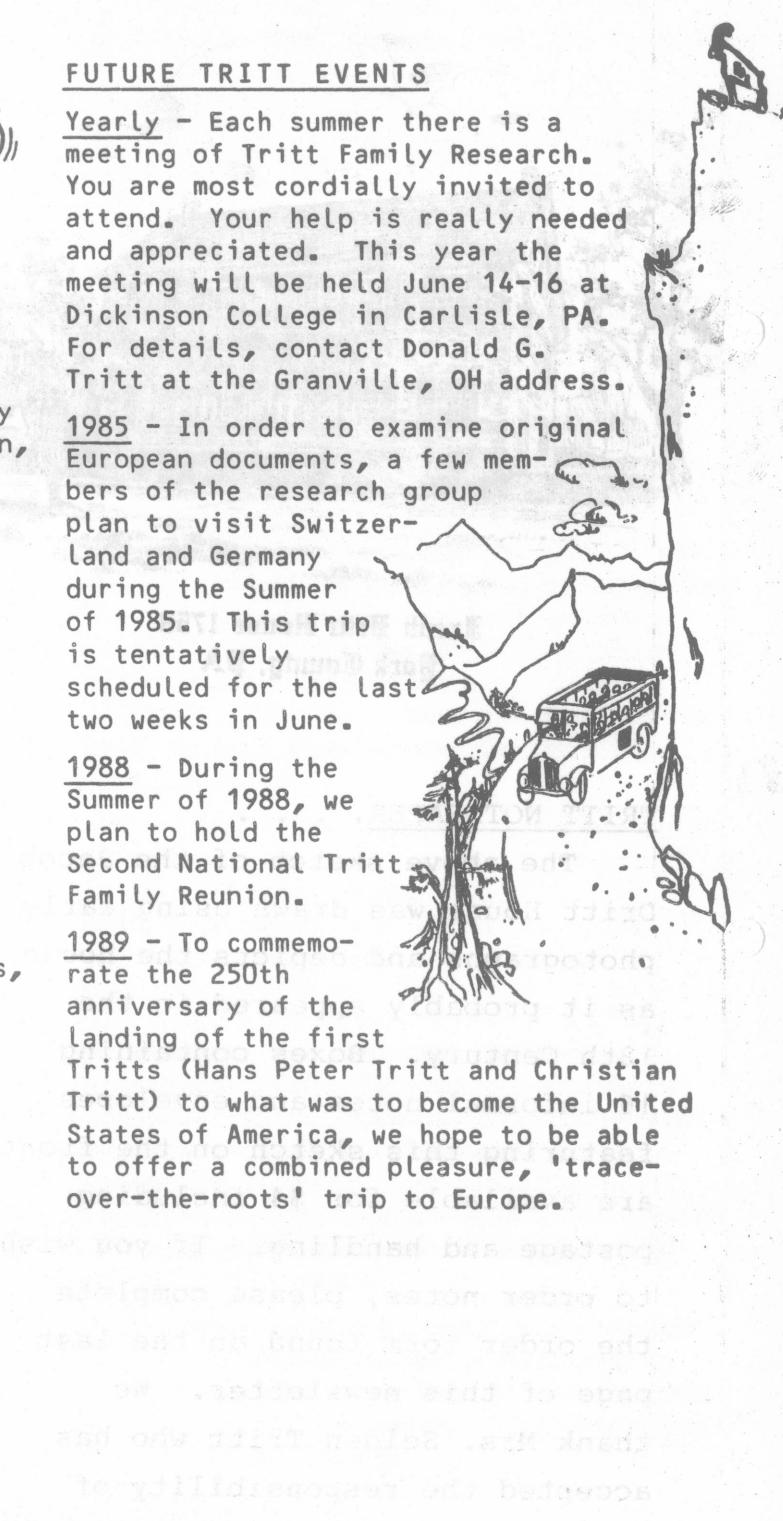
FUTURE TRITT EVENTS

Yearly - Each summer there is a meeting of Tritt Family Research. You are most cordially invited to attend. Your help is really needed and appreciated. This year the meeting will be held June 14-16 at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. For details, contact Donald G. Tritt at the Granville, OH address.

1985 - In order to examine original European documents, a few members of the research group plan to visit Switzerland and Germany during the Summer of 1985. This trip is tentatively scheduled for the last two weeks in June.

1988 - During the Summer of 1988, we plan to hold the Second National Tritt Family Reunion.

1989 - To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the landing of the first Tritts (Hans Peter Tritt and Christian Tritt) to what was to become the United States of America, we hope to be able to offer a combined pleasure, 'trace-over-the-roots' trip to Europe.



PAST ISSUES

This is the fifth annual issue of the Tritt Family Newsletter. Copies of previous issues are available at \$1 each from the newsletter editor, Richard Tritt, 204 Forge Road, Boiling Springs, PA 17007.

TRITT FAMILY COOKBOOK



Betty Tritt (OK) is collecting recipes for a Tritt family cookbook. These recipes will be collected from all over the world and include regional specialties. We would also like to locate old recipes that have been handed down through the generations, as well as recipes by contemporary Tritts. With the recipes, we will include a short biography of the person who created or submitted them. We solicit your favorite Tritt recipes so that Betty can compile them. Please mail them and accompanying biographies to Mrs. Betty Tritt, 1625 Chestnut Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.



ORDER FORM: 1906 HANS PETER TRITT FAMILY TREE

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

I would like to order _____ copy/copies of the 1906 Hans Peter Tritt Family Tree at \$10 each, including postage.

Mail to: Name _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

CHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTICE

Please detach and send to: Dr. Donald G. Tritt, 4072 Goose Lane, Granville, OH 43023.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

YOUR FULL NAME: _____

Previous:

Current:

OTHER CHANGES

Births:

Marriages:

Deaths:

Other:

ORDER FORM: NOTEBOOK

Complete this form, detach and mail to: Mrs. Emma Tritt, R.D. #1, Box 351, Shippensburg, PA 17257. Make checks payable to: Tritt Family Research.

Please mail me _____ box/boxes of Tritt Family Research notepaper at \$4 each, including postage and handling.

Mail to: Name _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH
4072 GOOSE LANE, S.W.
GRANVILLE, OH 43023

(Address Correction Requested)

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