

R

TRITT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 9, September 1988

Richard L. Tritt, Editor

Connie J. Tritt, Typist



TRITT-TRITTEN-DRITT FAMILY 250TH ANNIVERSARY REMIGRATION TOUR OF SWITZERLAND, GERMANY AND FRANCE JUNE 16 - 30, 1989

Come join with people from at least six countries for a memorable first ever worldwide gathering of Tritt-Tritten-Dritt descendants and tour the route of their earliest migration from the Obersimmental, Switzerland in the late 1600's to the "new country" in 1739.

Openings still exist!!

Openings still exist!!

From the historical research we have done, we have determined that Tritts-Trittens-Dritts have resided in the Obersimmental (St. Stephan and Lenk), Switzerland since recordkeeping began in the 1500's. By the end of the 1600's, economic conditions prompted migrations out of this narrow valley tucked up against the northern slope of the high Alps. As we have reported in previous editions of the Tritt Family Newsletter, the earliest known immigrants to the western side of the Atlantic were the brothers Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. and Christian Tritt in the year 1739. It seems befitting to commemorate the 250th anniversary of this event by retracing their earlier ancestor's migration from the Obersimmental to a temporary refugee camp in Bronnhaupten, Germany, then to several decades of residence in Diedendorf (the Alsace), France, and, finally, passage aboard the ship "Robert and Alice" landing in Philadelphia on September 3, 1739.

As you know from previous announcements, the tour described here is family-organized and family-conducted. Along our route, we will have access to family members giving us all a rare opportunity to see life more as it is on an everyday basis. We have exercised every way possible to hold the cost to a minimum yet provide for a memorable occasion. In addition to a trip which could provide us all with an opportunity to feel the pulse of the people as lived today, we wanted to offer a tour by which we could experience something of the early historical times of our ancestors.

In the itinerary given below, we have also planned in visits to some of the traditional scenic and historical sights of Switzerland. Oftentimes, tours can have a regimented "hurry-here - hurry-there" kind of feeling. We have endeavored to create an itinerary which allows for differing paces, for times of rest and relaxation, for individual choices, for independent sightseeing and shopping times.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS

NEW YORK CITY

- (Transportation to New York City will be at your own expense.)
- Three hours before flight time, we will all congregate at J.F. Kennedy International Airport for a late afternoon to early evening departure.
- Our seven-hour overnight flight to Zurich will have us arriving early to mid-morning.
- Meal provided enroute.

OBERSIMMENTAL

- At Zurich, we will be met by our own bus and driver, (Jacob Tritten), who will escort us throughout our trip. From here, it is approximately a three-hour trip to Lenk.
- Check-in at the Hotel Kreuz, run by Walter Tritten and his wife, Gattin, both of whom speak English well. After a rest to recoup from jet lag and the higher altitude, we will have dinner at Lenk.
- An evening of Lenk Community Welcoming event -- with introductions, music, slides, folklore, historical presentations, Tritt genealogical displays, sign-up book, picture-taking, video recording, Tritt stories, etc.
- In Lenk, we will have a choice of events depending on the weather and your needs for rest. During the next five days in Lenk, we will have available all the following options which are pre-paid:
 - Train or bus trip to St. Stephan for a guided tour of the earliest church of our ancestors, followed by a specially-designed evening worship in English by Pastor Heinz Freiburghaus.
 - Mid-week candlelight buffet dinner and folklore evening with townspeople of Lenk -- yodeling, alphorn, folklore music.
 - Train or bus trip to St. Stephan with a tour of the village, examination of early Tritt Family records in cooperation

with Fritz Kummer of the Zivilstandsamt. Lunch at a mountain inn above St. Stephan and a drive up the scenic Fermel Valley for a short walk along the Fermel River.

- Village tour in Lenk and examination of the early Tritt family records in cooperation with Walter and Ernest Tritten and Hansruedi Schneider of the Zivilstandsamt.
- Visit to the Health Resort Centre of Lenk and its hot mineral springs (93° F.) baths known to the Romans.
- Visit to Herbert Tritten's Alpine farm on the Chali mountain to see how Alpine cheese is made. Following this, a walk to Siebenbrunnen, source of the Simme River.
- Ride by gondola up to Leiterli (altitude 6600'). Walk back over Alpine pasture to the middle station -- Stooss. From here, ride back by gondola to Lenk.
- Drive by bus up to Buhlberg. Have lunch here. Many hiking possibilities, one to Hahnenmoos Pass.
- Walk to Wallbach gorges and its roaring waterfalls and return via the rustic Wallegg restaurant.
- Evening slide show by a local photographer of St. Stephan with pictures of the area.
- Presentation, in English, by a local historian, "Lenk in past and present times."
- Visit to Tritt houses in and around Lenk and St. Stephan.
- Visit to a Simmental cattle and horse-breeding farm.
- Visit to village or nearby Alpine festivals.
- Attendance at village concerts.
- Day-long excursion to Gruyere with visits to its medieval castle, a chocolate factory and a cheese-making factory.
- Panoramic train to Montreux and Lake Geneva. Visit to the Castle of Chillon.
- Visit to the Native Museum of the Obersimmental in Zweisimmen.



RHINE TRIP TO STRASBOURG IN THE ALSACE, FRANCE

- Early a.m., depart Lenk. Midmorning, stop in Bern, capitol city of Switzerland. Bern is a well-preserved medieval city with compact streets and long protected arcades with many interesting shops. We can walk to the bear pits (the bear being the heraldic animal of the cantonal coat of arms) and to the Clock Tower (dating from 1250) with its famous movable marching figures and astronomical clock. Along the way, we can see many historic fountains built around 1545.

- Reboard bus for Basel, the port city where we will begin our float north on the Rhine, likely as did our ancestors. Depart at Breisach, about a three-hour trip.
- Rejoin bus at Breisach for remainder of trip to Strasbourg, France.
- A short after-dinner walk to the beautiful and historic Cathedral of Strasbourg (dating from the 11th Century), and a tour of the lighted interior of this most spectacular church.

DIEDENDORF, FRANCE

- NOTE: As you know, the small village of Diedendorf (today between 300-400 persons) is the place our ancestors resided between the dates 1704-1739. It was here the Swiss were welcomed because of their characteristics of honesty, fine skills, responsible and productive work habits. We will hear these stories and more as we visit with the town historian, Lilly Lichty, (herself a Swiss descendant as are about half the people of Diedendorf), the Mayor of Diedendorf, Quirin Jules, and his wife, Helen.
- The people of Diedendorf have graciously offered their hospitality to us by hosting us in their homes for our day of touring and our overnight visit on Saturday, June 24.
- Events in Diedendorf: History of Swiss immigration to this area, visits with Tritt and Swiss descendants, visit to Tritt and early Swiss houses, viewing of early Tritt records, visits to farms worked by our ancestors.
- A tour of the Diedendorfer Castle by the current owner, Jean Daniel Ludmann. Hans Peter Tritt, Sr. was employed as a tailor to an earlier owner of this castle, Baron Otto Eberhard vonStreist von Cawenstein. This Baron was a witness to the christening of at least one of the sons of Hans Peter Tritt, Sr. and his wife, Veronica Kern Tritt.
- Visit the Diedendorf Evangelical Reformed Church and participate in a service in the very same sanctuary where our ancestors worshiped over two and a half centuries ago. This is the same church where Hans Peter Tritt, Sr. and Veronica Kern were married on January 6, 1711 and where all their four children were christened, including our Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. on August 13, 1715.

GERMANY

- Depart Diedendorf early Sunday morning. Travel east through the Black Forest into the Baden-Wurtemberg region of West Germany.
- Along the way we will stop at the Wolfach crystal "factory outlet" and others as time permits. Likely we will have lunch here.

- At Balingen, we will check in our hotel.
- On the morning of our next day in this area, we will visit Bronnhaupten, today a working farm, but in the 1600's and 1700's, served as a camp or temporary residence while work placements could be made.
- From mid-morning to mid-afternoon, we will visit and tour the nearby Hohenzullern Castle, a most magnificent and picturesque castle situated on a solitary peak overlooking a wide flat valley. This castle originally dates from the 11th Century. Here we will have lunch.
- Nearby are the towns of Onstmettingen and Erzingen where early Tritts are known to have lived.

SWITZERLAND

- After leaving Balingen, we will drive south toward Switzerland. Again, on the way we hope to stop at some "factory outlets," thanks to the special knowledge of Graham and Monika Tritt of Bern.
- Soon after reentering Switzerland, we will visit the scenic Rhine Falls at Schaffhausen and have lunch here.
- Following this, we will drive to central Switzerland where we will visit the hallowed Swiss National Museum in the town of Schwyz.
- After this, we will proceed to Luzern (Lucerne) where we will spend the next three nights. Luzern is truly a gem-city of Switzerland situated on a most beautiful lake, the very shores of which witnessed the founding of this country in 1291. The famous Chapel bridge was built in 1333. The walled portion of the old city can be walked. In Luzern is found the Lion's Monument; the Glacier Gouden, millions of years old; the Panorama, a 1300 square yard painting; the Richard Wagner Museum; Franciscan and Jesuit churches; the Swiss Transport Museum; the Planetarium; the International Festival of Music; the City Theatre, plays, operas, concerts; folklore, jazz and ballet.
- Our next day in Luzern will provide for an all-day trip up to the summit of Mt. Pilatus. From here you can see all over central Switzerland with magnificent views of the city and the lake of the Four Forest Cantons. We will be able to see across the lowlands to the north as far as the Black Forest. Our round trip will begin with our bus taking us to the nearby town of Kriens where we will board four-seater gondola cars to a midway station. From here, we will transfer to an aerial cablecar to the peak of Mt. Pilatus. Once on top, you can walk to various vista points. A restaurant can provide for lunch needs. This is an excellent place to soak up some sun, to do some relaxing





and reading, and some thinking about what you have experienced during your own personal journey to the land of your ancestors. When you are ready to return, you can take the cog railway down the other side of Mt. Pilatus to the town of Alpnachstad. With a maximum gradient of 48%, this is the steepest cog-wheel railway in the world. At Alpnachstad, you can board a lake steamer for the return trip via the Vierwaldstattersee to Luzern.

- Our last full day in Switzerland will be reserved for your own choices, i.e., leisure walking around Luzern, shopping, packing, resting, etc.
- Departure Dinner Celebration.
- Next morning we will depart on our bus for Kloten, the Zurich International Airport.
- Our return flight to New York City will likely see us arriving mid-afternoon.

OVERNIGHT LODGING SCHEDULE

June 16	Overnight flight to Zurich
June 17-22	Lenk, Switzerland
June 23	Strasbourg, France
June 24	Diedendorf, France (private homes)
June 25-26	Balingen, West Germany
June 27-29	Luzern, Switzerland

PRICES

PRICE INCLUDES

Round trip charter flight from New York City to Zurich; all European ground transportation by private deluxe motor coach; all events described above; 13 nights accommodations, double occupancy; continental breakfast daily and dinner each evening; all required taxes, hotel service charges, tips and gratuities; baggage handling throughout; all required entrance and admission fees.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Passport and visa fees; excess baggage; lunch on 11 days (lunch will be provided on two days - our trip on the Rhine and our day in Diedendorf); all beverages at meals and otherwise; dona-

tions and contributions (i.e., for the special church services planned for us); laundry services; telephone; personal excursions; private bath and shower (some places we may have private bath facilities; however, other places we will use bathroom and shower facilities "down the hall").

COST PER PERSON

For maximum group discount rates, reservations need to be finalized by December 1 and this discount can be passed on to you in keeping with the schedule below.

Based on exchange rates in effect as of August 1988, the inclusive cost of the tour will be as follows:

<u>If Half Paid By</u>	<u>And Remainder By</u>	<u>Discount of</u>	<u>Total Inclusive Cost</u>
December 1 (\$1,100.)	March 1 (\$1,100.)	\$300.	\$2,200.00
January 1 (\$1,150.)	March 1 (\$1,150.)	\$200.	\$2,300.00
February 1 (\$1,200.)	March 1 (\$1,200.)	\$100.	\$2,400.00
After February 1 (\$1,250.)	March 1 (\$1,250.)	\$-0-	\$2,500.00

OPTIONAL ADD-ON COSTS

(1) Single Accommodations. As described above, lodging will be double occupancy to a room, i.e., two twin beds. A limited number of single rooms may be available in certain areas with a payment of a supplementary charge. However, because of the limited number and availability of single rooms, all should be prepared to share double rooms. Should you desire a single room, the additional charge for this will be
\$150.00

(2) Alternate Return Date. Some may wish to stay in Europe longer and return to the United States at a date later than June 30. With this in mind, we will arrange for an alternate return date of Sunday, July 9, or Monday, July 10. The per-person add-on cost for this option will be.....
\$100.00

CANCELLATION SCHEDULE AND REBATES

<u>By Date</u>	<u>Percent Rebate</u>
Up to 90 days prior to departure (March 16)	100
Up to 60 days prior to departure (April 16)	80
Up to 30 days prior to departure (May 16)	60
Up to 21 days prior to departure (May 26)	50
After 21 days prior to departure (May 27)	0

PAYMENT

Please make your checks payable to:

"TRITT FAMILY TOUR - ESCROW ACCOUNT"

and send to:

Dr. Donald G. Tritt
4072 Goose Lane
Granville, Ohio 43023

(Telephone: (614) 587-0213)

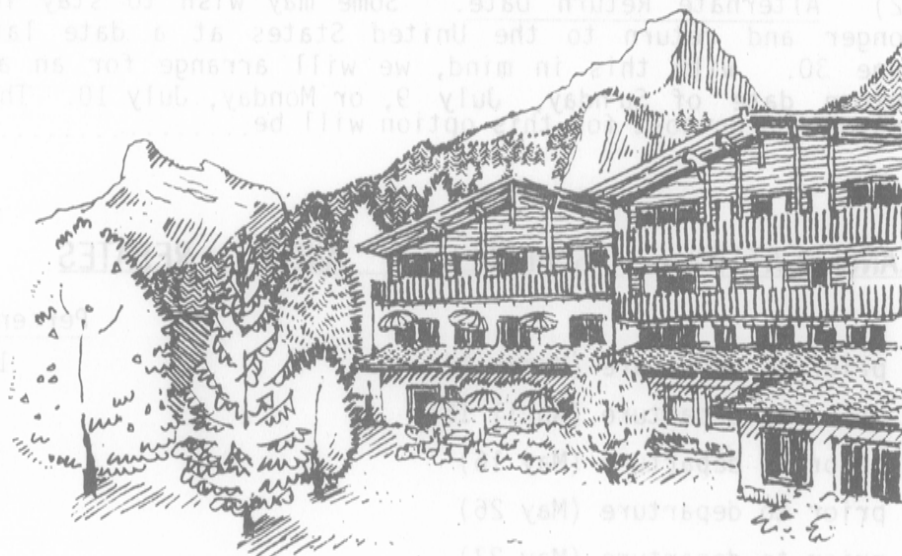
OTHER ADVANCE PLANNING INFORMATION

Beginning in January, full detailed information, lists, etc. will be sent to those with reservations. However, for now, you might need to know the following:

(1) Passport and Visa. You will need a valid United States Passport. In addition, you will need a visa in order to enter France.

(2) Baggage. You will be permitted to have two (2) pieces of checked baggage not to exceed a maximum of 44 pounds per person. In addition, you will be permitted one (1) small carry-on bag able to be stored under your seat.

(3) Clothing. Take a lightweight wind breaker and a lightweight sweater. Conservative colored clothes are best. As it can be cool, long-sleeved shirts and long pants are best rather than t-shirts and shorts. In all clothing, "wrinkle-proof" hand-washable items are best. Consider a good pair of walking shoes. For rain, take a small fold-up umbrella. A small shoulder bag for both men and women can be very useful.



REGISTRATION FORM

(For those Initiating Tour in New York)

DEPOSIT

To assure my registration, my deposit of \$250.00 per person is included with the return of this form.

BASE PRICE

I understand if half of the cost (minus my deposit) is paid in keeping with the schedule below and the remainder by March 1, the inclusive tour cost will be as follows:

<u>If Half Paid By</u>	<u>And Remainder By</u>	<u>Discount Of</u>	<u>Total Inclusive Cost</u>
December 1 (\$1,100.)	March 1 (\$1,100.)	\$300.	\$2,200.00
January 1 (\$1,150.)	March 1 (\$1,150.)	\$200.	\$2,300.00
February 1 (\$1,200.)	March 1 (\$1,200.)	\$100.	\$2,400.00
After February 1 (\$1,250.)	March 1 (\$1,250.)	\$-0-	\$2,500.00

OPTIONAL ADD-ON COSTS PER PERSON

(Please check those that apply)

_____ (\$150.00) - I/We wish to have single accommodations.

_____ (\$100.00) - I/We wish to return to New York City on the alternate date of Sunday, July 9, or Monday, July 10.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

"TRITT FAMILY TOUR - ESCROW ACCOUNT"

To assure your reservation, return as soon as possible to:

Dr. Donald G. Tritt
4072 Goose Lane
Granville, Ohio 43023

Telephone: (614) 587-0213

1988 ANNUAL MEETING

Highlights of the Tritt Family Research Annual Business Meeting held July 7, 1988 at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, are as follows:

Total expenses for the 1988 Newsletter, Issue 8, were \$518.63.

A schematic map of Tritt places of interest in Pennsylvania has been completed by Harry, Wayne, Leonard and Connie Tritt.

A copy of Harold Hegyessy's Thesis on Swiss Migrations will be donated to TFR by Leonard and Connie Tritt.

A new spelling - Trittin - has been discovered. Approximately 25 new Trittin names were added to our mailing list.

Because of the European trip in June 1989, there will be no annual July meeting at Dickinson. Our meeting schedule will resume in July 1990 with special emphasis on preparations for the publication of the Tritt Family History in the 1990's.

The following officers were elected for the 1988-90 term:

President	Donald Tritt
Vice President	Richard Tritt
Treasurer	Wayne Tritt
Secretary	Connie Tritt
Assistant Secretary	Cindy Wagner

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report is for the period beginning January 1, 1988 and ending June 30, 1988. Because this is a special issue of the newsletter relating basically to the planned trip to Europe next June, this report covers only six months of activity. It is anticipated that all subsequent issues of newsletters will be mailed about September 1 beginning in 1989.

Income for the first six months amounted to \$2,421.01. Of this amount, \$2,053.75 was from deposits for the 1988 reunion. Other income included donations of \$215.00, and the sale of diaries, caps, notepaper, etc., generated \$152.26.

Expenses for the same six months totaled \$1,132.83. All of this amount was used either for preparation and mailing of the 1988 newsletter or else were preliminary costs related to the 1988 meeting.

Following is a listing of donors to TFR during the first six months of 1988:

Margaret Mae Tritt of N. Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Donald and Marilyn Tritt of Granville, Ohio

Wayne and Esther Tritt of Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Glenn A. Tritt of Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Clair and Mary Tritt of Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Laberta Mabe of Toledo, Oregon

John and Ruth Trittin of Hurst, Texas

Edna Tritt of Johnson City, Tennessee

Kenneth and Alice Parsons of Eureka, Wisconsin

Judith Davis of Colstrip, Montana

Marie Mischitz of Bradenton, Florida

As always, we are grateful for the continuing support of all who give money as well as the many others who give freely of time and talent. Without the combined efforts of all interested people, our project would be doomed.

If you contributed to TFR during the first six months of 1988 and we goofed by not listing your name above, please make us aware so that we can place your name in the next newsletter.

Wm. Wayne Tritt
Treasurer

1988 NATIONAL REUNION, JULY 8 - 10,
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Participants arrived at Dickinson College the evening of July 7. A cheese fondu and punch snack awaited them, as well as greetings of a warm welcome.

Friday morning, President Donald Tritt welcomed all in attendance. Those present introduced themselves and told a bit about their families. Don gave a brief history of TFR and discussed the goals and accomplishments of the organization since its inception. After a short mid-morning walk to the Hamilton Library, the group viewed the Tritt archives and toured the Cumberland County Historical Society's museum.

The afternoon session was led by Cindy Wagner who conducted instructions on how to fill out family group sheets. This seminar was followed by a slide presentation of European and American sites significant to Tritt history.

The evening featured a Swiss-style banquet. After an outstanding dinner, a program consisting of honor prizes and a Tritt quiz was enjoyed by all. After the banquet, the documentary on the Dritt House filmed by WGAL-TV was shown, along with a travelogue of Switzerland.

Saturday, participants spent the day in York County, Pennsylvania, stopping first at the Dritt house along the Susquehanna River near Wrightsville. People were given the opportunity to walk around the grounds of the house, but access to the inside was not given.

Following the visit, we traveled about a half mile for a picnic lunch along the river.

We then went to York, Pennsylvania visiting the Plough Gates Tavern, Barnett House, first courthouse and the Bonham House, all owned and operated by the York County Historical Society. The Bonham

House is significant in that Margaret Dritt married Samuel Bonham and the original works of a grandfather clock owned by Jacob Dritt are encased in the clock at the Bonham House.

After the evening meal at Dickinson, the movie, "A Trip to Bountiful," was shown.

The closing session of the TFR Reunion was held on Sunday morning with all present saying their goodbyes and "stop in to see us when you get to ...".

It was a great feeling to visit with "distant relatives" and especially to know that they are also interested in the work of TFR and very appreciative of what we do. Their smiles, hugs and handshakes said it all.

A big "Thank You" is due to all the staff people who made the weekend possible in their meticulous planning, to all who displayed exhibits and to all who traveled great distances to be with us. We love you all!

The following persons participated in our reunion activities:

Carol Cozad - Uniontown, Ohio
Gladys Cramer - Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Arthur Duke - Canton, Ohio
Harold Hegyessy - Pleasant Grove, Utah
George and Virginia Hill - Iowa Falls, Iowa
Jeanette Hockensmith - Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Barbara Holloman - Silver Spring, Maryland
Oliver and Dorothy Myers - Webster City, Iowa
John and Marian Orso - Morristown, New Jersey
Jack and Betty Smeltz - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Wendy Smeltz - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Dave and Judy Tritt - Canton, Ohio
Don and Marilyn Tritt - Granville, Ohio
Harry and Frances Tritt - Dover, Pennsylvania
Leonard and Connie Tritt - Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Lloyd and Vivian Tritt - Kenosha,
Wisconsin
Richard and Nancy Tritt - Boiling
Springs, Pennsylvania
Selden and Emma Tritt - Shippensburg,
Pennsylvania
Virgil and Louise Tritt - Gurley,
Alabama
Wayne and Esther Tritt - Carlisle,
Pennsylvania
William and Elizabeth Tritt - Fayette-
ville, Georgia
William and June Tritt - Oshkosh,
Wisconsin
Cindy and Jeremy Wagner - Harrisburg,
Pennsylvania

of love in all the "cousins," and I'm sure others will be helping them find their branches in the tree - or perhaps even in another Tritt lineage.

A lot of us had less than full nights' sleep because of all the new information, images and genealogy charts spinning through our minds! What a treat seeing the house in which our ancestors dwelled. At Jacob Dritt's mansion, I kept a pinecone from the "Keeping Pines," - whose purpose was to help keep away evil spirits! History came alive through the stories we heard - about the houses AND the people.

The marvelous banquet and the after-dinner quiz and "awards" will stay in my memory. I'll be anxiously awaiting the trip to Switzerland, especially since we were shown slides to entice us to come! And I'll always remember the people I met and the places we visited. One other thing that moved me was visiting the graves of my great-great-grandfather, Samuel Tritt, and his father, Peter Tritt. Except for Hans Peter Tritt, I now know where all my direct Tritt ancestors are buried. It was a very emotional time. I'm told I'll feel that way again when we get to Switzerland.

Everyone describes events by talking about the fun, food and fellowship. We certainly had all that, but I'd like to add friendship. Besides being distantly related, we have all become friends.

A big THANK YOU and WELL DONE go to all who worked on the reunion, and to those who are working so hard on the genealogies.

Barbara Holloman
Silver Spring, Maryland



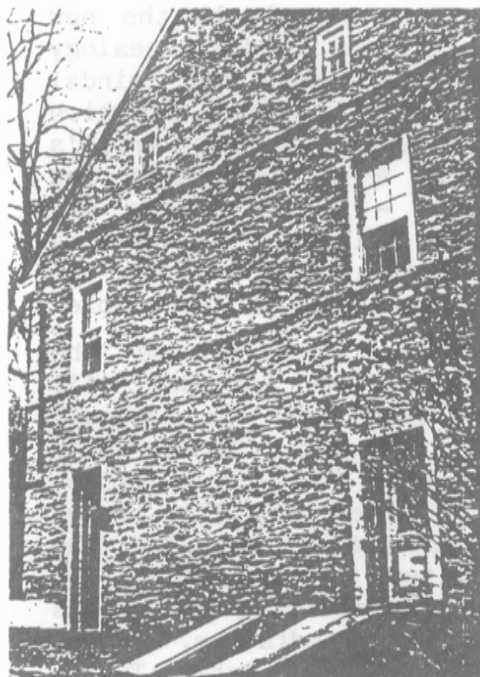
IMPRESSIONS

The following article was written by Barbara Holloman of Maryland. We asked her to describe for us her feelings as a "newcomer" to TFR and a participant in the 1988 National Reunion.

I walked into a room of people I didn't know, but they weren't strangers. Somehow, we were all related. It was a wonderful feeling of warmth and happiness on each side, but especially for us "newcomers" to the Tritt Family Research Reunion.

This was a very well-planned and organized event. Our main room contained Tritt family records, old photograph albums, items for sale, and promotions for the trip to Switzerland in 1989. But the one thing that kept drawing everyone's attention was the huge copy of the Tritt Family Tree. At one time or another, I think we all found out each other's place on the tree. Some folks haven't found their "connection" yet. But there's a lot

The following article was written by Sylvia Bohlayer, a co-worker of Ken Wallick, the current owner of the Dritt House. It appeared last March in the Pennsylvania Department of Education Times, a publication for state workers. We are grateful to Sylvia for permission to reprint her article and photographs in our newsletter.



TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS OF PERMANENCE

The cries of the wild geese, unseen, fill the air. There is no other sound save the fog-shrouded river lapping gently at its shores. On the bluff above sits the house, brooding behind its keeping pines, thick stone walled, dark. The feet which trod its floors in centuries past are stilled now, but remembered on the toppled stones of the family graveyard on the hill high above the house.

Look hard, and the cottages along the road disappear. In their place are long-gone barns and a summerhouse.

Look back, and it is 1758, and the Dritt (or Tritt) family from Switzer-

land has just built the finest farm in the area. The American Revolution is still 18 years in the future, but the French and Indian War is raging. The British are driving the French out of Fort Duquesne, which they will rename Pittsburgh. Not far away, the first stage route to link Philadelphia with New York City has recently been completed. George Washington just turned 26.

Listen, and perhaps you will hear the boats slipping through the now-drowned canal in front of the house, the calls of muleskinners on the towpath, the slap of harness leather.

Today the house on the broad, deep stretch of the Susquehanna near Wrightsville called Long Level belongs to Kenneth Wallick of the Bureau of Vocational and Adult Education, who calls his gradual restoration of it to its former grandeur his "hobby," since his original dream of making his home there has never materialized. Except for items like the new split cedar shake roof and the drilling of a well, Ken does the work himself, with attention to historic detail that he feels contractors would never observe. The Dritt Mansion, as it is called, is on both the national and state registries of historic buildings.

Ken knew the old farm when he was growing up in the area, and in 1958, while

he was living in London, the house came up for sale. He bought it, but only later found out that the barns and other outbuildings and most of the land were gone, replaced by housing lots along the road.

For many years Ken's military career kept him in locations far from Long Level, and a series of unsatisfactory renters wreaked havoc upon the interior of the house. Finally, he let it stand empty. Now, Ken's restoration work is moving from top to bottom, with the second floor nearly completed, so that one moves from shadows of former glory on the first floor to an upstairs that is breathtaking in its magnificent simplicity.

In front of the house two tall "keeping pines" stand guard against the entry of any evil spirits. This was traditional in building any homes at the time. The original narrow wraparound porch is gone, replaced by a wider front porch, but clearly visible are the two stone ledges which encircle the house, one just above the location of the old porch roof, the other at the second floor level which originally had a narrow "rooflet" jutting out just below it. Their purpose was to protect the mortar between the stones of the walls from being washed away by rain.

The design of the house is perfectly symmetrical,

with four large rooms below and above, two on each side of wide halls which run from the front to the back. Every room on the first floor has its own door to the outside, with one of them, in a front room, wider than the rest. This was the funeral door, to accommodate the passage of a coffin, since most people at that time died at home.

In a spot where floor boards are missing it is possible to see how the underpinnings of the first level are simply built-up earth with logs laid across, upon which the floor boards were placed.

High, wide corner fireplaces dominate two rooms downstairs, one of which was the kitchen, and two of the bedrooms. They are not back to back, but on opposite sides of the house, and the mantels and trim are carved wood. Far from being foreboding inside, the ten foot ceilings and large, deep-set windows with their wavy glass panes set nine over six impart a feeling of airy grace.

Ken deduces that materials were used in construction as they became available. One of the walls in the first floor hallway

is brick, although other interior walls are plaster and lath "cavity" construction. The wall of the stairway is wormy chestnut boards one and a half feet wide, but the baseboards and stair rails are walnut. "Historians have called the flat carved walnut stair posts one of the best surviving examples of German design of that time," Ken says.

Up the stairs, which Ken has rebuilt for safety's sake, one finds the original 18-inch floorboards, finished to a dark sheen, which survived the years due to less hard use than the first floor received, he surmises. This floor is of platform construction, i.e., the entire floor was built using the full length of the planks, and the walls were built over it. In the grand northeast corner bedroom a plate bearing the numbers 1758 is set into the wall, another practice of the era. All the doors have full-length strap hinges.

One room, in a concession to necessity, has been partitioned to include a modern bathroom and closets.

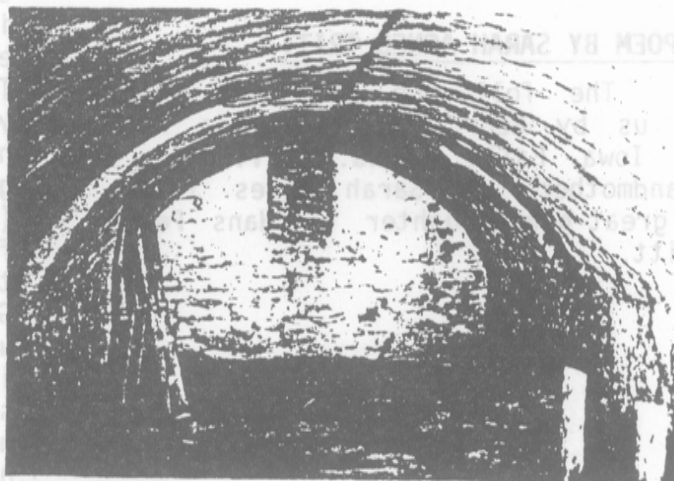
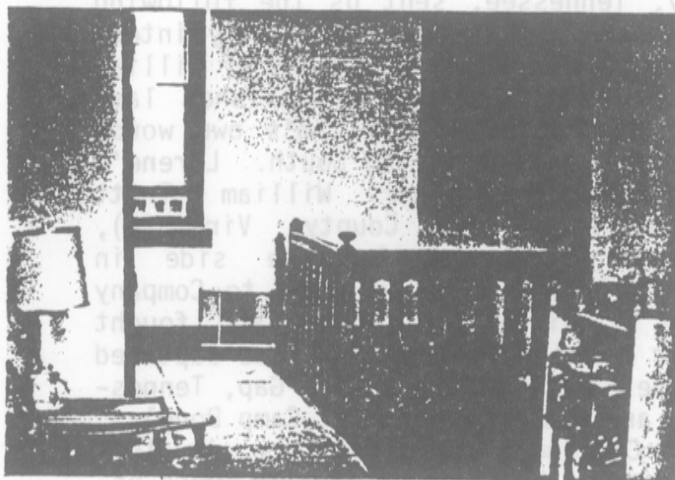
The attic displays another long-gone building technique. The beams

supporting the roof are randomly spaced and of irregular shapes. Trees were used for them exactly the way they had grown.

The house has no basement as we would know one. What it has under one side is a cavernous, white-plastered area with a vaulted ceiling which was used as a wine cellar -- and what else? Small window vents at the top with metal grilles suggest it may also have served as a refuge from the Indians who were still in the area. The interior stairway to it is simply cut-away earth inset with squared logs.

What is in store for the next 230 years? For the present, Ken plans to keep the second floor for his family's use, but is considering using the first level as a headquarters for the F & M Rowing Club which he recently started for those who simply enjoying rowing for recreation. And of course, he will continue his restoration work, bit by careful bit.

Some may ask, "Is it haunted?" No evidence is known - but the spirits will communicate if one lets them.



WELCOME

In August, we welcomed a new family into our fold. Ernest and Doris Trait, residents of Los Angeles, California, visited with Donald Tritt in Ohio and Richard Tritt in Pennsylvania. Mr. Trait had left his name in a file of the New York Public Library and Donald Tritt found it and contacted him. Ernie and his wife come east usually once a year for a Trait Family Reunion in Reading, Pennsylvania. He is a retired pilot, having flown 29 years as a commercial pilot and most recently for American Airlines. He has been researching his family since the 1960's. This has been rather difficult since he lives on the west coast and all his family's records are in Pennsylvania. He did not think he was related to the Tritts until he found his grandfather's birth certificate and discovered his last name was spelled TRITT. TFR has records to tie his grandfather back to Christian Tritt, the brother of Hans Peter Tritt, who came with Hans Peter to America in 1739. We were very excited to finally find a descendant of Christian Tritt and we welcome Ernie and all the Trait family members into our organization. We hope Ernie Tritt will be our Christian Tritt specialist.

A POEM BY SARAH AGNES TRITT

The following poem was given to us by George and Virginia Hill of Iowa Falls, Iowa. Virginia's grandmother was Sarah Agnes Tritt, a great-granddaughter of Hans Peter Tritt.

YOUR NAME

You got it from your father, 'twas
the best he had to give.
And right gladly he bestowed it. It's
yours, the while you live.
You may lose the watch he gave you
and another you may claim,
But remember, when you're tempted,
to be careful of his name.
It was fair the day you got it, and a
worthy name to bear,
When he took it from his father,
there was no dishonor there.
Through the years he proudly wore
it, to his father he was true,
And that name was clean and spotless
when he passed it on to you.
Oh, there's much that he has given
that he values not at all.
He has watched you break your play-
things in the days when you were small.
You have lost the knife he gave you
and you've scattered many a game,
But you'll never hurt your father if
you're careful with his name.
It is yours to wear forever, yours to
wear the while you live,
Yours, perhaps, some distant morning,
another boy to give.
And you'll smile as did your father
- with a smile that all can share,
If a clean name and a good name
you are giving him to wear.

CIVIL WAR

Lorene Tritt Wagner of Johnson City, Tennessee, sent us the following information. She was especially interested in the "Civil War Diary of William Tritt (1864)" that TFR published last year describing in William's own words his imprisonment in the South. Lorene's grandfather, another William Tritt (formerly of Lee County, Virginia), fought on the Confederate side in the Civil War. He belonged to Company G of Virginia Volunteers, and fought under a Colonel Slemph. He was captured in the battle at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, and was imprisoned at Camp Douglas, near Chicago. Unfortunately, he left no diary, but, according to word-of-

mouth reports after he returned at the war's end, conditions in that Northern prison were no better than they are reported to have been in the Confederate prisons. William contracted "T.B. of the Bowels" there and was a semi-invalid the rest of his life. He died in 1895 at the age of 56.

NOTE:

This issue of the Tritt Family Newsletter and the one in 1989 will be issued in the month of September. This will allow us to announce the upcoming European trip and to report on that trip next September when the memories are freshest in our minds.

DID YOU REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES FOR THE COOKBOOK? IF NOT, PLEASE DO SO NOW!! The cookbook won't be complete without your mouth-watering recipe. Many tempting recipes have already been received, but we need **YOURS** to make it complete. Send them to: Mrs. Connie J. Tritt, 328 Ridge Hill Road, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013. (Mark the envelope "Please Forward.") Hope to hear from you soon.

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

Caps with TRITT across the front (nylon mesh with adjustable band)

_____ Green and White }
_____ Blue and White } \$6.50 _____ with gold trim on snout - \$7.50

_____ Wooden lead pencils with TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH inscribed - lot of 25 - \$4.00

_____ Civil War Diary of William Tritt - \$5.00

_____ Annual Newsletters - Issues 1-9, (specify Issue Number(s) _____
- \$1.00 each

_____ Stationery with the Dritt House on the front - \$4.00

_____ Schematic Map of Tritt sites in Cumberland, York and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania - \$1.00

_____ 1906 Tritt Family Tree - \$10.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

(Address Correction Requested)

U. S. POSTAGE

P A I D

Permit No. 8

Boiling Springs, PA

DID YOU REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES FOR THE COOKBOOK? IF NOT, PLEASE
DO SO NOW!! The cookbook won't be complete without your mouth-watering recipe.
Many tempting recipes have already been received, but we need YOURS to make it
complete. Send them to: Mrs. Connie J. Tritt, 328 Ridge Hill Road, Carlisle,
Pennsylvania 17013. (Mark the envelope "Please Forward.") Hope to hear from you
soon.

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

Caps with Tritt across the front (nylon mesh with adjustable band)

Green and white } \$6.50
Blue and white } with gold trim on shirt - \$7.50

Wooden lead pencils with TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH inscribed - lot of 25 - \$4.00

Civil War Diary of William Tritt - \$5.00

Annual Newsletters - Issues 1-9, (specify issue number(s))
- \$1.00 each

Stationery with the Tritt House on the front - \$4.00

Schematic Map of Tritt sites in Cumberland, York and Lancaster Counties,
Pennsylvania - \$1.00

1995 Tritt Family Tree - \$10.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

NAME:

ADDRESS: