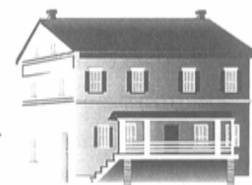




TRITT



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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

TRITT FAMILY MYSTERY

Uncovered with Coverlets

John Tritt Williams has been on my mind for some time. As Museum Curator at the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, I had the opportunity to work with many historical artifacts in the Society's museum

collection. The Society has a significant collection of Jacquard woven coverlets that were made in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

*Continued
on page 2*

by **Richard L. Tritt** Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

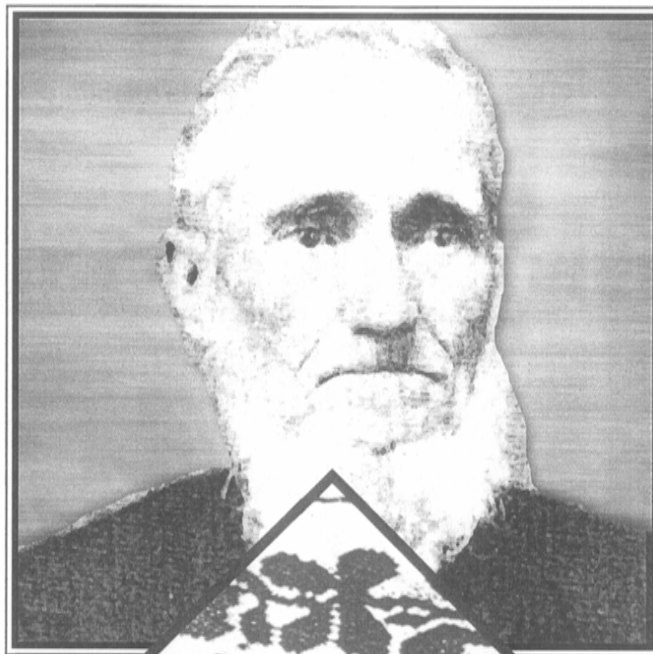
TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH, INC.

ISSUE NO. 22 NOVEMBER 2002

Uncovered with
Coverlets

In the fall of 1978, the Society had an exhibit of 19th century Cumberland County Jacquard coverlets entitled "It's In the Cards." As curator, I later accessioned several additional coverlets for the collection, including one that was made by John T. Williams.

Jacquard coverlets are named after a French weaver and inventor, Joseph Marie Jacquard. By 1801, he had perfected a loom with a mechanical attachment that enabled a weaver to produce a coverlet with handsome and complicated patterns. Essentially, this device controlled each individual thread of the warp by means of a series of spring activated needles. The needles were in turn controlled by an endless chain of punched cards through which they passed. It was in the cards that the pattern was coded. The use of this type of loom was restricted to the professional weaver, for its operation demanded greater technical skills. Furthermore, its purchase required a significant investment. It was at some point during my work with the Society's coverlets that I learned that John T. Williams' middle name was Tritt. A Society volunteer, Eva M. Williams, told me a little about John since he was an ancestor of her husband. She also told me that his mother was Elizabeth Tritt and that she was a descendant of Hans Peter Tritt, one of the two 1739 immigrants. I took her information but could not fit it in with what TFR knew about Hans Peter Tritt and his descendants. This remained an unsolved mystery until



last
When
to work

year.
I began
on family

lines for Volume II of Tritt Family History, I searched for John T. Williams in TFR's computer database. I was able to learn that John T. Williams was not in the Hans Peter Tritt line but that he was a descendant of the immigrant Christian Tritt. This confusion probably arose from the fact that John T. Williams lived and worked for a major portion of his life in Cumberland County rather than Berks County, the area where Christian Tritt's descendants were

more concentrated. The following is a short biography of John Tritt Williams based on what I have been able to learn about him to date. Any additions or corrections to this history will be appreciated.

John T. Williams was born November 11, 1806, the first child of Ezekiel Williams and Elizabeth Treat (Tritt). The Williams family came from Wales to Connecticut in the early 1600s. The grandfather of Ezekiel Williams was Rev. Solomon Williams, a Congregationalist minister. His son William was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, graduated from Harvard and was elected to public office at the age of 24. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He had three children. His son Ezekiel Williams came to the York, Pennsylvania area, where he worked as a surveyor. He married Elizabeth Treat, daughter of Henry Treat and Elizabeth Morgesen of Berks County. The father of Henry Treat was the immigrant Christian Tritt (1719-1801).

John T. Williams was born in York County and was still living in Paradise Township, York County, according to the 1830 Census. He moved to Cumberland County in the 1830s. At a young age he was probably apprenticed to a weaver since this was his first profession. He was ambitious and purchased a Jacquard loom in 1834, the first one in Cumberland County. This type of weaving was limited in the county to only three locations and involved only eight of the more than one hundred weavers who worked in the county. In 1834, John T. Williams purchased a lot on the south side of East Main Street in

Mechanicsburg. He was the Cumberland County pioneer in this type of weaving and produced the first Cumberland County Jacquard coverlets in 1834. He continued to weave and dye at his East Main Street location until sometime between 1837 and 1840.

In 1840, he sold his house and shop to another weaver, Charles Young. John T. Williams has the distinction of being the first weaver of Jacquard coverlets in Cumberland County. His work also had a major influence on subsequent Cumberland County weavers who adopted many of his patterns and styles.

John T. Williams' work as a weaver was only a small, but important, part of his life. In 1827, at the age of 21, he married Rebecca Rentzell of Mechanicsburg. When first married, John lived at 118 East Main Street in Mechanicsburg and practiced the trade of weaving in a shop just east of his home. In 1837, he left weaving to become a minister in the Lutheran Church. He was elected and called as pastor of the Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg on October 14, 1843.

A written account of the history of the Memorial Lutheran Church by a later pastor, B.F. Alleman, describes Rev. Williams as "a man of strong intellect and large heart." Although he was rather delicate physically, "he was enabled, by divine aid, to render the congregation efficient service." When Rev. Williams came to Shippensburg, the Lutheran and Reformed congregations shared one building. During his ministry the people were led to consider their own interests as a church, and in the latter part of 1843,

they resolved to be independent and withdrew from joint relations with the Reformed. This necessitated the erection of a new church edifice in 1844. The congregation thrived and grew under Rev. Williams' leadership. His communions

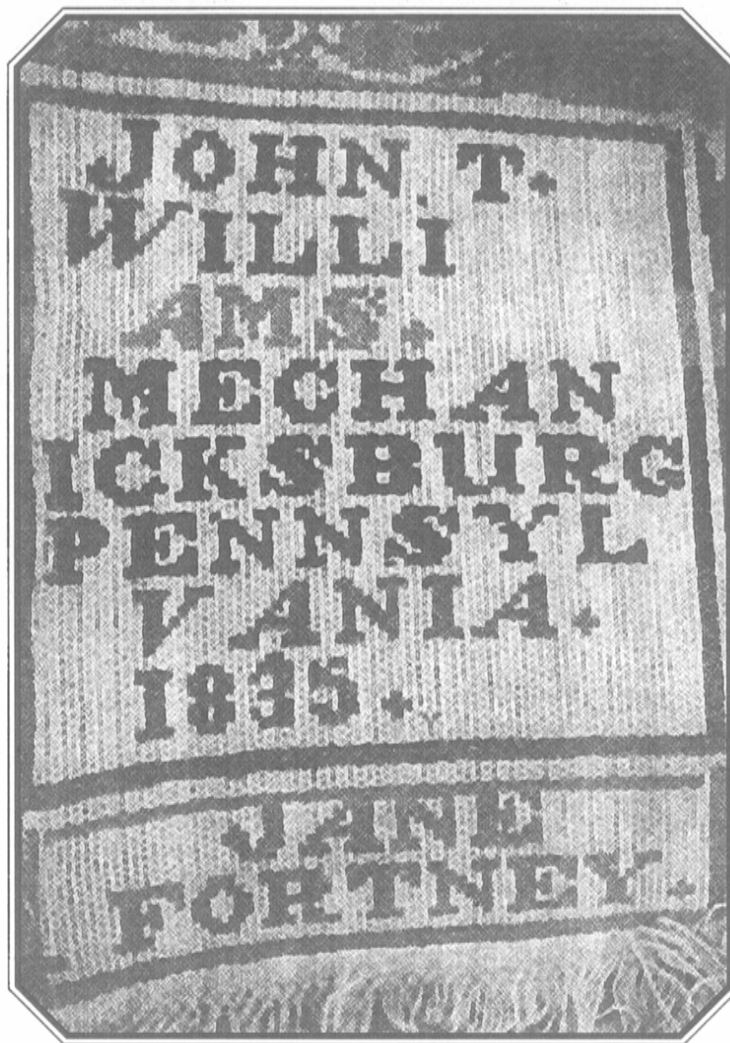
children to raise. According to Alleman's history of the Memorial Lutheran Church, Rev. Williams resigned as pastor of the church in 1849, and "after some years of labor in the church he became so enfeebled, bodily, that he was obliged to

retire from the active duties of the ministry." He was residing at York, Pennsylvania, when Alleman wrote his history.

On December 7, 1848, Rev. Williams married Catherine Isabella Kast, the daughter of John Jacob Kast. They had two children, Luther (1850) and Augustus Jacob (1852). Augustus was born in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, so it is likely that Rev. Williams was serving a church in that area. Rev. Williams appears again in records of the Zion Lutheran Church in Newville, Pennsylvania. He was there on August 20, 1854, to baptize Anna May Evans, daughter of the church's pastor, Rev. Joshua Evans. I have not been able to determine exactly where Rev. Williams served before and after his tenure in

Shippensburg. Eva Williams says

that he was a minister in Perry and Columbia Counties. Many photos of his family were taken in Mechanicsburg, the town that seems to have been home to several family members. Despite his poor health, John T. Williams did not die until May 25, 1883, in York, at the age of 76. He had been away from his early vocation of weaving for forty-three years. He is buried with his wife, who died in 1885, and son Luther on the Kast family plot in the Longsdorf Cemetery near New Kingstown.



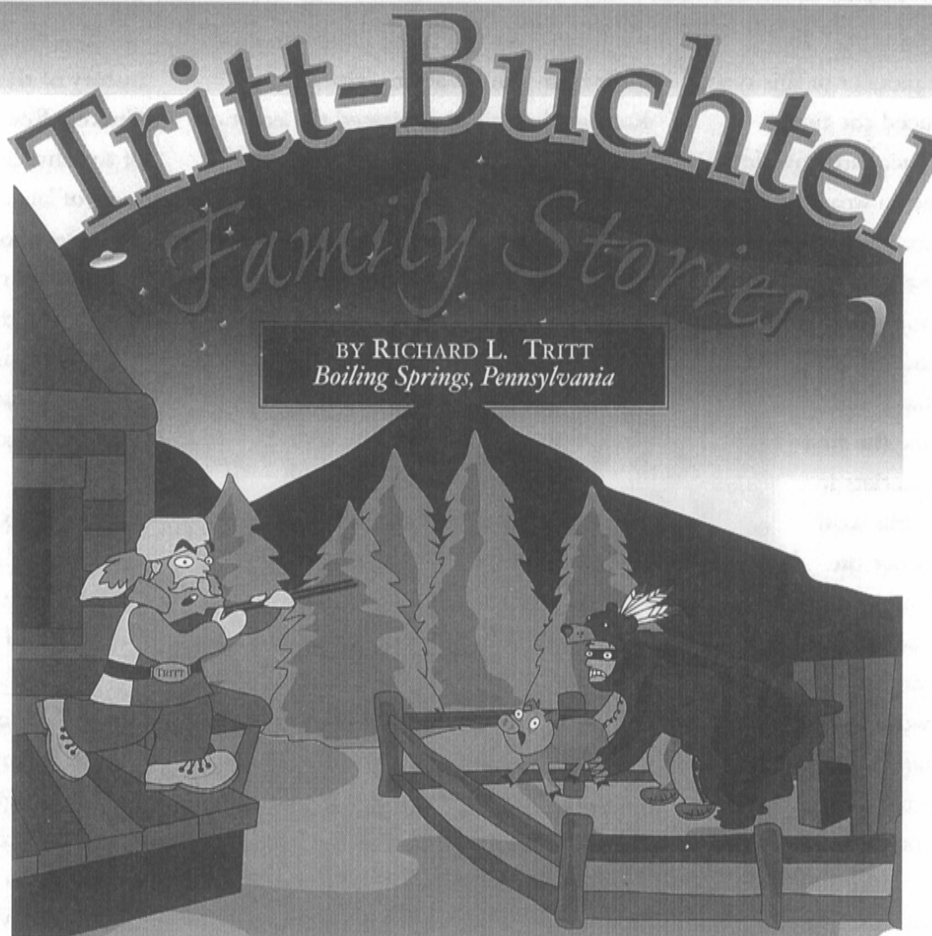
averaged about 130 members.

Rev. Williams and his wife Rebecca were the parents of nine children, born between 1828 and 1847. Their names were Elizabeth, Nathaniel, Eliza, Henry Ezekiel, John, Mandilla, Mary Ann, Levi and Rebecca. Mrs. Rebecca Williams died several weeks after the birth of her ninth child, Rebecca Jane, on March 21, 1847, at the age of 36. She is buried in the old Shippensburg Cemetery at the corner of Orange and Queen Streets. Rev. Williams' mother-in-law took the younger

At the 2002 Annual Meeting of TFR we had a member of the Buchtel family with us. Michael A.

Buchtel of Medina, Ohio, is a family historian and genealogist. He shared information with us about his particular family line. Peter Tritt (1755-1839), founder of the family in Cumberland County, had a son Joseph Tritt who settled in Summit County, Ohio. He had a daughter Juliann (1815-1902) who married John Andrew Buchtel (1809-1886). Michael Buchtel has researched this family line to the present.

One thing that Michael included with his family records was a collection of family stories. These were told to him while he was growing up by members of his family. These stories cannot be proven or disproven except to say that some of the same stories were repeated to him by individuals outside of his immediate family. Stories of this type are of interest and could be based on the truth. In some cultures, such as many Native American nations, family histories and traditions were passed from generation to generation only by word of mouth. The following story of "The Pet Bear" is one of the intriguing Buchtel - Tritt stories that



Michael shared with us.

Joseph Tritt, the homesteader, was out walking in the woods one day. To his surprise, he encountered a brown bear that challenged him. Joseph shot and killed the bear. As he was preparing to skin it, he heard a strange cry. Looking around, he saw a bush moving. Upon investigating, he found a baby cub that evidently the mother bear had hidden.

Joseph took the cub home with him and raised it as a pet. It followed Joseph around everywhere he went just like a dog. It became tame and was friendly with everybody, including those who came to Joseph Tritt's mill. The bear was also friendly with the other family pets and the livestock, never attacking or eating any of them.

Everyone, including Joseph, knew that someday the bear would probably go wild and attack the livestock, thus, forcing Joseph to kill his pet. As the bear matured and grew to full size, it still

continued in its tame ways. In the spring, the bear would disappear for a few weeks, but always returned. Everybody assumed that he had a "sweetie hidden somewhere."

One spring the bear left and never returned. At the same time, some of Joseph's piglets were disappearing during the night. Joseph assumed that at last his pet bear had gone wild and either one of his

neighbors or he was going to have to kill it.

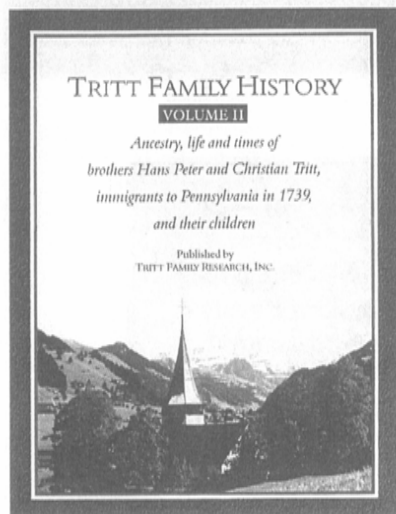
One Sunday evening, Joseph was sitting out in his yard with his family and a few friends. He saw his pet bear walk out of the woods and start to walk up the lane towards the pig's sty. Joseph grabbed his rifle, shot and killed his pet bear. Upon investigating his kill, Joseph discovered to his surprise that a dead Indian was inside the bear's hide. Joseph came to the conclusion that the Indian and the bear had met somewhere in the woods. Not realizing that the bear was tame and accustomed to being around human beings, the Indian had killed it and used its hide as a disguise.

Stories of this type are amusing and of interest but we must be careful to accept them for what they are and state clearly that they are not based on fact or documentation. They do add some color and life to what can be at times a rather dry subject.

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, VOLUME II

AN UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2002

by Richard L. Miller, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania



PROGRESS CONTINUES BY THE VARIOUS AUTHORS TO INPUT DATA AND TO CROSS CHECK INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING PUBLICATION TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, VOLUME II.

THIS VOLUME WILL TRACE THE DESCENDANTS TO MODERN TIMES OF THE IMMIGRANT BROTHERS HANS PETER TRITT (1715-1768) AND CHRISTIAN TRITT/TREAT (1719-1801). THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE FAMILY TREE MAKER, VERSION 9.0 WILL BE USED.

At the August 2002 meeting of Tritt Family Research (TFR), editor Richard Miller stressed the importance of standardization of the input of data so as to be consistent and to save time later in the editing process. The group discussed many issues related to standardization and did come to agreement on those issues.

The time line for publication was adjusted to:

- September 2002 to August 2003:

Finish the data entry process

- September 2003 to August 2004: Make decisions on what family pictures and stories to include in each chapter and do the appropriate work to include them

- September 2004 to January 2005: Last request to newsletter recipients for updated information for Volume II

- February 2005 to August 2005: Final updating and editing

- September 1, 2005: Submit final document for publication and advertise

- December 1, 2005: Volume II is completed and ready for sale!

Also, at the August 2002 meeting of TFR it was agreed to establish a Book Fund and a Patron Donor program to help pay for the cost of publication of Tritt Family History, Volume II. All profits from the sale of Tritt Family History, Volume I will go to the Book

Fund. Patron donors will receive a deluxe covered limited edition signed by the authors. The patrons will also be recognized in the book.

Patron donors can contribute in three different classifications. The bronze category will contribute \$100 and receive one special edition book. The silver category will contribute \$300 and receive three special edition books. The gold category donors will contribute \$500 and receive five special edition books. These contributions could be made in honor or in memory of a friend or family member and will be so listed in the publication of Volume II.

If you are interested in assisting with the financial support of this project, please complete the form below and include it with your payment

PATRON DONOR

Name: _____

Please Print

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Bronze

\$100 _____

Silver

\$300 _____

Gold

\$500 _____

Complete if applicable:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

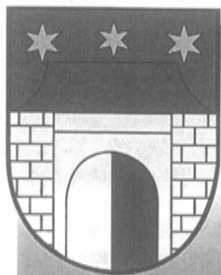
Make checks payable to: **TFR Book Fund** and mail to:

TFR Book Fund

Richard L. Miller, Treasurer

510 Schoolhouse Lane

Shippensburg, PA 17257-1020



Tritt Family Research

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 15, 2001 - August 10, 2002

Balance August 15, 2001	\$2,333.61
Income All Sources	3,164.17
Total Expenses	(2,501.13)
Balance August 10, 2002	\$2,996.65

The above balance is split between two funds:

16th Century Research Fund	\$2,313.01
General Operating Fund	683.64
Total	\$2,996.65

This report covers the time period which reflects the expenses of publishing issue #21 of our newsletter, maintaining our web site, and the continued sales of the genealogy book Tritt Family History Volume I.

The following is a listing of individuals who made donations to Tritt Family Research since the publication of our last newsletter:

Gladys V. Cramer	Shippensburg, PA	Clair S. Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Nadine Tritt Gaume	St. Joseph, MO	Donald G. Tritt	Granville, OH
Janis R. Habermehl	Omaha, NE	Hollis C. Tritt	Spokane, WA
Virginia H. Hill	Iowa Falls, IA	James and Betty Tritt	Broken Arrow, OK
Margaret E. Holt	Watkinsville, GA	Marg Tritt Burnaby	B.C., Canada
Melissa Kelly	Davis, CA	Ray C. Tritt	Sycamore, IL
Glenda Line		Robert L. Tritt	Kansas City, MO
Richard L. and Jeanette C. Miller	Shippensburg, PA	W. Wayne and Esther Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Janet Roberts	Levittown, PA	Wilbur H. and Florence Tritt	Hampton Bays, NY
Carol and Gary Sliffe	Beach City, OH	William E. Tritten	Oklahoma City, OK
Evelyn M. Smith	Mentor, OH	Robyn T. and David L. Wampler	Gardners, PA
Nancy B. and Kent G. Snyder	Newport Beach, CA	Doris West	
Catherine Steffy (Trate Reunion)	Mohnton, PA	Beulah E. Wisniewski	Salem, OR

These contributors donated to the general operating fund, donated toward paying for the newsletter and/or gave to help maintain the web site. THANK YOU!

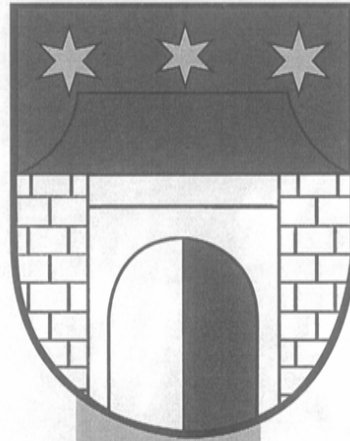
**Respectfully submitted,
Richard L. Miller
Treasurer**

Reflections on the 2002 ANNUAL MEETING

by Brent and Melissa Clayton, State College, Pennsylvania

I am the grandson of Harold Hegyessy, who has been heavily involved with Tritt Family Research for many years and authored several chapters in Tritt Family History Volume I. Harold currently lives in Utah, and it has become increasingly difficult for him to attend the annual research meetings in Carlisle. However, when he found out that my wife and I were moving to Pennsylvania, he strongly encouraged us to become involved with Tritt Family Research. He listed names and addresses of people to look up, and he had so many good things to say about them. Because of his wonderful experiences with those involved in the research, he was sure they would open their arms to us. They certainly have!

The very first thing we noticed as we entered the conference room Friday morning for the annual research meeting was that we were immediately accepted as family. The bulk of the meeting the first day was devoted to formatting the second volume of Tritt Family History. We became immediately involved in this endeavor, although neither of us have much publishing experience. After hearing everyone discuss their research on the Tritt lines, we were filled with enthusiasm and even accepted assignments to help Perry



©Tritt Family Research, Inc. 1998

Overall, we had a wonderful weekend with the Tritts. We feel like part of the family, and we are definitely planning to be involved in the research for Volume II.

and Mercedes Woolsey in researching the Paul Tritt line. We are very excited to be involved in such a wonderful research organization.

While in Carlisle, we had the special opportunity to tour the local museum with Dick Tritt, who works in the museum's archives. He gave us a behind-the-scenes look at some old family photographs and documents. We also took a trip with the group down to the Tritt mansion on the banks of the Susquehanna River. It was really neat to see such a big part

of Tritt history being restored. Melissa was so interested that she volunteered to create an artistic rendition of the restored house which will be donated to Tritt Family Research.

Overall, we had a wonderful weekend with the Tritts. We feel like part of the family, and we are definitely planning to be involved in the research for Volume II. And for those of you who, like us, are not from southern Pennsylvania, according to Leonard Tritt the correct way to pronounce Carlisle is Car-'lisle, not 'Car-lisle.

EDITORS' Note

It came to our attention at the recent annual Tritt reunion, that some of the people on our regular mailing list did not receive last year's newsletter (Issue #21 November 2001). We think that perhaps it had something to do with the U.S. Post Office and rerouting of mail due to the Anthrax scare in October and November of 2001. If you did not receive last year's newsletter and would like a copy, please contact W. Wayne Tritt, 24 Old Stone House Road North, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.

Connie Tritt
Jeanette Miller
Co-Editors



Participants of Tritt reunion in Georgia

times with family you may not have seen since last year's reunion. If anyone has lost contact with this group or is interested in attending future reunions which are held the last Saturday in July each year, contact Linda and Preston Tritt at 75 Cleveland Highway, Murrayville, Georgia 30564 or by telephone at 706-864-8024.

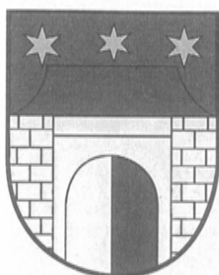


GEORGIA TRITT REUNION

by Becky Tritt

Dahlonega, Georgia

A reunion of Tritts in Georgia was held July 27, 2002, at Lake Winfield Scott State Park in Suches, Georgia. There were about 130 people in attendance, the largest group ever for the event. All who attended brought a covered dish to share with everyone. Activities provided included swimming in the lake, catching up on gossip and having a good time talking over old



Tritt Family Research MEETING IN AUGUST 2002

by Connie Tritt Carlisle, Pennsylvania

The annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held on August 8 to 10, 2002, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There were twenty people in attendance for the meeting.

The meeting on Friday consisted of discussions on the publication of Volume II of *Tritt Family History* and how to structure chapters and enter data.

Saturday we conducted our regular business meeting. Several of our regular attendees were unable to make it this year due to illness.

We discussed ways in which to fund publishing the next volume of *Tritt Family History*. It was decided to use some monies on hand in another account and do the patron donor

method similar to what was used for Volume I.

We also discussed some possible new sale items such as new scenes on note cards, t-shirts, pencil drawing of the newly renovated Dritt house and a calendar of pictures of interest to Tritt Family Research.

Some accomplishments and recognitions in 2002 shown to those in attendance at the meeting were for Richard Tritt being bestowed with the 2000 Historian of the Year award from the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Barbara Holloman received a Nations Capital award for her many years of service to the Girl Scouts of America; and Richard and Jeanette Miller attended the spring

meeting of Palatines to America where they learned about a new avenue of genealogy research called Molecular Genealogy.

After lunch, thirteen of us drove to York County, Pennsylvania, to visit the Dritt house. Unfortunately, Mr. Zimmerman was unable to meet us there, but invited us to walk around the outside of the house to view the progress being made. It is truly amazing to see the restoration project turning out so well.

The next annual meeting of Tritt Family Research will be held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on **August 14 to 17, 2003**. We welcome anyone who may want to travel to Pennsylvania for a vacation and join with us in our efforts of Tritt genealogy.

DRITT MANSION UPDATE

Richard L. Tritt Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

On Saturday afternoon, August 10, 2002, members of TFR made a trip to York County to visit the Dritt Mansion. A visit to this site has been a highlight of the annual meeting for many years. Although we could not get inside the building because of interior work, we were able to see that a great amount of progress has been made during the last year in the restoration of this magnificent house.

John Zimmerman, owner of the mansion, feels that the project will be completed by the end of this year. The exterior is nearing completion.

All the exterior doors and windows are finished. There is still some masonry work to be completed. Heating, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical work are finished. The kitchen and bathroom fixtures are installed. The walls are plastered, the woodwork is installed and is being painted.

The most obvious addition to the mansion is the pent roofs that provide overhangs to protect the walls from the elements. These were reconstructed much as they would have appeared when the house was built. It is estimated that the original pent roofs were removed about 150 years ago. The two paint colors of the pent roofs and other exterior woodwork are a brownish red and cream. These were selected to match traces of color found on the building.

The second major accomplishment was done so skillfully that a first time visitor may not be aware of it. During the excavations prior to restoration work, archeologists uncovered the foundations of a kitchen wing that was located at the rear of the house. This

18' x 20' summer kitchen has been meticulously reconstructed on the original foundations using the original stone that was found buried in the area and in a stone wall that used to stand directly behind the house. Steve Hess has done the outstanding masonry work. The addition includes a large working fireplace and chimney. A section of the original hearth was saved and will be set off with new pavers. Evidence suggests that the original kitchen wing burned at some point and was not rebuilt. This new addition will be used as a sitting room.

There has not been much additional archeological work done on the site during the last year. There is strong evidence that the foundations of the house may have been part of Thomas Cresap's Fort that was burned in 1736. We definitely know that the mansion is built on Cresap's former estate that was called Pleasant Gardens and that there are several unexplained walls in the foundation of the mansion. All the artifacts that were collected at the site have been numbered, catalogued and placed in

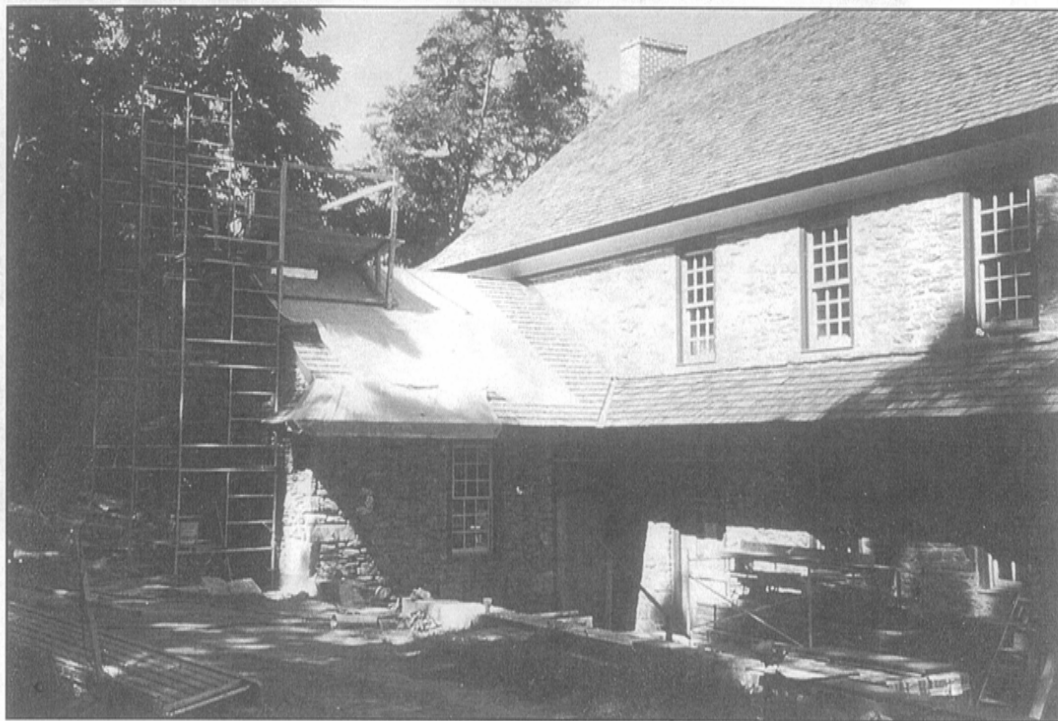
storage. Some of the major items will be displayed somewhere in the house. Before the grounds are landscaped this fall, there will

be one final dig at the site of an old well that is located on the south side of the driveway. That will take several weeks. Old wells are often a source of important archeological evidence.

The surroundings of the mansion have been changed to provide better access to the building and to provide areas for outdoor activities.

The old stone wall behind the house was removed and the stone used in the kitchen addition. Stone from other old foundations was used to build a new stone wall around a brick patio that is located behind the house. This stone wall, set in mud, is capped with large slabs of gray slate. The back door and a door to the kitchen wing can be accessed from the new patio. The patio can be entered from the driveway or by a stairway that leads from the backyard.

A brick patio and pavement have also been constructed at the front of the house. What used to be a rather steep bank has been terraced to set off the building and make walking less difficult. A small traditional wooden stoop with two benches sits on the new patio. Below the patio is another terrace that is supported by a new dry stone wall about four feet high. This stone wall lines a new driveway that enters the property and passes in front of the mansion and joins the old driveway that is on the south side of the property. The old driveway will remain and a parking area will be created behind the mansion.



Back of the Dritt mansion showing the kitchen addition to the left.

DRITT MANSION UPDATE

The two old pine trees in front of the house will remain as part of the landscaping and planting project slated for October.

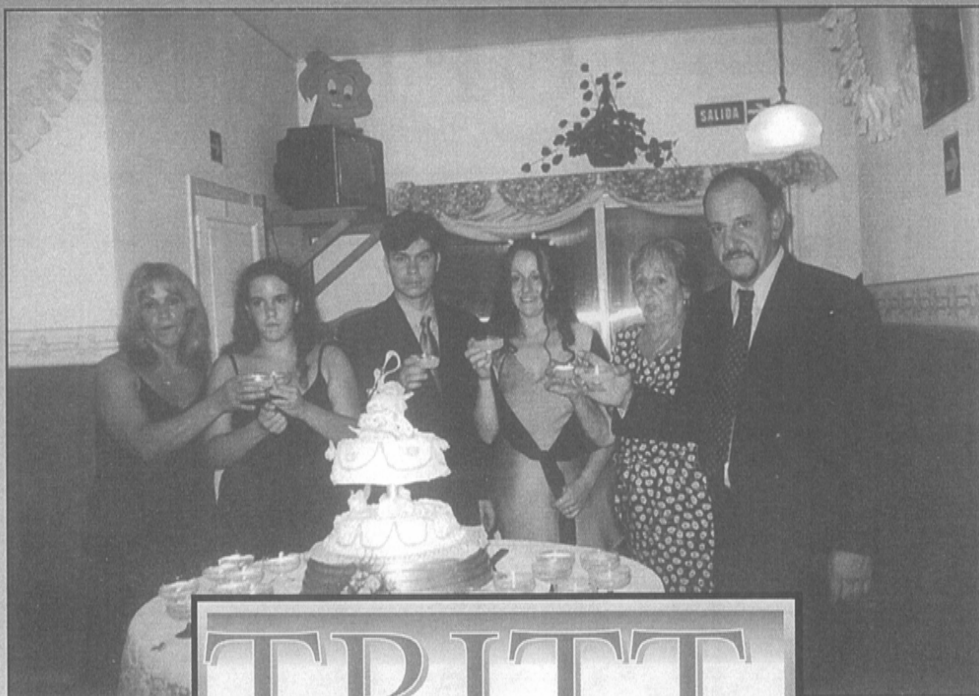
A Dendrochronology of the building will hopefully be done this fall. Samples will be taken from the floor joists to determine their age. The ground floor joists were chosen for the test because they were not destroyed in any of the mansion's fires.

They still have holes that were drilled in them so that they could be tied together and floated down the Susquehanna to the site where the mansion was to be built.

Modern technology can date the age of the wood in these joists to within a few years. This will give a fairly precise date for the construction of the building.

Mr. Zimmerman is anxious for the completion of the building. He and his wife have begun to select period furnishings for the house. Since original 18th century furniture is difficult to find, they are having a set of Windsor chairs, a table and a corner cupboard made by a contemporary craftsman.

TFR is very pleased and excited about the restoration of this building that surpasses all hopes that we ever had for this significant site connected to our family's history. We sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman, project foreman Greg Lang and all others who have been so hospitable and kind to members of TFR and have shared the details of this immense project with us.



TRITT

*From Lenk, Switzerland,
to Uruguay to Argentina*

For some time we have known that Peter Tritten (1861-1945) born in Lenk, the great-uncle of Micheline Furon-Tritten, Chatillon sur Seine, France, had emigrated to Uruguay in about 1881. Peter, known as Pedro after his arrival in Uruguay, married Bibia Fernandez. As of 1991, this couple had 7 children, 36 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren who carry the Tritten name (1991 Tritt Family Newsletter, Vol. II, page 8).

Recently, we received a letter via Micheline from Sonia Gladys Curbelo Tritten who lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Sonia is a granddaughter of Pedro (Peter) Tritten and a daughter of Mrs. Blanca Tritten also of Argentina. Sonia writes that she is 48 years old and has lived in Buenos Aires for 28 years. She and her husband, Olegario, have two daughters, Patricia Adriana, 27, and Laura Eugenia, 18. About their work,

Sonia writes that she has been the manager of an apartment building for 23 years and that her husband takes care of maintenance, plumbing, electricity and general repairs.

After appealing for family photographs, Sonia ends her letter on a note of welcome to all their Tritten/Tritt cousins from around the world to come and visit with them in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Their address is:

Sonia Gladys Curbelo Tritten
Avenida San Martin 2719 cp 1602
Florida, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Telephone: 011 54 1 4796-2732

Wouldn't it be a grand occasion for one of the larger Tritten/Tritt family members to visit with Sonia and Olegario, and write about reestablishing person-to-person contact some 120 years after Peter left Switzerland?



CHARLES TRITTEN:

Translator and Author of Heidi Sequels

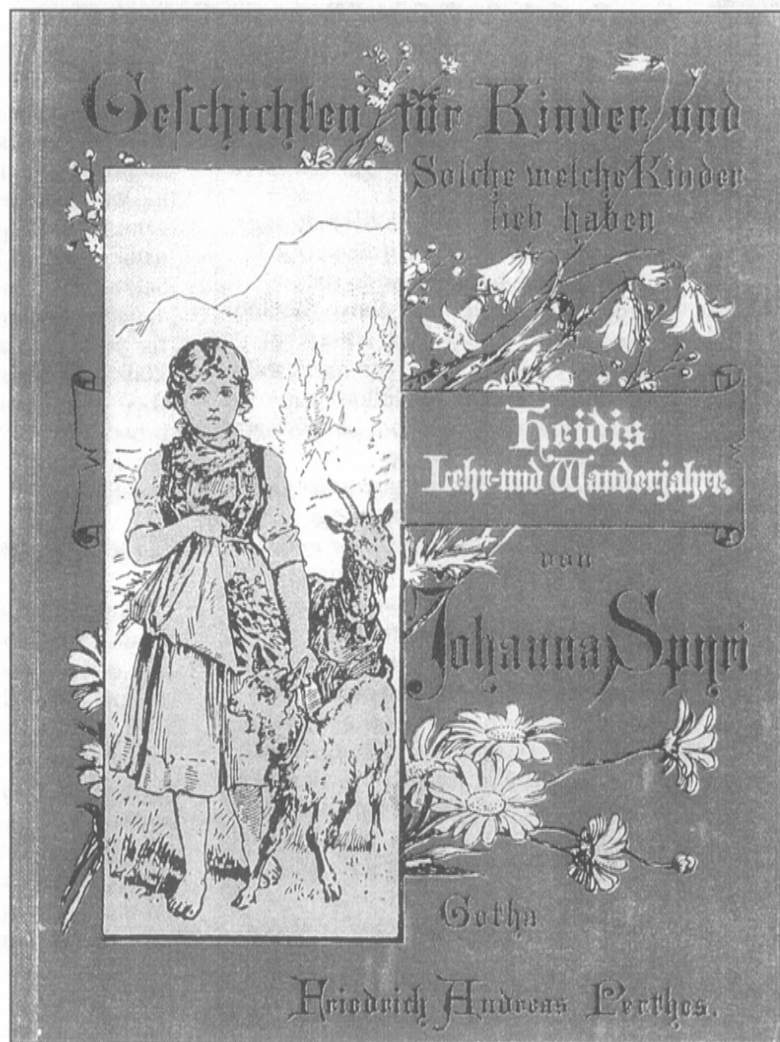
by Donald Tritt Granville, Ohio



In the last issue of Tritt Family Newsletter (No. 21, November 2001), we brought you some information about Charles Tritten, the translator of Johanna Spyri's Heidi and author of two sequels to Heidi.

Since then more information has come to our attention due to the research of Elisabeth Abgottspon of Zurich, Switzerland.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Johanna Spyri (1901), a book was written about the Heidi "phenomenon". This scholarly work, *Heidi: Karrieren einer Figur* contained a chapter by Elisabeth Abgottspon in which she compared literary styles between Spyri and Tritten. It was as a result of this publication that Tritt Family Research first became aware of Ms. Abgottspon. Our correspondence with her one year ago asked what she might know about the person Charles Tritten. She wrote back saying little was known and she would welcome information from the readers of the Tritt Family Newsletter.



Regretfully, we were unable to provide her any information. However, she has continued in her research of Charles Tritten and has sent us her subsequent findings. With full appreciation to Ms. Abgottspon, a brief summary is given here.

Charles Tritten was born 22 May 1908 in Lausanne, Switzerland from ancestry which originated in Lenk, Switzerland. His parents (married 19 December 1907) were Gottlieb Theophile Tritten (born 24 May 1887, Lausanne and died 9 September 1965, Lausanne) and Adrienne Chevalley (born 15 March 1890 and died 2

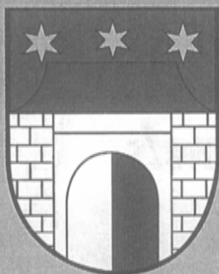
November 1957, Lausanne). His mother tongue was French and he was a member of the Reformed Church in Lausanne. He married Germaine Marguerite Robellaz (born 7 June 1910) on 22 June 1935 and they divorced on 15 October 1937. No children were born of this union. Most of his life he lived with his parents, a sister and her three children. Although he liked the atmosphere in his parent's home (De la Courdrette, #31), he would often change jobs, leave home and, as some put it, "chase girls". Members of his family report that he lived a "riotous life". It appears his principal employment was as Head of the Book Department of the department store Grands Magasins Innovation SA in Lausanne. Charles Tritten died 5 June 1948 in a road

accident.

If you are able to supply any additional information, please contact:

Elisabeth Abgottspon
Turnerstrasse 4
CH-8006 Zurich
Switzerland

'Abgottspon, Elisabeth. "Heidi: übersetzt und verändert von Charles Tritten", pages 221-235 in Halter, Ernst (Ed.) Heidi: Karrieren einer Figur, Zurich:Offizin, 2001



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OFFICERS of TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

www.tritt.org

Donald G. Tritt, President

81 Donald Ross Drive
Granville, Ohio 43023-9794
Telephone: 740-587-0213

Richard L. Tritt, Vice President

33 Silver Maple Drive
Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007-9 598
Telephone: 717-258-6181

Richard L. Miller, Treasurer

510 Schoolhouse Lane
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257-1020
Telephone: 717-530-1639

Connie J. Tritt, Secretary and Co-Editor

7 Ironstone Drive
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-9705
Telephone: 717-258-4176
ctrutt@comcast.net

Cynthia J. Wagner, Assistant Secretary

5710 Cloverdale Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112-3109
Telephone: 717-652-5602

Margrit Tritten-Stauffer

Secretary for Switzerland and Germany
Rawyl Garage
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

Jeanette C. Miller, Co-Editor

510 Schoolhouse Lane
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257-1020
Telephone: 717-530-1639

HISTORICAL VIGNETTES FROM THE OBERSIMMENTAL: PART I

by Alfred Buchs

From: Lenk, Verlag Reinhard Bachmann, Zurich, 1968

When the residents of Lenk still lived in the highland...

The first people of Lenk lived during the Late Stone Age (Neolithic period — 1800 B.C.) in a natural cave in the Tierberg Mountains, high above the floor of the Simmen Valley, at an altitude of about 2600 meters. One can reach this primitive dwelling if one follows the Rawil path which goes from Langermatte up over the Firstli past the Laufbodenhorn. We assume today that the hunters of the Late Stone Age climbed up there year after year in order to hunt on a larger scale. The natural cave offered them a welcome retreat at night and during bad weather.

Three layers of charcoal and ashes at various depths indicate a sequence of three different chronological periods in which the cave was used. We also know that when the climate was most favorable, the forest reached to about an altitude of 2200 meters, therefore the people living then had to carry their firewood up an additional 400 meters.

The well-known archaeologists of the Simmental, the brothers David and Albert Andrist and Doctor Fluckiger, found an arrowhead of flint in the central layer of coal. How its original owner must have complained about the loss he suffered! But through his carelessness he rendered posterity a great service by providing historical research with a crowning success.

Science has placed the flint arrowhead in the Late Stone Age. It is probably about 4500 years old. The Tierberg cave is therefore now considered to be the highest primitive shelter in the Alps.

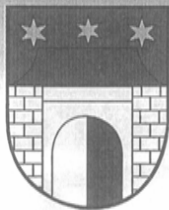
Lenk in the middle ages

At about the time the city of Berne was being founded in 1191, Lenk could not have been very heavily populated. The early occupants first settled down on the

sunny slopes in the area Gutenbrunnen on the Pletschen, where the citizens of St. Stephan maintained a chapel. By cultivating woodland, more arable terrain soon came into being. We still find many names, such as Ruti, Brand, Schwand, and Schwendli to indicate the nature of the agricultural activity during this time. In the years 1504 and 1505 the people of Lenk built their own church, absolved their reliance on St. Stephan, and established a clerical community which contributed to the subsequent growth in population.

The reformation

Under the influence of Castlan Anton Butschelbach of Blankenburg and the secular priest Ulrich Ubert of Zweisimmen, the people of the Obersimmental and to no lesser degree those of Lenk offered violent resistance to the forces of the Reformation. In the Obersimmental and especially in Lenk the active saddle-pack transportation from Wallis over the Rawil Pass had a restrictive effect on the spread of the new religion. It is to be assumed that the Wallisian pack-horse drivers reinforced the old beliefs of the people this side of the Rawil Pass who remained faithful to the church. But the good relationship between the citizens of Lenk and the people of Wallis on the opposite side of the Pass changed to hostility when the people of Lenk finally accepted the Reformation. In the year 1533 the citizens of Lenk handed the church and ministry over to the city of Berne. The choice and support of the minister was taken over by the city council of Berne, and this arrangement allowed the people of Lenk to become reconciled with the new religion. During this time some citizens immigrated to Wallis from Lenk or departed to the still Catholic Village of Saanen. But the opposite also occurred. The newly converted moved from Catholic Jaun to Lenk and St. Stephan.



LETTER FROM THE PAST

by **Graham F. Hollis** *Alamo, Michigan*

William Lloyd Tritt (1819-1909) is a well-known personage within the Tritt line.

His experiences while imprisoned during the Civil War exist and are published in *Apple Trees Look Gay in Bloom*. He married Julissa Hubbard (1826-1917) and the couple had ten children.

Julissa had a brother, Leonidas Hubbard (1821-1914). He was one of those who succumbed to gold fever and, in 1856, left to find his fortune. At least one of his letters home stills exists. That letter follows:

Whipswingle Gulch, Cal. Feb. 23, '57

Dear Sister,

As my friends J. [John?] P. Warren and Samuel are going to leave this place I will embrace the opportunity of sending a few lines to the post office.

We have been mining here for a few weeks and have about made expenses. The boys say they won't stay any longer but I won't give it up yet.

I don't expect to make more than a dollar or two a day but I don't know where I can go to do any better, until the snow gets off the mountains. I am about 14 miles from Shasta.

The weather here has been warm and pleasant for more than a month. People have been making gardens, setting out cabbage plants Etc. I got a letter from Louisa [Julissa (nee Hubbard) Tritt (1826-1917)] and one from E. Johnson a few days since. They had been about a month reaching me.

After the boys leave me I will be alone and perhaps my luck will change for the better for it can't get worse. I have just got money enough to pay the postage on

this but I don't intend to leave this country until I make enough to pay my expenses here and back again.

I wrote to Louisa a few days ago. I was then unwell but am now able to work again.

I have "grub" (as the miners call it) enough to last until I can get out some money. Well, the wind blows through the old cabin and puffs the old candle so I can hardly write and Sam and John are singing and carrying on so I can hardly think of anything.

I asked John what I should say for him and he said I might send a kiss as long as his arm and right from his heart.

John has had some bad luck but says he will make it up yet.

Louisa says Mother has got home but did not give much Wisconsin news. I guess you will have to cross-question her (mother) a little and tell me all about Tritt [William Lloyd Garrison Tritt (b. 1849) (??)] and all the rest. I think the folks must be getting rich in school district No. 3 or they could not afford to keep up two schools.

If I have time in the morning before the boys go I will write some more — if not this will let you know that I am well.

Good night, Leonidas

This quaint letter is being shared in hopes that by some miracle his letters to the Tritt family may have survived. Perhaps oral stories have been handed on to persons reading this. I would very much like to exchange any such information. Write me at 5130 West C Avenue, Alamo, MI 49009-7010 or hollis@net-link.net.

Change in Status of the 16th Century Research Fund

by **Richard L. Miller**
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

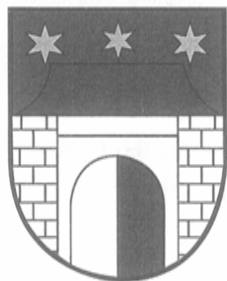
In the year 1992, Tritt Family Research (TFR) established the 16th Century Research Fund for the purpose of hiring a professional genealogist to do research on the Tritt/Tritten family in the various archives of Switzerland. This was done and the research findings were included in our publication *Tritt Family History, Volume I*. The current remaining balance of that fund is \$2,313.01 (see treasurer's report in this newsletter).

Since there is no longer a need to conduct research in Switzerland, a motion was passed at the August 2002 meeting of Tritt Family Research to close that fund. Current monies in the 16th Century Research Fund will be distributed as follows: 1) \$500 to remain in a research fund to help pay for expenses incurred while doing research for *Tritt Family History, Volume II*, and 2) the remainder of those funds to be transferred to a book fund to help with the cost of publishing *Volume II*. It was noted that about \$10,000 will probably be needed as a down payment to start the publication process for *Volume II*.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY 2002 OFFER:

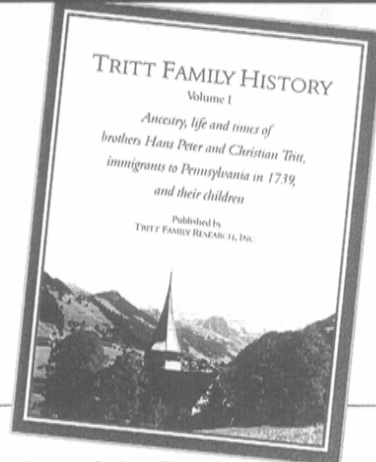
Tritt Family History - Volume I Books for \$40.00

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY — Volume I



*Ancestry, Life and Times of
Brothers Hans Peter and
Christian Tritt, Immigrants to
Pennsylvania in 1739, and Their
Children*

Published by Tritt Family Research, Inc.



Tritt Family Research proudly announced in 1999 publication of the first documented account of Tritt Family History. The Tritt story in America began with the arrival of two immigrant brothers, Hans Peter Tritt and his younger brother, Christian, in 1739. This volume traces their origin from 1562 in Canton Bern, Switzerland, through the birth of their grandchildren in America. Sections of the history dealt with:

- ▶ Preface and Preliminary Pages
- ▶ SECTION I — The Family Story
- ▶ SECTION II — Family Records
- ▶ SECTION III — Related Topics
- ▶ SECTION IV — Tritt Family Research
- ▶ Index

"Although its contents are not directly relevant to family historians of Mennonites in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, this top-quality history demonstrates how to organize, research, and present the story of a Pennsylvania German family with Swiss roots."

Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, October 2001

The book consists of:

- ▶ 8½ x 11, 191 pages, full color hard bound cover
- ▶ Over 150 photos and illustrations plus charts, maps, inventories, wills, family records

This special offer ends January 1, 2003.

Tritt Family History - Volume I Books for \$40.00 - regular price \$45.00 per volume

Questions?

Email Connie J. Tritt, Secretary, at ctritt@comcast.net
OR call Richard L. Miller, Treasurer, at 717-530-1639.

Make your check or money order payable to:

Tritt Family Research

Fill out the form below and mail to:

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c/o Richard L. Miller
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Shipping & Handling (\$4.00 plus \$2.00 for each additional book ordered) .. \$ _____

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An Open Letter to All Tritt Cousins and Friends

by **W. Wayne Tritt** *Carlisle, Pennsylvania*

At our annual business meeting this past August, I was asked to write an article for this newsletter. The purpose of the article is an effort to get more monetary support toward the cost of maintaining our web site as well as the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and thus reduce the financial burden of the small number of people who currently are shouldering these expenses. If you have read this article to this point, then I believe you are a fair minded individual and would be willing to help in this effort. Therefore, while it is fresh in your mind, won't you write a check and place it in the mail today? Two dollars per copy is a fair price but anything above that amount will be graciously accepted. And on the other hand, if you honestly feel that the newsletter is not worth two dollars to you, then be fair to yourself, and to us, and tell us to remove your name from our mailing list.

Can we count on you?

Genealogy in the **MOLECULAR AGE**

by **Jeanette C. Miller**

Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

In recent years we have heard much about DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) in the news concerning new discoveries in medicine and forensic science. Now it is possible to utilize it in genealogy. It is called Molecular Genealogy.

This new avenue of genealogy research is based on the fact that we each are products of our DNA. Found mainly in the nucleus of each of our cells, DNA contains the master blueprint for all cellular structures and activities for the lifetime of the cell or organism. We inherit our genetic complement from our parents, which they received from their parents, and so on. This process results in a genetic family history which can tell us a lot about our lineage and our relationship to other individuals.

Molecular Genealogy is therefore a new type of genealogy based on DNA instead of strictly relying on written records. Using certain genetic markers, researchers can link individuals together in "family trees", as well as the same clan or tribal group.

In April 2002, my husband and I had the opportunity to learn about and participate in the Molecular Genealogy Project of Brigham Young University. We attended the spring conference of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America held in New Holland, Pennsylvania. It was here that we heard Katie Hadley from BYU give a presentation. The research project is being jointly conducted by the Center for Molecular Genealogy at BYU and the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation. Along with about 88 other people, we each donated a tube of blood and a copy of our four-generation pedigree chart. The blood will be tested, and the results entered into a data base which is strictly confidential. Work on the project will take about five years. They hope to have data collected on 100,000 donors from all over the world by that time.

For more information on the project, check out their web site:
<http://molecular-genealogy.byu.edu>

TRITT ELEMENTARY



Tritt Elementary

by Richard L. Tritt

Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

Tritt Elementary School is located on Post Oak Tritt Road in Marietta, Georgia. This beautiful and spacious school is located on a picturesque twenty-four acre site in northeast Cobb County. Construction began in the fall of 1979 and was completed in the fall of 1980. Tritt opened in September of 1980. The centrally air conditioned and heated facility is made primarily of brick and houses approximately 1,000 kindergarten through fifth grade students in self-contained classrooms. Tritt Elementary is the home of the Tritt Tigers.

Tritt Elementary School was named for Will Tritt (born February 1, 1887 - died February 12, 1955). Mr. Tritt was a lifelong resident of the Tritt school area. He was a strong advocate of public education. He served as a trustee for Mountain View School from 1938 to 1945. He held a strong belief that the whole purpose of learning should be to apply knowledge in new and better ways toward the advancement of mankind. Mr. Tritt also believed that the fabric of our lives depended upon a tight interweaving of both knowledge and wisdom. The school believes that the educational foundation that they provide for the children in the community is consistent with the educational beliefs of Mr. Will Tritt.

The Tritt family is proud to have such an important educational facility named after one of our family members. If you would like to learn more about this school, visit their web site at www.tritt elementary.com.

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH, INC.



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

- Tritt Family Cookbook – \$7.50
(100 pages of Tritt family recipes, new and old, from all over the U.S.)
- Civil War Diary of William Tritt – \$7.50
(Written in 1864 by the Wisconsin Tritt patriarch while confined in Danville and Andersonville prisons)
- Annual Newsletters – Issues 1-21
(specify issue numbers) – \$1.50 each
(If you're new to TFR, catch up on the issues you missed!)
- 1906 Tritt Family Tree – \$10.00
(An amazing original size copy of the descendants of the 1739 immigrant, Hans Peter Tritt)
- The Church of St. Stephan – \$3.00
(A translation of the 18 page German illustrated booklet published by our ancestral church in Switzerland)
- Pack of 10 note cards with the Church of St. Stephan – \$5.00
(Our own original drawing)
- Pack of 10 postcards with Tritten coat-of-arms – \$3.00
- 8 x 10 color print of the Tritten coat-of-arms suitable for framing – \$4.00
- Shoulder patch with Tritten coat-of-arms – \$5.00
- Pens with Tritt Family Research and the web site imprint – \$2.00
- Luggage tags with Tritt on one side – \$2.00
- Tritt Family History - Vol. I – \$45.00
(Our European origins through Hans Peter Tritts arrival at Philadelphia)
- Map of local interest to Tritts – \$1.50

CHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTICE

Please detach and mail to: **Connie J. Tritt, 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-9705**
or E-mail changes to **Connie at ctritt@comcast.net**

Your Full Name _____
Current Address _____
If moving, anticipated new address _____

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

Do you know of a family member who does not receive the Newsletter but would like to. If so, please send his/her

Name _____
Address _____

Other Changes:
Other:

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