

THE JOURNEY

Dr. James Patrick Tritt, Pennington Gap, Virginia

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was written by Dr. James Patrick Tritt in June 1995 and is used here by permission. He recounts an experience he had early in his career when he held the position of Director of the Business Studies Division at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. While in Egypt, he wrote a weekly column for the Middle East Times, the only English speaking newspaper in Cairo. Enjoy his "journey" in Egypt on the search for the grave site for a "Tritt buried in the British War Memorial Cemetery".

Most of life's journeys have a known destination. This is the story of my incredible journey, seeking that which was unknown and discovering a strange but true story about a member of the Tritt family. My journey in life began in Lee County, Virginia, on March 16, 1944. The member of the Tritt family that I will tell you about began his life's journey in 1917 and it ended on a hot, desolate battlefield in Egypt on September 4, 1942.

First, let me give a brief background on how this all took place. My hometown is Pennington Gap, Virginia, where I was born, raised and educated. My father's name was Patrick Hagan Tritt, Jr. and he was known as P.H. My mother is Mary Lynn Hobbs Tritt of Dryden, Virginia. My father passed away in November 1984. The Tritt family settled in Lee County which is located in southwest Virginia, in the early 1800's. By profession, my father was a retail hardware merchant who also was involved in a variety of businesses including real estate, coal mining, farming and investments. As a young man, I was exposed to many of these ventures, but my interests were sports, history and traveling. Growing up in a small remote mountain area left a lot of time to daydream. The kids used to say Lee County was a good place to be from! Thus, I left home, received four college degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University (B.A. B.S.), University of Nebraska (M.A.) and the Ohio State University (Ph.D.). Early in my career, I was a high school business teacher and coach, working in Virginia, Nebraska and Missouri. Later, I worked as a Community College Administrator in Florida and South Carolina. My academic training included Business Administration, Vocational Technical Education and I even took a degree in History and Political Science. Now, let's focus more on my international "Odyssey" which led me to Egypt.

In the early 1980's, I moved to Nassau, Bahamas to work on a World Bank project as Director of Management Training. Next, I served as Manager of Training for the Royal Commission, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This part of my journey took about eight years. Eventually, I had the opportunity to accept the position as Director of the Business Studies Division at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. While in Cairo, I wrote a weekly column called "It's Some of Your Business". This will be important later in my story. Throughout the years, I've had a strong interest in military history and I used to watch all of the World War II documentaries on TV. There was always a strong attraction to one specific and critical battle. In fact, it was a British/German affair called El Almein (Al Amein). It was a bloody battle fought near the coastline about two hours from Alexandria, Egypt. The British Commander Montgomery took command of the British forces in August 1942 and turned the tide against the "Desert Fox" Rommell and his axis troops in November 1942. During my stay in Cairo, I visited all of the historical sites but for a variety of reasons, I had not gone to El Almein.

My business editor at the *Middle East Times* was James Lamont from Portsmouth, England. James had planned to go to the battlefield but I was unable to join him due to work commitments. James

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



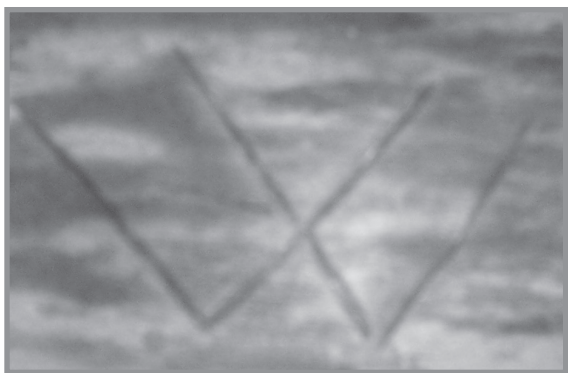
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MANSION IN THE MIST OF DISCOVERY 1998-2004

*"protectorate marking" found inside the mansion*

It took more than patience, fortitude or any amount of money to restore this magnificent mansion. It took a vision and enough passion to achieve this "Historic Legacy."

I personally thank John and Kathryn Zimmerman for inviting me to be a part of this great legacy. My mother always said, "DO IT RIGHT OR DON'T DO IT AT ALL!" The Zimmerman family did everything right, right down to the beautiful historic garden out back and the handmade wooden water pump!

Archaeological evidence recovered at this site has been extraordinary. We estimate more than 20,000 artifacts have been recovered from inside the mansion and outside around the grounds. Every artifact tells us a story . . . except the date the mansion was built. So far, we can date the site, not the mansion, to an Englishman named Thomas Cressap. He named his 150-acre tract of land Pleasant Garden in 1729. The address of his new home was Baltimore County, Maryland.

One of the most interesting discoveries we encountered was a very strange mark that had been chiseled into the wall leading to the attic. We call it our, "Volkswagen Symbol." The mark looks like two V's which overlap one another. After researching this strange mark, we came upon a symbol that was

mentioned in an archaeological paper about "protectorate marks" found in historic houses. Our symbol could be the English protectorate sign for the Virgin Mary.

WHO BUILT THIS BLUE STONE MANSION?

Every week I spend time following leads that just might tell me who built this Blue Stone Mansion, and when. The land where the mansion was strategically placed is a major clue to the missing puzzle pieces. What I have learned over the past five years is that a lot of history was taking place along the Susquehanna River, in the Conejohela Valley, when families first arrived in the new world. Susquehannock Indians and other Indians were making their homes all along the Susquehanna River from around 1525 A.D. to the year 1763. The Susquehannock population accounts and estimates from archaeological sites within this small area around the mansion is astounding. Probably 9,960 native American Indians lived their lives in this valley and could have come to trade with folks who lived in the big stone mansion. Beginning around the early 1600's, native American Indians met the first white man living along the Susquehanna River. They experienced new ways of life from settlers, trappers and traders who ultimately, in the end, robbed them of their culture.

THE TIME LINE

Lord Baltimore received his Land Grant in 1632: "that part of the Bay of Delaware on the North side which lieth under the fortieth degree of Latitude." He based his claim by referring to the map prepared by Captain John Smith. It showed the 40th Parallel running through the present site of Wilmington. (The 40th Parallel is just a few miles north of the

mansion.) William Penn received his Land Grant in 1680: "That land in America North of Maryland and South of New York." Herman's map was regarded as the best early map of the province. These maps and claims were sent to England and duly filed with the Privy Council as officially locating Maryland's northern boundary. Thus, at least ten years before the grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn, it had been legally established that Maryland's northern boundary ran through present-day Philadelphia and included all of Delaware. Herman's map also shows the 40th Parallel running through the Mighty Susquehannock village. *Susquehanna's Indians*, by Barry C. Kent. (The Mighty Susquehannock Village (archaeological site) is located on the hill directly behind the mansion.)

William Penn's Springettsbury Manor

About 1684, a violent dispute arose between William Penn and Lord Baltimore concerning the boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Maryland was making settlements many miles up into the present state of Pennsylvania; and having thus taken possession of the lands, to hold them by the strong arm of power. Settlements grew rapidly along the Susquehanna River and within a short distance of the present borough of York. Such quick work, and energetic proceedings on the part of the Marylanders, frightened Sir William Keith who was then Lieutenant Governor of the province of Pennsylvania. Keith, being zealous for the proprietary interest, was anxious to hinder these encroachments on what he believed to be the property of the heirs of Penn. To extricate himself from this difficulty, he bethought himself a plan, which, in its consequences, has

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DRITT MANSION

Those attending the 2004 Annual Meeting of Tritt Family Research enjoyed an opportunity to visit the fully restored Dritt/Tritt Mansion in Lower Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Mr. John Zimmerman, the owner of the property, and his archeologist, Jan Klinedinst, were present to guide us through the entire house. This house was owned

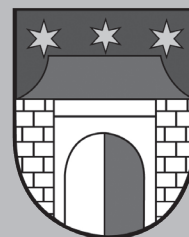


Drift Mansion

in the late 1700's to near mid-1800's by Jacob Dritt and his heirs. Jacob was a son of Hans Peter Tritt, who was one of the first two Tritts ('Tritt' in the New World) to immigrate to the colonies in 1739. (There is no record as to why Jacob assumed the name 'Dritt'.) After Jacob died, the property remained in the family for many years.

Mr. Zimmerman has completed the renovation and rebuilding of the entire structure. Early on, he literally raised the roof, because it was discovered to be sagging more than a foot at its peak. The masonry joints of the stone walls of the house were completely repointed. New cedar shake roofing was installed. A large front porch was removed because it was not original to the house. Custom-made, forged hardware was installed to match the remaining original pieces of hardware still in the house. The floorboards, nearly all original to the house, were taken up, refinished and much of it put back. Windows were replaced for energy efficiency, but the new windows were custom-made to the proper size and number of individual panes in each sash. An out-kitchen, long ago removed, was rebuilt, including a beehive oven and fireplace built around the original brick hearth that was unearthed as the project began. Much of the interior of the house remained original or nearly so at the outset, and every effort was made to maintain the historic and architectural integrity of it. A functioning, wooden hand pump was custom-made over the pre-existing cistern next to the house. And, since the Tritts viewed the house in August, a fine ornamental garden, complete with picket fence was installed.

Tritt Family Research was very troubled at the deteriorating condition of this house when we first viewed it about 20 years ago; but it was obvious that the organization would never be financially capable of purchasing and refurbishing the structure. Even though Mr. Zimmerman didn't purchase and refurbish the property just for Tritt Family Research's benefit, we could not be more pleased with what he has done. The five years of work involved in refurbishing this house was extremely thorough and meticulous. The end result is a house that is 250 or more years old that looks like new, inside and out. Tritt Family Research extends deep gratitude and honor to John and Kathryn Zimmerman, as owners, and to Ms. Jan Klinedinst, archeologist retained by the Zimmermans, and Mr. Greg Lang, who supervised the actual construction activities. All these people 'put their heart and soul' into this project and made it the huge success it became. ■

OFFICERS
OF TRITT
FAMILY
RESEARCH

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 17007-9598
Telephone: 717-258-6181

W. Wayne Tritt

Acting Treasurer

24 Old Stone House Road
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-9773
Telephone: 717-766-7397

Connie J. Tritt

Secretary and Co-Editor

7 Ironstone Drive
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-9705
Telephone: 717-258-4176

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

www.tritt.org
ctritt@comcast.net

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY RETURNED TO CUMBERLAND COUNTY

JACOB TRITT COVERLET

Richard Tritt, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania



Another piece of Tritt family history was brought (and bought) back to Cumberland County on April 14, 2004. As a part-time antique dealer, I regularly read *Antiques & Auction News*, published weekly by Joel Sater Publications. While browsing the auction sale bills, my eye was drawn to a photo showing a corner of a Jacquard coverlet. The name Jacob Tritt jumped out. The ad was advertising a coverlet made by C. K. Hinkel of Shippensburg, Cumberland County, Pa., in 1841 for Jacob Tritt. A second photo featured a dated 1870 Jacquard coverlet made by J. N. Schulz of Mercersburg, Pa. for Litty Bell Tritt. This ad prompted action.

The auction was held at 4 P.M. on a rainy Wednesday at Wilson's Gallery in Chester Heights, Pa., about 17 miles west of Philadelphia. My wife Nancy and I left home after an early lunch and arrived at the gallery at about 3 P.M. for the sale preview. Both coverlets were hanging on the wall. Both were in excellent condition and had good color and design. The auction consisted of lots from a number of private collections. The coverlets were from a small lot of only four items. The consignee was private, so information about the provenance of the coverlets could not be obtained.

It was a very long evening.

Collectibles were sold the first three hours, then furniture, starting around 7 P.M. The coverlets were not sold until almost the end of the auction, at 10 P.M. I had decided in advance that the Jacob Tritt coverlet was the one that I wanted and fortunately, it was sold first. I had not noticed anyone else who appeared especially interested in the coverlets, and the sale had very few textiles, so I didn't think there would be any textile dealers in the crowd. I also didn't think that people in the Philadelphia area would be particularly interested in a coverlet from Shippensburg. The first bid was for \$100. I started bidding and it moved quickly to \$350 and then the other bidder stopped. I thought I had it until someone else bid \$400 and I had to go to \$450. The other bidder quit and I had it! I was happy with the price because the estimated value in our area would be at least \$600. (An 1845 Hinkel ad lists ready made coverlets for \$7.50.) I learned after the bidding that the second bidder was also a Tritt who had traveled from Cumberland County to buy a coverlet. He was pleased that I had bought it and that it would be back in the family. I told him that I would not bid on the other Tritt coverlet and that he should stay and buy it. I had what I wanted so I paid my bill and started the long trip back, arriving home at around 1 A.M.

Although it can never be absolutely proven, I feel that the coverlet was made for Jacob Tritt, a son of Peter Tritt and Elizabeth Lefever. He was born in 1780 and died in 1856. He lived on a farm near Shippensburg and is buried in Shippensburg. In 1841, he would have been the only Jacob Tritt in the area who would have been of the age and station in life to buy a signed coverlet. All available evidence points to him as the original owner.

One sidelight of the coverlet relates to the coverlet maker, John Tritt

Williams, who was featured in a previous TFR newsletter. He was a weaver in Mechanicsburg, Pa. and the earliest known maker of Jacquard coverlets in Cumberland County (1837-1840). Williams influenced two other county weavers, Charles Young and Christian K. Hinkel. All three lived in Mechanicsburg at the same time and Young eventually took over Williams' business. Hinkel moved to Shippensburg in 1839 and wove there until 1899. Both Young and Hinkel's early work reflect the style and designs of Williams. John Tritt Williams left the weaving business in 1840 and in 1842 became pastor of the Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg, where he remained until 1849. This places the owner of our coverlet, Jacob Tritt, in the same area as his distant cousin, John Tritt Williams, the man who apprenticed under Christian Hinkel, the maker of the coverlet. I wonder if they were in contact with each other and what their conversations might have been. Only our coverlet was there and it can't talk. At least it is residing in a Tritt house in Cumberland County again. It is a welcome addition to our home and will eventually become part of the Tritt Family Collection at the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle.

If anyone can help identify the owner of the other Tritt coverlet, Litty Bell Tritt, please contact me. I was not able to find her in our files. ■



TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

The annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held on August 12 to 14, 2004, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There were twenty people in attendance. We welcomed the newest, and youngest, member of Tritt Family Research, Will Clayton, son of Brent and Melissa Clayton, and great-grandson of Harold Hegyessy, who celebrated his first birthday on August 12.

We also kept in our prayers and thoughts those Tritt members who were unable to attend the meeting this year due to illness. We know they were in our midst in their thoughts.

Of major concern for discussion was the writing of Tritt Family History – Volume II. With the untimely death of the project editor, we discussed where Tritt Family Research would go with this massive endeavor when the editor was no longer here to guide us. We talked through it and did come up with a more workable solution which you can read about in the article entitled “Tritt Family History – Volume II” by Donald Tritt of Granville, Ohio.

We also were privileged to drive to York County, Pennsylvania, to visit the newly remodeled Dritt House that sits so beautifully on the banks of the Susquehanna River. We were met at the house by its owner, John Zimmerman, and Jan Klinedinst, the

site archaeologist and who conducted the tour through the house. She talked about seeing orbs of former inhabitants of the house, but fortunately, or unfortunately, none were spotted on the day we were there. Jan gave us a most informative talk about the history of the house and the area at the time in which the house was constructed. You can read her article entitled “Pleasant Garden” in this newsletter. I believe a lot of the history of this area in the early 1700’s was news to the native Pennsylvanians who were there. The remodeling of the house is just fabulous. Mr. Zimmerman spent a lot of time researching the way the house should look for a house of its time and a lot of money was also put into the project, and his efforts are well worth it. We had a very pleasant and informative afternoon.

During our business meeting, we also discussed the mailing of the 2003 newsletter. That newsletter was mailed to 1,026 persons within the United States. At the time of our meeting, only 169 persons responded to our appeal for keeping their name on our mailing list.

Our next Tritt Family Research meeting will be held August 18 through 21, 2005, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. We welcome anyone who wants to come and participate in the meeting. Maybe we’ll see you here in Carlisle next year. ■

JAKOB TRITTEN

1944-2003

Leonard Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

With sadness, we regret to inform our readers of the death of one of our Swiss “cousins”. In late November 2003, Jakob Tritten, age 59, of Zweissimmen in the Obersimmental, died of a heart attack while in Austria. Jakob operated a tour bus business and, we understand, he had taken a group to Austria and was stricken that evening in the hotel where they were staying.

Jakob provided the bus transportation and many of the arrangements for the Tritt “World Tours” of 1989, 1993, and 1997. A man with a good sense of humor, he was also energetic, industrious, and outgoing, eager to accommodate his American “cousins” as we traveled throughout Switzerland. It was very fitting and pleasing to travel around the country in a bus with the name “Tritten” painted on all four sides.

Many American Tritts had come to know and admire Jakob, and our memories of him will not fade. He was a good man, and all with Tritt/Tritten roots can be proud that he was one of us. Tritt Family Research and all who knew Jakob express our sadness to his wife, Lydia, sons, Toni and Stephan, and daughters, Brigitte and Angelika. ■

MAILING LIST OF TFR

by Connie Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

As you are aware, at our annual meeting of Tritt Family Research in August of 2003, it was decided to run a note on the front page of the 2003 edition stating that, if the recipient did not respond to the request for keeping their name on our mailing list, the 2003 issue of the newsletter would be their last issue. To date, we have received responses from only 190 persons, out of a possible 1,100, indicating their desire to remain on our mailing list. Many of you who did respond with your desire to remain on our mailing list also sent kind remarks for the quality of our annual newsletter. Your monetary contributions were also most appreciated.

As a person receiving this newsletter you know the value and quality of our work, both in the newsletter to which we strive to give it a clean look, and in the publication of *Tritt Family History, Volume I* to which we have received rave reviews from recipients, both family members and genealogy libraries. Might we impose upon you to speak to your children, your parents, your siblings or other family members if they remembered to respond to our 2003 appeal and, if not, if they had intended to do so? If they had intended to respond positively, would they please drop us a note and say, yes, I meant to respond but time slipped away and it was forgotten, but I do want to be kept on the mailing list. It is not too late for such a note. They can mail their request to Connie Tritt at 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-9705 or email Connie at ctritt@comcast.net.

Thank you. ■

Since June of 2004, the Cumberland County Historical Society has been involved in a major million dollar expansion project. Planning began about five years ago, and the building phase of the project will be completed by the end of 2004. The new museum will open during the spring of 2005. This museum will contain seventeen galleries and will be three times larger than the previous museum. It will be a state-of-the-art facility with temperature and humidity control, motion activated lighting, and a digital camera security system. The new museum will focus on many facets of the Cumberland County story, including early settlement, agriculture, transportation, businesses, industries, military history, folk art, fine arts and the Carlisle Indian School.

The Tritt Family Archives is located at the Society and components are housed in the library, archives, photo archives and museum. The items have been organized, numbered and housed in acid-free materials and are available to visitors and researchers. At the annual meeting of TFR in August 2005, we will tour the new museum and look at the Tritt Family Archives and Tritt Family Collection. ■

REQUEST FROM THE BEHLER FAMILY

Connie Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Todd Yarbrough of Colorado Springs, Colorado, sent us a report stating that he is a "half" relative to the Tritt family. He states that Veronica Kern was married first to Hans Peter Tritt and after his death, she married Johan David Buhler in 1724. Their son, Johan Bernhardt Behler, is a sixth great-grandfather to Todd. He and his cousin, Dottie Fox, have extensively researched the Behler family. He notes that the name is spelled four ways throughout history as Behler, Beeler, Bealor and Bealer. They have been working on a book to document the entire Behler family history. Thus far it is over 500 pages and still growing. They can prove the lineage back to Bernhard Behler (Beeler) through court and church records. Todd's direct lineage is:

Todd Kayle Yarbrough (1978)

Eileen J. Beeler Yarbrough (1948)

Kenneth E. Beeler (1921)

William S. Beeler (1894-1961)

Daniel Beeler (1863-1931)

David Beeler (1827-1888)

Johannes (Beeler) Behler, Jr. (1798-1848)

Johannes Behler, Sr. (1773-1859)

Johan Bernhardt Behler (aka Bernhard Beeler) (1731-1806)

Veronica Kern Tritt Buhler (1684)

Todd is looking for interested persons to buy their book when it is published. If you are interested in his project, you may feel free to contact him at:

Todd K. Yarbrough
5970 Vista Ridge Point #C-201
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Telephone: 719-229-7916

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY - VOLUME II

Donald Tritt, Granville, Ohio

Early in planning for the second volume of Tritt Family History, our intent was to present an account of all of the descendants of Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. (1715-1768) and Christian Tritt/Treat (1719-1801) up to the current day. However, because of the vastness of the information we have compiled, we realize that to present all of this information requires much more than a single volume. Therefore, we have decided it more appropriate to issue a series of monographs or focused booklets, each addressing one or more descendants in a line from Hans Peter and Christian. As work is completed, we will issue monographs on other Tritt/Dritt/Treat progenitors.

Because of the differing size of each of these monographs, we have only a general idea of what each issue will look like. However, we can say that each segment will begin with a clearly identified individual and will strive to account for all known descendants of this person. As a reminder, it is important to remember that, for you to appear in a monograph, it is necessary that you have on file with us at least three generations on back of your own line. In this regard, four generations on back would be even more preferable.

Please take the time now, while you are thinking about it, to fill out the form *Urgent Request for Current Information about Your Family Line* which is located elsewhere in this newsletter and return it to the address given in that article. Your cooperation and help in this matter is very much appreciated. ■

REUNION

With weather forecasts showing the continuance of rain, the day of the TRAIT/TRATE/TREAT (and now) TRITT reunion at Harmony Church fellowship hall did not sound too encouraging; but it was time to gather once again to greet one another, get some hugs, catch up on goings on in each other's lives and sit down to some delicious home cooked food.

Contrary to the forecast, Sunday, August 15, 2004, opened to a beautiful day. Cool for August with the expected humidity not in evidence, it presented a delightful opening to what turned out to be a very joyful occasion.

Folks began arriving early to prepare the hall for the guests and food and found most tables already set with tablecloths spread. With squeals of glee from children and adults alike, arriving families made timely appearances with both greetings and food dishes in hand. Though many are of local origin, there are still folks who travel from afar, like Delaware and New Jersey, and even California, such as yours truly.

For those who have not seen one another for some time, even though living close, these get-togethers of family serve a purpose in renewing the relationships we need to maintain. We have a need to review the family ties from time to time to pass on the feelings and information to the younger set. It helps us understand the 'who we are', the 'why we are here' and the 'where we come from' thoughts many may have.

It always seems heartwarming as we review the happenings of the past and the prospects of coming events. Marriages are still in style and coming births something to be considered. Current health issues and age related subjects are always a prime subject in certain age groups. Something to be said for all subjects as the 'gabbing

circle' enlarges.

Arrivals sign a register. This provides for attendance figures and names of any newcomers. Guessing games are already set up by Gerald Trate so that the folks may get busy with the thinking and conjuring cap while adjusting the eyeball to the jar of candy or buttons. There are also boxes or packages to be deciphered by weight and feel as to content. The surprise at the award ceremony is sometimes shocking as to what is really in that box.

It isn't long before the clink of horse shoes begins to ring out from behind the carriage shed as the annual tournament gets underway. There was a granddaughter-grandma three-legged race on the lawn in which it took the young and agile of the elder category to survive unscathed. The coordination required was sometimes lacking, hence spectators had more fun than contestants.

Sandy Naiva took the initiative this year to interview Charlie Trate on his life and past. As the elder statesman of our group, we must begin to collect some of life's lessons learned by those in our midst before they are out of reach. Charlie will be turning 90 years in March 2005 and with his permission we will endeavor to glean from him some aspects of his life and times for publication. I spent some time with Charlie in his home just before I left the area talking about that very thing. He had a collection of publications called "The Conestoga Rambler" which he has graciously allowed me to borrow to read. The subject matter is the countryside and people of the time (1934) and I hope to report on this material as we move along.

Food, as always, is outstanding. From the literal "soup to nuts", it's "ham to shoofly pie" here. We westerners don't get much chance at the real down country German background cooking so it is always a good feasting time for me to partake of

this kind of meal. And I overdo it.

After lunch, we gather in a circle in the shade of a massive old oak that holds up the end of the hall for our annual business meeting. As Gerald Trate opened the meeting, we remembered with a moment of silence those whom in the past year have moved on to better pastures. Gerald's father, Harry Marvin Trate, passed away March 2, 2004. Harry and Dorothy had come to the 1996 Carlisle meeting of Tritt Family Research to see what was going on and get acquainted. They had thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Also noted was the passing of Pearl Edna Smith Oatman on April 28, 2004, at a glorious age of 93 years. My sister-in-law, Frances Dudash Trait, widow of my brother, Aaron Samuel Trait, died December 29, 2003, after a bout with cancer. She had enjoyed last year's picnic after an absence of some years.

Before the day is over, there is always a session of 'Name That Face' when the table of photos in the back of the hall is attacked to again try to tie a name or date to a photo that is still unmarked. An ongoing effort that has been fruitful from time to time, it is something we must continue to be vigilant about as more information appears as members bring unnamed and undated items. It's a never-ending crusade to indoctrinate all to the practice of identifying photographs for posterity. You know who the subject is; but someone else who eventually comes into possession of the photo, may not.

The day wanes to evening and it is time to call a close to the activities. Last goodbyes are given reluctantly as autos depart where horse and buggy did the same some decades earlier.

"Will the last one out, please turn out the light?"■

TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to the untimely death of our treasurer, Richard Miller, in August of 2003, no treasurer's report was included in the 2003 newsletter. Therefore, this report covers a two year period.

August 11, 2002 – August 15, 2003

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Account balance August 11, 2002 | \$2,996.65 |
| Income all sources | 6,144.27 |
| Total expenses | <u>2,386.59</u> |
| Closing account balance | \$6,754.33 |
| Book Fund (includes \$500 research fund) | \$6,068.01 |
| General operating fund | <u>686.32</u> |
| Total account balance | \$6,754.33 |

August 16, 2003 – August 11, 2004

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Account balance August 16, 2003 | \$ 6,754.33 |
| Income all sources | 5,808.12 |
| Total expenses | <u>2,184.54</u> |
| Closing account balance | \$10,825.91 |
| Book Fund (includes \$500 research) | \$ 8,853.13 |
| General operating fund | <u>1,972.78</u> |
| Total account balance | \$10,825.91 |

The following list of individuals made donations to TFR since the publication of Newsletter No. 22 in November 2002:

Charles and Linda Alexander of Houston, TX
 Michael A. Buchtel of Medina, OH
 Gail Deal of New Glarus, WI
 Jean Tritt Edge of Suches, GA
 Phyllis M. Hegyessy and Mary Jane Wadley of
 Pleasant Grove, UT
 William H. and Barbara R. Holloman of Silver Spring, MD
 Dr. Margaret Tritt Holt of Watkinsville, GA
 Harley F. and Beverly J. Hupp of Webster City, IA
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Our special thanks to all the above individuals for their generosity and financial aid in helping to defray the costs of our efforts.

Most sincerely,
 W. Wayne Tritt, *Acting Treasurer*

HISTORICAL VIGNETTES

FROM THE OBERSIMMENTAL: PART III

[Editor's Note: This is a continuation, and last installment, of the article of the same name which ran in the 2002 Tritt newsletter.]

The Village Fire of 1878

Just as most of the villages of the Bernese Oberland, Lenk too experienced a terrible fire. The minister Ernst Buss described the catastrophe: "On July 16, 1878, on a warm Sunday, a fire broke out in the Rieben bakery next to the village bridge, probably as a result of faulty construction of the fireplace. Several men ran immediately to the fire station and got the fire-fighting equipment. The bells were rung. First a huge black cloud of smoke arose, and then the fire broke out in bright flames."

All of Dorf street including the church, the whole village square, the majority of the Halten Alley, and several buildings in Oberried street – in total 25 dwellings – were burned and 94 people were homeless. But around the turn of the century David Gempeler could already state in his study of the Simmen Valley: "Lenk has arisen magnificently out of the ashes and is now ready to play its role as an international resort."

Over the Wallis Mountain

Discoveries from the Bronze Age, like the ax found in Lenk or the prehistoric graveyards in Ayent, indicate that the Rawil pass was used in the earliest of times. Family names in the area also lend supporting evidence to confirm the early importance of the area:

Alemann – descendent of the Germans
Zwahlen – descendent of the Celts
Werren – descendent of Wallisians that immigrated

In the year 1376 Thüring von Brandis, Lord of Simmenegg, went over the Rawil with his soldiers in order to fight against the Bishop of Sitten. In 1562 two famous men of Wallis, Thomas and Felix Platter climbed over the Rawil Pass, along with one of their wives and a father-in-law, over Burtolf (Burgdorf) by way of Siebental, and by following stony, dangerous paths managed to arrive at Sitten.

In the older times the men of Lenk travelled more often over the pass than down the valley where little more than a swampy path led from Matten to Bleiken and Pletschen and from there down to Gerbe, along Halten to Rohrbrücke. Then we hear of the Wallisian mule-drivers using the narrow pass up to the Pöschneried. And at Lindenmatte the old customs house still stands. At that time the way led upwards past the romantic Iffigen falls past the Ritzalp to the legendary Langermatte. It was here that the old Rawil path led up over the Firstli and on to the Rawil Pass where it now joins the tourist path. The author and minister of the canton of Vaud, P. Bridel, who visited the uppermost Simmental area in 1803, described the hard life of the people who worked on the pass: "People who bent under the heavy burdens walked up the steepest paths with the same security one has when walking on level ground. They walk in one day the whole way from Ayent in Wallis to Lenk. With over a 50 kilo load of wheat or wine they go eight long hours from one slope to the next over the mighty chain of Alps."

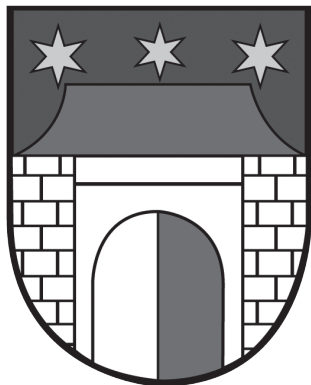
A hundred years ago the pass was considered to be of great economic significance. In the years 1849 to 1865 a series of extensive improvements were made from Lenk to the pass, and at the same time a request was submitted that the people of Wallis improve the path on their side of the mountain. Further, new agreements were instituted between the two for wine and cattle commerce and also for military cooperation.

With the building of the Grimsel Pass road and the opening of the Lötschberg railway the avenues of travel over the Rawil Pass lost their commercial significance. In addition, the road leading down the valley was greatly improved. In 1821 the new Simmental street was opened to traffic as far as Zweisimmen and in 1828 a new, wide street was completed the rest of the way to Lenk. Since 1912 Lenk has also been accessible by rail. Forty years ago the surveyor Clivaz from the city of Siders submitted a Rawil development project. With 5 turns the road reached Iffigen lake, then climbed to a height of 2338 meters before disappearing into a tunnel connecting the cantons of Berne and Wallis. The current project includes a road that will be built for year around use (National Highway N6). A 4.3 km long tunnel will link Iffigen (1725 m) to the artificial lake of Liène (1777 m).

That Switzerland stands or falls by the quality of its Alpine passes is an adage that is especially valid for our region and one to which the future will respond. ■

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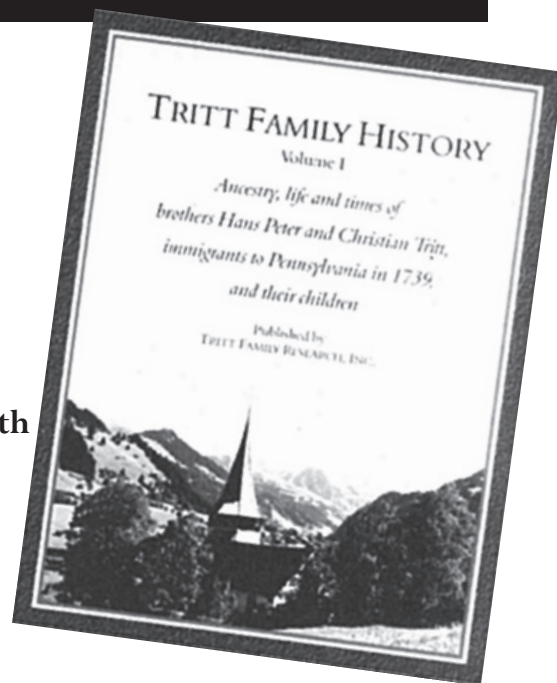
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JAKOB TRITTEN

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following portion of a larger article appeared in the Tritt Family Newsletter, Issue Number 10, September 1989, in conjunction with the remigration tour to Switzerland and France in 1989. David Cramer, formerly of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, now of Johannesburg, South Africa, wrote his views on the tour and we reprint a portion of his article dealing with Jakob Tritten who drove the bus for the tour. You will find another tribute to Jakob on page 5 of this newsletter.

... - Jakob Tritten. Here is a man who takes his job seriously. When he said that he would meet us at a certain time, that was the time that he met us. If the bus was beginning to get dirty, he washed it. If someone let an empty can or bottle on the bus, it was gone the next time we got on. He knew where he was going and how long it would take to get there. If time permitted, the scenic route was the one he would take for our benefit. Points of interest and miscellaneous facts were often brought to our

attention. If a personal item was accidentally left behind, Jakob would go back to get it without complaining. He was proud of his company and rightly so. Jakob is a professional!

But, Jakob was also a relative and friend. He took us to his home for refreshments. (When was the last time another tour guide did that for you?) He went out of his way to show us old Tritten homes. When one-on-one, he would relate interesting stories or facts about his family. He had a sense of humor.... Somehow I can't help but think that Jakob gave us a little extra special treatment while we were in his care. But, then, Jakob is a little extra special himself.

Speaking for myself – and probably all of us – I can say that one of the highlights of the trip was getting to meet and know Jakob Tritten. For all of this, I say, "Thanks. Jakob!". ■

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: THE JOURNEY

made his visit to El Almein in April 1995. Upon his return, he made a visit to my office. His first words were "there's a Tritt buried in the British War Memorial Cemetery". James thought he was Australian or from New Zealand. Needless to say, this got me very curious and there was something strange about the total situation.

I went home that night and told my wife, Dr. Nila, that we were going to take a few days off, go to Alexandria and visit the battlefield. I also stated, "James found him!" My journey was starting to come to an end and it filled me with great expectations. On May 9, we departed Cairo for the San Giovanni Hotel located in Alexandria, Egypt. On May 10, I located a wonderful Egyptian guide who happened to be a Coptic Christian. She was 23 years of age and her name was Jailan Selim Fahmy. We bought flowers, secured a driver and prepared to go to El Almein on the morning of May 11, 1995.

James Lamont had related that there were 12,000 graves, but said that, as you entered the memorial, the grave would be in the lower right hand corner, near the Memorial Chapel. Thus, on the morning of May 11, my wife, guide and driver started the last step to find this unknown Tritt who had died at this terrible battle. It was the most important trip that I felt that I could be making related to "family" affairs. Upon arrival, the sun was warm and I knew we should move quickly. We went to the particular sector of the cemetery; I told my wife, Nila, and the Egyptian guide to walk specific rows of graves. I went to the area where I felt that brave soldier might lie. I walked, I looked, it was hot, yet exciting. Going from grave to grave seemed an eternity, yet in reality, ten minutes had passed. Suddenly, Jailan's voice broke the silence of the sacred grounds. "Come here, I think I've found him!" My wife arrived at the grave before me.

Nila's face went pale, tears swelled in her eyes and she had the look of total amazement. I approached the grave site and it read:

7727 Lance Sergeant
P.H. Tritt
NZ Machine Gun BN.
4th/Sept., 1942, Age 25

It was my father's initials and shocked wouldn't describe my emotions. My journey had been long and hard, but now the mysterious attraction was resolved. My guide prayed over the grave and I kissed the tombstone of Phillip Henry Tritt's final resting place. I prayed for this young man, placed flowers on his grave and left a note which said:

"Here lies a brave New Zealand soldier,
thank you for making the supreme sacrifice.
Your family loves you."

Dr. James Patrick Tritt
May 11, 1995
Virginia, U.S.A.

Phillip Henry Tritt would have been 78 years old this year [1995]. My father, P.H. Tritt, would have been 74 years old in December 1995. At this time, I believe that Phillip Henry was single. He was the son of Phillip Godfery Tritt and Irene Gould Tritt of Hastings, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. My journey will continue as I will attempt to make contact with family or friends to gain more information about this brave Tritt.

At the time of this writing (late June 1995), I plan to leave American University in late July 1995. My journey of life still continues but this may have been my most interesting one! ■

WE NEED CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY LINE

URGENT REQUEST

In order to be certain that we have current and up-to-date information for our upcoming monographs, please complete the following information about yourself and your immediate family. This form should be completed by the person directly related to the Tritt family line. Please use maiden names for women.

Mail the completed form to Connie J. Tritt, Secretary, Tritt Family Research, 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-9705. Thanks for your help. **Remember – we can't be sure that accurate information about you will appear in our publications if you don't provide it.**

MY FAMILY

Name of my father -
Date and place of birth -
Date and place of death -
Date and place of marriage -

Name of my mother -
Date and place of birth -
Date and place of death -

Your name -
Date and place of birth -
Date and place of marriage -

Name of spouse -
Date and place of birth -
Date and place of death –

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

1.

2.

(Continue on back)

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

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

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

been the source of great trouble to the landholders of this country: Consult the Indians in the neighborhood of the Susquehanna, and obtain their consent to the making of a large survey west of the Susquehanna. Accordingly, Governor Keith consulted or held a treaty with the Indians at Conestoga, on the 15th and 16th of June, 1722, when they met together concerning the making of a survey for the use of Springett Penn, the grandson, and, as then believed, heir of William Penn. Keith was granted consent by the Indians to survey the land west of the Susquehanna River for the private use of the Penn family. Having obtained the consent and approbation of the Indians, the governor delayed not; but on the 18th of the same month, while yet at Conestoga, issued the warrant for the survey under his private seal. On the 19th and 20th of June, 1722, the first survey of Springettsbury Manor (now called "Keith's Survey" or "The survey of '22") was made.

Springettsbury Manor, as it is now known, received its name from being originally laid out for the use of Springett Penn, son of William Penn Junior, and grandson of the William Penn who was first proprietor of the province. William the father died in 1718, and William the son died about 1720. It was thence supposed in 1722, when the survey was made, that Springett Penn was of right the proprietor of the province. *History of York County, FROM ITS ERECTION TO THE PRESENT TIME, 1834*, pp. 15-21.

The original manor encompassed some 75,520 acres, and began on the west bank of the Susquehanna River opposite the Conestoga Creek's confluence into the river, west southwest ten miles, etc., with reference to the original 1722 Springettsbury Manor map. "Pleasant Garden" in Baltimore County, Maryland, is located within the boundary of Springettsbury Manor claimed by Pennsylvania. As early as 1722, Philip Syng and Thomas Brown secured a

Maryland warrant on the west side of the Susquehanna River called "Partner's Adventure." Soon after, others from Maryland followed along with hundreds of unauthorized settlers from either colony. *York, Windsor and Lower Windsor Townships York County, Pennsylvania Original Pennsylvania Land Records (Volume 9)*, Neal Otto Hively.

There remains a lot of research to be done if we are to discover the names of families who loved this beautiful place on earth. By following trails through history in reference books and archives, I have compiled hundreds of references with clues to follow. With any luck we will all know who built the "Mansion In The Mist" . . . in the mist of discovery.

If you would like to help me research your history, just follow the links below . . . you just might find yourself up all hours of the night.

Start with the name "Thomas Cresap/ Cressap/ Cressop" and remember that the mansion was in Baltimore County, Maryland and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Maryland Archives

<http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/>

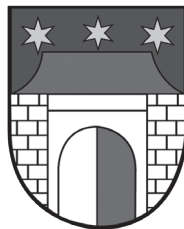
PA Land Records

<http://www.innernet.net/hively/PaLand/index.htm>

Any questions?

Please e-mail me at:
downtoearth@suscom.net

WARNING! Researching the history of the Blue Stone Mansion can be very addictive. ■



CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WILLIAM TRITT (1864)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article appeared in the Tritt Family Newsletter, Issue Number 7, February, 1987, and is reproduced here for your enjoyment. A copy of this diary can be purchased from TFR by using the order blank on the back of this newsletter.

William Tritt, of Poygan Township, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, was the founder of the Tritt family in Wisconsin, where many of his descendants live today. He was born in Newville, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on June 15, 1819. His family moved to Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1822, and on to Wisconsin in 1850.

He served his country faithfully as a soldier in the Civil War. He enlisted in 1862 in the Twenty-First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Company F, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. Among the battles in which he participated were Perryville, Hoover's Gap, Nashville, Murfreesboro and Chattanooga.

It was at Chattanooga that he was taken prisoner and confined for seventeen months on the prisons of Richmond, Andersonville, Florence and Gouldsborough. He was one of the few who survived the terrible treatment and starvation to which prisoners were subjected. His remarkable constitution served him well in this hour of peril, and when rescued, he was sent to St. Louis, where he remained in the hospital for some time. He was transferred from there to Benton Barracks, then to the Marine Hospital, where he was honorably discharged from the service, on June 14, 1865.

William Tritt died on August 5, 1909, at the age of 90 years, one month and three weeks, in the Township of Poygan, Winnebago County. He fell off a stack of barley, striking the top of his head and dying the same day.

A diary that William Tritt kept during his imprisonment, encompassing the year 1864, has remarkably survived. This tiny book, about three and a half inches across, was written in pencil on poor quality paper. It was kept by one of William's older daughters, Ida. She passed it on to her granddaughter, with whom she lived the last year of her life. She gave the diary to her daughter, Mrs. Wade Dexter, who is the current owner.

Mrs. Dexter spent countless hours transcribing the diary. The paper had deteriorated badly and the penciled text was extremely difficult to decipher. The task seemed almost insurmountable, but with the use of a magnifying glass and a great deal of patience, she completed the task in three and a half months.

The title of the diary *Apple Trees Look Gay in Bloom* was suggested by William Mitchell, Director of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library on the campus of the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. He encouraged Mrs. Dexter to transcribe the diary and later read the final transcription. He was deeply moved by the April 27 entry with the poignant juxtaposition "this imprisonment is all that I can bear. Apple trees look gay in bloom." ■

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(Written in 1864 by the Wisconsin Tritt patriarch while confined in Danville and Andersonville prisons)
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