

ELIZABETH TRITT HAYES HAS BEEN FOUND!

Immigrant Hans Peter Tritt and his first wife Catharina were the parents of four children, Jacob, Catharine Barbara, Anna Elizabeth and Eva. Research has revealed information about the lives of Jacob and Catherine which is included in the Tritt Family History. Eva apparently died by 1791. A few sketchy records relate to Anna Elizabeth, but after her marriage, she disappears from the Pennsylvania records and the story of her life has remained a mystery, until now.

Jeanette Miller's research reveals that Anna Elizabeth Tritt was christened on December 7, 1748, at the Muddy Creek Reformed Church in East Cocalico Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.¹ She is not found again in known records until she is shown as an heir in the settlement of her father's estate in June of 1768.² She was a sponsor at the christening of her nephew, Johan Peter, son of her eldest brother Jacob in 1769.³ On September 27, 1774, when she was 26 years old, she married Melchior Hoose (?) at the First Reformed Church in York County, Pennsylvania.⁴ In records related to Peter Tritt's estate, Elizabeth's husband is also shown as Heess and Melchor Hays. While his name has been transcribed from the marriage record as Hoose, the writing is very difficult to read.⁵

In July of 2005, Judy Henry of Porter, Texas, looking for ancestors of Elizabeth Tritt Hayes of Louisiana, discovered the Tritt website. In comparing information with Connie Tritt and

¹Records of Pastoral Acts at the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations of the Muddy Creek Church, East Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania 1730-1790, translated by William J. Hinke and Frederick S. Weiser, (Breinigsville, PA: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1981), 137.

²York County Orphan's Court Records, Docket B, 1 June 1768, 178.

³Canadochly Church Register, 1755-1874, Lower Windsor Township, York County, PA, 8.

⁴Evidence of the Dritt-Tritt Families of York County Before The Year 1850; File #1880, 1955, York County Historical Society, 6.

⁵Various records spell his name Malachi, Malachy, Hamelcar, Amagoir, Amalagre, Hamalgar, Hamaliga, Malachior, Malagoir, Malogoir, Melica, Melaca, Malaga and America. Spanish and French officials spelled names as they sounded or as they would be in French or Spanish. Hayes is shown as Haise, Hais, Haysse, Hays. Elizabeth is shown as Isabelle, Elizabeth and Eliza. Her maiden name is spelled Thret, Tret, Treet, Tratte, Pritt and Pratt.

⁶St. Martin Parish Marriage Book Vol. 5, #23.

⁷St. Martin Church Death Records Vol. 4, #1013.

⁸Copy of 1797 document recorded in New Orleans in which Eliza Hayes asks to be confirmed in possession of land at Petite Anse.

⁹Henderson Crawford Rose's 1924 letter to Celeste Rose Maxwell.

Judy Henry, Porter, Texas



Jeanette Miller, it seemed likely that Judy's Elizabeth Hayes was, indeed, the daughter of Hans Peter Tritt. She and her husband, J.C. Henry, traveled from Texas to Carlisle, Pennsylvania for the Tritt research meeting where Judy presented the rest of Elizabeth's story.

In the Louisiana records, Eliza is shown in various documents as of Susquehanna⁶, of South Carolina⁷, and "of the German nation".⁸ Legend describes her as "a splendid good woman" of Pennsylvania Dutch heritage.⁹

Elizabeth and her husband apparently lived in the northern colonies at least until 1776 when their eldest son, John, was born in either Pennsylvania or Baltimore, Maryland. John often told of seeing George Washington in Philadelphia when he was a child.

By 1781, Melchior and Elizabeth had settled in Spanish Louisiana in what was to later

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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



Melissa Clayton, the editor of Tritt Family Research Volume II, has recently become a "poster child" for undergraduate research at Brigham Young University. She, her husband Brent, and her son Will are featured in the Spring 2005 issue of *BYU Frontiers Magazine*. Here are the highlights of that article:

Melissa Greco came to BYU from Virginia, and Brent Clayton came from Mississippi. They met through mutual friends and were married in the Jordan River, Utah temple after their sophomore year.

Melissa began working with mathematics professor Scott Glasgow in her junior year at BYU after switching majors from sculpture to mathematics. When Professor Glasgow approached her about working with him on research in the area of electromagnetic energy transfer, Melissa states she "was intimidated by the idea of graduate school and math research". However, soon after becoming involved with it, she "not only realized [she] was capable of doing research, but [she] got really excited about it". Melissa went on to co-author two publications and one preprint, which is quite an accomplishment for an undergraduate student. She attended two math conferences usually reserved for graduate students and faculty. She also assisted in preparing a presentation for the undergraduate research conference that won a top award.

At the same time Melissa was doing research in the Mathematics Department, Brent was researching photochemical degradation of tear gas in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. His studies in analytical chemistry also led to a research position in a thermodynamics lab and the publication of a paper.

After graduating from BYU, Melissa and Brent moved to State



Melissa Clayton with husband, Brent and son, Will

College, Pennsylvania to attend graduate school at Penn State University. Because of the mentored research they had experienced at BYU, they found themselves several years ahead of other graduate students in their fields of study at Penn State.

In the spring of 2004, Melissa left Penn State with a master's degree in mathematics and a nine-month old baby. She is now a stay-at-home mom to Will, while Brent finishes his doctorate in organic chemistry. Brent hopes to complete his graduate work in 2007 and then move on to either work for a pharmaceutical company or teach at a university, the latter of which he is already familiar with, having taught four semesters at Penn State as a graduate student.

Tritt Family Research is proud to introduce to our readership Melissa, Brent and Will Clayton, and we send our congratulations to Melissa in receiving this great honor from such a prestigious university. With these credentials, Tritt Family Research is in good hands with publication of the monographs over the next several years. ■

As you may be aware, the cost of publishing the annual newsletter has caused us to cut back on our readership over the past year which means that we depend on you, our loyal readers of the Tritt Family Newsletter, to support our efforts. Any monetary contribution that you are able to send to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the annual newsletter would be very much appreciated. All work done by Tritt Family Research members is strictly on a volunteer basis. We receive no compensation for the hours expended on research, updating the website, writing articles for future publications and bringing to you the newsletter you hold in your hand. If you like what you are reading and support our efforts in publishing the newsletter and histories, could you take the time now to send just \$5, or more if you are able, to help in the ever-increasing costs of future publications. Thank you for your support.

NEW PUBLICATION

Melissa C. Clayton, Zion, Pennsylvania

TRITT FAMILY HISTORY

Next volume of TRITT FAMILY HISTORY due for publication in 2006

Call for family stories and old photographs!!

As explained in the 2004 newsletter, the next several publications of Tritt Family Research will be books comparable in length to Volume I, each featuring an early Tritt in America and including all of their known descendants. The first of these monographs, titled *Tritt Family History: Johann Paul Tritt, born 1752 in York County, Pennsylvania, and his descendants*, is due to be published in 2006 and is well underway. The next few books tentatively scheduled for publication include Joseph Tritt (1786-1873), Henry Treat (1744-1793), and Elizabeth Tritt (1748-1815).

As a reminder, we need at least three generations of your own family line in order for you to appear in a monograph. Four generations would be even more preferable. Please take the time now, while you're thinking about it, to fill out the *Urgent Request* form located in this newsletter and return it to the address given below if you haven't already done so. We received quite a few responses to this request in last year's newsletter, and we appreciate those prompt replies.

If you have family stories or old photographs that you think would be appropriate for a monograph, please let us know! We are especially interested in stories and photographs for the Johann Paul Tritt line, as it is scheduled for publication next year. Don't know which line is yours? Send them in anyway! Be sure to include the filled-in *Urgent Request* form so that we can connect you to a family line, or include a note with your name stating that you sent in the form last year. Stories and *Urgent Request* forms can be mailed to Melissa Clayton, Tritt Family Research, at 208 Fieldstone Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823. If you have old photos, email Connie J. Tritt, Secretary, Tritt Family Research at crtitt@comcast.net and she will coordinate with you to get a good digital copy of your photo. Thank you for your contribution to this effort!

Note: Please be aware that we cannot guarantee all of the stories and photographs that we receive will be included in a monograph; however, we will try to include as many as we possibly can. Thanks for your understanding! ■

EVENT

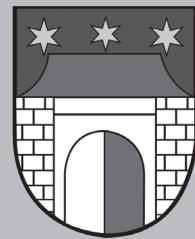
Leonard W. Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

SAENGERFEST 2006

If you want to spend some time in Toledo, Ohio, in June 2006, an interesting and different activity would be to attend Saengerfest 2006. This event will be held on June 15 to 18 at the Radisson Hotel Toledo in downtown Toledo.

Saengerfest is a fun weekend filled with good Swiss music performed by Swiss singing groups from around the United States and Canada and good Swiss-style food. As one who attended the last Saengerfest in New Glarus, Wisconsin, in 2003, I assure you will not be disappointed if you sit back, close your eyes and imagine yourself surrounded by the mighty Alps and listening to Swiss yodeling, alphorn playing and singing as only the Swiss know how.

For more information on this event and if you have access to the Internet, go to www.saengerfest2006.org and you will find all the information there about registering for a unique experience. ■



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CHARLES W. TRATE

Sandy Treat Naiva, Manchester, New Jersey

This article is written in loving memory of my cousin, Charles W. Trate, who was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on March 4, 1914, and died at the age of 91 on July 17, 2005.

Charlie was eight generations from Christian Tritt, the immigrant brother to Hans Peter Tritt. Charlie had three brothers, Oscar W. Trate, William Raymond Trate and Harvey Edwin Trate. Charlie's parents were Morris Raymond Trate and Lillie Ida Segner. His grandparents were William Nelson Trate and Elizabeth Glass. His great-grandparents were Philip Treat and Susanna Glass.

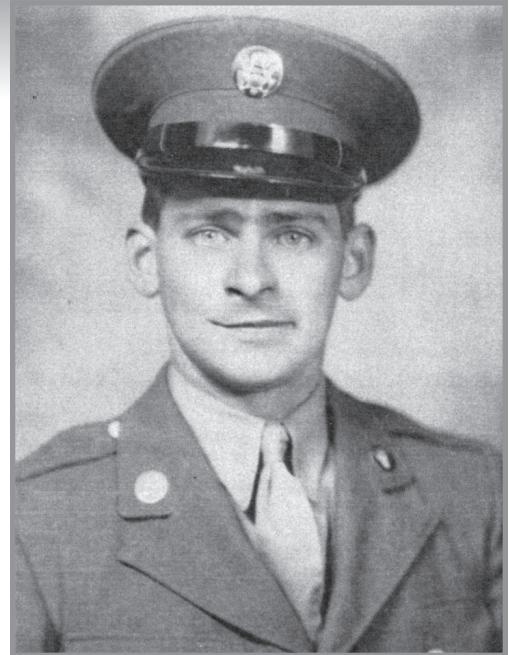
In August 2000, at our annual family reunion, I spoke with Charlie about his experiences in World War II and about his life on the family farm. The following is in Charlie's words:

I joined the Army February 1942 after Pearl Harbor happened. I was about 27. I went from the farm house in Narvon,

Pennsylvania, to Camp Lee, Virginia, which is close to Petersburg. I was there eight weeks ... they rushed you through quick! We were shipped by railroad to Camp Edwards in Massachusetts — close to Providence, Rhode Island. Went and visited Providence one Sunday and had a free trolley ride. From Camp Edwards we headed by steam engine to the west, and went day and night. Stopped in Illinois and saw a farm. Would like to have stayed and work for nothing to help the farmer.

When we left Camp Edwards, we knew we were going across the sea. We ended in San Francisco and stayed two weeks in Cow Palace where there was boxing and wrestling rodeo. Different sporting events. There was no training. We were putting our time in and getting ready to go. We went on a big ship called West Point. It took two and a half weeks at least till we arrived at Melbourne, Australia. I did not get seasick ... maybe one day a little woozy. It was a beautiful place. Nice and warm ... beautiful cities. We were there maybe three weeks, and then went by train to northern Australia to Mareeba, Australia to set up a hospital. The fifth airborne was a few miles away. I had guard duty, kitchen duty and later worked in the hospital as a ward. Went from PFC 1st Class to corporal and then sergeant. I had on-the-job training and gave care to the patients. The hospital was an old school. The Army took it over. Every Army outfit uses the men's talents ... concrete, carpentry and so on.

I then went to New Guinea ... partly by ship so far, and then by air. First time flying on a plane.... Went



Charles in Army uniform

..... from Manila Bay to New Guinea. Worked in second station hospital in different place in tents. I was there for one year. Then to Leyte, Philippine Islands. Hospital broke up and got sent to a big general hospital. Some things I didn't like ... specially to take care of some bad diseases, incurable; tied down ... shell shocked.

War ended with atomic bomb in August. Gradually getting ready to come home. If it wouldn't have been for that atom bomb, we would have been there for I don't know how much longer. We were happy to be going home. Those Japs did not want to give up. We lost a lot of lives ... about 70 to 100 thousand killed.

We rejoiced that we're gonna soon go home. We went by a liberty ship to San Francisco, California ... then stayed at Camp Edwards for a few weeks, and then flew to Newark, New Jersey. Got on a train to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania where I got discharged in '46 in one month less than three and a half years. I did correspondence by letters.



Charles in August 2000 holding the Tritt Family History

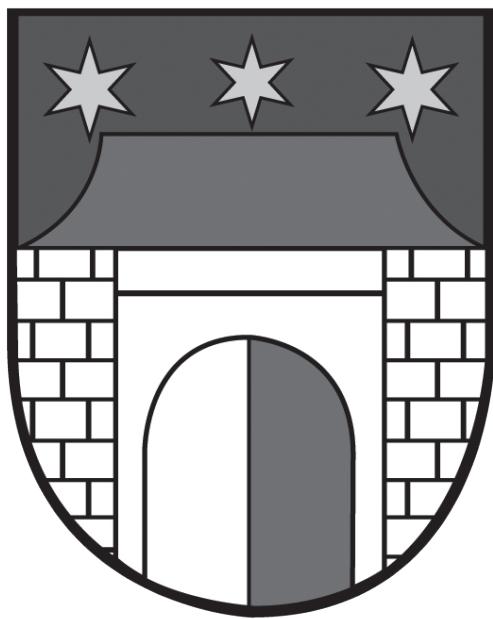
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4: IN MEMORY OF CHARLES TRATE

When I got discharged, I wanted to get out, but felt funny leaving your buddies. I made a lot of good friends. I was in that long, it was getting to be my home. Got sort of used to it. That was home day and night.

While I was in Manila Bay, I met one of the members from church in the village near where I lived. My mother, father and brother were there when I got home. On the farm, we had horses and mules pulling the plow to turn the ground over. There was a disk that tears the ground and a harrow ... a steel thing with a lot of prongs like a cultivator. We made hay, cut it, raked it with a rake fork, loaded it loose on the wagon, forked it off in the barn. Much more work. More labor. Nowadays, they have wonderful equipment. It's still work.

Charlie and I concluded our talk back in August 2000 with his mentioning that someone would drop a cat off with kittens that would want to be petted at the farm. Charlie's memory seemed super. As he talked about the war and life on the farm, it seemed like he was reliving it.

About four days before Charlie died, I, along with my brother and his wife, Wilbur and Jean Treat, visited with Charlie and had another wonderful time talking with him. We again spoke about farming and we will always remember what Charlie said about the hard work on the farm: "We worked hard on the farm, but we had fun. We had a good time." I love his statement about the fulfillment and good feeling of hard work. ■



TRITT FAMILY HISTORY - VOLUME II

Donald G. Tritt, Granville, Ohio

We are pleased to report that, in 2006, Volume II of Tritt Family History will be published in monograph form under the able editorship of Melissa Clayton, granddaughter-in-law of Harold Hegyessy, who was one of the editors of Volume I. You can read about Melissa elsewhere in this newsletter. Melissa has been an inspiration to us all in the way she has taken leadership for these monographs and the conscientious way she is going about preparing and organizing a very large mass of information. The focus of the first monograph will feature the descendants of Johann Paul Tritt, born in 1752 in York, Pennsylvania, the eldest son of the immigrant Hans Peter Tritt and his second wife, Maria Barbara Dellinger. This monograph will be comparable in length and size to Volume I. In next year's newsletter, we will include ordering information for this monograph. ■

NEXT MEETING OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

AUGUST 17 – 19, 2006

IN CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA

For information about the meeting, contact:

Donald G. Tritt

81 Donald Ross Drive
Granville, Ohio 43023-9794

OR

email Connie Tritt at
ctratt@comcast.net

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH



Photos from the meeting

The 28th annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held on August 18 through 20, 2005, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There were nineteen people in attendance coming from California, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Friday's session dealt with Melissa Clayton explaining the work she has been doing on Volume II of Tritt Family History and assigning writing projects. You can read more about this volume and work elsewhere in this newsletter. She did a very thorough job in illustrating the volume to be published and explaining how and when it will all come into reality.

The Friday afternoon session was devoted to Judy Henry, a descendant of Elizabeth Tritt, daughter of Hans Peter Tritt and his wife, Catharina. Judy gave an informative presentation of her ancestor, Elizabeth, documenting that she is the Elizabeth Tritt from York County, Pennsylvania. Her article on Elizabeth is our lead story in this newsletter. You can read about Elizabeth and how Judy found Tritt Family Research, driving all the way from Texas to Pennsylvania to attend our meeting to share her research with us.

On Saturday, we held our annual business meeting in which we read correspondence received during the past year, gave updates on what has been happening since we last met and talked about missing people who were unable to be with us because of illness or other commitments.

Sale of *Tritt Family History Volume I* is going well. We have now authorized Willow Bend Books in Westminster, Maryland, to be our agent to sell the history to a wider market than Tritt Family Research is able to reach. Tritt Family Research will continue selling the book, but it can now be ordered through this other source as well.

In the afternoon, Greg Lang, superintendent of the Dritt house restoration project, gave an interesting and informative presentation on the history of York County as it related to the Dritt house, including boundary disputes between Pennsylvania and Maryland. He also showed slides of the restoration project on the house.

The 2006 meeting will be held August 17 through 19 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Anyone is welcome to attend. ■

REUNION

Sunday, 21 August 2005

Harmony Church Fellowship Hall

We have been fortunate the last two years in that the weather for our gathering has been beautiful. To have that to say about eastern Pennsylvania in August is indeed a pleasure.

That said, the folks came, we conversed under the old oaks while our hard working women spread tables in the hall full of home-cooking, and, when the challenge of 'Come 'n get it!' went out, there was not much hesitation. Grace was offered along with prayers for our missing members, before digging into the goodies of ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, yams, greens and other vegetables that adorn the Pennsylvania Dutch tables in late summer. One has to be cautious when gathering samplings of everything as space on the plate quickly grows short. One must also be sure to have worn an elastic belt about the mid-section.

Never ignore the need to save space for dessert. These Pennsylvania cooks always want to torture the 'weak in mind' when it comes to pies and cakes, cobblers and such. It is a serious problem trying to refrain from over indulging and thereby saving one's self much discomfort before getting back home. And then there is the wet-bottom Shoofly pie .. with coffee yet. For the transplanted easterner who can no longer get these items with ease made with the proper ingredients, this is no laughing matter. I must exercise tight control in order to maintain a decent comfort level

As folks arrive, they will normally sign in on a register to get an attendance count, though not always accurate. Guests this year were about the norm, though a little more than last year. With a few more younger children, we had between 55 and 60

in attendance.

Gerald Trate had wrapped some packages for the 'Inner Eye' people to hone in on. There was quite a bit of debate on what was in this or that package. Most were wrong. There were also jars of small objects to judge the number of .. ALL WRONG! But, of course, some were close. They got the goodies to chew or put on the work bench adding more screws and bolts to one's collection.

Some hilarity was added after lunch with the water balloon toss as not only the younger set took part, but some of the 'more mature' as well. Being warm enough, it was not too disturbing to have the missile finally explode at finger tips and give the recipient a cooling shower. I had visions of a 'wet t-shirt contest' after a bit of tossing.

The short business meeting was held under the oaks and we remembered the passing on 17 July 2005 of Charles Woodrow Trate, our resident senior. There will be an additional article on Charlie by Sandy Naiva elsewhere in this newsletter. It was again voted on to support Tritt Family Research Newsletter with a major contribution this year.

It is with understandable concern that we endeavor to keep the younger generations interested and involved in these reunions. As the more elderly of us depart these environs, the younger folks feel further from our roots and ancestry and therefore it behooves us to keep the appeal alive with the comradery of visitation. It's always good to see cousins again after each year's separation.

And so it goes for another year. ■



To the left is a reproduction of an early 1900's postcard of the church in St. Stephan, Bern Canton, Switzerland, where our Tritt ancestors worshiped. This postcard is courtesy of Donald G. Tritt of Granville, Ohio.

TREASURER'S REPORT

W.Wayne Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Account balance August 12, 2004	\$10,825.91
Income all sources	2,565.96
Total expenses	<u>1,492.26</u>

Closing Account Balance	\$11,899.61
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Book Fund

Last report (included \$500 from Research Fund)	\$ 9,353.13
\$5,000 certificate of deposit with Orrstown Bank (interest)	84.02
\$4,000 certificate of deposit with Orrstown Bank (interest)	71.04
Donations since last report	<u>800.00</u>

Book Fund Total	\$10,308.19
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Regular operating fund	<u>1,591.42</u>
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TOTAL	\$11,899.61
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We are grateful to the following individuals who made donations to Tritt Family Research since our last report:

Jeff Bytof	Menifee, CA	Dorothy E. Trate	Birdsboro, PA
Gladys Cramer	Shippensburg, PA	Gerald and Janet Trate	Sinking Springs, PA
William and Janice Duerk	Defiance, OH	Trate Reunion via Louise Strunk	Birdsboro, PA
Barbara Holloman	Silver Spring, MD	Don Tritt	Granville, OH
Mrs. H.F. Hupp	Webster City, IA	Leonard and Connie Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Jeanette Miller	Shippensburg, PA	Mac Don Tritt	Lenior City, TN
H. Marie Mischitz	Bradenton, FL	Marg Tritt	Buraby, BC, Canada
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Morefield	Mechanicsburg, PA	Ray and June Tritt	Sycamore, IL
JoAnn Murphy	Warsaw, MO	Richard and Nancy Tritt	Boiling Springs, PA
Sarah Murphy	Humbolt, TN	W. Wayne Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Marian Tritt Orso	Ann Arbor, MI	William and June Tritt	Punta Gorda, FL
Sandy Naiva	Manchester, NJ	Gene and Pat Tritten	Eureka, CA
Janet Long Roberts	Yardley, PA	Walter and Susan Tritten	Steffisburg, Switzerland
Evelyn Smith	Mentor, OH	Dave and Robyn Wampler	Gardners, PA
Bob and Ann Spann	Nashville, TN	Doris M. West	Jonestown, PA
Ernie and Doris Trait	Long Beach, CA		

become St. Mary Parish, where Melchior purchased more than 600 acres of land at Nova Bend of Bayou Teche near the Atchafalaya River.¹⁰ In May of 1781, a Matquis Hayes is named on a list of 182 Irish, Germans and Americans whose weapons were confiscated by the Spanish government in fear of an uprising.¹¹ Three settlements in the prairie at the time were the Opelousas Post, the Attakapas Post (now St. Martinville) and the little town of New Iberia. Though the government at the time was Spanish, much of the life and culture was French as this area was also the home of the Acadian exiles.

In a 1782 baptismal record, Melchior Has and Isabella Tritt/Pritt had their two year old son, David, baptized at the St. Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas.¹² All christenings, marriages and deaths were required to be celebrated and recorded in Spanish or French at the local Catholic churches.

Verbal legend states that, after living at Nova Bend for about two and a half years, Melchior returned to the United States to tend to some business leaving his lands in the possession of his agent, Martin Baighant.¹³ Melchior never returned and Eliza was left to raise her three young sons, John, David and Michael, who ranged in age from about three to nine years.

About 1785, Elizabeth apparently left the isolated Nova Bend area and settled near the Opelousas Post where other Pennsylvania families were located. Two records were found for that period of time. In 1786, an Elizabeth Hayes of Opelousas apprenticed her sons, John, "about age eight", and Michael, "about age four", to

be trained as blacksmiths.¹⁴ In a document dated about 1788, an Elizabeth Hayes of Opelousas filed a paternity suit against William Wikoff, a prominent Opelousas landowner and politician, by whom she claimed to be pregnant. Elizabeth was awarded five cows and five calves in settlement of her suit.¹⁵ Elizabeth Tritt Hayes' two daughters, Betsy and Polly, were born in about 1789 and 1790, long after Melchior Hayes had disappeared. It is not known if one or both of the girls were the children of Wikoff. Betsy always maintained that she was the legitimate daughter of Malachy Hayes, as his name came to be known in the records.

By 1790, Elizabeth and her children had settled on the spectacular Petite Anse Island, one of five salt domes that rise out of the south central Louisiana prairie and marshes. This spot is now Avery Island of Tabasco Sauce fame. One story states that Wikoff, who had a Vacherie (cattle ranch) on the island, settled Elizabeth and her children there. Another version says that two Frenchmen named Fontenette and Bienvenu secured grants for the island and located Elizabeth there along with other families.

Elizabeth's life is woven into the early history of the island and many romanticized stories of her time there survive in local publications. The obituary of John Hayes states:

"The pioneer family being very poor, they endured great suffering and privation, for some time living under a mere shed made of palmetto leaves. The boys helped their mother as best they could, the elder, John [then age fourteen]

coming over to the settlements on the bayou [Bayou Teche] while the younger caught fish, which at times was almost the only food of the family. Mr. Hayes, who possessed a remarkable memory told of one whole week that he worked on some bayou plantation for a barrel of rice in the hull, and, when secured, he took half of it on his back and walked eight or ten miles over the prairie to the sea marsh, where he concealed it, and returned for the balance. Finally getting it all to the marsh, he crossed with it in his canoe; and when he laid it before the family, who had been half starving all week, his mother actually cried with joy."¹⁶

When out hunting one day, John found the salt spring that eventually led to the establishment of the salt mine. Besides providing the family with their own supply of salt, perhaps the discovery gave the family a commodity that could be sold or traded and, therefore, was the beginning of their change of fortunes.

In 1797, Eliza petitioned to be put in possession of the land at Petite Anse on which she and her five children had resided for about seven years. The document, which was recorded at New Orleans, states that "Isabella Haise, resident of the district [Attakapas] for fifteen years and of the German Nation and abandoned by her husband for twelve years without knowing what is to become of her, having been left with five children on the arm" requested that she be confirmed in her right to an eight by forty arpent tract of land on Petite Anse.¹⁷

In 1802, Eliza is listed in the parish brand book as Veuve (widow)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

¹⁰American State Papers Claim #1266.

¹¹Conrad, Glenn R. "Friend or Foe? Religious Exiles at the Opelousas Post in the American Revolution". *Attakapas Gazette* Vol. XII, No. 3, Fall 1977.

¹²St. Landry Catholic Church Baptismal Records Vol. OAF, page 28, #2.

¹³Larry Hayes Papers.

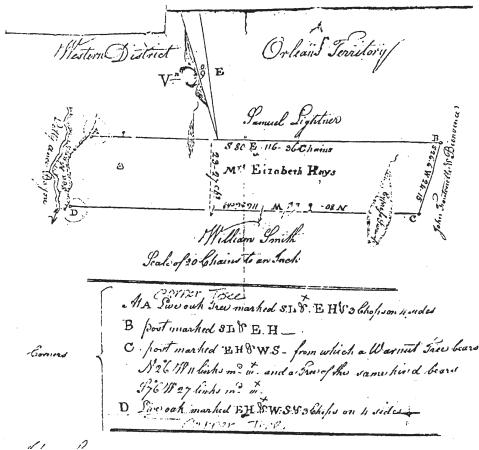
¹⁴St. Landry Colonial Documents, Office of the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

¹⁵St. Landry Colonial Documents, Office of the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

¹⁶John Hayes obituary from a New Iberia newspaper.

¹⁷Copy of 1797 document recorded in New Orleans in which Eliza Hayes asks to be confirmed in possession of land at Petite Anse.

Malaga Haze.¹⁸ By 1804, the financial circumstances of the family had improved to the point that she was able to purchase, for the price of \$70 cash, two tracts of land, four by forty arpents each, on both sides of Bayou Petite Anse on the prairie north of the island.¹⁹ The 1810 St. Mary Parish census shows her as a taxpayer in the parish with a household of seven people. In October of that year, John was one of the chain carriers when Thomas Orine, Deputy Surveyor, marked the boundaries to Elizabeth's property at Petite Anse. One of the corner trees of her claim can be seen by visitors to the Jungle Gardens at Avery Island.²⁰ Her claim was certified by the United States Government in 1811.²¹



In 1812, she is listed in the St. Mary Parish, Louisiana Census as Widow Malachi Hayes, owner of seven slaves. The land is now located in New Iberia Parish.

Eliza died at home on December 26, 1815, at the age of about 66. Her funeral service was conducted by the priest of St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church.²² Her burial place is not recorded, but she probably occupies one of the two grave sites in the garden behind her old home.

Her children settled her estate among themselves, each signing the agreement with his mark. David purchased the prairie tract for \$640, while John and Mary bought the Petite Anse property for \$2,000. The Atchafalaya tract was held jointly. Other property included one Negro girl named Cary, a still, a Schiff, a Table, 2 blankets, 2 tablecloths, empty barrels, half a barrel of flour, a saw, chairs, one little pot, a loom, a spinning wheel and cards, one tub, a Lad Iron, a jug, a chest, two beds, an iron pot, a tea kettle and a lot of iron. The value of the estate was \$3,481.87 1/2 cents. The children distributed the various items among themselves.²³

John and his sister, Mary/Polly, with her husband, Edmund Rose, and later her three sons, eventually owned one-half of the island, operating a productive sugar plantation and sugar house. Michael, Betsy and David lived and farmed nearby on the Petite Anse Prairie. David became a very wealthy planter who also owned land along Bayou Teche in St. Mary Parish.

Children of ELIZABETH TRITT and Malachi Hayes:

i. **JOHN HAYES** b. October 05, 1776, PA; d. July 10, 1869, Prairie at Petite Anse, St. Mary Parish, LA; m. (1) MARGARET McKAY; d. June 22, 1835; m. (2) MARY "POLLY" MOSS; b. May 26, 1784, Georgia; d. Perry's Bridge, Vermillion Parish, LA(?)

ii. **DAVID HAYES** b. August 21, 1780, St. Mary Parish, LA; d. Hayes Cemetery, Petite Anse, LA; m. ELIZABETH PELEGIE LELEU, December 14, 1804, St. Martinsville, LA; b. January 22, 1788, St. Martin Parish, LA; d. November 30,

1862, Petite Anse, LA.

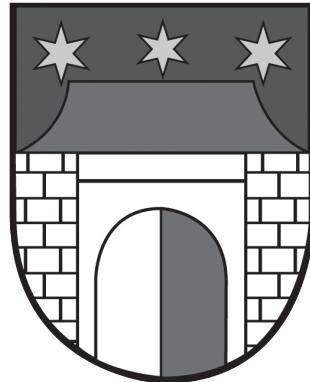
iii. **MICHEL HAYES** b. abt. 1782, St. Landry Parish, LA; d. August 23, 1823; m. MARIE ROSALIE DEROUEN, October 01, 1804, Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, LA.

Children of ELIZABETH TRITT and, perhaps, William Wikoff:

iv. **ELIZABETH "BETSY" HAYES** b. abt. 1789, St. Landry Parish, LA; d. November 28, 1847; m. (1) JOHN GEORGE MECHE, January 07, 1812, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, LA; b. abt. 1784; d. August 20, 1819, Petite Anse Prairie, New Iberia Parish, LA; m. (2) WILLIAM DOOLEY, January 30, 1821.

v. **MARY "POLLY" HAYES** b. abt. 1790, St. Landry Parish, LA; d. March 27, 1846, Iberia Parish, LA; m. EDMUND ROSE, September 23, 1817, St. Martinsville, LA; b. abt. 1784, Halifax, NC; d. May 19, 1829, Petite Anse, St. Mary Parish, LA. ■

SEE TIME LINE FOR
ELIZABETH TRITT HAYES
ON PAGE 11



¹⁸St. Martin Parish Brand Book, page 84; St. Martin Parish Library.

¹⁹St. Martin Parish Original Documents #140, June 1804.

²⁰Larry Hayes Papers.

²¹American State Papers Claim B399.

²²St. Martin Church Death Records, Vol. 4, #1013.

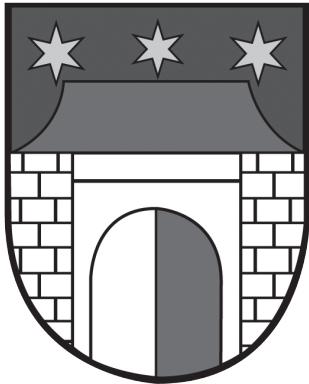
²³Typed copy of the settlement of the Eliza Hayes estate, in the Larry Hayes Papers.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10: ELIZABETH TRITT HAYES TIME LINE

September 24, 1774	Marriage to Melchior Has	Marriage certificate
October 1776	Birth of son, John, in PA	John Hayes' obituary
August 20, 1780	Birth of son, David, in LA	David's baptismal certificate
1781	Settled at Nova Bend on the Atchafalaya River in what would become St. Mary Parish. Survey maps show him as Malachi Hays.	Deeds and survey maps
1781	On list of confiscated weapons as Matiquis Hayes. William Wikoff was also on the list.	Conrad, Glenn R. "Friend or Foe? Religious Exiles at the Opelousas Post in the American Revolution". <i>Attakapas Gazette</i> , Vol. XII, No. 3, Fall 1977.
1782	Melchior Has and Isabelle Tritt/Pritt have son David baptized in Opelousas	St. Landry Catholic Church Baptismal Records Vol. OAF, page 28, #2
Between 1784-1786	After about 2 1/2 years at Nova Bend, Malachi Hayes goes back to the United States for family business and never returns	Family legend
1786	An Elizabeth Hayes of Opelousas apprentices her sons, Michael and John, as blacksmiths	St. Landry Colonial Documents, Office of the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, LA
1785 or 1788	Elizabeth Hayes wins settlement in paternity suit	St. Landry Colonial Documents, Office of the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, LA
1790	Elizabeth and her family settle at Petite Anse Island. They live in a palmetto hut and are often hungry.	John Hayes obituary
1797	Eliza Hayes petitions for possession of Petite Anse property and receives a Spanish land grant. She states that she has lived in the Attakapas District for 15 years and has been abandoned by her husband for 12 years.	Copy of 1797 document recorded in New Orleans in which Eliza Hayes asks to be confirmed in possession of land at Petite Anse
1802	Listed in Brand Book as Widow Malaga Haze	St. Martin Parish Brand Book, page 84, St. Martin Parish Library
1804	Purchased two tracts of land on Petite Anse Prairie	St. Martin Parish Original Documents #140, June 1804
1810	Census shows her household with seven people	
1811	Her claim certified by U.S. government	Larry Hayes papers
1812	St. Mary Parish Census as Widow Malachi Hayes with seven slaves	
December 26, 1815	Elizabeth died at her home at Petite Anse at the age of about 66 years. She still owned the land at Nova Bend, the Petite Anse property and the prairie property	St. Martin Church Death Records, Vol. 4, #1013

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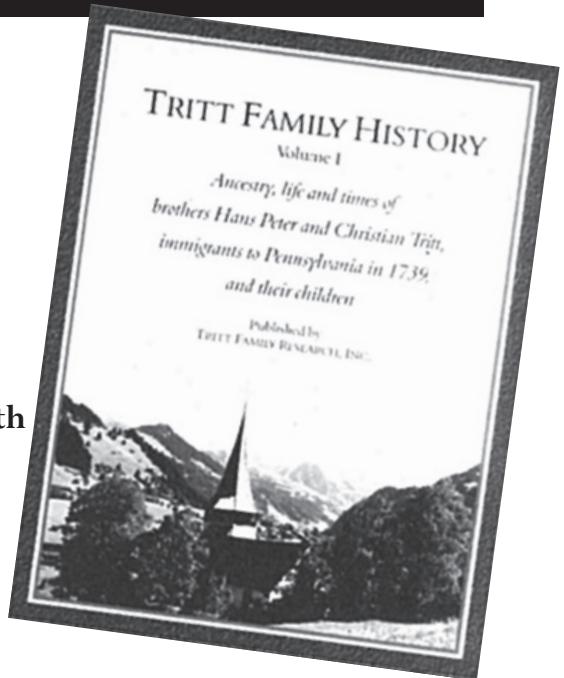
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WE NEED CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY LINE

URGENT REQUEST

To assure 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.

OUR 25TH YEAR!

It nearly went unnoticed until this Tritt Family Newsletter was about to be published that this is the 25th issue of the newsletter. To commemorate such an anniversary, we thought it would be interesting to look back to see what transpired so long ago. Accordingly, reproduced below is most of the content of Tritt Family Newsletter Issue #1 published in November 1980.

In the last quarter century, much work has been done to accomplish and further the plans set in 1980. The publishing of our *Tritt Family History, Volume I*, was a major accomplishment, to be followed by numerous monographs continuing the genealogy of the first known Tritt(en) immigrants to the New World. We encourage your participation in this ongoing project of Tritt Family Research. And we have also found a home for Tritt artifacts and research papers in the Cumberland County Historical Society at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Now, sit back and enjoy excerpts from Issue #1 which, by the way, contained only four pages of information and two pages for the address and change of address form:

PROJECT HISTORY

Since the summer of 1977, a concerted effort has been made to research the Tritt (and Dritt) surname. A group of descendants has been meeting yearly for this purpose. This newsletter is our first effort to inform you of the status of our progress since our initial mailing to you.

Our first meeting was held July, 1977, at the home of James and Becky Tritt near Mechanicsburg, PA. Considerable interest was generated by this meeting and a mailing to all known Tritts was designed.

In July, 1978, the group met again in Mechanicsburg, PA, and at that time we mailed our initial letter and a Tritt Family Record form to all known Tritts. Our first mailing went to those on an extensive address list compiled over the years by Dr. Donald Tritt of Granville, Ohio. The group spent one day touring the ancestral homes of Hans Peter Tritt in York County and of Peter Tritt in Cumberland County. The group also visited the Dritt burial ground and several local cemeteries.

In July, 1979, the group met in Boiling Springs, PA. A report of the return from the initial mailing was presented, a cross file index was prepared and more initial letters were sent to newly found Tritts throughout the country.

Our Tritt Family genealogical workshop for 1980 was held in July in Granville, Ohio at the home of Don and Marilyn Tritt. Don and Marilyn's hospitality was generous - providing good food and pleasant atmosphere in their beautiful "log" home. Approximately 20 Tritts and Dritts representing several branches of the family were in attendance. We were pleased to have Bill and Wilda Dritt, showing that an early American spelling of the Tritt name had not died out. Considerable information was exchanged, lively discussions were held tracing down the

authenticity of certain facts, data were organized and catalogued, mailing lists were updated and 130 additional initial contact letters were sent.

OUR GOAL

During the last three years much information has been compiled and processed. As a volunteer research group we are committed to the long term goal of documenting and publishing the first complete history of the Tritt lineage. It is also our intention to create a resource center of information for persons wishing to further investigate their own Tritt family background. However, to avoid any possible compounding of errors, information will not be released until it has been completely verified.

RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS

The work of compiling such a genealogical history is greatly enhanced by the location and use of ancestral biographical sketches, old notebooks, family Bibles, diaries, excerpts from Bibles, pictures, previous research notes, and other artifacts. One of the advantages of establishing a research organization is that maximum benefit can be obtained from these sources by making copies of such materials available to all. We would greatly appreciate your copying such materials and sending them to us. One of our long-range goals is to arrange with a historical society or a museum to house all the various original Tritt artifacts and documents. This would have the end result of establishing a Tritt collection in perpetuity.

EXPENSES

A project of this size and importance entails a considerable expense in the printing and mailing of materials. In the past this expense has been borne by the few who have carried on the project thus far. We are now at a point where our work requires expanded effort and expense. We would like to publish a regular newsletter to keep you informed of the progress in this project. Any contribution and help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW?

— Tritts have served in every U.S. conflict from the Revolution thru the Vietnam conflict.

— There is a town of Tritts in Alaska. Nearly two-thirds of Arctic Village is made up of people who descended from an Alaskan Indian named Isaac Tritt.

— The name Tritt means fast people or step in German.

— William Tritt of Wisconsin served in the Civil War, was taken prisoner for 17 months and detained in Andersonville and other prisons. An account of his experiences is found in his diary which is now in the hands of his descendants.

— There is an Erikson-Tritt Bible Institute in Manokwari, Indonesia.

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 1-24 (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

_____ Pens with Tritt Family Research and the web site imprint — \$2.00

_____ Tritt Family History - Vol. I — \$45.00 (\$40.00 before February 1, 2006)
(Our European origins through Hans Peter Tritt's 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 ctrift@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: (Births, Deaths, Marriages...) _____

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