

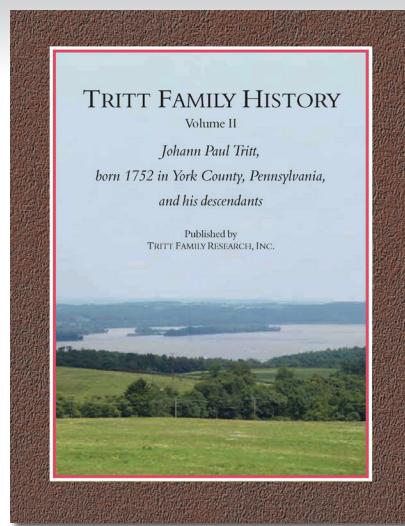
# TRITT FAMILY HISTORY: VOLUME II

## FINALLY COMPLETE!

After years of research, the second volume of *Tritt Family History* is finally complete. As we have reported before, the design for Volume II has changed from our original intentions. We had planned on reporting all of the descendants of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt in this volume. In 2004, we concluded that this was too great an undertaking for a single book and that each family line should have its own volume. This would allow more details to be given about many of our ancestors and expedite the process of releasing data on family lines already completed. We had first thought that each of these books would be short when compared to Volume I, but as Volume II came together we saw that it would be of comparable length to the first installment and could stand on its own as a full volume. Volume II will match Volume I in both layout design and binding quality. This hard cover format is durable enough to last for decades to come so that future generations can gain an appreciation of their roots through these books.

This has been a group effort involving Tritts from several lines of descendants. We would like to thank Don and Richard Tritt for the preface and introduction respectively. Leonard and Connie Tritt, Jan Klinedinst and Jane Ward all joined us as chapter authors. A special thanks should go out to Mercedes Woolsey who compiled the research of cousins and other relatives into the final genealogical data section. Donald Tritt of Ellwood City, PA and his cousin, Eric Carothers, of California, contributed to the family stories and data sections.

Volume I told the story of the earliest known Tritts in Switzerland and the emigration of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt to America. In Volume II, the story continues as Johan Paul Tritt, son of Hans Peter, carves out a life in colonial Pennsylvania. Paul labors as a blacksmith to support his growing family and finds himself in a Revolutionary War



militia helping to turn the tide of that historic conflict.

The genealogical data section contains over 1,000 names including over 700 known living descendants. These descendants have spread all over the United States including Washington, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, Indiana and Hawaii, with heavy populations found in Utah and western Pennsylvania. Some descendants have even been found as far west as Korea and even back across the Atlantic to Sweden.

We have compiled stories of several of Paul's descendants. We have the story of Paul's last child Henry who was alienated from his family and suffered an unfortunate early death. From personal journals and autobiographies we have found details of women who braved the developing west of the early 1900's. We also have a detailed account of the World War II bravery of Harold Hegyessy which went unrecognized for too long. There is also an account of a mining accident in southwestern Pennsylvania, and more.

This volume promises to be a valuable addition to your Tritt Family Research collection and the *Tritt Family History* series. Whether the people in this volume are your direct ancestors or your distant cousins, they are all family. We hope you will enjoy learning more about the Tritt family tree, roots, branches and more. Order yours today. ■

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

# Tritt Family Newsletter



We were very privileged to be able to make another sojourn to our family “homeland” in June 2006. Dave’s niece, Ingrid Johnson, accompanied us on this trip, so it was a lively time with three teenage girls.

Although we wanted to see some things that we had not seen on previous trips, our main emphasis was to visit with some of the Tritt family members we have gotten to know over the years. Emails sent ahead of time were received enthusiastically, and we were able to make plans to visit Walter and Margrit Tritten in Lenk, Switzerland, Graham and Monica Tritt in Bern, Switzerland, and Michel and Susanne Furon, two of their three children, Katerina and Jan, and Michel’s parents, Jean-Louis and Micheline Furon, in Chatillon-sur-Seine, France.

In Lenk, Walter and Margrit have always been so gracious and helpful when we have visited. They arranged an apartment for us to rent while we were in Lenk, joined us in some of our activities, allowed us to use their laundry facilities and invited us to their lovely home for dinner one evening.

In Bern, Graham gave us a tour of his office building, accompanied us to the local zoo and invited us to their home for dinner. There we met Monica and their son, Nicky, and enjoyed a relaxing and pleasant evening.

Our visit to the Furon family in Chatillon-sur-Seine involved taking the TGV high speed train from Paris. Michel and his daughter, Katerina, met us at the rail station in Montbard. From there, we did some sightseeing en route to Chatillon. In Chatillon, we went to the home of Michel and Susanne and their three children where we were joined by Micheline and Jean-Louis. We enjoyed aperitifs followed by a delicious lunch. A walking tour of Chatillon followed lunch, and we ended up at the insurance office which is Michel and Susanne’s business. Micheline and Jean-Louis live above the insurance office, so we were invited to visit with them in their home. All in all, a busy but delightful day.

We are looking forward to the possibility of having Katerina Furon visit in our home in the summer of 2007. She would like an opportunity to be immersed in English, and we would welcome the opportunity to return the favor of hospitality that they have extended to us. And, of course, we look forward to our next visit to the Tritt family members in Europe. We encourage any of you who are able to take a similar trip. Perhaps the time is right to plan another group trip? ■



*Dave Wampler, Margrit Tritten, Walter Tritten and Robyn Wampler*



*Monica and Graham Tritt*



*The Furon Family*

## SYNOPSIS OF AUGUST MEETING

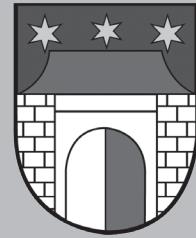
Connie Tritt, Carlisle, PA

The 29th annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 17 through 19, 2006. Those in attendance were:

Brent, Melissa, Will and Emmaline Clayton of Bellefonte, PA  
Gladys Cramer of Shippensburg, PA  
William and Barbara Holloman of Silver Spring, MD  
Jeanette Miller of Shippensburg, PA  
Ernie and Doris Trait of Long Beach, CA  
Donald Tritt of Granville, OH  
Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, PA  
Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA  
Wayne Tritt of Carlisle, PA  
Robyn Wampler of Carlisle, PA  
Eldridge and Jane Ward of Frederick, MD  
Jean Wenger of Shippensburg, PA

The majority of the meeting was a discussion of the upcoming publication of Volume II of *Tritt Family History*. Melissa has and is doing a great job in preparing this volume for publication which will be available for mailing by early spring. Several articles in this newsletter are devoted to this upcoming publication of which we all, at Tritt Family Research, are proud.

Our 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Tritt Family Research will be held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 16 through 18, 2007. Please come and be a part of our group. ■



## 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

*Treasurer*

24 Old Stone House Road North  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015-9773  
Telephone: 717-766-7397

Connie J. Tritt

*Secretary and Co-Editor*

7 Ironstone Drive  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015-9705  
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](http://www.tritt.org)

[ctritt@comcast.net](mailto:ctritt@comcast.net)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

As you may be aware, the cost of publishing the annual newsletter has caused us to cut back on our readership over the past couple of years which means that we depend on you, our loyal readers of the Tritt news, 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 of our time 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. ■

# PLEASANT GARDEN

**O**n March 20, 2006, the staff of the Cumberland County Historical Society visited the Dritt Mansion along the beautiful Susquehanna River at Long Level, York County, Pennsylvania. We had visited the house several years earlier during the early stages of the restoration of the mansion and returned again to see the completed project. The purpose of this article is to update readers as to the current status and use of the property.

The building is now known as Pleasant Garden. This new name comes from the first owner of the property, Thomas Cressap, who obtained the land in 1729 by a Maryland land grant from the fifth Lord Baltimore. Cressap named the 150 acres of land Pleasant Garden and also operated a ferry across the Susquehanna River, which he named the Blue Rock Ferry. During this time period, land up to the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel was the northern boundary of Maryland.

Over time, the property has been owned by eleven different owners, including: Thomas Cressap (1729), John Meyer, Jacob Dritt, Margaret Dritt Bonham, Jacob Detwiler, David March, Barton Gnaw, Byrd Liebhart, Kenneth Wallick and John and Kathryn Zimmerman. The Dritt (Tritt) Family owned the property for many years and the name Dritt Mansion became associated with the dwelling when it was placed on the National Historic Register.

The first floor of the mansion is occupied by the Lancaster-York Heritage Region office (LYHR). LYHR is a non-profit organization, which is a designated Pennsylvania Heritage Area that helps identify, preserve, interpret and promote the rich heritage and culture of Lancaster and York Counties. You can visit them on line at [www.lyhr.org](http://www.lyhr.org).

When you visit the mansion you will find their office and conference room on the first floor. Visits to the second floor and basement require permission and a tour guide. A brochure about the mansion is available that contains some new information about the property.

The house is now dated circa 1738. There are several carpenter and protectorate marks and some writing in the attic that help to date the house. Archaeological findings suggest that there was a structure that stood on this site previous to the mansion. Foundations were discovered beneath the first floor. The summer

kitchen had fallen down overtime and was also discovered by archaeological diggings. It has been faithfully rebuilt on its original location.

Some say that the mansion is an English Castle (a two and a half-story, stone dwelling). In fact, the mansion has English and German influences in its design and architecture. It is 50 feet long and 40 feet wide. There are four fireplaces in the main part of the house (two upstairs facing east and two downstairs facing west), which was quite practical for heating, especially since Franklin Stoves or ceramic heaters allowed heat to flow into the adjacent room. Over time, changes to the house occurred, such as replacing the floor boards, adding gas and electricity, replacing windows with doors and doors with windows, and changing the front porch and pent roof. The bluestone on the outside of the house is original; it only needed to be re-pointed. Keeping with the historical integrity, the house was updated for 21st century living.

The archeological work also resulted in the finding of thousands of artifacts, including: coins, glass, pottery, leather, buttons, hardware, personal effects and prehistoric artifacts to name a few. After close examination of the basement, evidence points to it being used for food storage, animal butchering, fish preparations and alcohol making. Bullets and gun flints were also found on site, suggesting fighting either with Native Americans or during the Border War. The artifacts are being catalogued by Jan Klinedinst and will become the property of the Pennsylvania State Museum and Historical Commission.

It was always exciting to visit the historic two and a half-story stone mansion, but a visit now is even more special after the completion of the five-year restoration and renovation project. This was a true labor of love for the owners, John and Kathryn Zimmerman. It is a dream come true for members of the Tritt family to see life again in the mansion, after seeing the building empty and deteriorating for so many years. Future generations will certainly benefit from the Zimmers' foresight and generosity. ■

**A**s I have watched the events that have led to Volume II unfold, I cannot help but notice some amount of divine providence involved in orchestrating this accomplishment. To illustrate this I would like to share some of the events that brought Melissa to this project.

In the spring of 2002, we decided to move to central Pennsylvania over some other offers. We made this decision, not because it was the best career move, but because we felt that this is where we needed to be. My grandfather, Harold "Bud" Hegyessy, was very excited when he heard we would be close to Carlisle, PA where the Tritt meeting is held every year and encouraged us to attend in his stead. We came to our first meeting that summer and immediately felt welcomed in as family. We were young and inexperienced in all things genealogical and professional, but our opinions and suggestions were not only listened to but respected. The next year my grandfather died, effectively passing the torch of family history to me.

At the Tritt meeting in 2004, we were discussing how to carry our publishing work forward following the early death of Richard Miller who was working as the editor for *Tritt Family History*, but no one seemed to have the time or ability to fill the vacancy. A feeling of depression set in as it appeared that these books would never be completed. Melissa volunteered although she had never done anything like this before but was willing to learn. For the next two years, Melissa worked with Mercedes Woolsey

and others to collect the necessary genealogical data. Then she moved on to editing the history chapters and personal stories. The final stage mainly focused on inserting photographs into the text and designing the layout. During this time she gained a wealth of knowledge of the publishing business and the history of the Tritt family.

It was also during this time that we saw so many things happen for the benefit of this work. We received the final copy of the genealogical data from Mercedes only weeks before she suffered a stroke that has severely limited her communication abilities. A good friend of ours happens to work for a major publishing company that specializes in the less common binding type used for Volume I. Our neighbor is from an area of western Pennsylvania where many of Johann Paul Tritt's descendants live and agreed to help us publicize the book there. Even the birth of our daughter coincided perfectly between appointments Melissa had scheduled with the layout specialist, Keevin Graham, and with a representative from the publishing company. All things seemed to have worked for our good.

I am grateful that we have become a part of this organization and that they have put so much trust in Melissa to carry forth their labor of love. It has truly been wonderful to see her work so passionately for roots that, as for Richard Miller before her, are not her own but have adopted her in as family. ■

## CALL FOR VOLUME COORDINATORS

Brent and Melissa Clayton, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

**T**o all of you out there doing research—get involved by helping to publish YOUR Tritt line! Our effort is to publish all known descendants of Hans Peter and Christian Tritt, and that includes YOU! That said, each future volume of *Tritt Family History* needs "coordinators" to head the effort in preparing that volume for publication. Are you interested in being involved with YOUR volume?

Here's what being a coordinator means. You (and other researchers of your line) would work closely with the editor, and would be in charge of compiling the content of the book: Preparing the genealogical data, finding pictures, writing or assigning chapters to be written, etc. The editor is mainly in charge of layout and proofing/rewriting, but will help to guide you.

Don't feel overwhelmed if you've never done anything like this before—the editor will help! All you need to start is familiarity with the research you've done on your line, and a desire to get involved in publishing it! Keep in mind that you don't need to

worry about making anything look or sound professional. That's the editor's job. And there is a group of Tritt researchers who meet annually that can help you.

This is a really neat project to be involved with, and as monograph coordinators for Volume II, we've really enjoyed learning about the publication process. Even more rewarding than that, however, has been the deep connection that we have developed with our ancestors. Working on this book has helped us to see past the dates and places; and the same can happen for you! Learning your ancestors' life stories, collecting their pictures and studying their time periods will help you to form a stronger bond of love for those who have gone before.

Contact Connie Tritt at either [ctratt@comcast.net](mailto:ctratt@comcast.net) or 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015-9705 for more information or if you would like to volunteer. ■

## TREASURER'S REPORT

W.Wayne Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Account balance August 19, 2005	\$11,899.61
Income all sources	2,788.80
Total expenses	<u>1,132.60</u>
 Closing Account Balance	 \$13,555.81
 <u>Book Fund</u>	 
Total from last report	\$ 10,308.19
Interest from certificates of deposit	223.80
Proceeds from book sales	420.00
Donations since last report	<u>950.00</u>
 Book Fund Total	 \$11,901.99
 Current Checking Balance	 \$4,400.75

*The following list of contributors are among the faithful who provided donations since our last report. Our thanks to all.*

Judy Lear Bryson	Mexico, MO	Ernie and Doris Trait	Long Beach, CA
Gladys Cramer	Shippensburg, PA	David Mac Don Tritt	Lenoir City, TN
The Faulkners	Woodland, WA	Donald G. Tritt	Granville, OH
Ava Fields	Lancaster, OH	June and William Tritt	Punta Gorda, FL
Judy and Jesse Henry	Porter, TX	Leonard and Connie Tritt	Carlisle, PA
Barbara and William Holloman	Silver Spring, MD	Lester C. Tritt, Jr.	Harrisburg, PA
Mrs. H.F. Hupp	Webster City, IA	Marg Tritt	Burnaby, BC, Canada
Glenda Tritt Line	Carlisle, PA	Richard L. Tritt	Atlanta, GA
Columbine Middleton	Bishopville, MD	Robert L. Tritt	Kansas City, MO
Jeanette Miller	Shippensburg, PA	Dr. James J. Tritten	Corrales, NM
John A. Morefield	Mechanicsburg, PA	Pat Tritten	Eureka, CA
Sarah Tritt Murphy	Humboldt, TN	Robyn and David Wampler	Carlisle, PA
Charles A. Pinney, III	Del Mar, CA	Jane and Eldridge Ward	Frederick, MD
Evelyn M. Smith	Mentor, OH	Beulah Wisniewski	Salem, OR
Catherine Steffy (Trate Reunion)	Mohnton, PA		

# THE OIL CRISIS

**W**hen oil was first discovered in the Prudhoe Bay area of northeast Alaska in 1968, a controversy was sparked between two local Eskimo groups.

The one party, known locally as Gwich'in, rely almost totally on the existing caribou herds which annually migrate eastward towards the Canadian Yukon and then turn northwest along the coastal plain at the base of the Brooks Range. It is on this coastal plain where most of the calving occurs. It is estimated that about 40,000 caribou calves are born here each year. Except for the incursion into the Canadian Yukon, all the land over which the caribou herd moves is located in a 19.6 million acre park known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To date, no oil exploration has been permitted in the park land but the oil companies estimate that billions of barrels of oil are underground just waiting to be extracted. This information has created tremendous pressure on the local Gwich'in to change their opposition to oil exploration in the wildlife refuge; but they are steadfast in their position opposing development. They argue that their very existence depends on the annual spring and fall migration of the caribou known locally as the Porcupine River herd. Enough of the herd is taken each year to provide sufficient food for the entire tribe of approximately 7,000 Gwich'in scattered along the migration route. There are many Gwich'in Tritts, mostly in Arctic Village, Alaska. All are members of the Athabascan tribe, according to Rev. Isaac Tritt, which was reported in our 1985 newsletter.

On the other side of the oil exploration issue is the Alaskan Indian tribe known as the Inupiat. This group numbers about 9,000 members and are located north of Arctic Village along the coast of the Beaufort Sea. The major town is Kaktovik located on Barter Island with other settlements scattered along the coast. The Gwich'in fear that drilling in the wildlife refuge will put an end to their existence as subsistence caribou hunters, while the Inupiat worry that, without development of the gas and oil reserves, the money to support their modern comforts will disappear. To most Gwich'in, the Inupiat are motivated by greed and have sold out their traditional culture for the lure of oil dollars. To many Inupiat, the Gwich'in are hopeless romantics, living voluntarily in squalor to cling to a way of life that is bound to disappear. Since the Inupiat agreed to oil development in the late 1970's, they enjoy many luxuries including schools, clinics, indoor plumbing, many of the same luxuries that we enjoy here in the lower 48 states. While the Inupiat do not rely totally on the caribou as the Gwich'in do, oil development is also a major concern. To rebut this concern, oil company officials report a

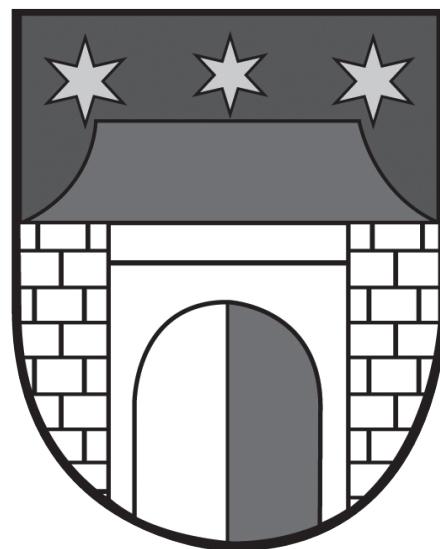
sixfold growth of the central Arctic herd of caribou since the late 1970's despite all the pipelines, roads and equipment at Prudhoe Bay 150 miles to the west.

Carla Sims Kayotuk is torn. She was raised in Kaktovik, and today her family owns one of the village's two grocery stores. Although she worries that unsightly oil pipelines, the high-pitched scream of winches and the clatter of helicopters will forever mar the tranquil landscape close to her village, she also worries about declining oil production in the Prudhoe Bay fields. "If we don't have the oil development," she says, "where are we going to get our money from?"

And so the controversy continues three decades after the development commenced. To complicate the situation, the serious oil spill caused in Prince William Sound has many people from both tribes rethinking their positions. Nearly one-third of Kaktovik's voting age adults signed a petition opposing oil development in the wildlife reserve, fearing, according to Kayotuk, that onshore oil drilling would lead to offshore leasing, endangering the annual bowhead whale hunt, the core of the Inupiat culture across the north slope.

It remains to be seen how this serious regional problem will be handled. It is hoped that politicians in Washington will not force some unwanted solution on the local tribes; a solution that may alter their ancient culture and possibly forcing relocation.

Parts of this article were taken from the October 2005 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*. ■



**O**f special interest to Tritt and Tritten family members is a program developed in 2006 by the Swiss government. The intent of the SwissRoots program is to assist Americans learn about their Swiss ancestry, connect with long-lost relatives, network with Swiss persons and learn more about Switzerland and its rich cultural heritage. Of course, Tritt Family Research has already done this for our family. However, the wide scope of the SwissRoots program has much to offer Swiss descendants and others interested in Switzerland. **Check it out at [www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org).**

**How Swiss are you? swiss roots**  
[www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org)

**NEWSLETTER + 2006**

**"BEN ROETHLISBERGER TOUCHES DOWN IN SWITZERLAND."**

Pittsburgh Steelers star Ben Roethlisberger became the first quarterback of Swiss descent to play in - and win - the NFL Super Bowl this past February in Detroit, Michigan. Roethlisberger has also begun exploring his Swiss roots. This May, he'll make his first trip to Switzerland to visit his great-grandfather's village, embark on outdoor adventures, and maybe even meet Miss Switzerland. We'll let you figure out what he's looking forward to most!

**Swiss Roots:** Are you comfortable with being "the face" of Switzerland or in other words, one of the most well-known celebrities of Swiss descent living in the U.S.?

**Ben Roethlisberger:** It's great, and I would love that responsibility. I'm becoming the face of a lot of things—the Steelers and, kind of, the National Football League now—and I want to make not just my family and friends proud, but also my heritage. So any way that I can make the people of Switzerland proud, that's what I'll do.

**Swiss Roots:** What kind of images do you think of when you think about Switzerland?

**Ben Roethlisberger:** Going on things I just know in general and have heard from other people, it's an absolutely beautiful country. I'm an outdoors kind of guy and love to go fishing and all that stuff, and I think that it's got to be just gorgeous. I'm sure you can just stand outside and spin around in circles and look at the beautiful landscape and just let it take your breath away. So I'm looking forward to that and seeing all the things I know Switzerland has to offer.

To read more from this interview, please visit Swiss Roots at [www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org).

**Ambassador Raymond Tritt Co-Chair**

With "swiss roots", we have a vision: To motivate the one million Americans of Swiss origin and all Americans who feel an affinity with Switzerland to connect with our country and network with the Swiss people. It is a nationwide, emotionally charged, people project which to reinforce the friendship between and to provide the opportunity cover your origins interact with friends and relatives, exchange ideas get exciting in about this sun country which your home away from home. Check swiss roots at [www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org) join us at our many exciting roots events throughout the year.

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**EVENTS + IN 2006.**

+ Reprocessing Reality at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, a MoMA Affiliate - New York, 25 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101

A group exhibition focused on the relationship between the proliferation of documentary film and the escalating significance and prevalence of this genre in the art world today. Artists featured in the exhibition include Robert Frank, Willie Doherty, Ingrid Wildi, Ann Sala, Christoph Büchel, and Remy Markwartsh. Swiss Roots Opening Celebration: Sunday, April 9, 2006, 2-10pm

+ Sister Republics Exhibition at National Constitution Center - Philadelphia National Constitution Center, 325 Arch Street, Independence Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19106

swiss roots brings the Swiss Federal Charter of 1291, known as the "Schweizer Bundesbrief" to Philadelphia. "Town hall meeting" with Former Swiss President followed by exhibition opening and colorful dinner dance program in the evening. Swiss Roots opening: Saturday, June 10, 2006, 12-10pm

For more details see [www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org)

**OUTLOOK - WISCONSIN:**

Wilhelm Tell Festspiele, New Glarus

New Glarus, "America's Little Switzerland," continues its 69-year tradition of telling the story of how Swiss national hero William Tell. The swiss roots antique postal bus will make its appearance and will participate in the festival.

Festival dates: September 1 to 3, 2006

**Green County Cheese Days, Monroe**

The giant extravaganza, attracting more than 100,000 visitors which is one of the top 100 events according to the American Bus Association (ABA) in the US, pays special tribute to the Swiss cheese-making and dairy-farming legacy of Green County. The swiss roots antique postal bus will participate in the parade.

Festival dates: September 15 to 17, 2006

**WELCOME TO SWITZERLAND.** Swiss Cities, Culture, Public transport... Top Events. There are many good reasons to visit Switzerland. This brochure will show you how you can turn your experience in Switzerland into a unforgettable vacation.

**OUR ALPINE SUMMER.** Whatever you choose to do in Switzerland, one thing is for sure – this wonderful natural playground never ceases to amaze. This brochure contains 52 wonderful suggestions – all classic and insider tips from the four corners of our country. Let yourself be inspired! Have fun planning your trip and enjoy the heady rush of our alpine summer.

**SWISS CITIES.** 27 Beautiful and Unique towns and cities are the theme of this guide. Sheer brilliance! There is something for everyone. From A, such as adventure paths in Appenzell, to Z such as Zurich nightlife. This guide will give you some ideas for your stay in Switzerland.

**TALES + FROM THE ROOTS.**

**DID YOU KNOW...** many celebrities made their home along the beautiful area of Lake Geneva? To honor one of its most timeless stars, a one of a kind Charlie Chaplin museum is in the works to open soon. [www.lgmr.com](http://www.lgmr.com)

**DID YOU KNOW...** that the Swiss Federal Charter is more than 700 years old? For the first time ever, the "Schweizer Bundesbrief" will travel abroad and be shown by Swiss Roots at Philadelphia's Constitution Center as of June 10.

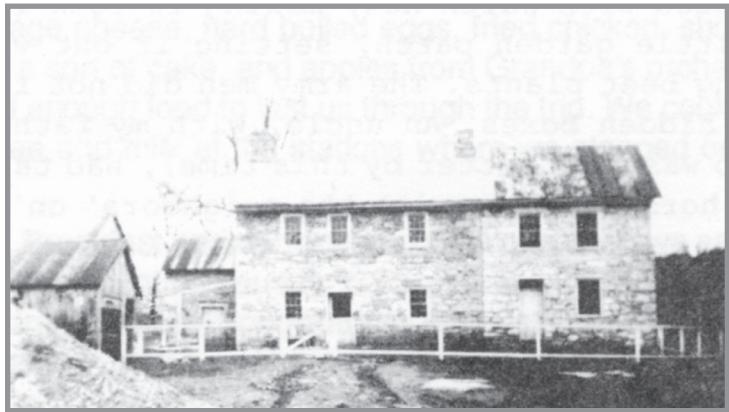
**DID YOU KNOW...** Switzerland has its own White House? The "Maison Blanche" is a building of national importance. It is the first construction built by Le Corbusier as an independent architect and acted as a type of laboratory where he tried his construction techniques out for the first time. [www.villa-blanche.ch](http://www.villa-blanche.ch)

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TRITT FAMILY NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2006

## CIVIL WAR DAYS



Peter Tritt House 1939

## Editors Note:

The following letter was written in 1929 by Martha B. Munn, a granddaughter of Peter Tritt (son of the immigrant Hans Peter Tritt). It describes her life and episodes during the Civil War at the Tritt farm near Newville, PA.

The letter was written to her granddaughter Martha Jane (Breitenwischer) Harwood (b. 1915). It was sent to TFR by Mrs. Peter C. Morrison of California. Martha B. Munn was her great grandmother.

In the account, Martha refers to:

Her father, James H. Heck (1833-1902)

Her mother, Mary Jane (Tritt) Heck (1840-1907)

Her grandfather, Major Samuel Tritt (1803-1873) He was born on the Tritt farm, inherited it, and lived there all his life.

Her grandmother, Julia Ann (Heagy) Tritt (1822-1875)

Her brother, James Oscar Heck (1861-1894)

Los Angeles, California

March, 1929

To my dear Granddaughter Martha Jane: -

You have asked me to tell you some things I remember about the Civil War. I also would like you to know the story I have, as a sort of family history and because it may be you can tell it to children of your own and then again to grandchildren away in the future. My! how long ahead that seems, doesn't it? But when one looks backward it is not long. Well, I will begin right here —

When I was a very little girl, in the early summer after I had been three in February, my father who had not been well for a year or more with chills and fever, or ague as they called it then, was told by his doctor the best thing he knew to tell him to do was to get out on a farm for the summer. My mother's father lived on a farm in the beautiful Cumberland Valley in Cumberland County near Newville, Pennsylvania. It was a happy thought of my mother to propose a visit back to her childhood home. She had not been

The following letter appeared in Issue No. 12, January 1992, of the Tritt Family Research newsletter:

there since she came away a bride more than four years before to South Bend, Indiana, where my father had a home ready for her and himself. My father could help on the farm when able, she said, and so it was arranged that way. We all should go, my father, mother, brother Oscar, and myself. I have heard my mother tell of seeing many, many wounded soldiers being brought home on the trains, lying on cots and otherwise.

Now it wasn't long after we arrived at Grandfather's home until the Army wagons were going through that part of the country gathering food for the Southern Army, particularly smoked meats, ham, etc. All the farmer folk in those days had smoke houses where they let their cured meats hang the year around after they had killed, prepared and smoked it. Also the Army needed blankets and took anything the soldiers could make use of, and always horses. I was too young to remember many of the incidences that occurred around this time, but I have heard about the happenings many times, and, with what was so impressed on my mind, it all seems vivid

I remember we children, (for I had uncles and an aunt that were also only children), called the Army wagons Gypsy wagons, for they were covered wagons much like the Gypsy wagons, and we were afraid of being stolen away when we would hear the wheels rumbling down over the hills. (No rubber tires then as now.) When some of the wagons stopped at my grandfather's house, my grandmother (step-grandmother) said, "Look around and take what you want," but before they came, some of the men of the farm had dug large openings in the ground and put several wooden boxes down and the folks filled one with cured meats and the others with the best bed clothes and what they thought would be taken of the most valuable articles of clothing. The boxes were covered with earth now, making it look like a little garden patch, setting it out with young beet plants. The army men did not find the hidden boxes. An uncle, with my father, (who was much better by this time), had taken the horses, along with the neighbors' on the same errant to Harrisburg, the Capital of Pennsylvania, because that city was fortified with Union Soldiers. One horse the home men did not take with them to Harrisburg because it was too old to work, but the family all thought lots of it for what it had been and it was a delight to the children. This horse was so gentle they could climb on its back and take little rides, as many as could stick on. The folks at my grandfather's decided to take it to the cornfield and hide it where there was a hollow and stake it there. The men of the Army wagons found the horse and brought it to the farm. The children were all crying in fear of its being taken wanting so much to keep it for it was a family pet. Then Grandfather pleaded for the children telling the men it was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## VOLUME III

**“The time has come,  
the Walrus said, to speak of many things....”**

— from *Alice in Wonderland*

And so it has. The time has come to speak of the contents of volume three of our continuing effort to put together the history of the Tritt Family descendants. Volume III will contain most of the material we have collected thus far pertaining to the descendants of Henry Tritt (1744-1793), son of Christian Tritt (1719-1801), our immigrant ancestor.

The direct line of descendants to present day Berks County residents has been fairly well explored. However, siblings and their lines of descendants are a work-in-progress and will continue on to publication. These lines show the spread of the Tritt/Trate/Trait family to include Chester, Lancaster, Adams and York Counties as well.

Evidence has shown a history of weaving and weavers in the family that has been at the forefront of a fledgling industry as the area was

being settled. Some living today may have in their possession some items that have been produced by their own forefather's businesses. This, in itself, would make a wonderful storyline for additional color and interest for inclusion in the book.

For this reason, we are asking for your input of memories and stories to add to the book. Whatever it is that you remember or have heard about your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and their families, their particular habits, life patterns and/or idiosyncrasies, will be of particular interest in adding the color and flavor of the times in which they were living. Please think about this and get it down in writing. It will be important to YOUR descendants. Your stories, true or not — we will never know otherwise.

Along with the above, religion played an important part in the everyday

life of our ancestors. Most times, the chosen activity has been in the Lutheran or Reformed faiths. This also is in our interest to bring forth, for their faith had an influence on the way they conducted their lives; and the way they lived is what we are interested in.

Begin today, to record for posterity, what remembrances you may have of times past — or present. Save them for your children by having them included in this book, which may also tie them to a much greater picture. And, speaking of pictures, these are also a magnificent asset to any history publication. Dig them out and send a copy — or we'll make a copy for you.

Send anything you produce to E. J. Trait, 2518 Vuelta Grande, Long Beach, CA 90815.

## SUBMITTING YOUR TRITT INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY

*Brent Clayton, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania*

Now that we have established a model for the future volumes of *Tritt Family Research*, we are looking ahead to collecting the necessary data for these books. Many of you have already contributed greatly to our store of Tritt family data, and some of you are collecting this data yourselves in preparation for the volume about your family line. Thank you for all of your great efforts!

If you currently have a large amount of genealogical data on Tritt descendants to contribute, here are some tips on how to best submit your data for assimilation into the electronic Tritt family tree or for pre-publication editing.

Tritt Family Research has established Family Tree Maker as our principle genealogy program, although Personal Ancestral File is also used in editing. Thus, the following instructions apply specifically to that program. Similar procedures can be followed for Personal Ancestral File, AncestryQuest and others.

To send in your Family Tree Maker file:

1. Open your Family Tree Maker file;
2. Go to File and click on Export;
3. We probably don't need your entire file, so click on Export Selected Individuals and choose the descendants of the main Tritt you are working on;
4. Click on Export Entire File;
5. Name your file;
6. Change the Save as type to Family Tree Maker and then click Okay;
7. If your file is really big, you can change the Save as type to GEDCOM, and an extra box will appear. Change the Destination to FTW, the GEDCOM to Version 5.5 (or the highest available), and the Character set to ANSI and then click Okay; and
8. Email us your saved file, or mail it on a floppy disk or CD. Please include your phone number, address and your email address if you have one. We may need to correspond with you when we are ready to publish your Tritt line. Keep in mind that we are interested in all genealogical information that you have, including stories, pictures, etc. They could be used in your volume of *Tritt Family History*.

Email or mail files to Connie Tritt at [ctrritt@comcast.net](mailto:ctrritt@comcast.net) or 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015-9705. ■

# NEXT MEETING OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

AUGUST 16 – 18, 2007  
IN CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA

For information about  
the meeting, contact:

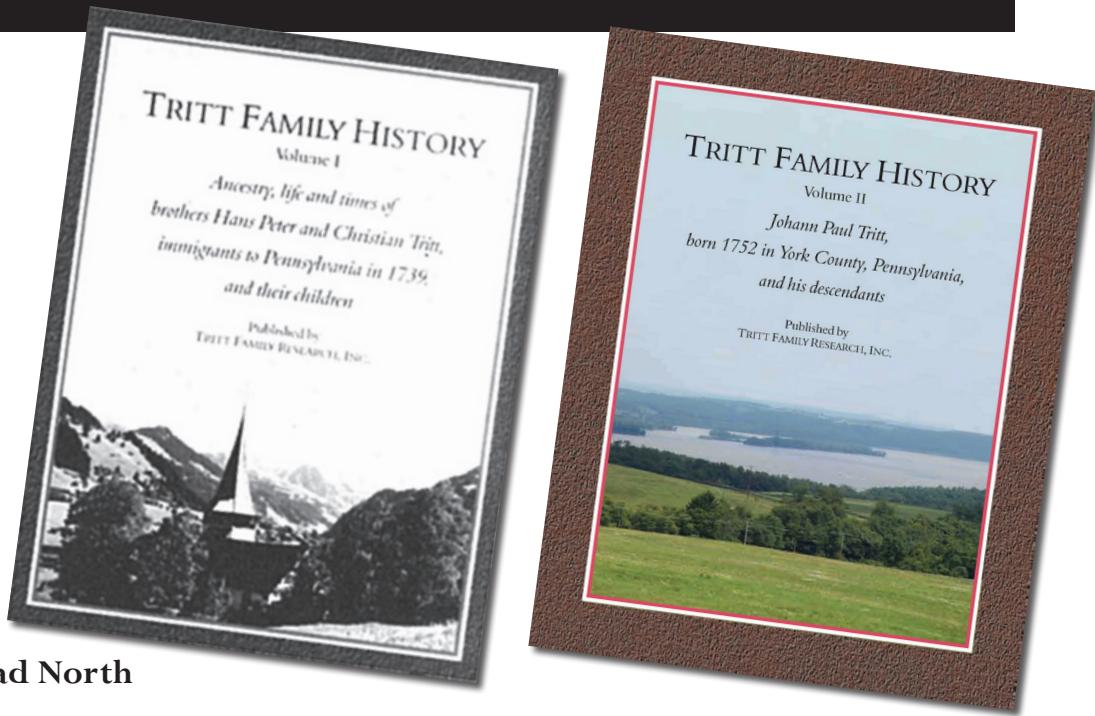
**Donald G. Tritt**  
81 Donald Ross Drive  
Granville, Ohio 43023-9794

OR

email Connie Tritt at  
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# Special Offer:

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Fill out the form below  
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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 17015-9705. 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.

# LAUXMONT FARMS/ DRITT CEMETERY STATUS

The ultimate status of the land on which the Dritt Cemetery lies is yet uncertain. The cemetery is on one of numerous farms owned by an entity known as Lauxmont Farms, which has been at the center of bankruptcy proceedings for about 17 years. The bankruptcy trustee and owners, the Kohr family, have been attempting to sell large parcels of the land for development, so as to acquire monies to pay off debt and taxes. One of these parcels would include the cemetery. That portion has been proposed for development known as "Lakeside East", where 436 houses and townhouses would be built. It is unknown to us whether the preliminary plans would directly impact the cemetery, but development of this land would certainly destroy known areas where American Indians frequented until the late 1600's.

The York County Commissioners, however, in November, 2005, condemned the Lakeside East portion of Lauxmont

Farms under eminent domain to become part of a proposed county park to be known as Susquehanna Heritage Park. (There has also been one or more condemnations of other Lauxmont lands.) So, technically, at this time the county has legal control of the land encompassing the cemetery. However, the Kohrs and the bankruptcy trustee continue opposing the condemnations, and, as legal proceedings continue, there is no final outcome as yet. However, there have purportedly been offers by Lauxmont to sell to the county the Lakeside East land outright, or the development rights thereto, either of which would presumably remove all danger to the cemetery.

The Kohr family has consistently been helpful to Tritt Family Research in allowing access to the cemetery for maintenance purposes. Prior to bankruptcy, they even constructed a fence around the cemetery to protect it from damage by grazing livestock. There have been no indications

that the Kohrs are a direct threat to the future of the cemetery. But, should the land be sold to a developer, there are no assurances that the cemetery would not be damaged or destroyed by development activities. Pennsylvania law does not seem to provide strong protection to small, private cemeteries. Some years ago, we erected a granite monument at the cemetery naming Tritt Family Research as 'caretaker' of the cemetery, which, based on our lay review of pertinent laws, appears to afford a degree of protection from destruction of the cemetery.

Thank you to Kirsten Stauffer of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region and to Jan Klinedinst, archeologist, for their assistance in providing information on land condemnation and proposed county park proceedings. Also, refer to [www.ydr.com/lauxmont](http://www.ydr.com/lauxmont) for continuing *York Daily Record* newspaper coverage on Lauxmont Farms land controversy, which was also used to prepare this article. ■

## CIVIL WAR DAYS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

not a horse for travel or hard work. My grandmother had dressed a wound on the leg or arm of one of the officers of the supply wagons and had been kind to them all, not opposing their spying around, so he said, "We'll not take the horse; we will leave it for the children." I remember riding on that horse with the other children feeling elated over such a wonderful experience.

It was known that the Southern Army was making for Harrisburg. The Battle of Gettysburg stopped them reaching there. Grandfather's home was twenty miles northeast of Gettysburg and about twenty miles southeast of Harrisburg. We could hear the cannons booming during that terrible time in the early days of July, 1863. We children were told often to listen to the noise of the cannons or the big guns, and as everyone was concerned and anxious, we little folks sensed something of alarm.

This is my story as I have kept it through the years. I remember President Lincoln's second Presidential Campaign through the

many big parades and demonstrations throughout the fall of 1864. I do not recall one instance about President Johnson. I think this was because there was no election campaign for him as President. He as Vice President became President at the death of President Lincoln. Next came Grant and Colfax. All very vivid to me. Each Party had demonstrations given to display the feelings of their Party. Parades, speeches, pole-raising with streamers, and flag hoisted high. Each party tried to out do the other in raising the highest pole and displaying the finest floats. In my early days, election fall was always an exciting time with so many rallies through the fall until election was over. Yes, rallies are what these events were always called and they were quite wonderful too, in the way they were gotten up. Even young boys were drilled to represent some military affairs or maneuverings and sometimes the young ladies also.

Your grandmother, Mattie B. Munn

# 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 17015-9773.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 1-25 (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  
(Our European origins through Hans Peter Tritt's arrival at Philadelphia)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tritt Family History - Vol. II — \$45.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Map of local interest to Tritts — \$1.50

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## CHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTICE

*Please detach and mail to: Connie J. Tritt, 7 Ironstone Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015-9705*

*OR E-mail changes to Connie at [ctrift@comcast.net](mailto:ctrift@comcast.net)*

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If moving, anticipated new address \_\_\_\_\_

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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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