

# MY LIFE IN TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

Donald G. Tritt, Grantville, Ohio

Editor's Note: The following article is an excerpt from *History of Tritt Family Research, Tritt Family History, Volume I*, pages 149-160. To read the entire chapter on how Tritt Family Research got its start, you may purchase the book. See the order form in this newsletter.

Many human needs inspire the study of family history. Some of these needs may be a curiosity about the lives and activities of persons from another era in time, a desire to discover how others lived, and why they undertook difficult and hazardous migrations to unknown places. One may have a curiosity about early life in cultures different than what one now experiences. Equally likely, in our current mobile world, may be the need to feel some sense of rootedness and continuity with people and places of the past, a confirmation that something remains constant amidst the fast pace of change. Whatever one's motivation, when family history is studied and understood, there results a vivid sense of the extended relatedness of all persons.

The formal organization of Tritt Family Research had its founding on 25 July 1977, in the home of James and Rebecca Tritt of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Those in attendance were: Betty Tritt Smeltz, Donald Smeltz and Wendy Smeltz (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania), Donald and Marilyn Tritt (Granville, Ohio), James and Rebecca Tritt (Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania), Richard and Nancy Tritt (Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania), William Wayne and Esther Tritt (Carlisle, Pennsylvania) and Lorene Tritt Wagner and Jack Wagner (Chattanooga, Tennessee).

Prior to the 1977 founding of the Tritt Family Research (TFR) organization, we were aware that as early as the 1880s, research into various components of Tritt family history had been conducted....

The founding of TFR as an organization in July 1977, was spawned by the popular response to Alex Hale's television series, *Roots*. Becky Tritt invited to her home in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, a small group of persons known then to each other who were doing current-day work on Tritt family history. At

the initial meeting, our various research interests and findings were expressed and we began the discussion of how we might best coordinate our future efforts to eventually present a full account of Tritt family history.

Fortunately, Donald G. Tritt, for several years, had been building an extensive address file of Tritts in the U.S.A. A decision was made to contact by mail all known Tritts. The purpose of this mailing was to inform Tritts around the country of our interest in researching Tritt family history and to secure additional mailing addresses. At this meeting, we began drafting our letter of introduction and request for information form. We planned to execute this mailing at our 1978 meeting. Discussion clarified our goal as the researching, writing and eventual publication of a well-documented family history from as early a time period as original, primary records were available. This meant that the scope of our work was not only to extend lines forward in time but also to research the earliest ancestors of the Tritts....

Early on we acknowledged that all Tritts in the U.S.A. did not originate with Hans Peter Tritt, Jr., and Christian Tritt. However, to our knowledge the arrival in 1739 of the brothers Hans Peter Tritt, Jr. and Christian Tritt was the first Tritt immigration to this side of the Atlantic. As we subsequently learned, there were numerous other [later] Tritt and Tritten immigrants who established their own progeny....

Before continuing with an account of the history of the Tritt family research effort, we would like to acknowledge persons known to us to have done Tritt genealogical research on this side of the Atlantic.... The twin great-great-step-grandsons of Hans Peter Tritt, Jr., John Howard McCulloch

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

# TRITT FAMILY Newsletter



**Tritt Family Research, Inc. — [www.tritt.org](http://www.tritt.org)**

**facebook**

Find us on Facebook at  
Tritt Family Research, Inc.

**QUESTIONS? — CONTACT: [TRITTFAMILYRESEARCH@COMCAST.NET](mailto:TRITTFAMILYRESEARCH@COMCAST.NET)**

©2013 Tritt Family Research, Inc.

(b. 24 September 1864, d. ?) and David Coyle McCulloch (b. 24 September 1864, d. after 1930) assisted by two great-granddaughters, Martha Jane ("Jennie") Tritt (b. 12 December 1842, d. 1921) and Lydia Bell Tritt Duncan (b. 16 August 1854, d. 6 January 1935), all of Newville, Pennsylvania, produced two works of significance.

Lydia Belle Tritt Duncan was a great-granddaughter of Hans Peter Tritt, Jr., and assisted the McCulloch twins in researching and preparing the 1896 Tritt Family Tree....

...

Another early researcher during the period 1910-1950 was Florence Maud Tritt Hegyessy (b. 8 December 1864, Alliance, Stark County, Ohio, d. 16 March 1956). Florence was the daughter of Henry Tritt (b. 3 April 1814, d. 9 August 1868) and a granddaughter of the third marriage of Paul Tritt (b. 7 December 1752, d. abt. 10 August 1820) of Frederick County, Maryland. She was also a great-granddaughter of Hans Peter Tritt Jr., and Maria Barbara Dellinger of York County, Pennsylvania....

Frank L. Crone (d. 22 May 1960) of Richmond, Virginia, was the author of "The Crone and Allied Families" issued about 1950. In this work, 14 pages are devoted to the Tritt (Dritt) family. Mr. Crone saw the wisdom of depositing copies of his paper in libraries around the country which had significant genealogical collections....

Rev. Claude Shyrock Tritt (b. 2 October 1874, d. 8 October 1956) of Litchfield, Illinois, carried on a correspondence with Tritt family members in the 1940s and 1950s. By correspondence he sought primary information from depositories in Germany....

Harold Maurice Hegyessy, Jr., (b. 4 November 1918, Alliance, Ohio [d. 7 June 2003]), a descendant of Paul Tritt, son of Hans Peter, Jr., [then] living in Pleasant Grove, Utah, has been a dedicated and prodigious researcher of Tritt family history since at least the early 1950s. During his military career as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, he researched numerous local depositories in America and Europe and carried on an extensive correspondence seeking information from family members. Extending his efforts beyond North America and working together with his cousin, Marilyn Hegyessy Moffitt, he located the origin of the Tritt/Tritten/Dritt (surnames all from the same root) family as originating from St. Stephan and Lenk in the Obersimmental, Canton Bern, Switzerland. His research, with the help of Dr. Christian Wolf of the Bas Rhin Archives in Strasbourg, France, showed that Hans Peter Tritt, Sr., (b. c. 1686), the father of Hans Peter Tritt, Jr., and Christian Tritt, resided in Diedendorf, Alsace [now present-day France], between the period of about 1690-1704 to his death, circa 1720. His two sons emigrated to America in 1739....

Working independently for a number of years, Betty Tritt Smeltz (b. 3 January 1927) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, had been doing extensive and basic research on the voluminous records available in Pennsylvania....

Unlike most of the Tritts in America, Donald G. Tritt (b. 2 June 1931) of Granville, Ohio, knew that his ancestors had immigrated directly from Switzerland about the year 1863. Boyhood stories of his paternal aunts in Switzerland sparked an interest in knowing more about Switzerland and in researching family lines. In the mid-1950s, Donald began a more formal study of the descendants of his immigrant grandfather, Joseph Gustav Tritt (b. 12 September 1842, d. 21 October 1902) and worked to compile an extensive mailing list of Tritt names....

Since the early 1960s, Richard Lawrence Tritt (b. 17 December 1942) of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, had been gathering data in Cumberland and York Counties, Pennsylvania. Donald and Richard first met in 1963, shared their work and delineated aspects in need of research....

... Rebecca Tritt of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, William Wayne Tritt (b. 28 June 1922 [d. 29 August 2011]) of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Lorene Tritt Wagner [d. 2 March 2008] of Johnson City, Tennessee, had begun the serious work of compiling a family genealogy....

Over the intervening years, and since the founding of TFR, other serious and committed researchers and volunteers have joined this project, namely: Carol Wells Adamczyk, Gladys V. Cramer, Richard L. [d. 29 August 2003] and Jeanette Cramer Miller, William S. and Wilda Dritt, Constance Rood Fisher, Barbara R. Holloman [d. 9 December 2012], Wendy Smeltz, Ernest J. and Doris Trait, David A. [d. 20 October 2009] and Judith K. Tritt, James R.L. and Betty Tritt [both now deceased], Leonard W. and Connie J. Tritt, Marilyn C. Tritt [d. 22 July 1995], Nancy S. Tritt and Cynthia S. Wagner....

...

... Following the founding meeting in 1977, the next step was to communicate our research interests to family members around the country and to invite the active participation of others. A letter of introduction was drafted ... [and] was mailed to 600 addresses in 38 states. At the 1979 meeting, we began the process of developing an extensive cross-reference file of all living and deceased Tritts....

... at the 1980 meeting ... [P]lans were made to publish a family newsletter.... Issue # 1 of the *Tritt Family Newsletter* was published November 1980.... At the 1981 meeting, it was decided to attempt a National Reunion in 1983. Also at this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

meeting, the decision was made to utilize the Hamilton Library (housed at the Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pennsylvania) as a permanent repository for all research papers and artifacts donated to or generated by the Tritt family research project.

...

The first Tritt Family National Reunion was held 7-10 July 1983, at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In attendance were 79 persons from 16 states....

At the 1984 meeting, we began plans for our first research trip to Switzerland. Due to the considerable work of William Wayne Tritt, incorporation status by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was granted Tritt Family Research on 27 August 1984. At the 1984 meeting, preliminary discussion was given to what seemed then to be a rather far-fetched idea. Since the earliest known Tritt immigration to these shores occurred in 1739, we thought it would be interesting to commemorate, in 1989, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event by tracing their earlier ancestors' emigration, in the late 1690s, from the Obersimmental (St. Stephan and Lenk), Switzerland, to a five-decade (circa 1690-1739) "stop over" in Alsace (Diedendorf, France) and finally on to Philadelphia in 1739.

During the summer of 1985, members of TFR traveled to the Obersimmental where we studied and copied Tritten entries back to the mid-1500s in the archival records of the office of the Zivilstandsamt of St. Stephan....

At the 1986 meeting of TFR, planning committees were established for a second National Tritt Family Reunion to be held in 1988....

During the 1987 annual meeting of TFR, we made final plans for the 1988 Second National Tritt Family Reunion....

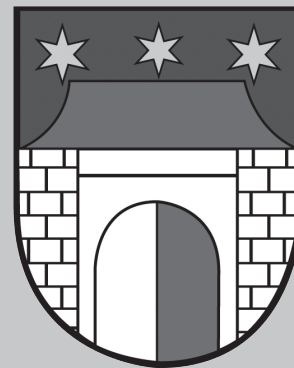
The year 1989 was the occasion for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary Remigration Tour of Europe and what turned out to be the first Worldwide Reunion in Lenk, Switzerland, of Tritten/Tritt/Dritt. ... Following the reunion weekend, we began retracing the route our ancestors took after they left this area until their arrival in America in 1739. Jakob Tritten of Zweisimmen, Switzerland, was our tour leader. Much to our surprise, the story of our Remigration Tour was covered, at various points along the way, by six different European newspapers. Our reunion experiences and genealogical findings were portrayed in Issue # 10 of the *Tritt Family Newsletter*. Subsequently, this issue was selected by the publication editor of the Swiss-American Historical Society as an important example of Swiss-American research and of building and maintaining close personal ties with family members in Switzerland.

... At the 1992 meeting, we completed plans for the second Worldwide Reunion and Tour to be held in 1993 in Lenk, Switzerland....

... A detailed account of the 1993 trip to Europe is contained in Issue # 14 of the *Tritt Family Newsletter*....

... In 1997, nineteen persons from the U.S.A. traveled to Switzerland for the experience of living for two weeks in our ancestral area of the Obersimmental and for the occasion of the Third Worldwide Reunion....

From the account given here, we hope you can sense the commitment and active involvement of family members and volunteer researchers from around the world who have been contributing their differing talents to tell the story of the Tritten/Tritt/Dritt family. [We encourage your participation also.] ■



### NEXT MEETING OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

AUGUST 14 – 16, 2014

IN CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA

For information about the meeting, contact:

**Leonard W. Tritt**

7 Ironstone Drive

Carlisle, PA 17015-9705

or

email Connie Tritt at

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

## BARBARA A. HOLLOMAN



Another active, long-time member of Tritt Family Research left our midst shortly after last year's newsletter was mailed. Barbara A. Holloman, 66, of Silver Spring, Maryland, left this life on December 9, 2012. She is survived by her husband William "Bill", son Dan, and daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Mandel

Carnrike. Barbara was an avid birdwatcher and long-time Girl Scout leader.

At Barbara's funeral, many people spoke about Barbara and what she meant to them. Barbara lost a years-long battle to breast cancer. Shortly after she was diagnosed, she began a support group for other women with this terrible disease. Two ladies spoke eloquently about how they were strengthened and more optimistic because of Barbara's example and encouragement.

They said Barbara lived as normal a lifestyle as possible all through her illness, and watching her made them stronger.

Barbara's Tritt lineage went back to her grandmother or great-grandmother, who was a Tritt. She long had an interest in Tritt genealogy; but, when she learned of Tritt Family Research, her interest peaked. Bill said when Barbara became part of TFR she was thrilled to be part of the larger Tritt family. She was always ready to do whatever she could to help further the efforts of Tritt Family Research, but never looked for accolades. Some years ago, she volunteered to coordinate a future volume of *Tritt Family History* that would regard her branch of the family.

Tritt Family Research not only lost a very capable and willing member, we've also lost a friend. She was amiable and ready with a smile, a fine lady. We miss her and regret she is not here to further the organization and its cause, as she wanted to do. We again extend our sympathy to Bill and his family. ■

## PLEASE AND THANK YOU

Tritt Family Research (TFR) is like us people - to survive it needs money and people. We could not survive without money; neither could we survive without other people. Some things simply cannot be accomplished without money and people: "No man is an island", "People need people."

TFR has survived financially for over 35 years largely due to donations. It gets no grants or contributions except from individuals desiring to help TFR fulfill its mission to accurately and thoroughly research and publish Tritt family history and genealogy. Tritt Family History, Volumes I and II, have received many accolades, and Volume III promises to do the same. We hope to publish Volume III in 2014, but designing and printing quality books is costly. Patron Donors' contributions cover a goodly portion, but not all, of these costs. Printing and mailing of newsletters also adds significant costs. So we continue to solicit monetary support, large or small, to help us further our efforts. If you can help us, send your donation, payable to 'Tritt Family Research', to our Treasurer, Dwight A. Tritt, 7 Southern Cross Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007.

But our organization needs people too. All our publications, all data in TFR records and archives, have been accomplished solely by volunteers. Since TFR's inception, more than a dozen hard-working volunteers, half or more of them genealogical researchers, have died or are now physically unable to continue. And there is lots of work in TFR for people who are not genealogists. So, if you or someone you know is interested in fostering Tritt family history and genealogy, we need your/their help. Come to our 2014 annual meeting in Carlisle, PA, August 14 - 16, 2014. You will be welcomed.

The above being said, we acknowledge and sincerely thank any and all who have helped Tritt Family Research fulfill its achievements. Whether your contribution was financial or time, or both, each was necessary for our success. But, there's a lot more to do, so we encourage your participation by donating and/or volunteering as you can. Tritt Family Research needs your support. Thank you for what you have done or will do for TFR. ■



## TFR – MY EXPERIENCE

*Amelia Tritt, Somerdale, Ohio*

This year, 2013, I had the pleasure of revisiting the Tritt Family Research group in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. My family had us go down to Carlisle a day early so my father, Timothy Tritt, son of David and Judith Tritt, could go to Gettysburg for the second year in a row. You have to understand, I am a teenage girl and, yes, I did enjoy seeing some of the sites and go through the shops; and I was very excited to see what really happens during the meetings at TFR.

My cousin, Nathan Richeson, grandson of David and Judith Tritt, and I had visited TFR a few years ago though I am not sure how many; I know we didn't really do much. We only sat in the hotel room or went swimming. We had never been inside the meeting and that's what we got to do this year.

At the "reunion" on Thursday, August 15, 2013, I got to meet people I knew and some I didn't. Nathan and I were not sure what to expect to happen from just meeting a small group of the large family we do actually have. I mean, we are all related somewhere down the line, right? Anyway, Nathan and I were taken to Dickinson College in Carlisle while most of the adults were editing chapters of Volume III. It was amazing! We met a student in his junior year going to study abroad this fall. It was so exciting to meet a student as passionate for the arts as much as Nathan and I are. We have both now considered going to school at Dickinson.

We were also invited to the picnic at the Wampler house. While my little brother, Jacob Tritt, was playing with their beagle, Nathan and I got to know Jared, grandson of Jane Ward, who was also seeing the TFR meetings in a new perspective. And I still can't believe how we could play corn-hole in the dark. It was just a lot of fun and so welcoming.

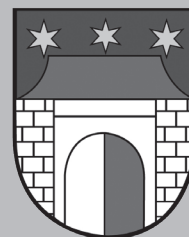
On Saturday, August 17, 2013, we all packed to leave. We said goodbye to those who had to leave early to get home at a good time. Most of us decided to have one last meal with each other at a little restaurant that Connie and Leonard Tritt had recommended. As we made our way to the door and to the car for our six hour drive home, I didn't feel like I was saying goodbye to people I just met. I felt like I was saying goodbye to family that I will see soon.

They asked me to write about my weekend and I know I really summarized it, but I feel that you would not understand my experience without details. I personally liked the trip and the time I got to spend with the family I didn't know. I would like to visit the TFR meeting in 2014, if my new family would allow me to, that is. It was a nice experience and I can't wait to travel to Carlisle again in the future and Dickinson College, too. ■

## A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR US

*Leonard Tritt, Carlisle, Pennsylvania*

For years the email address for Tritt Family Research had been that of our Secretary, Connie J. Tritt. But now the organization has an email address all its own. To contact or send information by email to Tritt Family Research, use: [trittfamilyresearch@comcast.net](mailto:trittfamilyresearch@comcast.net). If you use the former email address, the message will still get to the secretary, but using the new address will readily identify the message as pertinent to Tritt Family Research. Please enter the new email address to your computer's address book. Thank you. ■



## OFFICERS OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

Donald G. Tritt, *President Emeritus*

Leonard W. Tritt

*President*

7 Ironstone Drive

Carlisle Pennsylvania 17015-9705

Telephone: 717-258-4176

Richard L. Tritt

*First Vice President*

33 Silver Maple Drive

Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007-9598

Telephone: 717-258-6181

Jane S. Ward

*Second Vice President*

168 Slab Road

Delta, Pennsylvania 17314-9221

Telephone: 717-862-3008

Dwight A. Tritt

*Treasurer*

7 Southern Cross Drive

Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007-9789

Telephone: 717-249-6933

Connie J. Tritt

*Secretary and Newsletter Editor*

7 Ironstone Drive

Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015-9705

Telephone: 717-258-4176

Melissa C. Clayton

*Publications, Editor-in-Chief*

6464 Stage Coach Trail

Brownsburg, Indiana 46112-8628

Telephone: 317-409-5007

W. Brent Clayton

*Publications, Associate Editor*

6464 Stage Coach Trail

Brownsburg, Indiana 46112-8628

Telephone: 317-409-5007

Margrit Tritten-Stauffer

*Secretary*

for Switzerland and Germany

Lenkerstrasse 18

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

[www.tritt.org](http://www.tritt.org)

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

Now on Facebook

# TRATE REUNION IN MILTON, PA

The Trate Reunion for the family of Isaac S. Trate, b. 1897 (grandson of Isaac Trate b. 1845) of Milton, PA has been held the last Sunday of June for many years.

My father, Ray N. Trate, son of Isaac S. Trate, recalls that the reunion was started by Pearl E. Trate, b. 1893, sister of Isaac S. Trate.

When Dad was a child, he said it was held on the island between Milton and West Milton for many years. When Dad was in the Air Force (1949-1952), it was held at the Clemens' home and at the town park in Milton. Sometime in the 1950's, it was held at Sunnybrook Park in Danville, PA.

Over the years, the reunion has been held at the Milton Town Park, Milton, PA; the Watsontown Town Park, Watsontown, PA; Halfway Dam State Park in Centre County, PA; Bob and Kay Coup's house in West Chester, PA; Gerry and DeAnne Casteel's house in Bloomsburg, PA (this included bringing your tent and camping out the night before if you wanted to); the Bloomsburg Town Park, Bloomsburg, PA; and Frank and Sandy Trate's house in New Columbia, PA. Most recently, it has been held at Elwood and Sandra Brown's house in New Columbia, PA. They built a pavilion for it!

Everyone brings a dish and/or beverage to share. There has never been a shortage of food or drink! Some years the early ones would meet for a cookout breakfast. We "pass the hat" for

donations towards expenses. We provide games and activities for the children along with a piñata. Many bring pictures to share; but, mainly, we just make our way around and have a visit with everyone. Many pitch in to get things going and to clean up. Announcements are made; but there is no formal meeting. We started a family directory a while back that included addresses, phone numbers and email addresses which was updated every year and given out to whoever wanted a copy.

One of the very memorable reunions was held at the home of Jerry and DeAnne Casteel, where each family wore a different color t-shirt and we had a photograph taken. That same year, cousins from Alaska brought panning for gold supplies to try, and they made Eskimo yo-yos too! When my generation were kids, there was a year when we had a lot of rain that flooded a drainage ditch next to our pavilion and all the kids went in, clothes and all, and had the best muddy time ever! We were lucky to have lots and lots of cousins to grow up with.

Although we did not gather this past summer, we plan to in 2014. You are all welcome to come, so we'll be sure to pass the information on to all of you!

Barbara R. Golder is the daughter of Ray N. Trate, son of Isaac S. Trate, son of Cyrus C. Trate, son of Isaac Trate, son of John Trate, son of Christian Tritt, son of Henry Tritt, son of Christian Tritt, the immigrant. ■

## TRITT FAMILY HISTORY VOLUME IV

Judy Tritt, Canton, Ohio

Volume IV of Tritt Family History will concern the family of Joseph Tritt (1786-1873) and his wife Catherine Rhodes (1889-1869), who came to Stark/Summit County, Ohio about 1815. Joseph was elected as an officer in Lawrence Township, Stark County on April 1, 1815, as a "fence viewer." A fence viewer could help settle boundary lines for land disputes.

Joseph and Catherine were the parents of twelve children, with eleven living to maturity. In previous issues of the Tritt Family Newsletter, I was looking for any information on their daughter Catherine ("Caty") Ann.

Caty Ann was a twin born in 1819 and was married to John Henney in 1838 in Stark County, Ohio. Caty Ann and John

moved to Marshall County, Indiana sometime between 1850 and 1860. Their children were all born in Ohio. John served in the Civil War and died sometime between 1870 and 1880. Caty Ann lived in 1880 in Center Township, Marshall County, Indiana with her daughter and son-in-law, Hattie and James Sherwood, and their two children.

I would like to have any further information on Caty Ann and John Henney and their family. Also, any pictures, family stories or other information on the family of Joseph Tritt and Catherine Rhodes would be very much appreciated for inclusion in the next volume of Tritt Family History. Send your information to Judy Tritt at 1422 Miles Avenue, SW, Canton, OH 44710. ■

# THE BERKS COUNTY REPORT

This will be brief for I have a good excuse .... I wasn't there!

As some are aware, Doris and I failed to make the trip east this year due to a failure to follow prudent procedures for seniors .... that of applying the "... AGE FACTOR..." to whatever you are doing. The simple act of stepping over a guardrail without holding onto something sent me in a clump on my left shoulder breaking the upper left humerus. This event, just two days before we were to leave for Pennsylvania, sent Doris scurrying to cancel all the arrangements made for the trip. Doris also had to perform ambulance duty since this happened in Los Angeles, a 45 minute drive from close-to-home medical attention.

I am mending well and the surgeon seems happy with that.

Though we were not in Pennsylvania, I got a report from our ever-present secretary, Louise Strunk, on some of the goings-on.

This being the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trate, Treat, Trait, Tritt Reunion, it is now being held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church social hall, 1136 Geigertown Road, Birdsboro, PA, a relatively new location. The main attraction is greeting friends and relatives and, of course, all the good food. Louise noted a lengthy list of winners in the guessing games, some of whom are becoming experts .... winning twice.

President Gerald Trate held the business meeting to a short schedule and held all offices until next year, so Dot Trate is still treasurer and Louise Strunk secretary.

Louise Strunk has had her share of grief this year in the loss of both her parents within a month's time. Her mother, Dorothy Kratz, had been a mainstay of the reunion organization for many years, being involved in its origination. Dorothy passed away December 7, 2012. Louise's father, H. Earl Kratz, decided to follow his wife on January 4, 2013. Both were residents at the Zerbe Sisters Nursing Facility in Morgantown, PA. Our hearts have been with you, Louise and brother Ron.

Volume III of Tritt Family History is still in the works for publication next year. I'm sorry that I was not at the work session in Carlisle; but the work went on. I want to emphasize again that this volume deals with our Berks County direct line from the ancestors to the present and should be a desirable item for your family's collection. Many of you will be in the book if I have your data. It is important, also, that, if you do not desire your heritage published, you let us know as quickly as possible. You should respond to the TFR contact in this newsletter. ■

## SUPPORT THE DRITT CEMETERY

The Dritt Cemetery in Lower Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania, contains the graves of Jacob Dritt's wife and some of his children and grandchildren. Jacob was the eldest son of 1739 immigrant, Hans Peter Tritt, and, to our knowledge, is the second American-born Tritt. It's unknown why he used the name Dritt as an adult.

The Dritt Cemetery is now preserved from surrounding development as it is part of Native Lands Park, a part of the York County park system. This park has trails through open and wooded land, passing near the cemetery and the close-by location of the last Susquehannock Indian village, ca. 1675. The cemetery is high on a hill above the Susquehanna River, and is a quiet, serene, and peaceful place in a small wooded grove.

Recently the County contacted Tritt Family Research asking our thoughts on their desire to place a park bench next to the cemetery. Further, if TFR did not object to a bench, they offered TFR first option to sponsor the placement of that bench. Your TFR officers are agreed that a bench by the cemetery would be appropriate and that we should sponsor (cover the cost) of it.

The bench would have an optional brass plaque and be made of durable, heavy 'plastic lumber', anchored in concrete, and be fully replaced if damaged in the first five years.

The cost to sponsor a bench is \$600. TFR officers agree we should not take money from our treasury to pay for the bench, because of the expenses next year for publication of *Tritt Family History, Volume III*. Instead we are making this separate appeal to support sponsorship of a park bench at the Dritt Cemetery. Officers of TFR and a few others have already contributed, but more is needed to cover the entire cost. Should we receive more than \$600 in donations, the overage will be placed in a cemetery care fund, as some gravestones at the cemetery could use repair or maintenance.

If you are willing to support this cause, please, at your earliest convenience, send your donation, payable to 'Tritt Family Research', to our Treasurer, Dwight A. Tritt, 7 Southern Cross Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. Thank you for whatever amount you may contribute. ■



# A GIFT TO TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH

Many of our readers, probably most of them, are descendants of Swiss families in the Obersimmental (upper Simme River valley) in Bern Canton, Switzerland. Our name there was "Tritten", and most of those ancestors lived in the St. Stephan area, some also in Lenk, a few miles up the valley. Since Lenk was established after St. Stephan, it is plausible that Trittens in Lenk would have moved there from St. Stephan, maybe among Lenk's first settlers.

Family coats of arms or family crests have existed for many centuries, but mostly were designed for the wealthy or royalty. The Trittens were neither, being rural, humble, and hard-working folk living in the Obersimmental since before written records began. The earliest record of a Tritten in this area is an 8 March 1485 document witnessed by a Petrus Tritten (see *Tritt Family History, Volume I*, page xviii).

The Trittens had no coat of arms until about 1936, when the canton apparently decided to honor, with a coat of arms, families who had lived in certain areas for a long time. This included the St. Stephan Trittens. The design of that coat of arms has no specific meaning, but is specific to the Tritten clan of St. Stephan. The Lenk Trittens had a separate design for theirs. The St. Stephan Tritten coat of arms was documented by Donald G. Tritt at the Staatarchives in Bern, Switzerland in 1997.

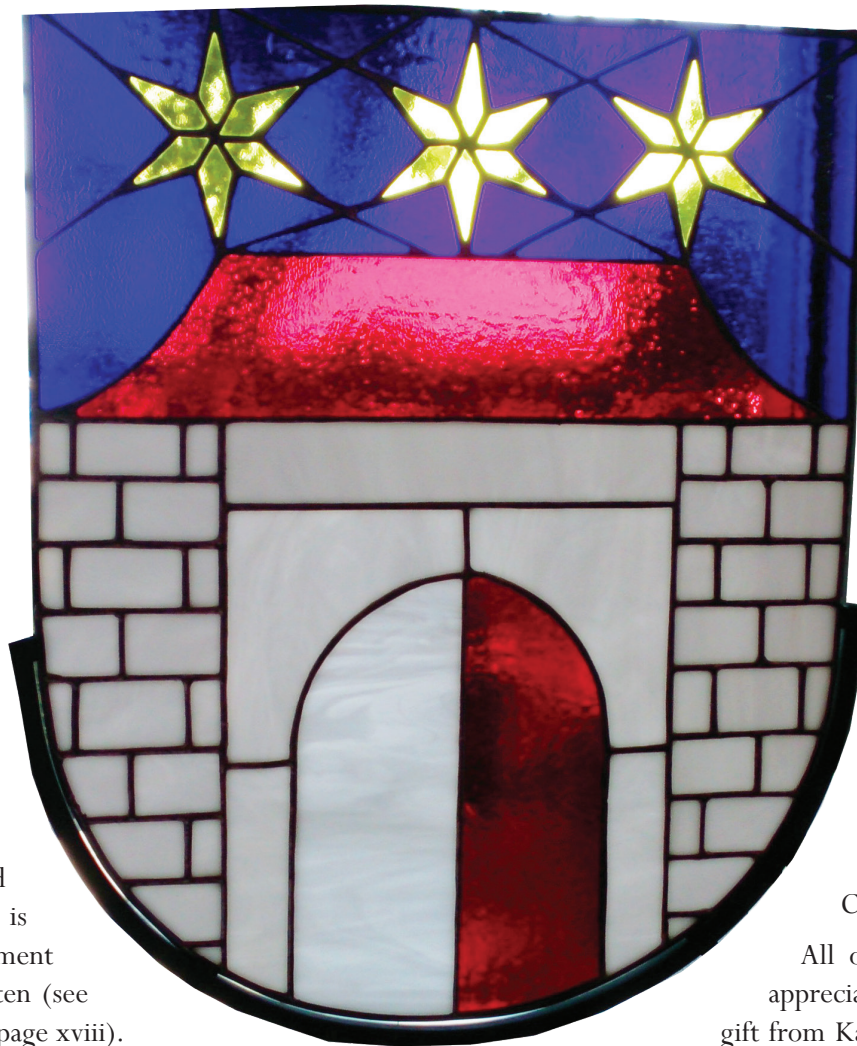
Karen Scheffler is a descendant of Christian Tritt, one of the two Tritten brothers who were the first known Trittens to come to America, in 1739. She is an active part of the work

of Tritt Family Research, but she also is a very talented stained glass artist. At our August 2013 annual meeting, Karen presented a beautiful, large stained glass rendition of the St. Stephan Tritten coat of arms to Tritt Family Research. It is 16" x 19" in dimension and of richly colored stained glass. It was 40 hours in the making. Karen says she made it out of gratitude for TFR and because the design is so beautiful. To best assure its safe-keeping, this coat of arms is being kept in the Tritt Family Archives, housed at the Cumberland County Historical Society, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

All of Tritt Family Research are appreciative of this one of a kind gift from Karen. It truly is an attractive and special gift, we know, from Karen's heart.

Thank you, Karen, for your thoughtfulness.

If you would like to have Karen Scheffler make you a stained glass Tritten coat of arms, she is available to do so. Contact her at 327 North Hill Road, Montgomery, VT 05470, or by email at [tratescheffler@gmail.com](mailto:tratescheffler@gmail.com). She can make them in various sizes. ■





## FINANCIAL REPORT

Dwight A. Tritt, Treasurer, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

Checking Account Balance August 1, 2012      \$ 3,840.75  
**Income**      14,683.16  
    \$18,523.91

**Expenses**      2,117.20

Checking Account Balance July 31, 2013      \$16,406.71

**INCOME**

Merchandise Sale      \$721.00  
 Silent Auction at 2012 Meeting      130.00  
 Donations (General)      995.00  
 Donations (Postage)      25.00  
 Patron Donations for Volume III      2,800.00  
 Certificate of Deposit Proceeds      10,012.16

**TOTAL**      **\$14,683.16**

**EXPENSES**

**Actual      Paid**

Administration      \$15.00      \$0.00\*  
 Meeting - Day's Inn  
     meeting accommodations      133.79      126.00  
 Newsletter -      916.95      901.72  
     Printing      194.83      189.48  
     Mailing      101.33      61.48  
 Add Patron Donor Funds  
     to Certificate of Deposit      4,200.00      4,200.00  
 Website      343.92      303.92  
 Memorial Gift in Memory  
     of Barbara Holloman      100.00      100.00  
 Merchandise Refund      10.50      10.50  
 Graphic Services for Volume III      424.00      424.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES**      **\$2,240.33      \$2,117.20**

**\*EXPENSES DONATED**      **\$123.13**

*Those who gave donations to Tritt Family Research  
 from September 2012 through September 2013:*

Brent and Melissa Clayton of Brownsburg, IN  
 Gladys Cramer of Shippensburg, PA  
 Judith Mix Davis of Hall, MT  
 Barbara Dritt Gold of Windsor, MO  
 Jeanette Miller of Shippensburg, PA  
 Faye Wegner Mix of Visalia, CA  
 Jack Kevin Mix of Sacramento, CA  
 Janet Roberts of Yardley, PA  
 Bob and Ann Spann of Nashville, TN  
 Thomas V. and Mary L. Trate of Birdsboro, PA  
 Constance Abbe Tritt of Vinemont, AL  
 Donald Tritt of Granville, OH  
 Dwight and Pat Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA  
 Judith Tritt of Canton, OH  
 Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, PA  
 Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA  
 Russell C. Tritt of Lake Worth, FL  
 Patricia Tritten of Eureka, CA  
 Walter and Susan Tritten of Steffisburg, Switzerland  
 Jean E. Wenger of Shippensburg, PA  
 John D. Zimmerman of Mt. Wolf, PA

## MY TRIP TO CARLISLE, PA AND THE TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH MEETING

Jared Grace, Delta, Pennsylvania

Originally coming just to keep my grandmother, Jane Ward, company, I thought the trip would be pretty boring. This proved to be wrong, however, when I got to the meet and greet session, and was asked to introduce myself. Being home schooled, I had brought my schoolwork with me to the hotel room, so I was unable to participate in most of the meetings. While there, I enjoyed going to the Cumberland County Historical Society

Museum. From telegraphs to pottery foot warmers, there was a lot to see. I even found a mistake in one of the plaques which I promptly reported to the museum manager! Afterwards, we had a picnic dinner at the Wampler's. I really enjoyed the food... especially the meringues! I made some friends with the other two teens there, and we had a good time playing beanbag toss. ■

# THE BECKERSVILLE CONNECTION

I have mentioned in the past that I strongly believe that our family has relatives living in the Beckersville, Berks County, Pennsylvania, area. This is based mainly on the knowledge that there are families there now of our name variations of Trate and Treat. I also have a map drawn in 1862 of the area showing these names located there.

The problem has been identifying the proper ancestor because of duplicate names in the family branches. I have, more or less, zeroed in on the descendants of Samuel, a son of Henry, a son of the immigrant Christian (1719-1801).

Samuel Trate (1783-1842) married Anna Rosina Breitenstein in December of 1829 and they produced six children, two of whom did not live to adulthood. The first child was James (1830-1885) who married Sarah Seifrit (1837-1923) in July of 1857.

The next surviving child was number four, named William, whom we know little about at this point; but we have a William

Treat home shown on that 1862 map close to what I believe is his brother, James Treat. I know this is speculation just now, but we do have some information that says this family stayed in the area of Beckersville.

James' wife, Sarah, survived until 1923 when she was buried in the Plow Lutheran Church cemetery. Her obituary in the Reading Eagle of October 12 explained that she had been living with her daughter, Susan Hamilton, in Gibraltar, Berks County, when she expired of complications. It also explained that Sarah had spent most all of her life in the Beckersville area and was a well-respected citizen of the county. A service was held at the Hamilton home as well as at Robeson Lutheran Church with the choir singing in both venues.

Further research is needed, of course, to bind us to the community; but I think it is there, if we can find it. ■

# DAR MEMBERSHIP POSSIBLE FOR HENRY TRITT DESCENDANTS

I am a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In case you are not familiar with the organization, it was founded in 1890 with the purpose of promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Although I have already established my eligibility, I thought it would be interesting to establish a line for those descended from the Christian Tritt (b.1719) line.

During this past year, I have been trying to establish Henry Tritt/Treat (b. 1742/43) as an American patriot of the Revolution. Although it is of record that he served in the Berks County, Pennsylvania militia, there is no proof of his exact service there. The DAR has, however, accepted him as a patriot for his paying

a supply tax.

I have had to provide a good many records in proving my direct relationship back to Henry Tritt, since there are no birth or baptism records for my great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Tritt Williams (b. 1785). So, I have had to prove the relationship in an indirect way through her brothers.

If, however, you are a female direct descendant of Henry Tritt/Treat and can prove your relationship to him, you are eligible for membership in the DAR. You may use Tritt Family Research as a resource in finding your records. You will also find *Tritt Family History, Volume III*, of interest and help in the search for your ancestors after it is published. Go to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) for information on how to become a member of DAR. ■

Our relationship with ancestry.com is, as they say these days, 'complicated.' One way to picture it might be as if ancestry.com were a Great Hall where people meet seeking similar general ancestral knowledge, and where there are many doors leading into small gardens of trees quiet enough to ponder and share the general knowledge found in the Hall

I visit the Hall. I meet others, sometimes through the new DNA clues or by 'hearing questions asked' of the many people standing with me in the Hall. Hoping for greater illumination, we enter the door called 'Trate'. We sit down to discuss more privately, away from the noise of the Hall, a more focused view of the tree.

It seems a lovely picture of exchange. Its success depends greatly upon the willingness to share a look at a tree in whatever state of health it might be. Most people I have met in the Hall are not connected with a group of 'gardeners' such as our organization. Most, therefore, are not shy about showing their tree, again, in whatever state of health it may be. I have offered a correction here, an addition there for some of the trees in that garden. Always, just enough for the 'health' of the tree and always with a reference to the nourishment found at TFR.

There is surely room in the 'Trate' garden for my little tree, but the area, at present, is empty. I haven't planted it because there has been too much hard work done by the caretakers in the Tritt garden next door. I feel a tension here, which at present I alleviate by pointing those I meet towards that hard work.

At every turn in the Hall, especially if using the DNA tool to uncover roots, the owners of the Hall advocate planting one's sapling. The thrust is to plant as well as to dig.

I have entertained the notion for our 'care taking' organization's work to become a tool offered in the Hall, but haven't the vision for how that can be done. Except....except, it might be for any of us who go to the Hall to advocate in a similar way, the use of our tool; the use of TFR to help others uncover mysteries in their trees. So much of the familial connections are actually revealed by the kind of digging 'gardeners' at TFR do, and it's especially nourishing when coupled with the personal invitation to 'come and taste'. The increasing availability of information online helps in this, but to actually have the documents (or knowledge of where they can be found) and stories of ancestors are just two examples of the kind of care and pruning which gives a truer picture of some of the pondered trees in the gardens of the Hall.

My picture of our relationship with ancestry.com may be getting 'muddled'. I'll offer a plain, and hopefully, clear message to those who use the website to gather information. Consider carefully the trees you encounter. Have they been well nourished by careful gardeners such as you find as the standard of TFR?. Please also use it to advance Tritt Family Research as a resource. If there is a way to cite TFR as the source for the branches of your Tritt/Treat/Trait/Trate tree, by all means do so. If not, consider not planting but pointing, to the healthy, big, beautiful tree in the Tritt garden. ■

## SYNOPSIS OF AUGUST 2013 MEETING

Connie Tritt, Secretary, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 15 through 17, 2013. Those in attendance were:

Gladys Cramer of Shippensburg, PA  
 Jared Grace of Delta, PA  
 Carol Ann Merryman of Biglerville, PA  
 Jeanette Miller of Shippensburg, PA  
 Sandy Naiva of Manchester, NJ  
 Nancy Noecker of Granville, OH  
 Karen Scheffler of Montgomery, VT  
 David Tritt of Carlisle, PA  
 Donald Tritt of Granville, OH  
 Dwight Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA  
 Judy Tritt of Canton, OH  
 Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, PA  
 Nathan Richeson of Canton, OH  
 Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA

Tim, Valerie, Amelia and Jacob Tritt of Somerdale, OH  
 Jane Ward of Delta, PA

The session on Friday dealt with proofreading and finalizing articles and layout for Volume III of *Tritt Family History*. In the afternoon, some spent time at the Cumberland County Historical Society museum. Friday evening we were hosted by Dave and Robyn Tritt Wampler, who so generously opened their home to us for our evening meal. The weather was perfect this year for sitting outside visiting and enjoying a delicious meal, all prepared by Dave and Robyn.

Our annual business meeting was held Saturday morning into the early afternoon. After a meal together at Hoss's Steak and Seafood Restaurant, we all went our separate ways back to our homes, some of whom had long drives ahead of them.

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Tritt Family Research will be held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 14 to 16, 2014. ■

BUY **TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, VOLUME I** FOR \$35.00. BUY **TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, VOLUME II** FOR \$40.00. BUY **BOTH** VOLUMES FOR ONLY \$65.00, AND **SAVE \$10.00.**  
SHIPPING & HANDLING IS \$8.00 FOR THIS OFFER.

*Special Offer:*

**Buy Tritt Family History - Volume I  
and Volume II for ONLY \$65.00**

***Tritt Family History -  
Volume I***

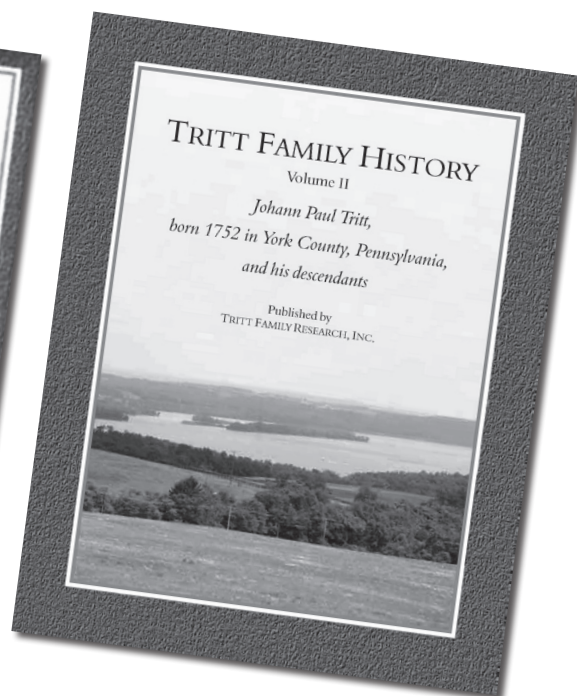
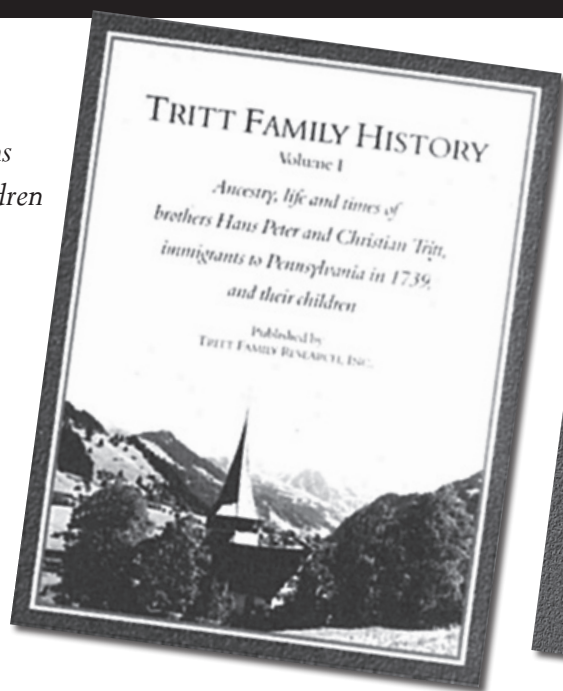
*European origins through Hans  
Peter and Christian Tritt's children*

***Tritt Family History -  
Volume II***

*Johann Paul Tritt, born 1752  
in York County, Pennsylvania,  
and his descendants*

Fill out the form below  
and mail to:

**Tritt Family Research  
c/o Dwight A. Tritt  
7 Southern Cross Drive  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies ordered..... Vol. I \_\_\_\_\_ Vol. II \_\_\_\_\_

Total Book Price ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling (\$5 for the first book and \$3 for each additional book)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Make check payable to: **Tritt Family Research**)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# 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.

# TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH, INC.

The following items are available for purchase from TFR. Please complete the following form and mail to:  
Dwight A. Tritt, 7 Southern Cross Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789.

**Please add a \$2 shipping and handling charge to all orders \$10 and less; \$3 shipping and handling charge to orders \$11 and above. THESE SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES DO NOT APPLY TO VOLUMES I AND II OF TRITT FAMILY HISTORY AND THE 1906 TRITT FAMILY TREE (see the shipping and handling charges for those items below).**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Civil War Diary of William Tritt — \$8.50  
(Written in 1864 by the Wisconsin Tritt patriarch while confined in Danville and Andersonville prisons)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Newsletters — Issues 1-32 (specify issue numbers) — \$1.50 each  
(If you're new to TFR, catch up on the issues you missed!)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1906 Tritt Family Tree
  - \_\_\_\_\_ folded, includes shipping/handling — \$13.00
  - \_\_\_\_\_ rolled for framing, includes shipping/handling — \$20.00(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 illustrated booklet published in German by our ancestral church in Switzerland)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pack of 10 note cards depicting 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tritten Coat-of-Arms Patch — \$6.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pens with Tritt Family Research and the web site imprint — \$1.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Map of early Pennsylvania sites of interest to Tritts — \$3.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Luggage tags with the name "Tritt" on one side — \$3.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ St. Stephan Berner Oberland bumper sticker — \$1.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ St. Stephan Super Ski Region bumper sticker — \$1.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tritt Family History - Vol. I — \$35.00 (plus \$5 shipping and handling for the first book and \$3 for each additional book)  
(Our European origins through the first generation 'American' Tritts born to Hans Peter and Christian Tritt)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tritt Family History - Vol. II — \$40.00 (plus \$5 shipping and handling for the first book and \$3 for each additional book)  
(Johann Paul Tritt, born 1752 in York County, Pennsylvania, and his descendants)

---

## 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 [trittfamilyresearch@comcast.net](mailto:trittfamilyresearch@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, Marriages, Deaths, Other...) \_\_\_\_\_

# APPEAL FOR PATRON DONORS

It's not too late to become a Patron Donor for Tritt Family History, Volume III. The content is completed for this volume, which entails essentially all that is known of Christian Tritt, one of the first two Tritts to immigrate to America in 1739, and his descendants to the present time. Many of Christian's descendants use(d) variants of the Tritt surname, such as Trait, Trate, Treat, Treet, and others. Now the book is being readied for printing and hopeful publication in 2014.

There are three classes of Patron Donor: Gold (\$500 donation), Silver (\$300 donation), and Bronze (\$100 donation). Patron donors receive five, three, or one free copy(ies) of the published volume, depending on the class of Patron Donor. Names of Patron Donors are printed in the book; and, if desired, a dedication in honor of or in memory of whomever you may choose.

Costs of publication have risen significantly since Volume II was published. Our publications are first rate, costing thousands of dollars to produce. It is possible Volume III may have to be delayed due to inadequate funds for all publishing costs. Patron Donors largely subsidize these costs, and more are needed to meet the need. We are very grateful to our Patron Donors already enlisted; but we hope that, if you've not become a Patron Donor for Tritt Family History, Volume III, you might do so.

To become a Patron Donor for Volume III, complete and submit the form below with your check payable to "Tritt Family Research" in the amount of your preferred Patron Donor class. If you desire, specify to whom your donation is dedicated in honor or memory. Send your donation to TFR Treasurer Dwight A. Tritt, 7 Southern Cross Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789. If you desire, smaller donations will be gratefully accepted. Simply indicate your donation is toward costs of Volume III publication. Whether you are a Patron Donor or other contributor, thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*Gold Donor – \$500 donation* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Silver Donor – \$300 donation* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Bronze Donor – \$100 donation* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Total Enclosed* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to "Tritt Family Research" and mail to:  
Dwight A. Tritt, Treasurer  
7 Southern Cross Drive  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789**

Address Service Requested

TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH  
7 Ironstone Drive  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015-9705  
U.S.A.