

# TRITT FAMILY Newsletter



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

I S S U E N O . 4 0 - N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 1

## TRITT FAMILY HISTORY, VOLUME IV

This long-anticipated volume is available for immediate shipping! It is TFR's largest volume to date with 376 pages of data on Joseph Tritt (born 1786) and his descendants to date.

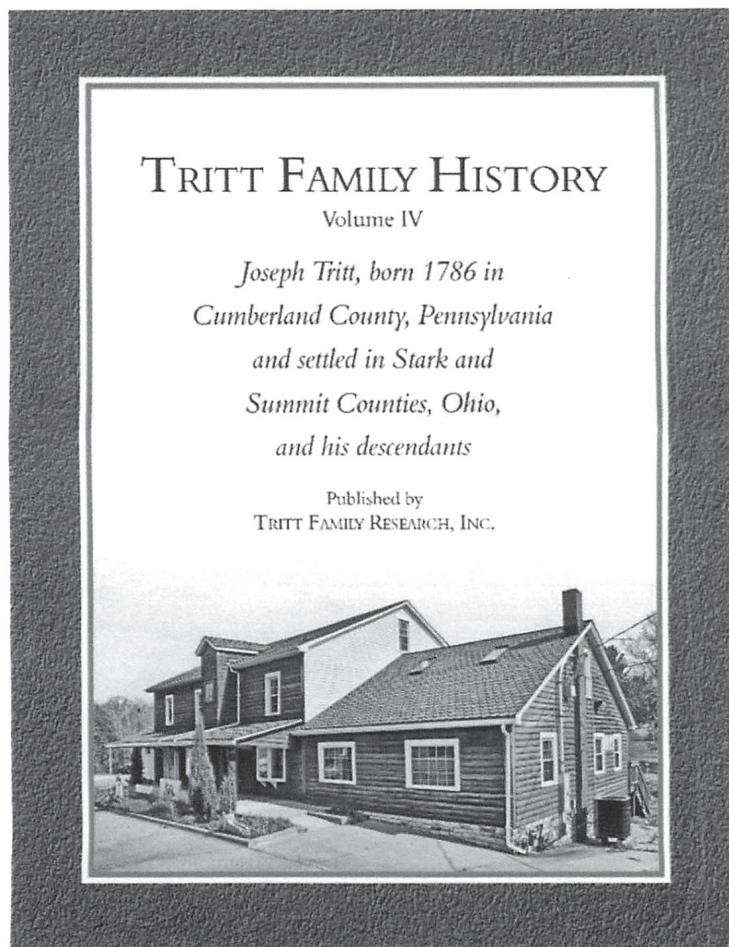
It includes historical data of Joseph Tritt, who was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1786, and later settled in Stark and Summit Counties, Ohio. There are color photographs of historical documents and real-time color photographs of places of interest from Cumberland County to Stark County. Included is an article on the route two of Joseph's brothers took from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania to Stark County, Ohio, in 1820. A diary kept by a traveling companion on that journey, their cousin, John Lefever, form the basis for that article. There is also an article about Joseph Tritt's family Bible which, again, includes color photographs of family registry pages from that Bible. Articles on mills built and operated by Joseph Tritt and his sons, along with color photographs, are also included. And so much more!

There are 240 pages of genealogical data spanning 230 years. If you are a descendant of Joseph Tritt (1786), you are quite possibly included in that genealogy data.

There is a section on family stories compiled by Joseph's descendants who had a story of interest to share. Some of these stories have great historical data, and some are unique, for example the story of Joseph Tritt's pet bear, a murder in the family, an article about the flying Wernitz duo, and many other stories about Joseph Tritt's descendants.

TFR strongly urges you to order your copy of Tritt Family History, Volume IV today. If you are a descendant of Joseph Tritt, and even if you are not, you will thoroughly enjoy reading this volume. It is both interesting and informative.

This volume sells for \$40, plus \$6 shipping via media mail or \$16 via priority mail. See the order form on page 13 for how to order.



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

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

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## STATUS OF TRITT FAMILY HISTORY VOLUME V

Volume V of Tritt Family History will be about Christian Tritt (1796-1871), the 9th child of Peter Tritt and Elizabeth Lefever. Christian lived all his life in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania and had a large family of 13 children. Many members of Tritt Family Research are descendants of Christian, his first wife Lydia Stough, and his second wife Frances Charlotte McCullough. Most of the first generation of his descendants remained in Cumberland County. Most of his sons were farmers and Christian helped them establish farms of their own. When he died, he left land and money to all his children. His family was well known in the county and many of his descendants still live in the area.

This volume will be dedicated to William Wayne Tritt, a direct descendant of Christian Tritt. Wayne was one of the founding members of Tritt Family Research and served faithfully for many years as treasurer of the organization. Many of you likely received hand-written notes from him if you purchased items or donated to the organization. The book will include a dedication to him as well as a wonderful autobiography that Wayne wrote later in his life.

Most of the major articles about Christian and his children are written and have been proofread by several people. The genealogy is also almost complete. TFR has been accumulating data for many years, building on what was gathered in the past by Christian Tritt's

children and the children of his second wife, Frances Charlotte McCullough. It was these two blended families that produced and published the 1906 Tritt Family Tree that many of you have or know about. The major task that remains is to bring some of the family lines up to date and organize all the data into the format that has been used in our previous volumes.

Since the Christian Tritt story is focused mainly in Cumberland County, one chapter will be about the county itself. Since the family was active in a number of Cumberland County churches, short histories of those are being written by Jeanette Miller. The story of the Tritt farms in the county is being written by Leonard Tritt. This part of the book has yet to be completed. Due to the covid pandemic, access to public records has been unavailable or restricted for over a year. It is hoped that this research will be able to be completed once records are more accessible again.

Most of our volumes in the past have included a section featuring descendants of note. These are short biographies about family members of note up to the present time. If you are a descendant of Christian Tritt and have a family member whom you think should be noted in this section, please contact Richard Tritt at [rn.tritt@centurylink.net](mailto:rn.tritt@centurylink.net).

## AN INVITATION TO THE 2022 TRITT REUNION, AUGUST 18-20, 2022

If you have never attended the Tritt Family Research Reunion, you are missing out on meeting an exceptional group of people. My name is Jane Ward, and I am the current President of Tritt Family Research. I started coming to the reunion about 20 years ago. My relation to the Tritts was through my paternal great-grandmother. Although my name isn't Tritt, I sure do feel close to this group of people.

The first time I came to the reunion with my husband, I didn't know anyone and was a little reluctant to meet the group. It only took about 5 minutes before we felt as if we had known them many years. I have been interested in genealogy for many years and wanted to learn more about my family. My husband came along, but never was interested in family research. He just came along for company. When we went back to our room that night, my husband said, "That is the nicest group of people I have ever met". So, even though he didn't participate in the research/editing part of the reunion, he joined in with the fellowship part. He found other things to do in Carlisle while I was busy, such as the Banner of Truth bookstore, the Army Heritage Center and the Carlisle Indian School. Some of these sites are no longer available.

The fact that some places are no longer open does not mean that there is nothing to do during the reunion. On Thursday evening we have a meet and greet with light refreshments. This year we talked so much the refreshments didn't get eaten. Friday morning is set

aside for work on editing books to get them ready for printing. This is a good time to explore the area for those not inclined in that area of expertise. But we get together for a carry-out lunch and a program in the afternoon. Next year's program will be a tour of the Cumberland County Historical Society Museum and new items in the Tritt family archives housed there. Friday evening, we are invited to the home of David and Robyn Tritt Wampler for dinner, including a traditional Swiss dessert of meringues with whipped cream and chocolate. We have our business meeting on Saturday morning, with a fond farewell until next year. So, the rest of the weekend is open for family activities.

You may wonder what there is to see and do in the area. The aforementioned Historical Society museum is the current location of the Jim Thorpe/ Indian School collection and you may also want to visit Georgie Lou's Retro Candy store while in downtown Carlisle. But as you get a little farther out, the opportunities for entertainment are endless. The King's Gap Environmental Education Center offers hiking, biking, and birding. Hershey offers the Antique Auto Museum, Hersheypark, Chocolate World and Hershey Gardens. Additionally, we are about 45 minutes from the Gettysburg Battlefield Park and an hour from Lancaster County with all its many activities. So, you can see that a visit to the Tritt Family Reunion can be an extended family vacation. Plan now to come August 18-20, 2022; we anxiously await meeting more family and friends.

# SYNOPSIS OF AUGUST 2021 MEETING

*Connie Tritt, Secretary, Carlisle, Pennsylvania*

The 43rd annual meeting of Tritt Family Research was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 19 through 21, 2021. Those in attendance were:

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Jaime Dritt of Blairstown, NJ       | Leonard and Connie Tritt of Carlisle, PA       |
| Jeanette Miller of Shippensburg, PA | Richard and Nancy Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA |
| Donald Tritt of Granville, OH       | Jane Ward of Delta, PA                         |
| Dwight Tritt of Boiling Springs, PA | Shawn Ward of Delta, PA                        |

Our numbers in attendance were low this year due to the effects of Covid-19; but those of us in attendance, were delighted to see each other after not having met in 2020. We may have been few in number, but we were strong in spirit!

Our meeting on Friday was held at the Two Mile House on the Walnut Bottom Road in Carlisle which everyone enjoyed the change in venue and room to spread out. The morning session was devoted to proofreading drafts of Volumes V and VI of Tritt Family History.

Following lunch, Jane spoke about new information she had on Jacob Dritt and his military service and later as a Revolutionary War prisoner of war incarcerated in New York City.

Richard told us about Nicholas Howard who has a stump/branch on the 1906 family tree. Howard is a half-brother of Peter Tritt (1755). He is the son of the second wife of Hans Peter Tritt (1715) when she remarried a Howard after the death of Hans Peter Tritt. Richard told stories of David Lewis, a/k/a Lewis the Robber, or Pennsylvania's Robin Hood, who was born on Hanover Street in Carlisle on March 4, 1790 and who was captured and died in jail in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania on July 13, 1820. See an article in this newsletter on page 7 about Nicholas Howard and his friend, David Lewis.

In the evening, we met at the new home of Dave and Robyn Wampler in Carlisle for a delicious meal prepared by Robyn.

On Saturday morning, we met in the meeting room of the Country Inn & Suites in Carlisle.

Donald has been corresponding with Friedrich Tritt in Stuttgart, Germany about Swiss migration records from 1650-1750 that he and Harold Hegyessy had hoped to view in a visit years ago to the German archives housed in Stuttgart. At that time, Donald and Harold were told that these files were not available for viewing. These files are now available for viewing. In the summer of 2020, Donald had planned to travel to Stuttgart to visit the archive along with Friedrich to view the hundreds of pages of documents pertaining to Tritts. This meeting, unfortunately, did not occur due to the 2020 pandemic; but Friedrich has been able to obtain more information and is submitting it to Donald after translation. Donald is hopeful that Friedrich will be able to go to the archive and view the documents and do research on their common family line.

Most of the meeting was taken up with discussing the writing, proofing and printing of Volumes V and VI of Tritt Family History.

A new slate of officers was approved, as follows:

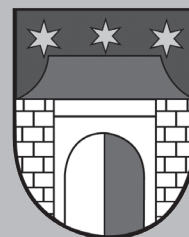
|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| President          | Jane S. Ward     |
| 1st Vice President | Richard L. Tritt |
| 2nd Vice President | Jamie L. Dritt   |
| Treasurer          | Dwight A. Tritt  |
| Secretary          | Connie J. Tritt  |

The 44th annual meeting of Tritt Family Research will be held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 18 to 20, 2022. We are looking forward to a larger group in 2022!

## NEXT MEETING OF TRITT FAMILY RESEARCH AUGUST 18 - 20, 2022 IN CARLISLE, PA

For information about the meeting, contact:

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When I was asked to write an article about my father, Clair S. Tritt, for the newsletter, I thought long and hard about what the theme of the article should be. As Labor Day approached it became clear to me that I should write about Clair's work ethic and various labors during his lifetime, because he was the hardest working man that I have ever known. While he was still in high school, he took various part-time and summer jobs to keep busy. Upon his graduation in 1939, he initially worked with his father operating a car dealership. However, after being challenged to enter the military service, he joined the United States Navy and served honorably from 1941 until his discharge in 1945 at the end of World War II. While in the Navy he attended electrical school in San Diego, California. Returning home, he became a self-employed electrician, a skill he put to use for many years afterward doing electrical work in and around Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Later in 1945, he took a full-time position as a lineman with the United Telephone Company for a short time. In 1946, he left the phone company to begin a civilian career with the U.S. government at the Mechanicsburg Naval Supply Depot. While working full time at that position, he decided to open a business of his own selling, installing, and servicing fire extinguishers. He then devoted his evenings and weekends to running the fire extinguisher business in a garage located behind his home. This, of course, was in addition to his regular 40 hours a week day job. In his free time, he served as a volunteer fireman and relief driver for a local fire company, served as a fire policeman for the Borough of Carlisle, and worked as a deputy sheriff for Cumberland County. In 1973, Clair retired from the Naval Supply Depot and became the full-time operator of



his fire extinguisher business, which had expanded to the point where he required additional workers. He operated that business until it was sold in 1997. However, at the age of 77, Clair still wasn't ready to retire. He learned the knife sharpening trade and opened up another shop in that same garage behind his home. For the next 18 years he spent his time sharpening knives, scissors, mower blades and anything else that required a sharp edge. Clair was well known for sharing his sense of humor with his customers as well as his quick and very reasonably priced service. He continued doing this work until health issues arose in 2016 and Clair finally closed up his shop at the age of 97. He eventually passed away in January 2020 at 99 ½ years of age, leaving behind him a legacy of hard work and dedication as an inspiration to all who knew him.

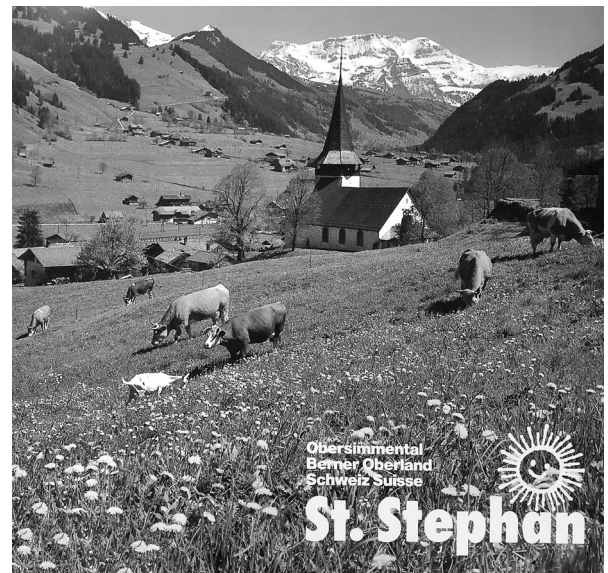
## ST. STEPHAN CHURCH POSTER

Donald Tritt has procured the reproduction rights to a poster of the St. Stephan Church in the village of Ried, Switzerland. Donald had ten reproductions of the poster made and gave them to Tritt Family Research for sale. The posters are ready to frame, showing the church and the Alps in the background.

The St. Stephan church is the ancestral church of Tritten/Tritt/Dritt descendants found around the world. A church has existed here since before 1228 becoming an official parish in 1430. About 1525, this church adopted the Reformation. Major construction of the present church occurred in the 1400s, the latter 1600s, and 1778.

St. Stephan is the name given to an area comprised of several villages. St. Stephan church lies in the village of Ried, located in the Obersimmental (upper Simme River valley), about 30 miles (50 km) south of Thun, Switzerland within sight of the high Alps. Farther south, at the upper end of this valley, is the town of Lenk. A 12 hour walk over the Rawyl Pass of the Wildhorn massif leads to Lac de Tseuzier on the Mediterranean side of the Alps. It is believed Tritten/Tritts in the Simmental first arrived by traversing the Rawyl Pass.

The 20" x 20" color poster is accompanied with a writing of the background history of the church. The cost of the poster is \$20. This



is a limited item. When the posters are all sold, this item will no longer be available. See the order form on page 11 of this newsletter to place your order.

# SEARCHING FOR MOSES

One thing we learn from genealogy is how intertwined people's lives are with others. While the focus of Tritt Family Research (TFR) is on the Tritts, we can see how our ancestors' lives and decisions impacted others in their communities. This concept was brought home to me during a recent visit to the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, also known as the Dritt Mansion. On Monday, August 23, several members of TFR were invited to the Dritt Mansion by Sara Knudson, a Visitors Service Representative at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage. This visit provided an opportunity for both Sara and TFR to share and to learn information about Jacob Dritt (1746) and other members of his household.

One member of this household was an enslaved person known only as Moses, around whom Sara has centered her research. Previously, Moses had only been known to TFR by a brief reference in Jacob Dritt's will. The will was written in 1815 and stated, "To Negro Moses my late servant I give twenty dollars to buy him a suit of clothes." (A transcription of the entire will is available in Tritt Family History: Volume I on pages 44-45.) Sara's research uncovered a purchase document for Moses; Jacob Dritt purchased him on March 5, 1795, from the estate of the late John Laird, a local distiller in York County. According to the purchase document, Jacob Dritt paid "Eighty pounds lawfull Money of Pennsylvania." Moses was about 10 years old at the

time of purchase, and he came to the Dritt household alone. Moses probably grew up around Jacob Dritt's youngest sons who were close to his age (i.e., John, abt. 1786 and Henry, abt. 1791). It is possible that he was trained to be Jacob Dritt's assistant, perhaps running errands and traveling with him on business.

During Moses's enslavement, the Gradual Abolition Act of 1780 was in effect. This act made Pennsylvania the first state to pass legislation for the emancipation of enslaved people. The act declared that any enslaved child born after the passage of the act would be freed upon reaching the age of twenty-eight. It also required enslaved people to be registered; those not registered would be freed. In light of the Gradual Abolition Act of 1780, Jacob Dritt's bequest to Moses of \$20 for clothes was significant; this clothing would show Moses's status as a free man. Moses would have turned 28 years old around 1813. Tax, census, and court records indicate that Moses remained in York County until at least 1821.

Court records also indicate that Moses fought a legal battle against the executors of Jacob Dritt's will to receive his bequest. The will was written in 1815, and Jacob Dritt drowned in the Susquehanna River in 1817. Will disbursements from Jacob Dritt's estate occurred between

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Jacob Dritt's Purchase of "Negro Moses", March 5, 1795

*Know* all men by these presents That I William Ross Administrator of all and singular the Goods & Chattell Rights and Credits of John Laird late of York County deceased for and in Consideration of Eighty pounds lawfull Money of Pennsylvania to one in hand paid by Jacob Dritt of Windsor Township, the Receipt whereof I do hereby Acknowledge & thereof Aquit & discharge the said Jacob Dritt his Executors Admins by these presents Have given granted bargained & Sold and delivered unto the said Jacob Dritt a certain Negro named Moses Aged about Ten Years and upwards as a Slave until he Arrives at the Age of Twenty eight Years Together with all the Estate Right Full Interest and Claim of the said John Laird deceased in and to the said Negro Moses To Have and to Hold unto the said Jacob Dritt his Executors Administrators & Assigns And I the said William Ross as Adminsitrator of the said John Laird, shall & will by these presents Warrant & Defend the Negro Moses to be a Slave until he arrives at the Age of Twenty eight Years & against all persons Claiming or to Claim by from or under the said John Laird deceased, In Witness whereof I hereunto set my Hand & Seal this 5th March 1795.

*William Ross* (seal)

Sealed & Delivered in presents of us  
Ja Smith. G Smith.

Before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the County Court of Common Pleas Come within named William Ross who Acknowledges the due Execution of the within Bill of Sale & desired the same might be admitted of Record, Witness my Hand & Seal this 6th March 1795

*Saml Edie* (seal)



1820 and 1829. According to the disbursement accounts, \$10 were paid to Adam Klinefelter on Moses's behalf. However, it is unclear why Moses received only half of the intended bequest; Sara suggested that the economic panic of 1819 may have impacted the disbursement of the will. It is also unclear why Adam Klinefelter became Moses's representative in this matter.

Unfortunately, evidence of Moses in York County disappears after 1821. Sara mentioned that some of the early tax and census records for York County are missing, and Moses does not appear on the Slaves and Free Persons of Color Registers. Sara was able to locate the name Moses Henry Truitt in Delaware. While not a definitive connection to Moses, it's interesting to note how close "Truitt" is to "Dritt" and "Tritt," and how the middle name "Henry" is the same as that of Jacob Dritt's youngest son. Could this be the same Moses? During that era,

it was common for enslaved people to adopt the family names of their owners or similar names. It is also interesting to note that the part of York County where Moses lived was just north of the Mason-Dixon Line and in walking distance of Underground Railroad stations in nearby Wrightsville. Is it possible that Moses helped enslaved people cross the Susquehanna River to freedom? Why did Moses seem to disappear around 1821? Hopefully, the continued search for information about Moses will answer these questions.

While I was saddened to learn that Jacob Dritt purchased and owned another human being, I'm so glad that at least part of Moses's story is now being told. As we learn and tell stories about our own family, we have the opportunity to uncover stories that should be told about others. Hopefully, TFR can have a role in sharing more of Moses's story as details are uncovered.

by Donald G. Tritt, Granville, OH

## CONSCRIPTED BY NAPOLEON

In 1805-06, Napoleon's forces began occupation of the duchy of Württemberg in southwestern Germany. Recognizing the strength of Napoleon's forces, Duke Frederick-William III offered little resistance. Instead, he agreed to enter an alliance with Napoleon to provide 20,000 men and to replace any losses in battle. For this cooperation, Napoleon recognized Württemberg as a Kingdom and on January 1, 1806, proclaimed the Duke as "Friedrich I, King of Württemberg." During the French occupation, farmers in the municipality of Holzgerlingen, using their own horses and carts, were required to provide food and supplies to the French troops.

In early May 1810, Napoleon conscripted fifteen recruits from Holzgerlingen for military service in his pending 1812 invasion of Russia. One of these recruits was 24-year-old, Conrad Tritt, born 20 September 1785, son of the tailor, Johann Heinrich Tritt (1752-1817). Conrad left immediately with little time to say goodbye to his family or to marry his fiancée. Conrad never saw his son Jakob, born 24 February 1811. Jakob lived his entire life in Holzgerlingen, where he married in 1839, had two children, Katharina Barbara, and Jakob, born 1844. This Jakob, who died in 1894, is a great-grandfather of Friedrich Jakob Tritt (1949-), resident of Waldenbuch, Germany.

On 24 June 1812, about 500,000 men of Napoleon's Grande Armée, the largest army assembled up to that point in European history, crossed the border into Russia and headed toward Moscow. Only half of these troops were from France, the others being mainly Germans and Poles.

On 7 September 1812, French forces engaged the Russian army in Borodino, a small town 70 miles (115 km) west of Moscow. The Battle of Borodino that followed was the largest and bloodiest battle of the Napoleonic Wars, involving more than 250,000 soldiers, resulting in 70,000 deaths of Napoleon's forces killed in a single day.<sup>1</sup>

Eugene Tarle describes Napoleon's preparation for invading Russia, saying "Between 1807 and 1812, the 'Grand Empire' (France) became an insatiable monster extracting a 'blood tribute' in the form of conscripted recruits. Napoleon boasted of having lost 'no more than 50,000 real Frenchmen in the Russian campaign' – the remaining hundreds of thousands were Germans, Italians, Dutchmen, Poles, Spaniards, Dalmatians, and other nationalities."<sup>2</sup>

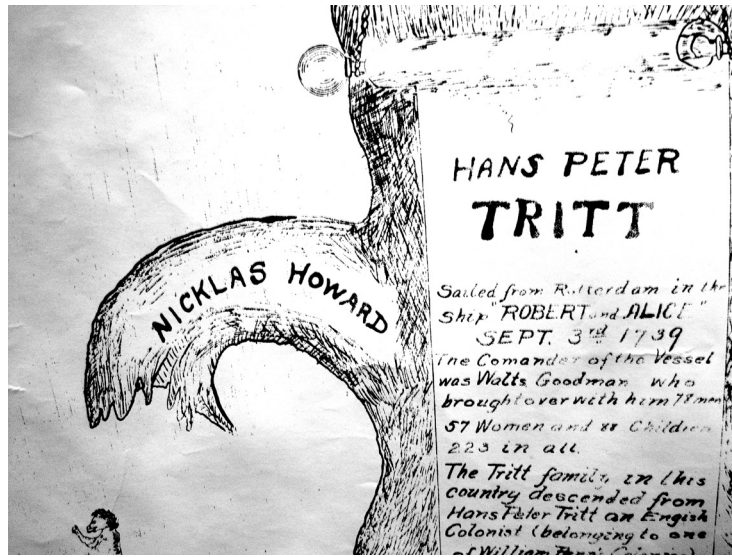
Approximately 15,000 young men from Württemberg lost their lives in the Russian campaign. None of the fifteen from Holzgerlingen survived. The date and location of Conrad's death in Russia is unknown. The occupation of Russia lasted less than six months, and ended 12 December 1812. The war in Europe continued for two more years. In 1814, Napoleon's army collapsed, followed by his first abdication.

### Source

1. Eugene Tarle. *Napoleon's Invasion of Russia, 1812*. New York: Oxford University Press. 1942. Pages 187-204.
2. *Ibid.* page 406.

# NICHOLAS HOWARD

I stumbled upon the name of Nicholas Howard, also known as Nicklas Howard, when doing a search on the website "newspapers.com." I was looking for articles about Samuel Tritt, a son of Peter Tritt (1755-1829), when an article came up about a court case of Crotzer vs. Samuel Tritt. Samuel Tritt was described as "the son of a half-brother of Mr. Howard." So that meant that Nicholas Howard was a half-brother of Peter Tritt, who moved from York County to Cumberland County after the Revolutionary War, c. 1780.



Tree branch for Nicholas Howard on the 1906 Tritt Family Tree.

Nicholas Howard was a name that was familiar to me. There is a broken branch on the lower left side of the 1906 Tritt Family Tree that lists Nicholas Howard as one of the children of Hans Peter Tritt. I also remembered that Lydia Bell Duncan in her Tritt Family notebook had described the children of Hans Peter Tritt and his wife Maria Barbara Dellinger that are shown on the family tree. She wrote that Powel Tritt (Paul), Joseph Tritt and Mrs. Goss (Maria Barbara) were her grandfather Tritt's (Peter) brothers and sisters. Jacob Tritt (Dritt) and Nicholas Howard were half-brothers of her grandfather Tritt (Peter).

Hans Peter Tritt (1715-1768), the immigrant, was married twice. His first wife was Catharine Bechtel with whom he had four children. Catharine died young, and Hans Peter married Maria Barbara Dellinger with whom he had five children. She was still fairly young, aged 34, when Hans Peter died in 1768. After his death, she married Michael Howard and they had a son named John Nicholas Howard, born about 1774. Maria Barbara died in 1776, when her son was just a young child.

Nicholas Howard apparently remained in contact with his Tritt half-brothers and sisters. He moved to Cumberland County around the same time as his half-brother Peter and his wife Elizabeth Tritt (c. 1780). Nicholas lived in Mifflin Township. In 1797 he had been one of the petitioners to form Mifflin Township. When the 1798 glass tax was taken, he was living in a log house in Newton Township. The two-story section was 19 x 16 feet with an attached one-story wing that was 19 x 23 feet. In the 1800 Census he was living in Newton Township and was listed as a wagon maker, the same occupation as his half-brother, Peter Tritt.

It appears that Nicholas Howard went to Ohio at some point. He

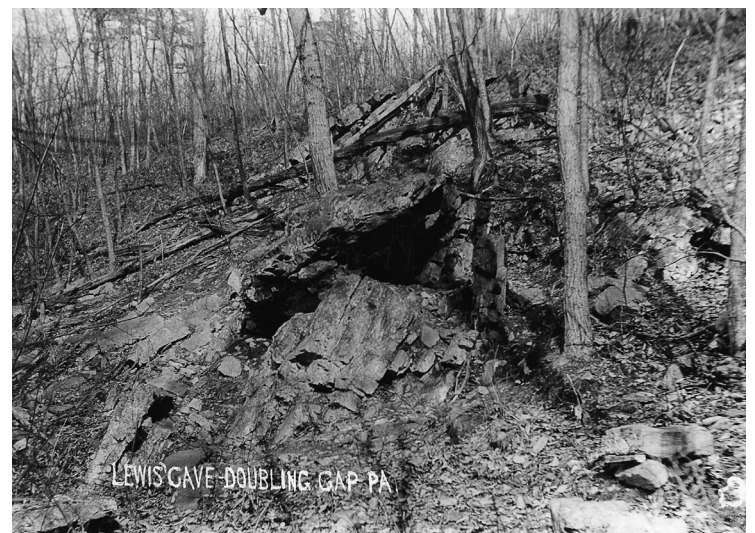
served there in the War of 1812. We know that several Tritts had moved to Ohio, including Joseph who settled there in 1813. Joseph was a son of Howard's half-brother, Peter Tritt. During the war, Nicholas was first a private in the 1st Regiment (McDonald's) and later a private in the 2nd Regiment (Willet's) of the Ohio Militia.

After the war, Nicholas returned to the Newville area. On July 25, 1816, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of Newville. She had two children from a previous marriage. In

the 1820 Census he was in Newton Township. There were four males and one female listed in his household. He later owned a farm in Newton Township, 2 miles west of Newville that he sold to Daniel Derr in 1835.

In the summer, Nicholas kept the hotel at Doubling Gap in the North Mountain. It was a popular summer resort, built in 1803. Nicholas was a good friend of the generous outlaw David Lewis, known as Lewis the Robber. Lewis had a cave in the mountain from where he could see the hotel. When the coast was clear, Nicholas would hang a white flag out an upper window that was visible from the cave and

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View of Lewis the Robber's Cave in the mountain at Doubling Gap, c. 1910. Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pa.



Lewis would come down and he and a few of the neighbors would gather for a night of fun at his expense. When dangerous persons or the law were around, he would stay in his cave, but he had to receive frequent supplies from someone who knew the location of the cave. Nicholas was likely one of his suppliers. Lewis hid from justice in this cave during the years 1816-20. Lewis was eventually captured and died in the Bellefonte, Pennsylvania jail on July 13, 1820.

It is pure conjecture at this point, but Nicholas may have been related to David Lewis, a.k.a. Lewis the Robber. Peter Tritt had a son named Jacob who married Susannah Albert. They had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married James Lewis. It is possible that James Lewis (1802-1875) could have been related to David Lewis who was born in Carlisle in 1790 and died in 1820.

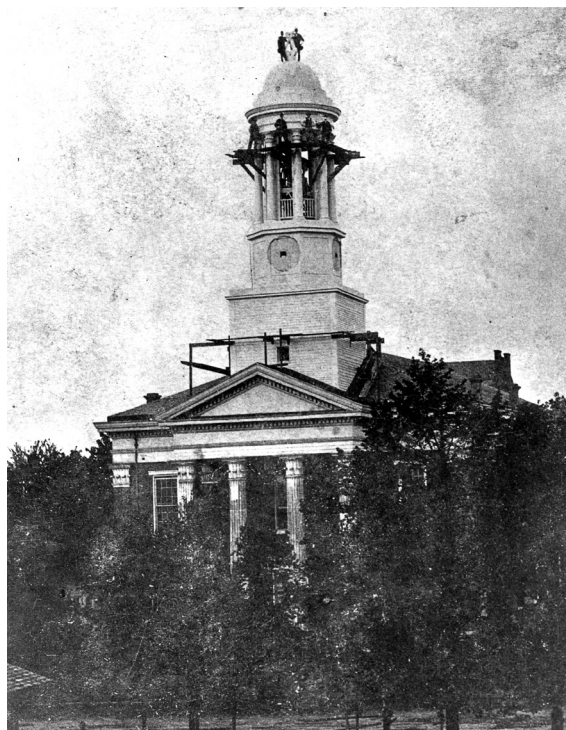
It is also known that in 1813-1815, Lewis the Robber was associated with a gang of several robbers who were named Connelly, Parkhurst and Howard. Their first names are unknown.

When the 1830 Census was taken, Nicholas Howard was living in Newville. There were two males and two females in the household. Nicholas had a wagon-making business in the town, one of Newville's early businesses.

Nicholas Howard died on November 18, 1847, at the age of 83 and is buried in the Big Spring Presbyterian Church Graveyard. Buried next to him is Elizabeth Howard, "consort of Nicholas Howard", who died January 17, 1845. George Knettle of Mifflin Township was the administrator of Howard's will.

His estate was settled in 1849. An inventory was made after his death and there was a vendue, a public auction of his personal property. The inventory is dated July 2, 1849, and includes a family Bible, 1 testament, 1 psalm book, other books, a table, 2 chairs, a chest, 2 quilts, bedding and clothing. His vendue was held June 26, 1849. Items sold included bedding, clothing and books. Peter Howard (a relative?) bought the family Bible. James Lewis bought most of the bedding and the testament. James Lewis was the husband of Elizabeth Tritt, a daughter of Jacob Tritt, who was a brother of Major Samuel Tritt.

When Nicholas Howard married Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, she had two children to her first marriage. One of the children was named Elizabeth (born c. 1831) and she and her two children lived with Nicholas and



Cumberland County Court House, c. 1865. It was in the courtroom of this building that the Howard case was heard. Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pa.

Elizabeth Howard in their house near Newville. After Nicholas Howard died, she married William E. Crotzer. She died on August 29, 1903, and is also buried in the Big Spring Presbyterian Cemetery in Newville.

Several years after Nicholas Howard died, a court case was held on January 14-18, 1850, at the Cumberland County Courthouse in Carlisle. The case was William E. Crotzer, his wife Elizabeth, and her children, against Major Samuel Tritt. Samuel Tritt was holding money given to him by Nicholas Howard in 1847. Howard was a half-brother of Samuel Tritt's father (Peter Tritt). Samuel transacted Howard's business for him because he was getting old and feeble. Howard had given him the money to avoid paying the 5% collateral inheritance tax upon his death. He had disposed of his property and placed about \$1,800 in the hands of Samuel Tritt, and another amount in the hands

of a man named Jacob Zeigler. Nicholas Howard died on November 4, 1847.

After Nicholas Howard's death, Samuel denied the trust. He claimed that the money that he held was to be for him and his heirs after Howard's death. He claimed that he had given Howard value for his money, and it was his own. His defense was that the trust was for the heirs of the Tritt family. Crotzer claimed that Samuel Tritt had promised Nicholas Howard on his death bed that the money was to be used for Lizzie's children (his step-grandchildren) and Lizzie's brother, Howard Smith, who was deaf and dumb. The money was to be given to them on Nicholas' death.

Witnesses at the trial included Samuel Tritt's brothers, Peter, John and William K. Tritt, and a Mrs. Tritt. Samuel's brothers testified against him. They said that their brother Samuel had told them that their "Uncle Howard" had left nothing to the Tritt family.

Samuel Tritt was found guilty and ordered to pay \$1,734.85 to Crotzer and his wife Elizabeth. The amount was not set at \$1,800 because Samuel had paid a note of \$60 for Howard when he was still alive, and he had also paid \$42 for his funeral expenses after his death.

The case was heard again in May of 1850 by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in Harrisburg. They agreed with the county court's verdict. Samuel paid the money to the Crotzers in July and December of 1850. This case probably caused some contention in the Tritt family among the children of Peter Tritt. Brothers testifying against a brother likely left a rift which remained in the family for some time.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Dwight A. Tritt, Treasurer, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Checking Account Balance July 31, 2019 .....  | \$15,116.16 |
| Income Received .....                         | \$10,169.25 |
| .....   | \$25,285.41 |
| Expenses Paid.....                            | \$11,856.31 |
| Checking Account Balance August 3, 2021 ..... | \$13,429.10 |

## INCOME:

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Merchandise Sale .....             | \$206.00           |
| Merchandise Shipping .....         | \$10.00            |
| Book Sales .....                   | \$975.25           |
| Book Shipping.....                 | \$139.00           |
| Patron Donations – Volume IV ..... | \$5,750.00         |
| Patron Donations – Volume V .....  | \$645.00           |
| Donations – Dritt Cemetery.....    | \$370.00           |
| General Donations .....            | \$2,074.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>           | <b>\$10,169.25</b> |

## EXPENSES:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Administration and Supplies .....                    | \$88.93            |
| Newsletter Printing and Scanning .....               | \$1,050.46         |
| Newsletter Mailing.....                              | \$378.54           |
| Website Hosting .....                                | \$347.84           |
| Website Updates.....                                 | \$450.00           |
| Tritt site and Tritt.org Expenses .....              | \$381.84           |
| Patron Donor Request Letter (printing/ mailing)..... | \$333.06           |
| TFR Volume IV Printing.....                          | \$7,366.52         |
| TFR Volume IV Patron Donor Book Mailing .....        | \$450.00           |
| TFR Volume IV Graphic Design .....                   | \$1,009.12         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>                           | <b>\$11,856.31</b> |

## BREAKDOWN OF ASSETS:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Checking Account Balance .....                       | \$13,429.10 |
| Funds Designated as Patron Donors for Volume V ..... | \$3,945.00  |
| Funds Designated for Dritt Cemetery.....             | \$370.00    |

AVAILABLE FUNDS ..... \$9,114.10

## TFR DONATIONS – August 2019 to July 2021

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Jean Kelso Alaniz              | Yorkville, IL       |
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| June Tritt                     | Sycamore, IL        |
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| Richard & Nancy Tritt          | Boiling Springs, PA |
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| David & Robyn (Tritt) Wampler  | Carlisle, PA        |
| Holly & Harvey Wamsley         | Taylorsville, UT    |
| Jane Ward                      | Delta, PA           |
| Shawn Ward                     | Delta, PA           |
| Gary L. Wegner                 | Vancouver, WA       |
| Virginia Williams              | Omaha, NE           |
| Samuel Williams                | Brookfield, CT      |

Tritt Family Research is very much dependent on receiving donations from individuals and families in order to meet the costs of operating the organization. Funds are required for administrative costs, newsletter printing and mailing, website expenses and publishing new volumes of Tritt Family History. Printing our six volumes of Tritt Family History is very costly. Accordingly, we must plan for and accumulate the funds necessary to cover these costs of publication. We realize that monetary decisions are important for all of us and that it is not always easy to find extra funds to contribute to organizations like ours. We have appreciated and are grateful for the generosity of all of those who have donated in the past; but, whether or not you have donated before, we ask that you help sustain the work of Tritt Family Research. Your contributions may be sent to TFR Treasurer, Dwight Tritt, at the address listed below, with your check payable to "Tritt Family Research". Thank you for your support.

Dwight A. Tritt  
7 Southern Cross Drive  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9789

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Volume V of Tritt Family History is about Christian Tritt (1796-1871), the 9th child of Peter Tritt and Elizabeth Lefever. Christian lived all his life in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania and had a large family of 13 children. Many members of Tritt Family Research are descendants of Christian, his first wife Lydia Stough, and his second wife Frances Charlotte McCullough. Most of the first generation of his descendants remained in Cumberland County. Most of his sons were farmers and Christian helped them establish farms of their own. When he died, he left land and money to all his children. His family was well known in the county and many of his descendants still live in the area.

Volume VI of Tritt family history and genealogy spans 450 years and follows a migratory route starting with four generations living in the ancestral village of St. Stephan, Canton Bern, Switzerland, then three generations living in the vicinity of Stuttgart, Germany, one generation back in Switzerland, followed by four generations across the Atlantic in America. Chapters will include an account of Early Life in the Obersimmental and Swiss Cultural Life in America.

Printing costs for our Tritt Family History volumes have been about \$10,000. We cannot print our books without the money to pay for it. We truly appreciate donations received for both volumes. But we stress to all our supporters that more funds are needed to get them ready to print. We will gratefully accept donations of any amount toward this cause if Patron Donor levels are not feasible.

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Date and place of death -

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Date and place of death -

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