

# W E L C O M E

**G**ettysburg, Pennsylvania is a town embedded in our country's history. Did you know that your family's American history can be traced here as well? You are receiving this letter because you are a direct descendant of one of three remarkable brothers named Codori. They called Gettysburg home before, during, and after the unfortunate battle took place.

**Nicholas** was only 19 years old when he and his brother **George**, 22, left their home in Hottviller, France for America. The year was 1828. They left behind their recently widowed father, six siblings, and countless friends and family. We don't know what compelled them to leave or how they decided to settle in Gettysburg, PA. We do, however, have a good idea of what happened in the ensuing years. We know, for instance, that within a decade, both brothers were married and had growing families of their own; they had bought homes and were enjoying success as business owners. We also know that their peaceful lives in Gettysburg stood in stark contrast to the unrest endured by their loved ones in Hottviller. The French village of their birth had by this time become a part of Germany, amid violent border conflicts that took a toll on its citizens.

Perhaps this is why, in the spring of 1850, their eldest brother, **Anthony** decided to leave Hottviller and join them in America. He and his wife, Madeleine, both in their mid-50's, boarded a ship bound for the Port of New York. Their most precious cargo was their five children, including a married daughter, her husband, and their newborn baby. They arrived in Gettysburg in August of that year, having already paid a dear price for their new life. Their infant grandchild died en route and was buried at sea.

Nicholas lived in town at 44 York Street. By 1854, as the wealthiest butcher in the region, he bought a 273-acre tenant farm on the outskirts of town where he raised cattle for his business. The farm, still known today as "The Codori Farm," was destined to become ground zero for Pickett's Charge and is one of the battlefield's best known landmarks. One of the founding members of St. Francis Xavier Church, Nicholas offered his York Street home for Mass while the church served as a hospital from the time of the battle until January of 1864.

Tragically, in 1863, 54-year-old George was one of nine Gettysburg area civilians seized by the Confederate army during the battle. He was carried off to a southern prison camp where he was imprisoned for nearly two years; he died three days after his return home in 1865. In 1994, his imprisonment was memorialized with a new gravestone recognizing this dark event in our country's and family's history.

Today, generations later, Gettysburg is still home to many family members. Shops and businesses still bear the name Codori and still more are owned and operated by Codori descendants. A visit to Gettysburg is a visit to your family home.

For more than eight decades, the descendants of Nicholas, George and Anthony have come together to reconnect as family, to introduce new family, to learn about the past, enjoy each other's company, and grow our relationships. We would love for you to join us.

Welcome to the family!