

**Grotz/Krotz/Cruz/Cruts Families**

**of Early**

**Northampton, PA**

**Sussex/Warren, NJ**

**Cayuga/Tompkins, NY**

by Mary Ann Schaefer

last update

June 27, 2013

## Acknowledgments and Contact

I want to thank my third cousin, J. L. McCarty, whose untiring interest and collaboration in researching this line has helped to make our research fun and our breakthroughs possible.



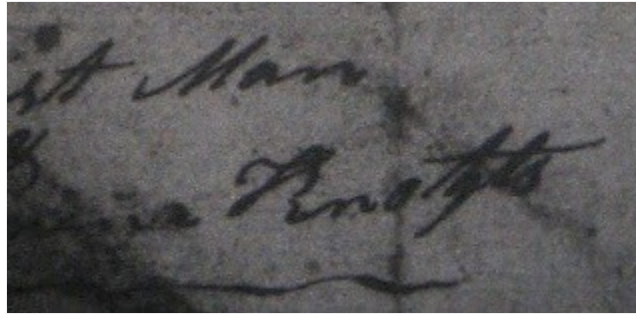
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Please contact Mary Ann Schaefer at [genealojist@gmail.com](mailto:genealojist@gmail.com) with comments or questions about this article. My family tree with source documentation is available on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). Updated research information can be found at my website [www.yesteryours.net/Mannidx.html](http://www.yesteryours.net/Mannidx.html), which also provides a link to my research blog.

## Introduction

From the day we found the marriage record on ancestry.com saying that my 4<sup>th</sup> g-grandfather Earnest Mann married Catharina Knofts in 1797 in Sussex, New Jersey the brick wall appeared. When we could find no trace of the Knofts name, it wasn't hard to suspect that a transcription error had been made. After a visit to the New Jersey State Archives, I was able to locate the original marriage records, recorded by John Cline, the Justice of the Peace:



It sure does look like Knofts, doesn't it? And on the same page are marriages of two other Knofts women, Mary and Dorothea, and the Knofts surname looks just the same. Hmmm. So not a transcription error.

Then we were able to locate the Bible belonging to Earnest Mann, which seemed almost too good to be true. But what did we find? A giant ink blot over Catherine's maiden name. No way! About the only thing that could be determined was that the maiden name seemed relatively short based on the size of the ink blot, and the name appeared to start with a "C" and end with "ts".

Next I poured over deeds in Sussex County, New Jersey. One in particular jumped out, that being a deed from John Summers<sup>1</sup> granting 414 acres to Andreas Crutz Sr. It seemed like that surname might meet the search criteria. And then it got better. In 1802, Mr. Crutz sold half that land to Abram Fangboner, the husband of Mary Knofts. But try as I might, I could make no connection between this Andrew Crutz and my 4<sup>th</sup> g-grandmother Catharine.

Meanwhile, I posted on a forum asking for help with the subject "Crutz/Creutz/Cruts Etc. On Scotts Mountain". The person who replied knew a lot about researching in Sussex County, and mentioned seeing references to Andrew Crutz of Northampton County, PA. She suggested contacting the Marx Room at the Easton Public Library, which I did. But there were so many spelling variations, it was impossible to know which, if any, might apply to the Andrew Crutz in Oxford, NJ. But after several months, it finally dawned on me that I had never actually searched ancestry.com databases for these Crutz name variations in PA – only in NJ. So I started searching Northampton records in the new ancestry database, [Pennsylvania, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985](#), and what I found made my

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<sup>1</sup> John Summers was selling the estate of his father, my 6<sup>th</sup> g-grandfather George Summers, who died in 1785. John was the brother of my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother, Maria Magdalena Summers who married Ernst Menge (aka Mann). Ernst and Maria were the parents of Ernest Mann Jr., effectively the grandson of George Summers, who would marry Andrew Crutz's daughter Catharina in 1797.

heart skip: a Confirmation for Dorothea<sup>2</sup>, daughter of Andreas Krotz in 1786, and another for Catharina, daughter of same in 1790. Finally, the connection I was looking for between the Andrew Crutz who bought my Summers ancestor's land on Scott's Mountain and my mystery Catharine Cxxts who married my ancestor Ernest Mann. Add to that Catharina's age which was recorded at the date of confirmation matches perfectly with what we believe to be Catharine Mann's birth year.

So I just had to go back and look again at that marriage record penned by John Cline. After having recently spent some amount of time staring hard at old German script, I started to recognize better what is actually there in the marriages recorded by John Cline. The letter after the "K" is not an "N", it is an "R". The end of the word seems to clearly be "TS", but what is that preceding descender letter? We have thought all along it was an "F" partly because ancestry.com transcribed it that way, and partly because we have to agree that it looks that way. But it is not an "F". It is a "Z". In fact, the Germans had a special character to represent "TZ", which is why it appears that a "T" precedes the "Z". John Cline wrote the surname Krotzts, where he was using all the letters he could to represent the sound "TZ". He wrote it not once, but three times very neatly on the same page. We just couldn't read it. For three years!

One can see in examining the Lutheran church records in Northampton that in the early days, the name was spelled GROTZ ("G" sounds like "K" in German) and later KROTZ. By the time Andreas moved to Oxford, he spelled it CRUTZ, which I am guessing was the Anglican way to spell it. And from the looks of the descendant names that remained in New Jersey through the mid-1800's, the name morphed once more into CRUTS and CRUTTS. And the name inscribed in the Mann Bible is almost certainly CRUTS as the Bible was purchased in 1832 and the names were inscribed after that time.

Now that we know our 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother's name, Catharina Cruts, the task has been to learn more about her family. Because I am descended from the line of Andrew Grotz, this document reports the most detail for that line. I do have some additional documentation and details that refer to the lines of Andrew's siblings. Please contact me by email to inquire about any additional details you are interested in.

Finally, a word to the wise. This document is a summary of my findings, but *most of those findings are preliminary*, which is to say, research is ongoing at this time and I continue to look for sources that can solidify some of the conclusions being suggested in this document. I must caution the reader to tread carefully with this material, and I welcome feedback and discussion. This document will be updated as new information comes to light.

MAS, June 2013

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2 Dorothy was known to be a sister of Catharine.

## Overview

**Jacob Grotz, Sr.** was born around 1715 in what is thought to be Germany, and settled with his wife Elizabeth, two sons, Andrew and Jacob Jr., and daughter Elizabeth in Easton, Northampton, Pennsylvania. Jacob Sr.'s arrival date is still a matter of investigation, but his children were apparently born in Pennsylvania in the 1740's and early 1750's. The earliest record we currently have of Jacob Sr. is 1772 when he acquired Lot Number 62 in Easton from Richard Penn. All three Grotz men were documented in early Easton census' as carpenters. The maiden name of Jacob Sr.'s wife Elizabeth is thought to be something like Schaffbuch. We don't have any other information about her except that she is recorded as the wife of Jacob Sr. in some church records of St. John's Lutheran Church in Easton where they attended. Jacob Sr. died in 1803. He left a will that named all three of his children, and a summary of their lives follows.

**Andrew Grotz** is thought to be the older of the two Grotz brothers by virtue of records showing that Andrew was married while Jacob Jr. was still a single man. Andrew, referred to in this article as Andrew Sr. and also sometimes referred to as Andreas, was married to Maria Barbara, whose maiden name is still unknown. St. John's church records tell us about seven of their children, and I have surmised the names of two more and believe at least one other child might have been born to them.

There are Revolutionary military records for an Andrew Grotz who served for Pennsylvania in the early 1780s, but I have not yet determined if those records belong to this person.

Whereas his father and brother had lots within the town of Easton, Andrew had 153 acres along the Delaware River in Forks township. We know that Andrew lived in Forks until about 1793 when deed records indicate that he sold his land in Forks and soon after acquired land in Oxford, Sussex, New Jersey. Other New Jersey deeds which mention both Andrew and his wife Barbara are found as late as 1828. So far, we have no other record of what became of either Andrew or Barbara, but it is assumed they both died in New Jersey.

Here are the children I have so far attributed to Andrew and Barbara Grotz. All were born in PA, and the location where they died is notated at the end of each line in parentheses.

1. Elisabeth (dates unk), marital status unk
2. Jacob (1766-1855) + Catharine Snyder (NY)
3. Susanna (1768-1861) + Georg Moser (PA)
4. Andrew (1770-1850) + Sarah Elizabeth (NJ)
5. Dorothea (1772-1855) + David Cutchler (MI)
6. Catharina (1774-1845) + Earnest Mann (MI)
7. Mary (1779-1852) + Abram Fangboner (NJ)
8. John (1786-1863) + Ellener Larue (NJ)
9. Sara (1788-unk), marital status unk

**Jacob Grotz Jr.** married Maria Catharina Hess in 1766 in Easton. Records from St. John's church help to account for the following eight children born to this couple:

1. John (1772-1855) + Juliann Catharina Rippel (PA)
2. Jacob (1774-1808) + Elizabeth Sherrer (PA)
3. Abraham (1775-1848) + Anna Maria Kuhn (Ohio)
4. Isaac (1777-1835) + Hanna Bittenbender (PA)
5. George (1779-unk) + Maria Stecher (PA)
6. Maria (1782-1855) + Bernhardt Raub (NJ)
7. Sarah Ann (1783-1866) + Jacob Lattig (PA)
8. Henry (1786-unk) + Sarah Stecher (PA)

Jacob Jr. died in 1810 and his wife died in 1820. They are both buried in Easton. It should be noted that a few from the next generation of this line also migrated to Warren County, New Jersey, as well as other places like Missouri and Iowa. For the most part, though, the immediate descendants of Jacob Jr. remained in the area of Northampton County, PA.

**Elizabeth Grotz** married Robert Traill in 1774. I have found some records for the following daughters: Mary + Abraham Ealer, Sarah + Peter Nungesser, Isabella + Melchior Horn, Ann + Jacob Cline. Other accounts include daughters Catharine, Elizabeth, and Rebecca, as well as mention of some infant boys who did not survive. Both Robert and Elizabeth Traill were influential in Easton history. They both died in 1816.

### ***Discovering Andreas Grotz Sr.***

By my best calculations, my 5<sup>th</sup> g-grandfather Andrew Grotz Sr. was born around 1740. Most other family trees that include this Andrew say that he was born in PA, but that is not certain. I have seen some trees that claim Jacob Grotz Sr. arrived in PA (presumably from Germany) in 1735, and some say in 1752 – in the first case, his son Andrew would have been born in PA and in the second case, son Andrew was born presumably in Germany. So far I haven't found any definitive records for any members of this Grotz family prior to 1760's in Easton.

The early records do indicate, however, that the Grotz men were carpenters. In Jacob Sr.'s will, he specifically leaves the tools of his carpentry trade to his sons. I'm not altogether sure that Andrew continued in that trade when he acquired 153 acres of land in Forks – perhaps he meant to try his hand at farming. His tax records show that he was taxed for 100 acres (wonder what happened to the other 53 – maybe he leased it?) as well as 2 or 3 horses and a couple of cattle.

### **The “Other” Andrew**

I should make note right away that there was another individual of a similar name in the same general area of PA before 1800. And in fact, some other family trees found on the internet have confused the two Andrew's. So here I will try to document the difference.

Here is summary of the “other” Andrew:

Andrew Creutz b: November 27, 1764 Allen Twp., Northampton Co., Pennsylvania d: November 26, 1842 Peters Twp., Washington Co., PA;

.. +Catherine Ehrenfried b: abt 1770 Prussia d: abt 1830; married about 1786

Some family trees think this Andrew was the son of Jacob Grotz Sr. which I believe to be incorrect. Other family trees describe this Andrew, more correctly I think, as the son of William and Dorthea Broder Cruetz/Crites both born in Germany in 1733 and 1734 and who died in Peters, Washington, Pennsylvania.

There is a baptism at a Lutheran church in Westmoreland, PA in 1792 which probably belongs to this "other" couple. (Westmoreland is also in the Pittsburgh area). The 1800 census shows Andrew Crites living in Peters, PA with 5 female children under 10, which indicates all the children were born after 1790. The 1790 census of Andrew in Forks, PA shows somebody with a completely different family makeup, and thus I think it was “our” Andrew in the 1790 census of Forks.

As will be shown below, there are several military records for an Andrew Crutz from PA who served in the Revolution and it's an open question in my mind as to which Andrew those records belong to. This “other” Andrew is significantly younger than ours, by nearly 25 years. Our Andrew would have been in his early 40's serving in the early 1780s, and this other Andrew would have been barely 18. I'm inclined to think it was the older Andrew who served in Revolution, but this particular question does still remain open.

## Who Was “Our” Andrew?

The earliest record we have of Andrew Grotz Sr. is 1763 in Easton, PA where he is listed with his father as a taxable inhabitant, while Jacob Jr. is listed as an unmarried male. Andrew was thus apparently married in 1763, and the earliest baptism record found so far is for his son Johann Jacob in 1766. I so far haven't been able to find any evidence that tells us anything more about the identify of Andrew's wife, Maria Barbara. We know they regularly attended St. John's Lutheran Church for Communion and the baptisms of their own and other's children.

Tax records show Andrew Sr. paid taxes in both Easton and Forks in 1772, and after that he paid taxes in Forks from in 1781 and again from 1787-1790. Are the years of the early 1780's the years that he was serving in the military? Again, the question is open. Here are the records that have been located associating somebody named Andrew Crutz with Revolutionary service in PA:

- Muster Roll of the Navy & Line, Militia & Rangers, 1775-1783; page 327
- 1779 Andrew Crut, Pvt. Philadelphia, 1st Batt. 1st. Co., 5th Class. Class Return October 1779. Published A (6), 819-20 Pa. Archives
- 1781 Andrew Crutz (alias Curtz) Private, John Lyle's Co. of 2nd. Batt. of Militia. At an alarm after Indians, enlisted May 1781, served 7 days, Easton, Pa. Northampton Co. page 605-606. Ref: Muster Rolls etc. 1743-1787 by Thomas Lynch Montgomery 1906
- 20 Apr 1782 Andrew Cruts Northampton Co. Pa Militia; 6th Co. 2nd. Batt. 6th. class 2D; white, male bet. ages 18-53. Capt. John Lyle; Class Roll published Series 5; Vol. 3, page 176-8. Ref: Pa. Archives, series 5, Vol. 8; page 177

- 1782 Andrew Kruts, Pvt. Northampton Co. Pa. 2nd. Bn.-Col. Nicholas Kern; 2nd. class; April 16-May 17 1782, Capt. Abraham Horn. "On the Frontiers of said County" 2 days absent. 26 days served by Certificate. M/R June 13 1782 Ref: Series 5; Vol. 3, page 168
- 13 June 1782 Andrew Krutz, Pvt. 2nd.; Served April 16-May 1782, 32 days, Capt. Abraham Horn. "Served on the Frontiers of said County" M/R June 13, 1782, 58 days total service. Discharged 17 May 1782
- 20 Nov 1782 Andrew Cruets, Northampton Co. Pa Militia 6th. Co. of Second Batt. class 2D, Capt. John Lyle. Ref: Pa. Archives Series 5; Vol. 8, Militia page 193
- 9 May 1785 A return of male, white inhabitants of the Third Co. under command of Capt. Thos. Sillyman belonging to the 6th. Batt. of Northampton Militia commanded by Collo. Lawall. Ref: Pa Archives; Series 6; vol. 3; Militia rolls 1783-1790. Page 838-39.
- [thanks to A. Daddis for compiling this list]

## Andrew in Forks

In 1789 Andrew Grotz Sr. obtained a mortgage from the Penn family for 153 acres along the Delaware River in Forks.

In the 1790 census of Forks Twp., PA there were two males over 16, and two males under 16. Of the males over 16, I believe we are looking at the father, Andrew Sr. and his son Andrew Jr. Why not the oldest son, Jacob? Because at the age of 24, I believe that Andrew's son Jacob had already left home, and had even possibly married, and maybe even moved to New Jersey already (see the following section *From Pennsylvania to New Jersey*). Of the males under 16, we are most likely seeing John, born in 1786, but who is the other young male? Assuming this mystery male survived (I did not see any burial records at St. John's between 1790 and 1820 that I could not otherwise identify), I have one possible candidate – somebody of the name Daniel Cruets. Refer to the following section *From New Jersey to New York*.

The 1790 census also listed 8 females in Andrew's household. We have accounted for Andrew's wife and 6 female children, so there is another female not yet accounted for. It could be another female child, or perhaps Andrew Jr. was married by then and he and his wife were living in Andrew Sr.'s household. These are matters of speculation, and open questions.

The last record I find for Andrew and Barbara in PA is receiving Communion at St. John's Church in Easton in 1792.

## From Pennsylvania to New Jersey

It's hard to know for certain what inspired Andrew to move across the river to New Jersey after living in Pennsylvania for 50 years. Part of it might have had to do with work. For example, Andrew might have been acquainted with Adam Sherrer of Oxford, who was also a carpenter, and the father-in-law of Jacob Jr.'s son Jacob. But maybe it might have been due to debt. In June 1793, Andrew sold his property in Forks, PA to Andrew Metzgar for 351 pounds of which 212 pounds was owed for the mortgage due to the Penn's and 136 pounds was owed for a court settlement of Robert Traill against Andrew Grotz, and the said Andrew Metzgar agreed to pay and discharge those debts. So Andrew's sale of his PA land was a wash financially. And why was his brother-in-law taking him to court? That is a matter that needs to be looked up. But the fact that Andrew lost the case tells us that there must have been some family upheaval on the PA side of the river. Maybe a little distance was called for.



Nevertheless, Andrew was not altogether broke. Earlier that same year, Andrew loaned 700 pounds to John Summers<sup>3</sup> in Oxford, NJ to be repaid 100 pounds annually. Five years later, there was a deed that transferred 414 acres on Scott's Mountain from John Summers to Andrew Crutz, Sr. There was no mention of money paid and the land was described as that which John Summers inherited from his father George Summers who died in 1785. It would appear that John Summers gave over this land to repay his debt, and this is how Andrew came to move to New Jersey.

Unfortunately, research in this time period in New Jersey is difficult because the Federal census' from 1790-1820 for most of New Jersey were somehow destroyed. In addition, we have so far had NO luck figuring out which New Jersey church or churches the Cruts families might have attended, and so no church records have been located yet. So we cannot see the Crutz family in Sussex County during those years using census data or church records. Nevertheless, it appears from marriage records and later NJ census' that most of Andrew's children made the move to New Jersey with him: Jacob, Dorothea, Catharine, Mary, and John (we don't know about Elisabeth and Sara). The older children, Susana and Andrew Jr., remained in PA, with Andrew Jr. possibly moving between PA and NJ more than once.

In addition, a review of deed records in New Jersey gives us some further insights. Here is a summary of deeds located in Sussex County:

- 1793 Andrew Crutz to John Summers (mortgage)
- 1798 Andrew Crutz to John Summers (mortgage)
- 1798 John Summers to Andrew Crutz Sr. (no wife mentioned)
- 1802 Andrew Crutz & Barbara to Abraham Fangboner (no wife mentioned)
- 1807 Andrew Grottes & Barbara to Andrew Hunleton (mortgage)
- 1811 Andrew Crutz & Barbara to Abraham Fangboner (no wife mentioned)
- 1822 John Kinney to Andrew Crutz (no wife mentioned) of Oxford
- 1822 Sheriff to John Cline - involved case where A. Fangboner and John Crutz were defendants, they lost

And here, a list of deeds from Warren County:

- 1826 Andrew Cruts & Barbara to John Lance
- 1827 William Fangboner to John Crutz (no wife mentioned)
- 1828 Andrew Cruts & Barbara to John Cruts (no wife mentioned)
- 1831 Abraham Arndt to John Crutz (no wife mentioned)
- 1846 David Butler to Andrew Cruts of Harmony (no wife mentioned)
- 1850 Andrew Crutz & Sally Ann to John Phono
- 1852 Adam Ramsay to Barbara Ann Grotz (widow John)

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<sup>3</sup> John Summers was the brother of my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother, Maria Magdalena Summers who married Ernst Menge (aka Mann). Ernst and Maria were the parents of Ernest Mann Jr. who would marry Andrew Crutz's daughter Catharina in 1797.

- 1863 Andrew Crutz & Sally Ann to John G. Smith
- 1863 Sheriff to Andrew Crutz & Sally Ann (Smith foreclosed)
- 1864 Andrew Crutz & Sally Ann to John Vroom

I think most if not all of the deeds involving Andrew Crutz up to 1828 involve Andrew Grotz Sr. For deeds where Barbara is not named specifically as the wife, it's possible those deeds could apply to Andrew Crutz Jr., most notably the 1822 deed from John Kinney to Andrew Crutz.

## New Jersey Places

This is a good time to review the history of counties and townships in this area of New Jersey:

- 1738 Greenwich part of Hunterdon County
- 1739 Greenwich part of Morris County
- 1753 Greenwich part of Sussex County
- 1754 parts of Greenwich to form Mansfield and Oxford Twp in Sussex County
- 1824 Greenwich part of Warren County
- 1839 parts of Greenwich & Oxford to form Harmony and Franklin
- 1845 parts of Oxford to form Belvidere
- 1851 parts of Greenwich & Harmony to form Philipsburg
- 1882 parts of Greenwich to form Pohatcong

From 1840 forward, Andrew Jr. and Elizabeth lived in Oxford, and John and Ellen lived in Harmony. I have further noticed that those who I believe are descendants of Andrew Jr. lived in Belvidere as the 19<sup>th</sup> century progressed.

## From New Jersey to New York

In looking for other sources with New Jersey references, I stumbled on a book called *Genealogical and Family History of Central New York* compiled by William Richard Cutter. On page 102 of Volume 1 is a description of Jacob Crutts who was one of the first settlers in Dryden, NY, and how he came there around 1802 with 32 others from Oxford, New Jersey, mostly those of the Snyder family. We have since located a baptism record for a daughter of this Jacob Crutts, Anna, whose mother was named as Catharina Snyder. It seems clear that this Jacob Crutts was related to Snyder family who relocated to NY.

So here's where I started to wonder. I have a theory that anybody with the name Cruts in the Oxford area of New Jersey before 1820 came from the Grotz family in Pennsylvania, and more specifically, they would be related to the ANDREW GROTZ line. Why? Two reasons.

1. In mapping all the descendants of Andrew's brother Jacob Grotz, Jr., it so far appears that Jacob Jr.'s immediate descendants – at least the males who would carry the Grotz name - remained on PA side of the river prior to 1820.
2. We know from deed records previously mentioned that Andrew Grotz sold his land in Forks Twp, PA and Andrew Crutz Sr. (presumed to be same person) acquired land in Oxford Twp, NJ in 1793. This event seems to represent the introduction of the Crutz surname into Sussex County, New Jersey.

Theoretically we should be able to test my theory with this case of Jacob Crutts who relocated to Dryden, NY. Let's see how we do. First, according to the NY-Jacob's age at death (apparently given on his gravestone in NY), he was 88 in 1855, making his birth about 1766. I have located a baptism record for a son of Andrew and Barbara Grotz, Johann Jacob, born in 1766.

Second, most of the family trees out there (referring to the internet, of course) say this Jacob Crutts was born in Oxford, New Jersey, but I think they only know that he *came from* Oxford before he arrived in New York. Unfortunately all the early census' do not tell us the birth place of those enumerated until we get to the 1850 census. In 1850, Jacob was 84 and living with his son Jacob at the time, but that census nevertheless records the older Jacob's place of birth as PA.

Third, I located a will abstract for Christian Snyder who died in Oxford in 1797. It lists a daughter named Maria Catharina. One of the witnesses to the will was Andrew Grotz.

Finally the 1810 census of Dryden shows Jacob GROATZ living next to Christopher Snyder. I realize that spelling of names on a census doesn't count for much, but the appearance of this particular spelling does support my ideas of this Jacob's origins.

So there is my case as it stands now. I think the Jacob Crutts who was a pioneer in Dryden, New York was a son of Andrew Grotz Sr. of PA and a brother of my 4th g-grandmother Catharina. He moved to Oxford, NJ from Forks Twp., PA around 1793 with his father and possibly even before, and shortly after 1800 he was moving with the Snyder family to New York. More research is called for, but I think the possibility is there!

Here are some related notes:

- The town of Dryden was part of the Central New York Military Tract which was used to pay soldiers of the American Revolution. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_New\\_York\\_Military\\_Tract](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_New_York_Military_Tract) for more info. At this point, we don't know if the Snyder's and Crutts' move to Dryden had anything to do with making a claim to this military tract, but there is some possibility that they did. Research is ongoing.
- In the 1810 census of Dryden, there are at least 3 children over the age 10, which implies to me that Jacob was married and having children *before* 1800 and the move to New York.
- In the 1850 census of Lansing, Tompkins, NY (a town about 10 miles from Dryden), there was a Daniel Cruts born abt 1775 in PA and apparent wife Elizabeth born abt 1777 in PA. Try as I might, I've not been able to figure out if these two are related to our Crutts, and if so how? The only possibility I can think of is that Daniel might be the missing male in the family of Andrew Grotz Sr. (see my previous notes about the makeup of the Andrew Grotz household in 1790 Forks, PA).

## From New Jersey to Michigan

Three of Andrew's daughters married soon after their father's move to New Jersey: Dorothea to David Cutchler and Mary<sup>4</sup> to Abraham Fangboner in 1796 and Catharina to Ernest Mann in 1797. Andrew would end up selling parts of his land on Scott's Mountain to Abraham Fangboner. Then in the early 1830's, the Cutchler's and the Mann's, as well as a number of the Fangboner children, all migrated to Michigan, shortly after the opening of the Erie Canal. In fact, Ernest Mann was killed in an accident on the canal in Lockport, NY when he was returning to NJ from MI to visit the children who still lived there. His wife, my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother Catharina Cruts Mann, had died in Michigan just shortly before, in December, 1845 at the age of 71. Both Ernest and Catharina were buried in Macomb County, Michigan.

David and Dorothy Cutchler had one son named Andrew, born 1803 in New York (which implies they might have also traveled to Dryden, NY with the Snyder's although I've not been able to find any evidence yet). After making the migration west in the 1830s, the Cutchlers settled in Waterford township in Oakland County, Michigan. Their son Andrew and his family lived in Mansfield, Warren, New Jersey until the 1850's when he too moved to Michigan, about the time his parents died there.

## Speculating on New Jersey Descendants of Andrew Grotz Sr.

The following section is entirely speculation on my part because, as has been previously explained, there are no census or church records for early New Jersey available. But using marriage records and census records from 1830-1850, I made a list of Cruts names born in New Jersey from the earliest I could find to around 1830.

Note: I have observed that all Cruts surnames in New Jersey start with "C" rather than "G" or sometimes "K" as seen in PA. My observation is that Andrew Jr. and his family seemed to have used the spelling Crutz, and John and his descendants used the spelling Cruts, with some later branches using Crutts. The brother Jacob who moved to New York also seems to have used the spelling Crutts. These are general observations at this point, and not to be taken as fact.

Name	Birth	Married	Death	Notes
<b>Males</b>				
Andrew	1811	Sarah Rivell (Rippel? Ribble?)	1840	
Jacob	1815	Elizabeth Gaston	1855	most of their kids were assigned guardians in Dec. 1855 (found in Sussex Co. records rather than Warren Co.)
David	1816	Margaret		differing dates on this person; he may or may not be same person above born 1807

4 The identity of Mary Krotz is an open question. I was never able to find any church records for her in Easton, AND some other trees have suggested that her maiden name might have been something like Meiers. If Mary was not a daughter of Andrew Sr., then possibly she was a daughter-in-law, meaning Mary married a son of Andrew Sr. (who is unknown), and the son died and Mary remarried to Fangboner. The fact that Andrew sold quite a bit of his land to Fangboner indicates some kind of connection.

Name	Birth	Married	Death	Notes
Jacob	1820 or 1821	Christiana Oakes		family moved to Missouri; not sure where he died
Andrew	1820 - 1823	Sarah "Sally" Ann Kniper	1860	this Andrew was living next door to presumed parents in 1850 census
John	1828	Sarah Jane Kinney	1918	
Jesse	1830	Amanda Beers	1902	
<b>Females</b>				
Barbara	1809	John Vroom Jr	1879	m 1836 – she was "of Greenwich"; he was "of Oxford"
Susan	1810 or 1813	never married	1883	
Elizabeth	1810	Jacob Rush	1862	m 1832 – she was "of Greenwich"; he was "of Oxford"
Rebecca	1812	Richard Beers	1893	In 1850 she is married & living next door to presumed parents
Mary L	abt 1816	Garner A. Hunt Beers	1895	
Catharine	abt 1819	Simon Warman	1896	
Sarah	1825	John C. Warman		
Samantha	1833	Charles Warman		

There are many more Cruts names born in New Jersey, but they all appear to be children of the above. So now the task was to try to figure out who the parents of these Cruts could be. The two "elders" in the area at the time are believed to be (by me) sons of Andrew Grotz Sr. and his wife Maria Barbara<sup>5</sup>:

1. Andrew Jr. b 1770 + Elizabeth
2. John or Jacob Cruts b 1780 or 1788 + Ellener Larue b 1793  
(there is some discrepancy here - there is a grave in Harmony for John Cruts born in 1780, but the 1850 census of Harmony shows Jacob born about 1788 + Ellen. However, a Warman researcher has info that the father of Crutz women who married Warman's was named John)

Since Andrew was the older brother by at least 10 years, I thought the children born earlier might be his. The other key was to use the 1830 census enumeration of John Cruts' household in Harmony, NJ as there were 8 children in that household as of that date.

<sup>5</sup> It's worth noting there might have been one or more daughters of Andrew Sr. in New Jersey, but since I can only follow the Cruts name, I am limited (for now) to tracing the sons.

Andrew Jr<sup>6</sup>. + Elizabeth

Andrew, b 1811 + Sarah Rivell  
Susan b 1813  
Jacob, b 1815 + Elizabeth Gaston  
David, b 1816 + Margaret

John or Jacob + Ellener Larue

Barbara, b 1809 + John Vroom Jr.  
Elizabeth, b 1810 + Jacob Rush  
Rebecca, b 1812 + Richard Beers  
Mary L, b 6 May 1815 + Garner Beers  
Catharine, b 1819 + Simon Warman  
Jacob, b 1821 + Christiana Oakes  
Sarah, b 1825 + John C. Warman  
Andrew, b 1826 + Sally Ann Kniper  
John, b 1828 + Sarah Jane Kinney  
Jesse F., b 1830 + Amanda Beers  
Samantha, b 1833 + Charles Warman

In 1830 census of John Cruts, there were 2 adults and 2 very elderly people, very possibly Andreas Sr. and Maria Barbara. Assume from the above list of John and Ellen's children that Jesse and Samantha were not born yet when the 1830 census was taken. Using my guesses, here is the breakdown of children:

1 male under 5: John  
2 males 5-9: Jacob and Andrew  
1 female under 5: Sarah  
2 females 10-14: Catharine and Mary  
2 females 15-19: Rebecca and either Barbara or Elizabeth<sup>7</sup>.

It should be noted that three daughters from John's family married three Warman brothers, sons of William Warman and Sarah Oliver. Two daughters and one son married Beers. The daughters married brothers, sons of David Beers and Maria Magdalen Prall. Amanda was the daughter of John J. Beers and Anna S. Chamberlain. (John J. was a son of John Beers + Anna Burd, John was a brother of David Beers just mentioned.)

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6 I think Andrew Jr. might have had an earlier wife by the name Maria Magdalena; a couple with these names had a daughter named Anna in 1792, baptized in Easton. That child is not included in this analysis.

7 Obviously I have one too many girls in this household and one should be moved to the family group of Andrew Jr. But I'm pausing. I think I can say that Barbara is a definite member of this family group, because in a later census, her husband John Vroom is named as a brother-in-law to John Cruts (b 1828). So why not just move Elizabeth over to the family group of Andrew Jr.? Because her husband, Jacob J. Rush was a son of Peter Rush, whose lands adjoined that of John Crutz. I haven't studied the land deeds close enough to plot the locations of Crutz-owned properties, *and* there still might be a different John Crutz, perhaps a son of Andrew Jr. So for now I have some uncertainty, and thus pause.

## Notes About Andrew Jr.

Andrew Jr. (born abt 1770) is a bit of a mystery. There are no church records found at St. John's in Easton indicating he was a son of Andrew Sr. and Barbara. I've not yet found any marriage record and yet it seems that he might have had more than one wife (maybe Maria Magdalena, and definitely Elizabeth). And who were his children? That has proven to be a bit more challenging to surmise than for his brother John's family because we don't really have a census that shows Andrew's family makeup.

Which brings me to another a recent finding that further complicates the identification of this Andrew. I was thinking that Andrew Jr. did not move to New Jersey at the same time as his father, but rather he lived in Upper and Lower Mt. Bethel in PA in the early 1800s before we can identify him in the 1840 census of Oxford, NJ. Why did I think that?

1. There is a baptism at Christ Lutheran Church in Upper Mt. Bethel for David Kratz in 1807, born to Andres and Elizabeth.
2. There is an Andrew Kortz in 1820 census of Upper Mt. Bethel, with 7 children and somebody next door named Joseph Kortz who could also be related. This household has many more children than what we know of our Andrew Jr. but it seems entirely plausible that Andrew Jr. had several children born in PA before coming to NJ.
3. There is an Andrew Krotz in the 1830 census of Lower Mt. Bethel with 3 older male residents. This household in particular would fit for what we know of our Andrew Jr.

So where does this theory go askew? Well, it started to waiver with the son named David. David appears in the 1850 census of Harmony with his presumed parents Andrew Jr. and Elizabeth. But his age there indicates he was born in 1811, which is a bit different from the 1807 baptism date I had. Still, it's too easy to presume that somebody in the past just made a math mistake. But then when I went to look for David Crutz moving forward from there, I found somebody who was married to Margaret and could have been born any time between 1816-1820! Same David or different David? An open question, I think. But now doubt is certainly in the air.

But then the kicker came with a deed I recently found between Issac Smith & Adam Kortz, administrators of the estate of Andrew Kortz deceased to William Dildine & William Mellor dated 3 Jan 1856. It refers to 155 acres in Upper Mt. Bethel, which, according to the will of said deceased, written 4 Apr 1851, should be sold after his death. The last will of Andrew Kortz of Upper Mt. Bethel can be found at:

<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-28792-7628-40?cc=1999196&wc=M99FCWS:973320220>

The will mentions son Joseph, granddaughter Maria Weaver married to Peter Messinger, and daughter Alla married to Joseph Miller. He nominates his son Adam and Isaac Smith of Williamsburg as his administrators.

So clearly the 1820 census of Andrew Kortz and Joseph Kortz next door really DID belong to somebody whose surname was **KORTZ** and not **KROTZ** as I was so foolishly and falsely assuming. And now I must also slow down enough to realize that UPPER Mt. Bethel and LOWER Mt. Bethel were NOT the same places! If I look carefully in Upper Mt. Bethel, I see the surnames KORTZ, and

only in Lower Mt. Bethel do I see surnames KROTZ – which seem to have more connection to our Andrew Jr. In addition, the son whom I have attributed to Andrew Jr., namely Jacob Crutz (1815-1855) who married Elizabeth Gaston, lived in Lower Mt. Bethel or was at least enumerated there in 1840 and 1850 census. I have not previously looked for deeds in Lower Mt. Bethel, but I'm going to now. Will I find that Andrew Jr. owned land in LOWER Mt. Bethel that was transferred to his son Jacob? Stay tuned.

But let me just say one more thing on this topic before moving on. What about that baptism record for a son named David, the one in 1807 in Upper Mt. Bethel, the one where the parents were Andres and Elizabeth? Just maybe, Mr. Kortz also had a wife Elizabeth and a son David (it doesn't appear to me that all his children were named by name in Andrew Kortz's will). Well, maybe. It would almost be like parallel universes on each side of the river. Or not. Maybe it's time to call a professional to sort this out.....

My only conclusion here is that the family group of Andrew Jr. is the one with the most uncertainty of all the family groups I have speculated about in this article.

## **Unplaced New Jersey Crutz/Cruts Children**

There remain, naturally, a few stragglers – Crutz/Cruts names that I have not yet been able to place. Here is the list as it stands now – there might be more who I haven't found yet:

1. In the 1840 census of Harmony, there is somebody named Henry Crutz. We don't know where he was born, and we can guess his birth year between 1810-1820. There are 8 children in this family group, 5 of whom are males, so assuming this family stayed in New Jersey, I should see trace of them, but I don't. The only other clue is that this Henry is living close to Bernhart Raub who had married Maria Grotz in PA and moved to NJ. (Maria is from the PA side of the Grotz family.) Maria did have a brother named Henry, but that Henry's age and household bear no resemblance to this 1840 Harmony household. So who was this Henry?
2. On 30 May 1803, Magdalena Grotz (or Fritz) married Johann Kneiper in Easton. This is of interest because of the Kniper connection to the Cruts family in New Jersey. I've done a lot of digging on this one, but stopped once I found a suggestion that Magdalena's maiden name might have been Fritz and not Grotz. At some point, more follow-up can be done.
3. On 8 Aug 1835, Lena Kruts married William Shults in Warren, New Jersey. Except for thinking Lena is a derivation of Magdalena, I have no clues on this one.
4. On 29 May 1824, Christian Fleming married Anna Grotz, daughter of the late John Grotz of Greenwich, NJ (from an Easton newspaper clipping). I have no clue who this John Grotz could be. Let's just say this Anna was born around 1804 or earlier, which would make her father John born about 1784 or earlier. There is nobody on the Jacob Grotz Jr. side that would fit that bill. And the only person to fit that bill on the Andrew Sr. side would be the John Cruts born in 1786, married in 1808 and spent most of the next 50+ years in New Jersey. It might be worth looking up the actual newspaper to see if there was a transcription error. After that, I'm not sure how to proceed with this one.

There are others I haven't tried to place yet, but I believe these are the ones that remain for those born or thought to be possibly born in pre-1850 Sussex/Warren, New Jersey.



## Strategies for verifying Parent-Child Relationships

Here are ideas I have for “shoring up” my theories and more firmly establishing which New Jersey Cruts characters are associated with which parents.

1. I still have to hope for locating some church records that might have baptisms, etc.
2. Check again for any probate records (in Warren County?) for Andrew Sr. (died after 1830) or John (died 1855). I didn't find any the first time around, but maybe need to check more carefully.
3. Locate the death certificates of any of the children – they often specify who the parents were. Also some of the later marriage records for the children – do those name parents?
4. Check for obituaries in the Warren newspaper – those might list parents.

## Open Questions

1. Who was Maria Barbara, wife of Andrew Grotz, Sr.?
2. Was Andrew Grotz Jr. (born abt 1770) a son of Andrew Sr.? Seems likely but so far so solid documentation to connect them as father and son.
3. Who was the wife of Andrew Grotz, Jr. (born abt 1770), and could there have been more than one wife? Possible first wife was Maria Magdalena. Later wife was Elizabeth, but Elizabeth who?
4. Is the son John who apparently married Ellen the same as the person enumerated as Jacob in the 1850 census of Harmony? Seems so, but that inconsistency of name is troubling. The answer might be as simple as the the census-taker made an error when recording the name Jacob.
5. Was Mary a daughter of Andrew Sr. and Barbara? Questions remain about whether she was a daughter or daughter-in-law.