

Nominations Being Received for Board Members

Each year, terms of half of the Board of Directors of the Getman Association expire, and new directors need to be selected for a two-year term.

The Board of Directors currently is as follows:

Class of 2008

Mark Buddle, Schenectady, NY; Marty Chase, Ipswich, MA; Clyde Getman, Memphis, TN; Maureen Getman, Syracuse, NY; Colleen Lill, British Columbia.

Class of 2009

Beverly Buddle, Cobleskill, NY; Monica Dodge; David Getman, Rexford, NY; Wayne Getman, Newport, NY; Lynda Thompson, Dryden, NY.

The term for the Class of 2008 will expire this year and members will be elected for a two-year term, with members of the Class of 2008 eligible for re-election. Members of the Class of 2009 serve as the Nominating Committee and will select five nominees for the Class of 2010. These persons will be elected by the ten members of the current board, after which officers will be selected from among the ten board members, as per the association bylaws.

The Getman Family of America held annual reunions, beginning in 1923, and the Board of Directors met in June each year for election of members and officers. This was adequate when most Getmans lived within 2-3 hours of the homestead. Now, with Getman descendants in Massachusetts to Florida, Washington to California, Alaska, Canada, and most other states and provinces, and with members of the board and the association from a broad area, it is wiser to do more of our business using internet, telephone and postal service.

Any member of the association is eligible to serve on the board. If you have suggestions for persons to serve for the 2008-2010 term, or if you are interested in serving on the board, please send names to the Getman Association, Attn: Nominating Committee, wayget@ntcnet.com.

Our Web Site is Working

When the Getman Association Web Site was started we had several ideas in mind. The first was to provide a place to share the results of the research that has been completed. Countless hours and years of work have been dedicated to family history by William Laimbeer, Byron Getman and their associates. They laid the foundation upon which others have been able to build.

Second; we wanted to create a format for the gathering and distribution of information as it becomes available.

Third; we wanted to provide an opportunity to have other Getman descendants get in touch with us. It has taken a while, but the web site has begun to provide connections that otherwise would not have been made.

One of the most significant from a genealogical and family history perspective has been Evelyn Mae Adams Fuller Peace. Evelyn has been doing family genealogy for the past 40 years. This spring she contacted me via e-mail and indicated that she was a descendant of Margaret Saltsman b. 1793 and Frederick Saltsman b. 1791. Margaret was a daughter of Elizabeth Getman (GFG # A7) who was the first child of Frederick Getman and Anne Eva Frank.

Frederick and Elizabeth had a daughter Elisa Ann Saltsman b. 1818 in or around Utica, NY. She married Isaac Tichebo Rider b. 1811 in Bennington, Vt. They moved to Michigan for a brief time (two children were born there in 1836 and 1839) and then South into Ohio where an additional seven children were born. Most of their descendants remained in Western Ohio, particularly in the vicinity of Allen County, Roughly 75 miles South-West of Toledo.

Evelyn picked up where a predecessor left off and has done a remarkable job of assembling data on all nine children and six generations of descendants. At my request she sent 121 pages of information which are currently being added to the Getman Family Data. Much of this information will be added to the Web Page during the next update.

We can easily be assured that Evelyn needed to contact us, because the genealogical link is through two consecutive daughters, the second of which moved completely out of the area and married someone from outside of the Mohawk Valley as well.

Clyde Getman has been continuing his research into the previously un-linked Jacob Getman, GFG # D1. His summary of that research is included in this Issue of the Newsletter.

Who was Elizabeth Wells, wife of Jacob Getman 1804?

Clyde J Getman:

The Getman Genealogy, 1710-1974, published in 1975, had an Appendix D: "Unplaced Jacob Getman" who did not seem to fit in any of the known Getman family units in that time period. There were children reported born between 1844 and 1876, and information reported his wife's name as (1) Elizabeth Wells and (2) Libbie Smith.

In the September 2007 Getman News, I identified Jacob as born in 1804, son of Peter Getman 1764, son of Christian Getman 1734, in the B-line in GFG. Jacob was married in 1826 to Naomi Hotaling (1808-1878) and lived in Ephratah and Oppenheim, both in Fulton County and St. Johnsville, in Montgomery County, all three are adjacent communities within a 5-mile radius.

Jacob and Naomi were listed together in 1860 in Oppenheim. Apparently they separated soon after. Jacob was listed on the NY census in 1865 in Oppenheim as married a second time, but with no wife or children listed with him.

Elizabeth Wells (age 27) was listed in 1870 with Jacob (age 68) in Ephratah with children Mary, Jane and Jacob (ages 5, 4 and 2, respectively). Elizabeth (age 36) was listed as wife in 1880, with Jacob (age 82) and children Mary (16), Jane (14), Jacob (11), Louisa (9), Abram (5), Nancy (5), Charles (4), and Delia (2). It is possible Elizabeth at the time of the 1865 census was staying with family at the time of the birth of her first child Mary.

Other than the above, nothing has been known about Elizabeth.

A recent post on the Fulton County website requested "information on Augustus Thompson and wife Ella M DeNure," by a descendant of Ella's sister. One of the guidelines to follow in family history research is to follow the families and neighbors of persons of interest. DeNure is a family connected to Jacob Getman. Jane Getman (c1866), second daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth, married Stewart DeNure (c1849). Stewart's brother Sanford (c1850), had a daughter Ella M (1893). Not a close relationship to Getman, but I contacted the submitter, and determined her Ella M DeNure was the same person as in my database. Ella and Augustus are not Getman descendants. I traced Augustus [3] Thompson back to expand the data available for possible later comparison. Census records indicated his father was Augustus [2] (c1869) and his grandfather was Augustus [1] (c1821).

In 1880 Augustus [2] was listed as follows; Lorenzo Philips, (33), Pauper, wife Eugenie [Wells], (30), son Arthur (5), daughter Lily, (2). Step-son Augustus (11), step-daughters Claracy (9) and Inas (7). Eugenie and her mother were born in New York, her father in Canada.

Usually this family line would not have been followed further. Except, they were living next to Jacob Getman and Elizabeth, "Follow the neighbors."

Augustus [1] Thompson (b1821, age 29) was in Salisbury, Herkimer County in 1850 with Abigail (30); in 1860, age 41 with Abigail (40); and in 1870, age 49 with Eugenia Wells (19) and Augustus [2] Thompson (1). The descriptor with Eugenia is "Keeps House," was commonly used to describe a wife, occasionally for a housekeeper living in the home. Eugenia is presumed her to be married to Augustus [1] (49) and mother of Augustus [2] (age 1). This is supported by the three children in 1880, ages 11, 9 & 7, listed as stepchildren of Lorenzo Philips, and presumably children of Eugenie. Also, Abigail would have been about 48 in 1869, unlikely for a first living child.

Eugenia is listed by her maiden name in 1870, while married this is unusual. Elizabeth Wells was also listed by her maiden name in 1870 with Jacob Getman, and with three children later listed as Jacob's.

In 1850 there was a Joseph Wells (34), in Ohio, Herkimer, NY, born in Canada, wife Catharine (24) born in New York, with children Levi (9), Hiram (7), Elizabeth A. (5), Louiza (2), and Amy (1). In 1860 Joseph (44) was in Salisbury, Herkimer, NY, with Catherine (33), Levi (19), Hiram (17), Elizabeth (15), Louisa (12), Anna (10), Daniela (8), Jennie (6), Abraham (4), and Josephine (1). With Wells not a common name, Joseph born in Canada and his wife in New York, it is presumed Amy, Anna and Eugenia were the same person and Elizabeth and Eugenia were siblings and daughters of Joseph and Catherine Wells.

This is a very brief look at several persons, using the census records commonly available to family researchers and demonstrates how a study of relatives and neighbors of a person of interest may be used to lead to new findings in what may have been 'stone walls' in family research. In this particular situation, Elizabeth Wells was unknown in the Fulton County area in earlier searches, and it was though looking at a son-in-law (Stewart DeNure) and his brother's daughter (Ella M DeNure) and her husband (Augustus Thompson) led to his second wife (Eugenia) as sister of Elizabeth, second wife of Jacob Getman.

It sounds at first glance, like a fortuitous happening. Perhaps. But such occurs more often than accidentally in family history. It has meant following the mothers, daughters and sisters of Getmans for links to other families, and often to other Getmans not previously known, as we have been tracing the descendants of Frederick Getman (1693), the common ancestor of most of us. And in the baptismal, marriage, cemetery, and census records of the 17 and 1800s we have been able to identify and locate numbers Getman descendants among allied families in the Mohawk Valley.