

Getman News From The Past

The Getman Family

The history of this family is interwoven with the history of Montgomery county, from Revolutionary times till now and the family is spread over a goodly section of the western end of the county, in St. Johnsville, Canajoharie, Fort Plain, Fonda, Tribes Hill, Johnstown. N. Y. and other towns and villages. A genealogy of the family would show them to have entered in most every walk of life, farmers, merchants, lawyers and businessmen of all professions, thereby giving a good cross section of the history of the Mohawk valley.

(Saint Johnsville, New York, ENTERPRISE AND NEWS, Wednesday, February 19, 1936)

Christian Getman

1734-1821

Christian is the seventh child born of Frederick and Maria Bierman Getman. He is also their fourth son. As a result of an earlier misunderstanding of the children's birth order when the first Getman Genealogy was published in 1975 he was assigned the identification of GFG - B 1 incorrectly implying that he was the second born son. His descendants are identified with the indication of the "B line." Those who were known at the time of the 1975 publication also have a number that was assigned to them at the time.

Christian was born in Burnetsfield in the colony of New York, near an area that is now known to be between the settlements of Herkimer and Little Falls. As a young boy he moved with his parents to Stone Arabia where the family became recognized as early settlers and the site has been traditionally identified as the Getman homestead.

Christian married Anne Eve Timmerman, 1743-1822. She appears to have been born in the Schoharie area and was a daughter of Altain Zimmerman and Catherina Nellis. Anne Eve was previously married to Johannes Merkel who was killed in an Indian incursion of 1757. That story is included in an accompanying article.

This couple had a total of 11 known children; Catherine, Johan Petrus, Anna,

Anna Eve, Johannes, Christian, Jacob, Frederick, Adam, Ann Elizabeth and a son who died as a youth whose name is unknown. Catherine, 1761-1813, married Ludwig Rickard. They remained in the immediate Stone Arabia area and had 11 children. Johan Petrus (Peter), 1756-1845, married Elisabeth Richter. This couple remained in area and had 12 children. Anna Getman, b. 1765, died as an infant. A year later Anna Eve, 1767-1842, was born, she married Johan Jost Scholl. They relocated into the Mohawk Valley in the vicinity of what is now known as Indian Castle and had 11 children. Johannes Getman, 1770-???? Seems to have died as a youth. There is no known record of his death, burial or participation in the militia. Christian Getman (Jr.) 1772-1809 married Maria Ecker 1765-1809. They had 8 children, two who relocated south-west in New York (Van Etten) and two relocated north-west in New York (Alexandria Bay). Jacob 1773-1858, was married three times, first (1794) to Elizabeth Cook, 1772 - ????.; second (1803) to Susannah Joslin, 1784-1822, with whom he had 10 children; and third (1845) to Maria Hapeman, 1804-1884, who bore him two children. Frederick, 1780-????, is alleged to have died in 1867 although there is no record of him in the 1850 or 1860 census records and no burial record is

known. Adam, 1783-1864, married Mary Erma Vauch, 1784-1867. They remained in Ephratah and had 9 children. The birth of an un-named additional son seems to be indicated in the records. This child must have died at a very young age.

In all Christian and Anne Eve appear to have had 11 children and 61 grandchildren who spread throughout upstate New York.

He made the first survey for a road in Stone Arabia, with a pocket compass, for Sir William Johnson. Christian and Anne Eve, in 1760, were among the early marriages, if not the first, in what later became the town of Ephratah. (History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, N.Y., F.W. Beers & Co, 1878)

Christian was in Soffrines Deyger's Company of militia to march to Fort William Henry, March 20th 1757, returning home the 29th. This campaign was described in the February Newsletter when discussing his brother John.

When the Revolution broke out, Christian was in the militia during became Captain of a company of Tryon County Rangers, an intelligence-gathering reconnaissance unit. The Rangers were a full-time unit rather than the usual respond when called "minute men" that are so well known. The Rangers, however, were not part of the Continental Army even though they were full-time.

Tryon County Committee, Dec 19th 1776

"Resolved, That the Ranges of Capt. Christian Getman's company stationed at Stone Arabia, shall in the time of their leisure, when and which of them are not employed in ranging, cut timber for building a certain fort in the said place, under the sole direction and command of Isaac Paris, Esq." (Simms)

Fort Paris as the fort Christian and his Rangers built was a typical stockade with a blockhouse constructed at Stone Arabia for

the purpose of providing defense of the local settlers and served well during the battle of stone Arabia. After the hostilities were over the stockade was removed and the timbers were returned to the farmers and other land owners who had provided them. Returning the timbers after the war was typical for the temporary fortifications such as Fort Paris. Consequently there are several revolutionary era fortifications that no longer existed by the time of the War of 1812. The site of the fort that Christian and his Rangers built is now in the middle of what would be called a corn field.

http://fortwiki.com/Fort_Paris

During his lifetime Christian was a substance grain farmer, professional soldier and respected community leader. He was also a good business man accumulating several plots in the area becoming possibly the largest land-owner there at the time.

Christian's will was probated 10 Jul 1821. His grave has not been located. It is expected that he would have died at home and been buried on one of the Getman burial plots in what is now Ephratah, Fulton County, New York.

The Saga of Anne Eve Timmerman

As reported by Jephtha Simms in the publication "Frontiersmen of New York"

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

In this town since its settlement first begun, have been enacted interesting and tragic scenes sufficient, if chronicled, to fill a volume. Here, among others, transpired in what was called the old French war, -- which resulted in establishing English supremacy in the Canadas -- the following cruel incident:

Near the commencement of this war, which began in 1755, John Markell, who married Anna Timmerman, daughter of a pioneer settler of St. Johnsville, took to his

residence in the western part of the town. Predatory incursions were often made during this war by small parties of Canadian Indians, and especially was the case in 1757, in which year it is believed the tragedy occurred. Markell and his wife left home one day, she with an infant in her arms. They had not proceeded far when suddenly they saw a hostile party of about a dozen warriors approaching in their path, and only a few rods distant. Markell at once divined that they were Canadian foes, knew their own escape was impossible, and said excitedly to his wife, who was walking directly behind him--"Anna, unser zeit is aus!", Anna our time is up! These his last words, were truly prophetic, for in the next instant one of the party leveled his gun, a bullet from which passed through Markell's body into that of his wife. They both fell to the ground, and she, the child falling from her arms, lay upon her face and feigned death.

Markell was at once tomahawked and scalped, and as an Indian was about to secure his wife's scalp, she heard one of his comrades say what she construed to be--"Better knock her on the head" "No", was the reply, "The squaw's already dead now!" He drew the knife around the crown, placed his knees against her shoulders, seized the scalp with his teeth and quick as thought it was torn from her head. One of the party snatched up the crying infant, then only a few months old, and dashed it's brains out against a tree. The enemy did not linger long nor strip the dead, and it is well they did not; as it is probable Mrs. Markell could not much longer have successfully enacted the role of death. It's hardly possible to imagine the agony of this brave woman, who was entirely conscious the whole time her foes were present, and allowed her scalp to be torn off without the apparent movement of a muscle. Is there a woman in Minden who could do it today? Mrs. Markell found

friends, was cared for and recovered, but carried the bullet in her body to the grave. Not very long after her misfortunes, probably in the next season, she married Christian Getman, of Ephratah, where she lived the remainder of a long and very useful life, and where she died in April, 1821, at the age, as believed, of 85 years; which would place her birth about the year 1736, and her terrible misfortunes when she was at the age of twenty-one years. She is remembered by four or five of her aged descendants and relatives, from whom these facts were learned, as a remarkably industrious, interesting and exemplary old lady. The loss of her scalp was partially concealed by the manner in which she combed her hair. She had six children by her second marriage, viz: Peter, Christian, Jacob, Adam, Catharine, and Anna. Peter Getman, her oldest son, was a pensioner after the war for services rendered his country in the Revolution.

NOTE: more recent research has provided the conclusion that Anna would have been 15 or 16 at the time of the above related incident. She died April 25, 1822 at the age of 79. One of her grandchildren when writing of her said she almost always wore a small cap that covered the top of her head concealing her scalp wound. He also commented that she was one of the nicest people he knew. But then aren't all grandmothers?

Facial Nerve Surgery

The Canajoharie Courier – Fort Plain Standard
Thursday, March 15, 1945

The New York Herald Tribune of Sunday, March 11, had a story on the treatment of facial paralysis from battle wounds, by nerve grafting as practiced in a U. S. Army Hospital in Western England. The patients of course are those from the battlefields of France, Belgium and

Germany. The title of the Tribune's Sunday feature was "Army Surgeon Saves Wounded from Facial Paralysis Horror," and Ione cases cited, which had been most successfully treated, was that of Pfc. Charles F. Chamberlain of Fort Plain, who suffered severe facial wounds on the German battlefield.

Major Frank D. Lathrop is performing modern miracles of surgery in nerve transplantation at the 192nd General Hospital in England. His method is to take from the front of the patient's thigh, a surface nerve which is the same size as the destroyed or injured facial nerve. Having shaved carefully the stumps of the facial nerve until he reaches healthy tissue, he then inserts the live nerve from the thigh and joins the ends. It is not a dangerous operation but one which demands the utmost skill, persistence and patience on the part of the surgeon. The operations of Major Lathrop are all the more remarkable because nerve grafting is in its infancy.

Pfc. Charles F. Chamberlain of Fort Plain, is one of the many patients at the hospital, who have had facial nerve grafting operations and his case is featured in the Herald Tribune's story. The article states that Pfc Chamberlain is in good health and his speech excellent, which is remarkable considering the severe facial wounds which he suffered. It was only at the beginning of February that he had the nerve grafting operation, which, it is hoped, will entirely restore the flexibility of the injured side of his face.

The article urges that Major Lathrop receive the services of an assistant so that he can give his services to more of our wounded men who need nerve grafting operations.

Charles F. Chamberlain 1914-1975 married Hazel Doris Edick (GFG - C / I / I) 1912-2001. They had a total of six children, two prior to his military service and 4 afterward. Charles Served in Africa and Europe and in the Rhineland Campaign where

he was severely wounded. In recognition of his service he was awarded a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Gun Explodes

Utica Herald-Dispatch, New York, Thursday,
December 11, 1913

St. Johnsville. Dec. 11.—Everett Getman, 17 years of age. son of Oliver Getman, of Epatarah (sic), started to hunt rabbits yesterday morning with a double barrel shot gun, which accidentally exploded. While on the Howard Gray farm, he was getting over a stone wall, and placing the gun ahead of him, one of the hammers struck a stone, causing it to explode. The charge passed through the second joint of the second finger of his right hand nearly severing the member. Mr. Getman ran to the home of Howard Van Slyke about one-quarter of a mile away, where Dr. W. N. Simons was summoned. When reaching there he was placed, under an anaesthetic (sic), the finger was amputated between the second joint and hand. Mr. Getman. after recovering from. the anaesthetic (sic), was taken to his-home. This morning Dr. W. N. Simons injected tetanus anti-toxin as a preventive of lockjaw. The third finger was also slightly injured.

*Everett N. Getman "Stubby" (GFG - B 560)
1896-1961*

Two Couples Agree

Broadalbin Herald, New York
December 4, 1908

Two Couples Agree to Separate and One Member of Each May Decide to Shift About, for the Future.

The Herkimer Telegram says: The little village of Mohawk across the river from Herkimer is stirred from center to circumference by recent happenings in its midst, being all agog at a scandal which its residents at first declared impossible of

belief and in which the circumstances are unusual and peculiar, but which the latest developments indicate to be true.

The outcome of the affair will be the breaking up of two homes as both a husband and a wife have instituted actions for absolute divorce. A peculiar feature is that the better half of each is named by the others as the correspondent in their divorce actions. The parties so named have left Mohawk and each is said by their friends to have told that they will join each other and make themselves a home. It is said they signified their intention of going outside the state.

The parties who left town and who are the cause of much speculation and talk are Elmer Hilts and Mrs. Nellie Shoemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilts reside in West Main street while Mrs. Shoemaker and husband, Lloyd Shoemaker lived on Walnut street. It seems according to the story told, that Mrs. Hilts has for some time had her suspicions that all was not as it should be between her husband and Mrs. Shoemaker and one day last week, paying an unexpected visit to the barn on the grounds of the Old Ladles' Home, leased by her husband she found there the woman she has named as correspondent in her action for divorce and further confirmed her worst suspicions.

The peculiar part as told is that neither offered denial or extenuation of their actions, Mr. Hilts confessing to his actions covering a period of two years or more, while Mrs. Shoemaker made a like confession to her husband, the latter, it is said, at first vowing vengeance against the man.

Mr. Shoemaker is carrier on rural free delivery route No. 2 from the Mohawk post office. Mr. Hilts was carrier on this route until recently. Mr. Shoemaker having route No. 3 when Mr. Hilts resigned and Mr. Shoemaker was transferred by request to his route. The wives of each had acted as their substitutes and all met freely in the office

where they made up the mail and held conversations and the best of good feeling prevailed.

Mr. Hilts, after leaving the government service accepted a position on the local division of the U. & M. V. Ry. Co., running between Herkimer and Mohawk as conductor, he having been in charge of the car which ran over and killed John Russell, a young man of Mohawk, recently.

By conference, it is said, an agreement was reached that Mrs. Hilts and Mr. Shoemaker should have divorces without opposition, the parties accepting service in the suits and then to leave the state. This is apparently borne out by the fact that each has been served with papers in actions for absolute divorce and yesterday left town, having stated to friends that they were to leave the state. Attorney J. E. Rafter of Mohawk is attorney for Mr. Shoemaker, C. L. Earl of Herkimer has been retained by Mrs. Hilts.

Elmer Hilts is the son of Philo Hilts who resides south of Mohawk, his wife was formerly Miss Carrie Petrie and her parents living at Fern Cliff, south of Mohawk. Mrs. Shoemaker was adopted and brought up in a family named Jackson.

Carrie Petrie (GFG - C / II / I / I) 1882 - ????
is a great-granddaughter of Anna Elisabeth German (GFG - C 46) 179-1872 and Conrad Jost "Han Jost" Petrie (GFG - II) 1795 - 1873. She is also descended via two separate links to Anna Maria Getman (GFG - I) 1721-1811 and Johan H Myers 1715-1810.

T. Lloyd Shoemaker (GFG - VIII / VIII) 1882-???? has a double linkage to Catherine Getman (GFG - VIII) 1737-1806 and Johannes Shoemaker 1727-1813.

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