

Getman Association Activity During 2008

The 2008 Getman Family Reunion on Saturday August 2nd was a great time as we met with cousins we have become acquainted with during the past several years, and heard some updates of what is happening among our family.

We met at Fort Klock, a 1750 fortified structure in St. Johnsville, NY built and used as a place of refuge during the French and Indian Wars and later during the Revolution, which is in the process of restoration. Those who are descendants of Christian Getman 1734 (B-line) and Ann Eve Zimmerman 1743 are descendants of Anne Eve's maternal grandmother Barbara Elizabeth Klock 1698 and Christian Nellis 1697. Other cousins are related through intermarriage of the early families. There was opportunity to meet with some of the Klock family and share a noon meal in a common room.

Suzanne and I were able to meet with the Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman reunion on Sunday, August 3rd, at the historic Snells Bush Church in Little Falls. There was a dedication of markers to two Revolutionary veterans, one the father-in-law of Frederick Getman 1768 (C-line), and an opportunity to identify two more Getmans in the Zimmerman family.

The identification of other Getman cousins is possible because of the ongoing work of your historical committee.

One of the sad remembrances of the reunion was the news that Eleanor and Florence Getman, daughters of George Russell and Nellie Hillebrandt Getman lifetime residents of the farm in Stone Arabia, have moved away from the farm to assisted living. At the reunion they presented the family Bible to the Getman Family Association, where it will be maintained as a memorial and for research in Getman family history. Our appreciation is extended to Eleanor and Florence, known affectionately among several of us as "the sisters" for their many years of preserving our family history.

There was discussion about how we can maintain the "Old Getman Burying Grounds" on the family homestead in Stone Arabia.

We have not talked much about dues in the family association. In 2006 it was agreed among those present to ask for a voluntary contribution of \$10.00 per year to be used toward such expenses as may become necessary. With cemetery maintenance, the purchase of files for the contributions being made to the association, and other costs occurring, it will be helpful for more of us to contribute to the expense being carried by a few persons.

We have been looking at the possibilities available for family history with the advances in DNA genetic study. It is

becoming more possible to determine genetic relationships with a growing number of ancestors and cousins using some of the findings of genetic science. We are establishing a relationship with Family Tree DNA, perhaps the most advanced of genealogically focused DNA studies in the nation, if not the world. This is a new endeavor for us, and one which offers hope for advances in family history. We have begun the Getman Surname DNA Project, an opportunity for descendants of Casper (1673) and Frederick Getman (1693) to contribute samples to a national, and international, database, to determine some relationship possibilities and probabilities.

Mark Buddle has been named as Coordinator of the Getman Surname DNA Project and is available to answer questions and assist those who would like to be involved. Contact Mark at: msb903@verizon.net.

We continue to contact new cousins who are able to provide information on their own families and help us expand our database. If you have not sent in your personal and family information we would appreciate hearing from you.

Consider a Cruise on the Erie

One of the suggestions made for the 2009 Getman Family Gathering is a cruise on the Erie Canal. A cruise operator is based in Herkimer and during 2008 offered a trip to Little Falls which included passage through the locks at Little Falls.

The cruise would not include a meal. Lunch or dinner could easily be arranged at "Gems on the Mohawk" in Herkimer or any of a number of other quality restaurants in the area.

As of this writing we are enquiring about interest in this activity. A price is not currently available but it is likely to be \$30+ per person. If there is enough interest details will be assembled.

Web Page Acessability.

Are you one of the folks has been having trouble reading the genealogy data on the Getman Web Page?

A number of people have a problem with this, while many others do not. Please let Wayne Getman know if you can or cannot read it. Include the following information: Internet Browser – (ex. MS Internet Explorer), Operating System – (ex. Windows vista), If you have a problem what error message you receive (if any)

