



## **Battle of Oriskany Remembrance Part of the 2017 Reunion August 4-5-6**

Our 2017 reunion will be held in conjunction with the Snell, Zimmerman, Timmerman Reunion. Details of the program are to be developed over the next few months.

## **Getman Genealogy Book Available**

A book covering the first six generations of Getmans, starting with Caspar is now available. Included in the book are the known descendants of all of the family lines, including daughters.

500 pages in length on 8 ½ x 11 paper this represents countless hours of research by our predecessors as well as input from many current researchers. Printing costs are high so the print run is small.

The book will be available at a price of \$42.00 per copy plus shipping, of \$5.00 each. Copies purchased or picked up at the reunion will not have a shipping charge.

Orders with payment should be sent to: Wayne Getman, 2672 Newport Road, Poland, NY, 13431. Checks should be made payable to Wayne Getman.

## **DNA Project At FamilytreeDNA**

DNA testing for our Getman family is in its infancy. We encourage all Getman's to join this DNA project. We also encourage family members that are Getmans by marriage. For additional information contact Gerry Getman, ph. 412-680-3224.

## **Send us your family stories.**

Wayne Getman  
c/o

[wayget@ntcnet.com](mailto:wayget@ntcnet.com)

## **A Holiday Season Message From Our Getman President**

Sitting here on Thanksgiving Day morning allows some needed quiet time to reflect on what has been an amazing and memorable November. Earlier in the month, and following a seemingly endless time of self-aggrandizement and demon-bashing, our nation selected the person who will be the President of the United States for the next four years. And self-proclaimed pundits regularly briefed us on this being the bitterest and most divisive contest in the history of our country.

First, I am sure all of us are glad the campaign is over. It has been a long and tiring season. Second, probably very few of us were able to have our primary or maybe even secondary choice emerge victorious at the end. Third, this is not the end of the nation, nor even the most vituperative of political contests, in contrast to the warnings of dire consequences proclaimed by candidates and prognosticators during the past year. It may not even rank near the top. Consider the 1800 campaign between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson with the accusations of nefarious and despicable activities, some undoubtedly true, when a sitting president was

voted out of office in a transfer of power to an opposition party. Or the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln with less than 40% of the popular vote. Several other election campaigns have similar accounts.

Frederick Getman and Maria Bierman arrived from Germany in 1710, were married by about 1720, and eventually settled on the homestead in Stone Arabia. Their four sons marched with the British forces in the French and Indian War in 1757, and in the 1770s three of their four sons and the spouses of their four daughters, with numerous kinfolk, served in the militia as participants in the revolution. They and their immediate family paid a price during those early years. Some saw homes, farms, churches and public buildings burned. Some died in the conflict.

The fledgling nation survived that trying period. And the nation has survived numerous crises since that time. That first generation of Getmans and their descendants took part in the civil, military, religious and public life of community, state and nation. And their descendants are continuing the family traditions to the present time.

Last week Suzanne and I camped on the field in Gettysburg where the July 1863 battle was fought. I had been invited to participate in the Remembrance Day parade celebrating the 153rd anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863. It was a privilege to march at the front of the parade immediately behind the Color Guard and those portraying President Lincoln and Generals Grant and Meade, in my role as living historian and portrayer of General George H Thomas, with the military escort of the President along the route he followed to deliver the address. And to sit before the platform and hear a Lincoln actor recite the speech many of us memorized years ago. To close my eyes and be transported in my mind back to that occasion was an awesome and most inspiring moment.

This is also a time to think back to November 22, 1963, and the assassination of President Kennedy. Many of us have imprinted within us the exact

moments and what we were doing at the various moments of that weekend.

And today as the thanksgiving meal is being prepared to share with our family having given and received greetings from those away from us, I have gone through the usual litany most of us recite about the blessings we share, but with special interest on being part of a family. In addition to my Getman heritage, I can, like many others of you, trace other lines back to New England in 1620, the 1630s and the Great Migration and its many significant events. The church we attend has a time of remembrance at Memorial Day and Veterans Day to honor those who have served in the armed forces by showing their pictures and either playing or singing Lee Greenwood's "I'm Proud to Be an American." Today my thoughts are more focused on "I'm proud to be a Getman."

Some have talked about making America great again. Others have said America has never stopped being great. Each statement was made in the context of a political message with its own definition; I can embrace both of them and be proud of who we are and appreciative of what we have been given while looking forward toward what we can become.

Just ahead of us are the seasons of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Frederick and Maria came here among the Palatines of western Germany; they and their children spoke their native language and worshiped as Protestant Christians in the Lutheran and Reformed tradition. As the family grew in numbers and migrated eventually to all 50 states and internationally, they married into persons from every continent and many, perhaps most of the major ethnic and cultural groups and traditions and both assimilated and were assimilated into the American melting pot.

I can hope for you and your family (and our great Getman family) a blessed and joyful holiday season and a meaningful new year.

Clyde J. Getman

## **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)



**The Messenger, Baldwinsville, NY**

**December 27, 1962**

**“Wes’ Wind” a column**

**By Wes Getman**

CHRISTMAS MINING around the tree regained some of its enchantment this year at our house. The reason was a 14-month old ball-of-fire of a grandson. Not really his first Christmas — but first with his eyes open. As he tottled around filled with wonderment and delight — his spirit seemed to rub off on all of us.

With our kids grown "up" — well up far enough so that there's no longer a wild charge at dawn to see what Santa has brought — some of the shine of Christmas morning had rubbed off. But it was back this year.

Of course, Rusty — that's Fourteen-Month-Old — isn't up on this Santa Claus routine yet, he just knew something different and very special and pleasing was going on. He chattered happily. None of us could understand what he was saying — but we all interpreted his remarks as something appropriate and highly intelligent for one of his tender months.

As far as Santa is concerned: well, uncle Junior Hi-er—Rusty's dally sparring partner — put on a Santa Claus costume. Not a bad costume either. With a jolly Santa mask on, and pillow stuffed under his jacket and belt. Junior Hi-er looked more like Santa than most of the "helpers" seen in stores.

Rusty wasn't fooled for a minute. He was just wondering why his favorite uncle had on such a Silly rig — and what was this new Ho-Ho-Ho speech.

Uncle was as deflated as if the feathers had fallen out of his pillow. When he pulled off the mask, Rusty gave him a look as if to say. "How come you were wearing that funny thing?"

Of course, there was nothing new but the color, to Rusty about the Santa Claus costume. He sleeps in a similar outfit every night. Since babies kick off blankets, some genius put arms, legs and a zipper in blankets and babies wear them. So Rusty looks like a white, or yellow, or blue Santa depending on the laundry schedule — each night.

Not since that Christmas years ago when our three all "believed" In Santa — and could all talk — have we had so much to remember. That was the time when the kids, all excited, were finally in bed — with stern warnings to sleep tight and not get up too early because Santa might not be around for hours because he had so many places to visit

Friends dropped in to call and it was well after midnight when the Great Persuader and I had finished taking the gifts from their places of concealment — and the tree was ready for morning. It seemed we had been to bed only an hour or so when the three of them pattered downstairs and woke us. It was time for the tree.

One present each had been opened — before I began to get my eyes open. "It seems so dark out — what time is it?" I asked. "I don't know." The Great Persuader said, "I'll look at the kitchen clock." She came back with an odd look in her eyes.

The reason it seemed we had only been to bed for an hour or so, was because we had only been to bed for an- hour or so. The kitchen clock confirmed by every watch and clock in the house — read quarter to three!

Well, the kids were shoed to bed again and we had the rest of the "tree" several hours later. It wasn't that way this Christmas. Rusty is not a late sleeper anyway. But there was a promise of daylight when we gathered around. Rusty had beautiful gifts from many places. He showed a token of appreciation for all of them. But the one thing he liked best of all was a piece of paperwrapping from one of them.

*Wesley Adam Getman (GFG A 1142 / A) 1901 – 1965, was a school teacher at Baldwinsville, N.Y. (near Syracuse). He wrote a column for the Baldwinsville Messenger for several years. He married Louise Eggleston, 1909 – 1988, in 1941. "Rusty" is their grandson, Russell Dykema, (GFG – A / A) b. 1961.*

## **HALF CENTURY OF BUSINESS**

### **Some Old Hudson Firms Which Are Still Energetic.**

The Columbia Weekly Republican, NY

Thursday, May 17, 1906

R. Gray's Sons.

This house, stared originally nearly across the street from its present site in 1841 as Ingersoll & Gray, afterwards became celebrated through the business acumen of Rensselaer Gray, the father of the present

firm. Gradually the house extended its different branches until to-day under the management of W. I. and Arthur S. Gray, it ranks as one of the leading department stores in this section of the state. The building itself is one of the show places of Hudson. When the row of buildings, including Gray's store was burned down, the firm made preparations to eclipse anything of the kind in its line in this vicinity and well has it done this work. Five stories high and 60x120 feet, it is filled with a magnificent stock of goods, so that it is not only a landmark of Hudson business fifty years ago, but a fine sample of modern progress.

*Van Rensselaer Gray (GFG – A 441) 1824 – 1899 married two sisters Adeline Ingersoll and later Margaret Ingersoll. He was the son of Elizabeth Getman (GFG – A 142) b. 1805 and Samuel Gray, b. 1801.*

## **An Unusual Obituary**

- Ilion Citizen, NY

- Thursday, December 27, 1917

The death angel has again recorded another soul in the person of William I, Piper, who answered the summons calling him to the last home where he will meet his loved ones gone on before and where the strife and troubles of this world will be turned into the happy realization of what is anticipated by all who believe our stay here is only transient. The one thing necessary to secure our membership in that heavenly home is being a Christian and our desire and aim to be with Him who giveth and taketh away. We believe all is well with W. I. Piper, a man of character always interested in home, community and church. While he had been gradually failing for a long time he had been about the house as usual until last Wednesday, when in the evening he appeared to suffer a general collapse and since then had been confined to the bed. He retained consciousness to the last, knowing the members of his family until a short time before the end. Although nearly 80 years of age he had kept his mental vigor and interest in the affairs of the day having always been a great reader.

William Isaac Piper was born December 2, 1838, in the town of Frankfort, three quarters of a mile from the village. His parents were Isaac and Margaret Myers Piper, who had nine children. William was the youngest of the boys. The father was a farmer and an old settler. He held the office of justice of the peace in the town and was county superintendent of the poor. William was brought up on the farm and attended the district school, completing his education in Fort Plain. He came to the village of Frankfort, from the farm in 1855. His business in the village

was that of clerk, working in the store where the postoffice was located. In 1869 he was appointed post master at Frankfort and held the office until 1885. When he had charge of the postoffice he was telegraph operator and express agent in the village. After the postoffice was taken from him he was employed as clerk in the car department of the West Shore [railroad] shops for nine years and after relinquishing that position he had no active occupation. In 1890 he was given charge of the local office of the Herkimer Telephone Company where he rendered service which was entirely satisfactory to the whole community. He held the office of justice of the peace in the town for several terms and was town clerk one term. He also took a deep interest in the school and was one of its trustees for nine years. He had at one time held the office of school collector. He was Republican in politics and an earnest supporter of the party. In 1871 he joined Olive Branch Lodge, No. 40. F. & A. M., of this place and was one of its oldest members and a past master of the lodge. In religion he was a Universalist, serving several years as superintendent, of the Sunday school and for many years was one of the trustees of the church here. Up to five years ago, when he had the misfortune to fall and break his hip, he had been enjoying good health and was down to the office daily, but he never fully recovered from the shock and weakness which followed that accident. He was a splendid neighbor and loyal friend and had a large circle of friends who will extend much sympathy to the family in their bereavement.

September 7, 1871 Mr. Piper married Miss Fannie Adams who died in 1892. He leaves surviving five children, a son Frank L. Piper of Fall River, Mass., and, four daughters, Anna B. Piper and Sarah M. Piper of this village, Mrs. John Soup of Weehawken, N. J., and Mrs. B. E. Richardson of Mohawk, and six grandchildren

*William Isaac Piper (GFG - C 301 / I) was a grandson of Elizabeth Getman (GFG – C 20) 1785 – 1831 and Henry F Myers (GFG – I) 1778 – 1830.*

## **Reunion 1962**

Leader-Herald, Gloversville – Johnstown, NY

Tuesday, August 14, 1962)

**Getman Descendants Rename  
Herkimer Man as President**

Ralph Parent, Herkimer, was reelected president at the 34th Getman family reunion held Saturday at Russell Park, Ilion.

Other officers include; George Getman, Ilion, first vice president; Charles Getman, Baldwinsville, second vice president Mrs. Beverly Roxbury, secretary.

Donald Saltsman, Fort Plain, treasurer; Mrs. Frank Bowman, Scarsdale, chaplain; Frank Bowman, historian.

About 50 members attended and a covered dish dinner was served. Mrs. Bowman reported on a board of directors meeting held in June at the Parent home. New directors elected at that session were Mrs. Edna Leneker, Palatine Bridge, Mrs. Grace Hillabrandt, Fort Plain; Mrs. Myrtle Eaker, Canajoharie; Miss Eleanor Getman, East Stone Arabia; Mrs. Gertrude Getman, Ilion, all for two years.

Current directors are: Mrs. Edna Parent, Herkimer; Mrs. Natalie Swanson, Canajoharie; Mrs. Carmetta Saltsman, Fort Plain; Douglas Saltsman, Verona; Mrs. Charlotte Peake, Jefferson.

Mrs. Carmetta Saltsman presented gifts to Mr. and Mrs. James McCloskey Jr. from Buffalo, who traveled the greatest distance. Also Mrs. Bertha Getman, 79, Ilion, for being the oldest member and to Mark Buddle, 21 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Buddle of Roxbury.

Mrs. Saltsman also presented a gift to Mr. and Mrs. George Getman, Ilion, for having the largest family representation which included five children, and his mother Mrs. Berth Getman.

Bowman, historian, gave a talk on the genealogy of the palatines, and the Getmans who were among the early settlers in the Mohawk Valley area.

Bowman requested the members of the family complete their questionnaires pertinent to family history and return them to him as soon as possible.

To date Bowman reported there are now 13,000 names of descendants of Frederick Getman who landed with the palatines in 1710.

Members attended the reunion from Sidney, Roxbury, Buffalo, Canajoharie, Stone Arabia, Fort Plain, Verona, Hamburg, Ilion, Scarsdale, Herkimer and other points.

The next reunion is scheduled for Aug. 1963

## **Book Written by a Getman Descendant**

The Brookfield Courier, Brookfield, NY  
June 29, 1944

E. H. Clayton (Colgate, 1920) has just written the story of his thirty years as missionary teacher in China for the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. The book, HEAVEN BELOW, has just been published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. New York City.

Dr. Clayton went to China in 1912 and served the mission schools at Huchow, Chekiang, and Hangchow. Most of the thirty years were spent as principal of Wayland Academy in Hangchow, a city so beautiful that it was called "heaven below."

Those were some of the most exciting years in Chinese history, and Clayton's story is colored by revolution, the founding of the Republic, and the Sino-Japanese War. For five years during the occupation by the Japanese, Wayland Academy became the refuge for thousands of Chinese women and children. Interned for Seven months after Pearl Harbor, Clayton was finally sent back to America on the first trip of the Gripsholm.

HEAVEN BELOW is not, however, entirely a War story. It is, rather, a warmly understanding account of a mission of good will, told with realism, vigor and wit. Some of the completely delightful episodes include big game hunting in the mountains of the interior, the rich and varied life of a missionary doing his work and bringing up five children, plus innumerable sidelights on the Chinese of every class, in peace as well as in war.

Clayton, who received his honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Colgate in 1939, is now living in Red Bank, New Jersey. His wife, the former Grace Tew, is the daughter of Mr. George J. Tew of Hamilton. Since his return to America, Clayton has been speaking to various audiences throughout the country. One of his recorded talks has been played over 3,000 times, and one of his stories, now incorporated in HEAVEN BELOW, has been distributed by the OWI to the Allied Nations on four continents.

*Grace May Tew (GFG – A) b. 1891, is the great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Getman (GFG – A 105) b. 1811 and Archibald Bowen, b. 1811.*

## **Other Books**

Several other books have been written and published by Getmans and Getman descendants. Some are fictional and others are very technical. A quick look on e-bay provides this partial listing.

“Outlines of Theoretical Chemistry”

Frederick Hutton Getman

“Lottie’s Legacy” a mystery

Gloria Getman

“How to develop Your Child’s Intelligence”

G. N. Getman

“Laboratory Exercises in Physical Chemistry”

Frederick Hutton Getman