

Christmas Traditions from Germany

Advent Calendar (*Adventskalendar*) counts down the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve and is one of childhood's greatest memories. Every day during the Advent season a new door on the Advent calendar is opened. Each opened door proceeds to reveal a sweet chocolate! The Advent calendar tradition began with plain cards with paper backings and 24 "windows" that opened to reveal Christmas scenes. Today you can get original German advent calendars with religious motifs and advent calendars containing cute figures or chocolates for boys and girls. You can even buy naughty calendars for grown-ups if you want to spice the Christmas season up!

Advent wreath (*Adventskranz*) Many families in Germany put an Advent wreath on the living room table the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The wreaths have four large candles and, traditionally, pinecones and berries.

Krampus Night (*Krampus Nacht*) In Southern Bavaria, locals celebrate St. Nicholas' Night in an alternative fashion. Muscular men in demonic costumes, devilish masks and furry coats march from house to house — this is the fearsome Krampus with his devilish mates. They bang on doors, and, when invited in by expecting parents, attempt to frighten children into good behavior. Occasionally, a recalcitrant teenage male may be dragged by hands and feet outside into the open. There he is dunked in the deep snow several times, much to the delight of his younger siblings. Afterwards, the Krampus and his fellow devils may be found at the local pub celebrating devilishly long into the night.

Christmas Markets (*Weihnachtsmärkte*)

Mulled Wine (*Glühwein*)

"Fire Tong" Punch (*Feuerzangenbowle*)

For these and other German Christmas traditions visit

1. <https://germanfoods.org/german-food-facts/german-christmas-traditions>

Mark Your Calendar

The 2018 Getman Family Association Reunion and Meeting is scheduled, August 3, 4 and 5, 2018. The meeting and "official" activities will take place on Saturday, August 4.

This reunion will be held in the western part of New York State. Details are being developed.

Help Needed

Do you live in or near Western New York State?

Help us locate a western New York site for the 2018 Getman Association Reunion. The upcoming reunion is intended to be held in the western part of New York. One of the suggestions that have been made are, returning to Genesee Village, and visiting the locks at Fairport, NY.

Assistance is needed to make connections for restaurants, program location and housing.

Reunion Rotation Plan

Upcoming Getman Reunions to have a rotation.

During the 2016 reunion the decision was made to use a regional rotation for meeting locations. A three-year rotation was proposed and adopted. This rotation will begin with 2017.

Rotation Plan

Year One	Mohawk Valley
Year Two	Western New York
Year Three	Northern New York

Suggestions for specific locations and programs in these locations are always welcome.



From our house to yours. The best possible wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year in a peaceful and sane world.

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)

When looking through old newspapers, you never know what you will find. This month I decided to fill the newsletter with articles that contain both Getman and Christmas.

The following article seems to portray how we all feel.



Baldwinsville Messenger, Baldwinsville, NY
December 19 1963

CHRISTMAS MEANS many things to many people. To the merchant it may mean a month or six weeks in Florida or Bermuda or sunny climes happily contemplating and spending — the profits of the Yuletide sales. To the devout it means the spiritual lift of telling and retelling the greatest story ever told.

To all of us — one way or another it means getting together with our families. Thanksgiving is a mere insipid rehearsal get-together for those near-to-home. But Christmas, that's the real thing. Take the Getmans, for instance. Those of you who have followed these jottings for over a score of years will know the old curmudgeon who pens them and his partner-in-crime, the Great Persuader. You may recall the three off-spring who have progressed from Kindergarten on through the grades. Now the youngest is tenth Grader, and Number One daughter, is the mother of two beautiful grandchildren. Middle daughter — former Cheerleader — is now College Freshman Coed. Time does fly!

Christmas, we'll all be together for the first time in a long while — at least it seems a long while. The biggest news we've had in ages is that Number One daughter and husband and the two grandchildren will be- with us for Christmas. Ee-Yow!

Taken in order. Number One Daughter first appeared in these essays as Two-Year-Old when her capers seemed worthy of a line or two.

Her husband, I find difficult to understand. This — I suppose - is not an unusual son-in-law relationship. Let me point out my side of it. He — the son-in-law — is a Navy pilot. He has made over 300 landings on a carrier. This is incredible! It seems to me that if a guy is lucky enough to land on that postage-stamp of a carrier flat-top — say-3 times — he should be pensioned for the rest of his life. After-three, .it seems, he is pushing his luck! Three hundred!?! It can't be! But it's a matter of official record. So I can't understand it.

If memory serves, there has been some mention here of Rusty — the most remarkable grandson — now over two years old. It may have seemed to some that I am just a proud, doting old grandpa. That is precisely the case. However, in an attempt to be purely objective, I must proclaim again — he's quite a boy!

As is most natural in affairs of this sort, there is a tendency to slight — even overlook — the girl child. This is outrageous. Karen, the granddaughter, is destined to exhaust superlatives. She's the most! Let me tell you.

Karen, on Christmas Day, will be three-quarters' of a year old. How anyone can be so smart, so beautiful and so happy in less than a year beats me.

Smart? Her mother writes that she can turn herself over — from back to tummy and back — cleverly. She is practicing creeping and slithering along secretly so that she can challenge Rusty to a race when she improves her speed.

Happy? There never was a happier baby. Everything pleases her. Even after hours of inattention she greets everyone with a smile that would melt the Abominable Snow Man. Beautiful? Where shall I begin? It might be said that her hair does not as yet meet some narrow-minded beauty standards. In fact, her hair sticks out straight from her head in all directions like the original brush cut. Except that that is not a good simile. Her hair is not

like; bristles and has not been cut. It! is like silk — .soft and blond and; short — but beautiful!

Last summer, the Great Persuader tried vainly to find a few strands long enough to tie into a hair ribbon. She will, try again Christmas time, I'm sure. Whether she succeeds or not is unimportant—the hair is still beautiful—soft and downy like the fuzz on peaches, but a little longer-not much.

All in all — two remarkable children — Rusty and Karen. At any rate, we are looking forward to' happy holidays with the children and grandchildren. And the same to you- wherever you are.

Wesley Adam Getman (GFG – A 1142 / A) 1901-1965, was a coach and teacher at Baldwinsville, He also authored a column in the local paper.

Told on the Street

(gossip column)

Stamford Mirror-Recorder, Stamford, NY
Wednesday, December 29, 1926

While on her way about town, with the other members of her Sunday School class, to sing carols Christmas eve. Mary Frances Getman, daughter of Prin. and Mrs. Horace G. Getman, was struck by an auto driven by Melvin McKillip, as she was crossing the street near the Sanford hardware store. She sustained a sprained ankle. According to Mr. McKillip, the little girl ran directly in front of his car, and owing to the icy condition of the road, he was unable .to stop quickly enough to avoid hitting her. Dr. Norman Getman, who was a guest at the Getman home last Friday, attended to the injury.

Mary Francis Getman (GFG – C599) b. abt. 1915 is the only child of Horace G. Getman (GFG – C 484) 1887-1949, and Gertrude Mead, 1886-1949. Horace was High School principal at Stamford. Mary Francis went on to marry Guy Slater Jr, and had two children. Dr. Norman W. Getman (GFG – C483) was Horace's brother, who was visiting from Oneonta.

Montour Falls News

The Watkins Express, Watkins Glen, NY
December 27, 1939

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Getman and Lauren Getman spent Christmas in Washington D.C., with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Getman.

Floyd Getman (GFG – B 490) 1879-1940 and Edith _____ 1880 -?, are the parents of Albert Getman (GFG – B) 1909-1955. Census records suggest that Albert was adopted by Floyd.

Panama Canal Zone as Seen by Saratoga Man E. E. Emigh Write s Interestingly of Experiences ... Odd Christmas Celebration.

The Daily Saratogian, Saratoga, NY, Saturday,
January 19, 1907

Christmas Tree an Orange Tree

... Our Christmas tree was an orange tree about twelve feet high. It looked very beautiful when trimmed with lighted candles, tinsel, paper chains and many pretty gifts. The singing and recitations of the little ones was excellent. There were about 150 people present, all Americans.

On Christmas morning Adolph Getman, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Thomas and myself went for a trip up the Chagres river. We made the trip in a native boat about thirty feet long, which is made by the natives from a large mahogany log hollowed out like an Indian canoe. Two natives paddled the boat which requires great skill and knowledge of the stream, which has a violent current. The boy had great sport shooting at alligators, but nature has provided the alligator with an armor plate that sheds bullets to perfection. Some of the alligators seen were twelve or fifteen feet long.

Yesterday, December 29, I went to Colon in company with Mr. Getman who had business there. We saw the beautiful building occupied by De Lesseps. The grounds about it are magnificent, nearby and facing the ocean front is a statue of Christopher Columbus. An American Indian is kneeling at his feet. Columbus, with outstretched hand pointing out over the great roaring ocean, seems to be endeavoring to tell the timid Indian of beautiful Spain so far away.

Drives From Michigan

The Rhinebeck Gazette, Rhinebeck, NY
December 2, 1948

Robert Getman, a government employee in the Panama Canal Zone, went to Detroit and purchased a car, which he, drove to Red Hook to visit Mr. and Mrs. Roy Getman. Mr. and Mrs. George Patterson of Saratoga were also guests of Mr. and Mrs. Getman.

The Adolph Getman in the top article is Robert Adolph Getman, son of Boyce Adolph Getman 1879-1943, and Jessie Tallman, 1881-1953. They are currently unconnected to our known Getman family. Can you help?

**Marine in AP Wirephoto
Identified as Syracusan**
SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL
Friday February 5, 1943
**Pfc. Lloyd Getman Recognized in
Guadalcanal Photograph**

The "unidentified marine shown with Marine Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Vandegrift in an AP Wirephoto picture taken at Guadalcanal and published in the Herald-Journal on Jan. 22, is Pfc. Lloyd H. Getman, 24, according to his father, Lloyd R. Getman of 442 West Taylor Street.

Mr. Getman says his son was one of the first Marines to land on Guadalcanal. Private First Class Getman joined the Marines Aug. 12, 1940.

The picture was captioned as follows: "Commanders Shifted—Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, commander of ground troops which have replaced Marines in the Solomons, and Marine Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Vandegrift, whose hardworking Marines will get a rest after winning the first phases of the battle.

"With them at a Guadalcanal foxhole are Col. R. Hall Jeschke, USMC, and unidentified Marine."

Private First Class Getman wrote that he had had "a fine Christmas" in a letter received Jan. 2. He has been in the South Pacific area since December, 1941. He is a graduate of Eastwood High School.

Lloyd H. Getman (GFG - A) 1918-1982, son of Lloyd R. Getman (GFG - A) 1981-1963 and Ethel Lansing, 1893 - ?.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL**

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

'Birthday of A King'

The Waterville Times, NY
Wednesday, December 23, 1992

There was an excellent turnout Sunday evening in the First Presbyterian Church when the children and young people of the Sunday School classes presented their annual Christmas pageant. This year's program was entitled, "Birthday of a King."

Pre-schoolers with halos firmly attached to their heads and older wisemen with turbans and gifts acted out their respective roles as Mary and Joseph and the angel Gabriel stood steadfastly in the center of the sanctuary.

Several young people read from scripture with music interspersed between the readings.

Readers were Joanne Campbell, Tracy Tanner, Ryan Acker, Sara Wheeler and Sarah Pfohl. Members of the cast were: Mary, Colleen Mack; Joseph, Matthew Tanner; Gabriel, Sarah Mack; shepherds, Shannon Mason, Brandon Mason, Amy Doyle, Mitch Lemery, Mike Lemery, Jordan Larabee, Derick Zwahlen, Trevor Zwahlen, Peter Mack, Richard Mack and Chris Frye.

Angels: Nicki Moon, Amanda Moon, Megan Doyle, Heather Roberts, Eric Acker, Liska and Lucy Savage, Katie Kelley, Christine and Heather Pfohl, Christine Campbell and Jennifer Foley. Wisemen: Travis Mason, Dan Olin and Pat Olin. Forming the letters of the acrostic, "Christmas" were Christine Campbell, Liska Savage, Christine Pfohl, Jill Getman, Erin Acker, Lucy Savage, Jennifer Foley, Megan Doyle and Nicki Moon.

Greg Getman played percussion and Jason Acker played the trumpet. Richard G. Lloyd, accompanied the choir on piano and organ.

Christine Campbell and Jillian Getman were the candle lighters. Jennifer Foley distributed programs.

The church was in darkness for the pageant except for several lighted candelabra. At the conclusion of the program, candlelight was passed throughout the church.

Following the program a pot luck supper was served in the church hall for the youngsters and their families.

Mrs. Sue Getman was in charge of the pageant

This is another case of, Who are they? Someone out there knows who these Getmans are. I don't. If you can help me out, please do.

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