

Reunion Plans Under Way

In an effort to have a positive outlook on the current situation a Getman Association reunion for 2021 is being planned. This will be held in Johnstown NY, August 6-7-8, 2021. A block of rooms has been arranged at the Johnstown-Gloversville Holiday Inn.

Our plans currently feature looking more closely at the first few years that Frederick Getman spent in the new colony. Details of West Camp where our ancestor was held as an indentured servant of the English Crown will be researched and shared with those attending. Other anticipated activities include visiting the Stone Arabia churches where our early ancestors worshiped were baptized, married, and buried.

You are encouraged to “pencil in” this date on your calendar. Details will be provided as they become available.

Looking Ahead and Back at the Same Time

There was a time when I would tell people who asked if I was related to another Getman whom they knew, “All Getmans are related.” I cannot do that any more. Several decades of genealogical research have proven that not to be the case. Or has it?

There are several different ways to spell Getman. Getman is the most common, there are also; Gettman, Getmen, Gatmen, Getmann and even Gettmann. Several of these spellings are used in the references included with the article on Frederick Getman (GFG – C 1). We know that spelling of surnames did not get standardized until well into the 1800’s when much of the population was educated. Prior to that a name

would be spelt the way the scribe who was doing the recording heard (or thought they heard) the word pronounced. Think phonetics. There are Getman descendants who have intentionally changed the spelling from Getman to Gettman. I am curious what their motivation was, but they are still distant cousins no matter how their surname is spelled.

Once spelling got essentially standardized because people were educated they would write and spell their names in a consistent way. No longer did they make their mark on documents and rely on others to read a letter, deed or other document. Our Palatine ancestors valued education highly and seem to have been literate quite early, very likely before the American Revolution.

When you have spent as much time reading census records as I have a truth becomes evident. Not all Getmans are descendants of Caspar and his son Frederick who was the first to arrive on this continent. There are others who arrived on the east coast during the 1800’s who spell their name Getman as we do. There are others who arrived on the west coast, via Seattle. These folks came from Russia and were speaking German. They may spell their name Gettman. Recently I discovered a Getman family whose descendants live about an hour north of the Mohawk Valley, whose progenitor arrived from Germany about 4 generations ago.

Are we related to them?

If so how?

These questions have generated quite a bit of interest among fellow genealogy researchers. Enough interest that during the most recent Getman Association Board Meeting (via Zoom) the decision was made to appoint a committee to look into the possibility/probability that these

other Getman descendants are somehow connected to Caspar and hence to all the rest of us.

Perhaps this is a question that DNA testing can shed light on, but it will be much more informative if actual lines of ancestry can be developed providing details of the linkage.

The following open letter from a member of the committee provides a few more details on the research project

Dear Cousins

On Monday November 16, 2020, the Getman Family Association unanimously approved the following action:

The Getman Family of America approves a project to study the life and history of our earliest known progenitor, Casper Getman (1673-c1710), searching for information about his life before migration from his home in Rheinland-Pfalz, to England toward a new life in the New World.

There is much information about Casper's son, Frederick, and his descendants, many of whom settled in the Mohawk Valley in the Stone Arabia and Burnetsfield Patents. This is available in The Getman Family Genealogy (1975) and Descendants of Casper Getman 1673-1710: Six Generations (2013). A CD of the 1975 Genealogy and copies of the 2013 Descendants of Casper Getman are currently available through the Getman Association. Little is known about Casper and his family before his voyage to England in 1709.

Tom Getman and Clyde Getman were appointed by Board President Martha Chase to the Historical Committee, chaired by family Historian Wayne Getman, to oversee what is currently known as the Casper Getman Study. Tom and myself have been studying this subject for several years. Others are welcome to work with and contribute to them.

There are several areas for exploration. Some of our Getman family, and cousins in our connected families having many different surnames, members of families descending from the Mohawk Valley 1709ers, have already been working in areas we will be exploring. Several have made significant contributions in their research. Many of them are accomplished genealogists and historians. All are welcome to participate in this exciting journey of historical research.

Further information about this project will be shared as it becomes available. It will be passed along in this Newsletter and on the Getman Family Web Page.

Clyde J. Getman

Getman Research Depository

There have been questions during the past few months, concerning an appropriate location for the deposit of research materials during the past few months.

I have been in contact with the Margaret Reaney Memorial Library, 19 Kingsbury Ave., St. Johnsville, NY, 13452 - 518-568-7282. The director is very agreeable to the idea of such materials being donated to the library collection.

This library is very appropriate for Getman research material because many of our ancestors settled and lived in the community and surrounding area.

Materials there will be readily available for people to use and will be stored properly. Donations are final and will become permanent additions to the library.

Send Us Your Stories

**Share your Getman histories
and traditions with
your cousins, near and far.**

wayget@ntcnet.com

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)

Frederick Getman

Abt. 1725 - 1792/93

Frederick Getman (GFG – C 1) is the fourth child of Frederick and Maria Bierman Getman. He is the first child born after they had relocated from Hartman's Dorf in Schoharie Valley to the land granted at Burnetsfield near the present-day city of Little Falls, New York. He is also a child for whom many significant dates are unknown. During the publication of the Getman Genealogy in 1975 Frederick was assigned the identity code GFG C 1. "C" represented his order of birth as it was believed to be at the time of that publication. More current research as placed him as the second born son since and "1" indicated that he was the first in the line. To avoid confusion the identity of "C" has been kept and each of his descendants carries this identity code with a unique ascending number in the Getman Association records and on the website. His descendants who were not included in the 1975 publication or the supplement are identified as GFG – C without a number. His siblings have been assigned similar identity codes which are useful when tracking the multiple intermarriages of descendant generations.

The Getman family moved to Burnetsfield patent prior to his birth. Once there they lived near the current city of Little Falls. Little Falls had become an important community because of the need to portage

around several "little falls" when traveling by boat on the Mohawk River. Some of the local residents were able to make a living by offering assistance and over-night accommodations and meals to the travelers. The Getman plot was about 3 miles west of the settlement and they were not involved in the portage trade.

Frederick is shown as having been married twice. The first wife is identified only as Margaretha with no surname. The second wife is known to have been Anna Margaretha Kessler the widow of Johannes Miller. Frederick and Anna were married May 15, 1787 at the German Flatts Reformed Church.

When the Getman family moved from Burnetsfield to Stone Arabia about 1743 when Frederick would have been 17-18 years of age. It has been presumed that he made the move with them. Unlike his older brother George, Frederick did not remain in the Ephratah / Stone Arabia area and was settled in German Flatts shortly after the 1743 move by his parents. One possibility is that he remained on the Burnetsfield property when his parents and siblings moved. In any case he was worshiping in the German Flatts Reformed Church when his children were born. The first child has been estimated to have been born about 1748. It seems likely that Frederick remained at the

original property and married at approximately the age of 23. It also seems likely that his first wife was born in the Burnetsfield (now Herkimer, NY) area and that they were married in the German Flatts Reformed Church. All that is currently known of his first wife is that her given name was Margaretha.

Frederick and Margaretha had a total of seven known children between 1748 and 1766, the first being a daughter, Catherine (abt. 1748-1829). Catherine married George Weaver (1748-1819), This couple moved westerly into Deerfield and established a strong family in that area. They had 4 children. Peter Frederick Getman (1750-1826) married Anna Elizabeth Frank (1763-18??) They also moved slightly westerly and settled in the area which became Frankfort, NY. This couple had 11 children. Frederick Getman (Jr) (abt. 1752-1841) married Mary Catherine Broadhack (1757-aft. 1840). This couple moved southerly into what would become the Township of Columbia, Herkimer County, NY. They had 7 children. Maria Ann Getman (1755-1829) was married twice; first to Frederick Stevens (abt. 1750-6 Aug. 1777) he was killed at the Battle of Oriskany during the Revolutionary War, they had one child, she then married Melchert Folts (1746-1829) and bore him 6 children. This couple appears to have remained in the Burnetsfield-German Flatts area. Marie Margaretha Getman (1761-1840) married Gersham Skinner (1751-1824) he was born in Massachusetts and settled in the area that is now the township of Columbia. They had 6 children. Conrad Getman (1763-1836) married Maria Catherine Frank 1765-18??), they had 7 children between 1786 and 1803. Conrad also had a relationship with Anna Ittig from whom a child was born in 1786. The youngest child was Johann Frederick Getman (1766-????) he was married three times; first to Maria Catherine Frank (1767-

abt. 1788) with whom he had three children; second, Anna Elizabeth Frank (1768-1805), they had seven children; third, Catherine L. Steele (abt. 1785-????), she bore him four children. Collectively Frederick and Margaritha had 57 grandchildren.

Frederick and Anna Margaretha were married in German Flatts in 1787, he was aged abt. 62 and they did not have children. Frederick is buried in the Reformed Church Cemetery at Columbia, Herkimer County, NY. The final resting places of his wives is currently unknown.

As with all adult males of the time Frederick served in the local militia. There are three specific references to this service as follows; 1 – *served as a soldier of Conrad Franks company of Militia. This company consisted of adult males from German Flatts, South of the Mohawk River.*

2 - *Served as a member of the "1st Grenadier Company" of Militia under the command of Col. John Jost Herkimer. This company consisted of adult males from German Flatts, South of the Mohawk River.*

3 - *"On the 25th of June [1778] the following appointments were made by the governor and council to the regiment of militia in the German Flats and Kingsland districts: --- Frederick Getman, captain; Jacob Meyer, second lieutenant; John Meyer, ensign."* (History of Herkimer County, 1893, G.A. Hardin and F.H. Willard, pg. 58-59)

The dates of birth death and so on are not the only element of "confusion" related to Frederick. During the publication of the 1975 Getman genealogy, his record was combined with that of his son Frederick. This indicated that he had another wife and his youngest child would have been born when he was aged 48. Although this was a possibility it seemed unlikely and remained a quandary until the following record was found relating to the distribution of

provisions after Revolutionary War destruction in the area.

Suffers at German Flatts ... Half Allowance, such as have lost houses and barns but have some grain left and are put on half allowance: ...Getman, Frederick, Sr. above [16 years of age] 5, under [16 years of age] 3. (Destruction of Herkimer, petition dated Sep 18, 1778, Book of Names, The Enterprise and News, St. Johnsville, NY, pub 1933)

The designation of Frederick Getman Sr. in this document clarified that there was a Frederick Jr. providing an answer to the curious marriage and other puzzlements.

The will of Frederick Sr. transcribed by Nancy Richardson Talleur which follows also clearly identifies the son Frederick Jr. although he is treated differently than the other sons.

It is also interesting to note the sometimes curious differences in spelling contained in this document. Also during this period the letter "s" was written in two different ways, it may have been as the currently used "s" or when in the body of a word or a double s was needed one or both would often be written as a "f" currently is when using script. These variations have been corrected for ease of reading.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF FREDERIK GOTTMAN,
April 7, 1788 Montgomery County Surrogate's Court

In the name of God Amen. I Frederik Gottman of German Flatts District in the County of Montgomery and State of Newyork farmer, being Week in Body, but of Sound Memorie and understanding blessed be God do this 7th Day of Aprill in the year of ouer Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Eight make and publish this my last Will and Testament in the Manner following, that is to say, first Give and bequeath unto my son Peter Gottman five Pounds Newyork Currency for his birth Right, to be paid out of the personal Estate, Second I give and bequeath unto my Three Sons Viz Peter Gottman, Conrad Gottman and Johannes Gottman and their Heirs all my Real Estate wich have now in possession, being two Hunderd acres one hunderd of them is Called and Knowen by the Name of Lott No. One on the South Side of the Mohawk River in a pattent granted to Jost Petry and others, the Second Hunderd acres, am possessed of adjoining this my Lott, is leased to me by the Trustees of ouer Church on Saide Side, and pays yearly and every year three pounds Newyork Currency to the overSeers of the Church, with Saide Rent and Quitt Rent of the first mentioned Hunderd acres of land shall be payed by them three of United Brothers, my Sons as Peter Conrad and Johannes Gottman in Equal Shares further this is my Absolute Will that the Waygon, Harrow, Plough Slay and Giers belonging there unto Shal remain unto them and their Heirs to pfarm. The orchard shall be Divided amongst them three, Except two trees Wich shall be reserved for the only use and benefit on my Beloved wife Anna Margaretha if she should happen to become my widow and she Shall nominate them as for her use, and the Barn shall be for the use of All Three as long as they can put thier Grain in and By or with the help of Barraks, but if it should happen that it would not do for them all three, So that the Barn would be too Smal and the place not convenient then the Barn with the usual place shall belong to Conrad and Johannes Gottman and the Last mentioned Conrad and Johannes shall help to Build an other for Peter Gottman and bear like expenses, further j give and Bequeath unto my son Frederick Gottman One Hunderd acres of Land out of a Pattent Grante to Rudolph Staly (1) and others, further i give and bequeath unto my Daughters Viz Catharina Weber, Wife of Georg Weber, Maria Vols Wife of Melger Vols Margaretha Skinner, Wife of Gersiphon Skinner, each of them the Sume of fifteen pounds good

and lawfull Monney of the State of Newyork, to be payd by my Three Sons Peter, Conrad and Johannes Gottman as following that is to say two year after my Decease they shall pay to Catharina Weber Maria Vols and Margareth Skinner the Sume of Nine Pounds, that is to say the Sume of Three pounds to Each and So yearly and every year hereafter untill payd to the amount of fifteen pound to Each of my Daughters: further the Timber Boards and Shingles wich have been Determined to Build a Dwelling House shall be for the use of Conrad and Johannes to set it on The old place where the former house has been on; further it is my Absolute will that my three sons Peter, Conrad and Johannes Shall give Yearly and every year to my beloved Wife during the Time She remains my Widow Anna Margaretha Gottman twelf Shippel of Good Wheat, three Shippel Of Indian Corn one fat Hog of one Hunderd Pound, one and a half pound of Tea twenty Pound of Suygar one half a pound of peper one half A pound of allspice two gallons of Rum one half a Shippel of Salt And their Shoes and Stokings necessary for her use. Further She shall have the choise of one Cow amongst all them and two sheep, with two last articles as the Cow & the two Sheep, shall be kept, by my three sons Conrad, Peter and Johannes in pasture and winter feed, but if they so mantain this my beloved wife in all things as becoming my Widow then they are to give nothing during her stay with them, and she shall have Liberty to go and Live with any of my Childern, but in cas of Sikness they shall provide if with them Such Necessaries a the present Necessity calls for and Then further the best of the Horses (2) shall be with the Cows, Hogs Sheep and fowls Divided share and share alike amongst all my childern, but the residue of all my personal Estate shall Remain together untill the Death or remarriage of my beloved wife and shall be with them for his or their use where she lives with, but after her Death or remarriage this Effects shall be divided in Equal Shares amongst all my Childern and my beloved wife anna margaretha shall have the use of the bed; as part of the bed belongs to her she is at liberty dispose of and like wife (3) of two Hoggs here she pleases and the rest all belonging to my childern. And I do ordain and make for this my Last will and Testament Frederick Frank and Johannes Mayer, to take care and see the Same performed according to my true intent and meaning in witness whereof the Saide Frederck Gottman have to this my last will and Testament Set my Hand and Seal the Day and year first above Written Signed Sealed and Delivered by the Saide Frederick Gottman as and for his last will and Testament in the Presence of us who where present at the Signing and Sealing

Wherof on the twenty first line wich is not determined for the plough and belonging to the Land as above mentioned have been read Before Signing and Sealing

Witnesses.

(Signed) Wm Petry(Signed) Connrad J. Foltz(Signed) Andreas Peiffer
his(Signed) Frederik X Gottman mark

BE CAREFUL AND STAY HEALTHY

Beauty Prize Winner

Utica Daily Press, NY
Friday, March 30, 1934

Little Falls – A feature of the meeting of the Delta Gamma Delta Sorority held in the American Legion rooms Thursday evening was a beauty contest in which about 20 girls of the sorority participated and which was won by Miss Mildred Ruby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Ruby67, 256 Church street)

Miss Ruby was picked as the best looking girl of the 20 or more contestants by the judges who were Miss Marian Warner, Utica and Misses Fredericka Vickers and Mary Clark, Little Falls, Heretofore the contest was held at the grand convention but this year each chapter selects its eligible member and her picture is sent to the national booklet of the chapter known as “The Owl” The national prize beauty is selected from the pictures.

Alpha Beta chapter was honored by the presence of the grand treasurer, Miss Marian Warner, Utica, who was presented with a corsage of American roses and white sweet peas. A covered dish supper was served.

Mildred Ruby (GFG – C) 1917-???? Was the daughter of Harry Getman Ruby and granddaughter of Alida Getman (GFG – C) 1862-1914 and Edward Ruby 1861-????



Gold Mine Collapse

Utica Daily Press, NY
Thursday, February 24, 1959

A native Utican and former resident of Chadwicks, killed in a gold mine cave-in will be buried Thursday in Phoenix, Ariz.

William Mathews Sr, 61, was one of two miners whose bodies were discovered buried under an estimated 100 tons of rock, silt and muck in their placer gold mine about 90 miles north of Phoenix

The accident occurred last Thursday but it was not discovered until Saturday. The bodies were recovered Sunday. Mathews and friend. Pete Speakman, 52, were believed to be inexperienced miners. They had been living in a trailer on the claim.

Mr. Mathews was born July 14, 1897 in Utica, a son of the late William and Carrie Getman Mathews. He was educated in Utica public schools.

On Jan. 14, 1922. he married Reva Rich. They moved to Chadwicks in .911 [sic]. For several years, he operated the Chadwicks Hardware store. Two years ago, the couple moved to Arizona.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, William Jr., of Phoenix, Ariz.; a daughter, Mrs. Everett Crackenbush of Torrance, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Walter Loomis of Utica; two brothers, Horatio Mathews of Chadwicks; Earl Mathews of Salisbury, N. Y., and several nieces and nephews. The funeral will be Thursday in Phoenix with burial in a Phoenix cemetery.

William H. Mathews (GFG – C 364ah) son of Carrie Getman (GFG – C 364 a) 1864-1949 and William H, Mathews 1864-1915.

Note these complex GFG number were assigned during the publication of the 1982 Supplement to The Getman Family Genealogy published in 1975.