

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)

Getman History Continued

Evening Telegram, Herkimer, New York
Tuesday, July 26, 1960

“Editor’s Note: This is the third in a series of four articles written by Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale, N. Y. historian of the Getman Family of America, on the Palatines, many of whose descendants still reside in the Mohawk Valley.”

No specific grant of land was ever made to the Palatines by the London Board of Trade or the New York Provincial Council during Governor Hunter’s administration, even though the contract which was signed before departure, provided each person should receive a grant of 40 acres of land.

Although the governor was well educated and he came from a reputable Scotch family, he lacked the business experience and training which was necessary to handle a project of this nature. It was also unfortunate that the governor soon fell under the influence of Robert Livingston, the patroon, one of the most unscrupulous men in the early history of New York. Livingston received a contract to furnish tools, supplies, horses, wagons and food for the account of the Palatines.

It is reported that quality was poor, portions were small and that there was much dissatisfaction with his management. Jean Cast, assistant commissary wrote Governor Hunter in May 1711: “I never saw salted meat packed with so much salt or the quality

so poor. In truth, one eighth of the portions were salt.”

The production of the naval stores was delayed by the British Expedition against the French in Canada in 1711. About 300 of the Palatine men of fighting age joined this force and when they returned, they were sent to Albany in anticipation of a French attack on that city. These men received no pay for their services and the women and children received no ration allowance while they were away. These grievances, in addition to the fact that their arms were taken from them when they returned, caused much discontent and dissatisfaction.

When John Bridger, who was familiar with tar making, failed to arrive in Livingston Manor, Richard Sackett, a farmer with only limited experience in tar making, was placed in charge by Gov. Hunter. About 100,000 trees were barked during the summer of 1711 but the substitution of Sackett for Bridger aroused the interest of the London Board of Trade. When it was disclosed that only 200 barrels of tar had been extracted from the 100,000 trees which had been barked, they decided to withdraw their support for the project. The announcement of the cessation of the work and subsistence, was like the explosion of a bombshell to the Palatines. Many doubted their ability to provide food for their families during the coming winter.

The Palatines contended that no credit or accounting had ever been made for the work which they had performed on the naval

stores project, the improvements which they had made at the camps along the Hudson and in addition, they had received no pay for their military services in 1711. The tar making project had failed through no fault of theirs and the British Government had not yet honored Its pledge in the contract to furnish each person with 40 acres of land.

The abandonment of this project by the British, the withdrawal of rations and the subsequent treatment which these people received, caused them to become bitter and when their help was solicited at the time of the Revolution, they were quick to rebel and join forces with the other groups. Gov. Hunter refused to give the Palatines a confirmatory English title to any lands which they bought from the Indians as he did when Livingston and others purchased land.

Then the project was abandoned, the people began to scatter in all directions. Some went to neighboring communities, some returned to New York, and some were forced to remain at Livingston Manor. In a letter, appealing for food and help, Rev. Haeger stated that those who remained where Gov. Hunter had placed them, suffered from the lack of food and supplies during the winter of 1712-13. He also said that the people boil the grass and the children eat the leaves from the trees.

Some people floated down the Hudson and migrated to New Jersey and to Pennsylvania. One group sent seven of their list-masters to the Mohawk and Schoharie valleys to see if arrangements could be made with the Indians for a more permanent settlement. The Palatine deputies contracted with the Karighondonte Tribe of Indians at Schoharie for purchase of about 10,000 acres of land which began near the present-day village of Middleburgh and ran down the Schoharie river to the present village of Central Bridge.

Conrad Weisers' report stated that "The Valley was opened for the consideration of \$300 Spanish money." As soon as the list-masters returned and reported, 60 families emigrated immediately to the Schoharie valley and made the first white settlement at Weiserdorf, now Middleburgh. In the spring of 1713, one hundred additional families moved from the Hudson to the Schoharie and founded other dorfs or hamlets north of Weiserdorf. Additional families continued to migrate to Schoharie until there were seven dorfs settled by 1729. Gov. Hunter in a letter to the London Board of Trade, stated that the first group of families which went to Schoharie in the fall of 1712, suffered untold hardship and discomforts in their crude and hastily built log cabins during that first winter. The second group pushed their way through the snow over the Helldenbergs in the spring of 1713 to Schoharie and they too suffered from lack of shelter, food proper clothing.

Gov. Hunter resigned in 1720 and he was succeeded by Gov. Burnet. In 1723, the Stone Arabia Patent was opened and 28 families took title to about 470 acres of land each. [see note following this article] This patent is now known as the Township of Palatine in Montgomery County. The German Flats Patent was granted April 30, 1725. This included land on both sides of the Mohawk River near the present villages of Herkimer, Ilion and Mohawk.

Ninety-two families settled on the land at that time and many of these family names are still found in this area. On April 1, 1723, about 30 families left the Schoharie area and migrated down the Tulpenhocken valley into Pennsylvania where they settled. The present day cities of York and Reading were originally settled by this group. Additional emigrants followed the same route in 1725 and 1729. We have the names of over 90 families who migrated from Schoharie to Pennsylvania prior to 1730.

Prior to 1730 there had been much moving about but after this date these people had a tendency to settle down and establish themselves in good quarters. They enjoyed a period of comparative rest for about 20 years and during this period they were able to clear the land, build suitable houses and develop the area. They did not realize that when the French and Indian Wars began, they would be in the front line of attack.

In November 1757, the French under Belletre with their Indian allies, raided and destroyed the settlements where Herkimer, Little Falls, Mohawk, Ilion and Frankfort are now located. The raiders burned every house, barn, grist and saw mill, on the north side of the Mohawk River as well as many buildings on the south side. The cattle, horses, sheep and swine were killed, the inhabitants who could not escape to the fort were either killed or captured and taken to Canada as prisoners.

This was the most disastrous invasion, with the possible exception of the burning of Schenectady, that the Mohawk Valley experienced prior to the Revolution. Over 300 persons were killed, 100 were taken prisoner and transferred to Canada. Fort Herkimer alone, held out against the invasion and provided a haven for many who were able to escape to the south side of the river.

The next spring, the French struck again on the south side of the river. Thirty Palatines were killed and most of their homes were destroyed. The loss of life would have been greater but for the active vigilance of young Capt. Nicholas Herkimer, who hearing of the approach of the invaders, sounded the alarm, collected many settlers within the palisades of Fort Herkimer and successfully resisted the attack on the fort.

(To be Continued)

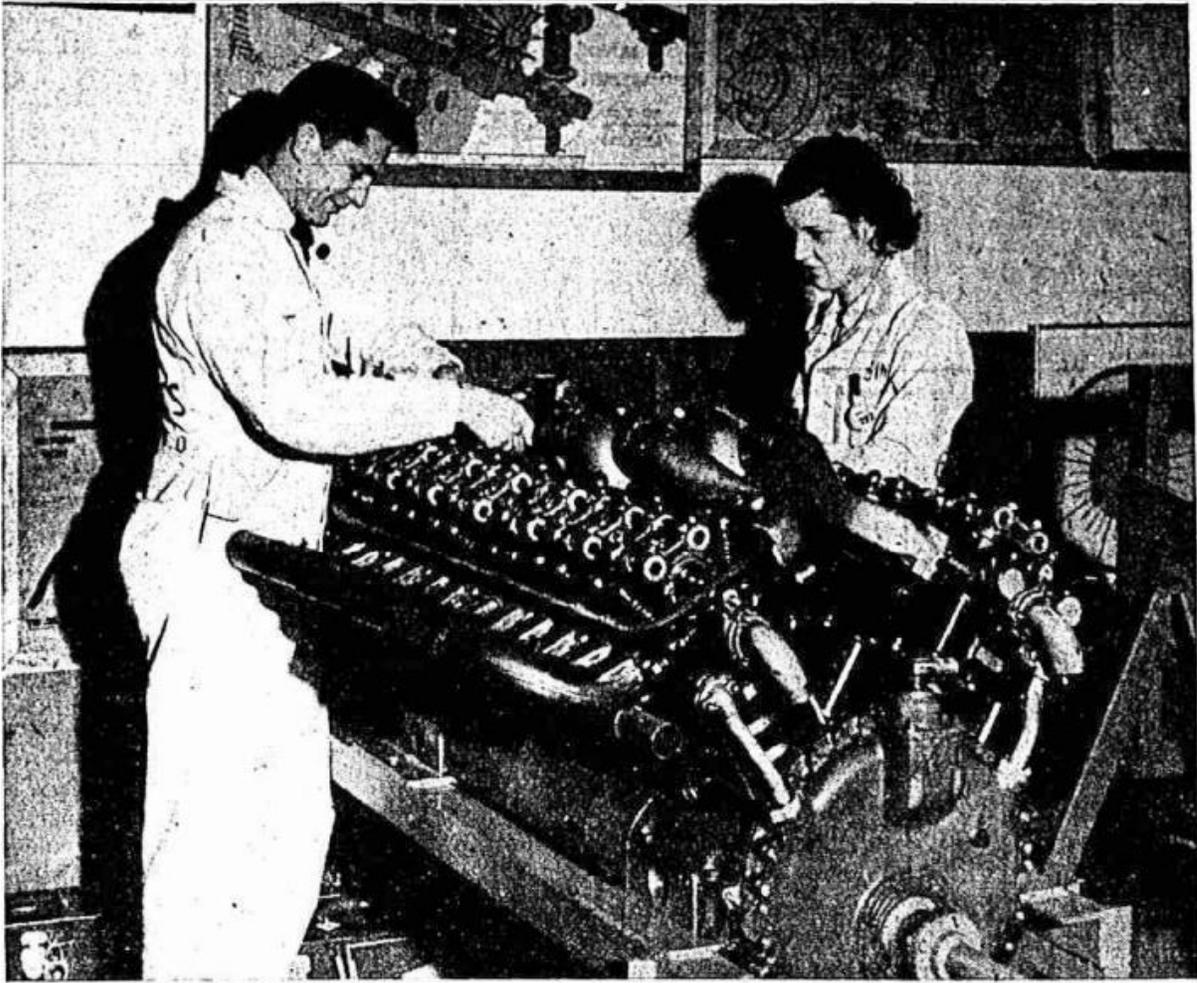
NOTE

Settlers had moved to the area which would become known as Burnetsfield (after Governor Burnet) in 1723. The land was formally granted in 1725 and amounted to 94 thousand acres which was divided into 115 lots in a complicated manner to afford each patentee access to the river, tillable land and woodland. Frederick Getman was not a patentee, however his step-mother and step-father were each provided with a portion. Frederick and his family settled on that portion allotted to his step-mother toward the eastern end of the Burnetsfield patent.

The Stone Arabia area had been purchased from the Indians by the settlers and was later officially recognized by Governor Burnet. This land grant amounted to 12,700 acres and was awarded to 127 persons. At the time the settlers allotted each other 50 acres and the balance was left unassigned. Fifty acres each was considered enough by the settlers because the land was so productive. Frederick Getman purchased land in Stone Arabia in 1743. He and most of his family then relocated to Stone Arabia where they later became known as some of the areas earliest settlers.

***Happy
Holiday
Wishes to
Each and
Every One***

Guadalcanal Hero and Bride in Mechanics School



Evening Recorder, Amsterdam, NY
Saturday, January 15, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. John Bing, pictured above at the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics, Newark, N. J., where they are engaged in helping the war effort while preparing for peace-time employment. The former is a son of Dr. and Mrs. William A. Bing, Dr. Bing being former superintendent of the Montgomery Sanatorium on Swart Hill. The younger Mrs. Bing is the former Lois DeGraff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeGraff of Amsterdam R. D. 6.

This is the story of a former Marine and his wife who are taking part in the expansion system for placing returned veterans in jobs. Today, John Bing, 27, and his wife, Lois, 22, are side by side studying blueprint reading, engine theory and practice, carburetion and magnetoes with the firm conviction that the hardships of war, in the end, have given them a head-start toward a successful future together.

With only a hope, a prayer and a four-day leave for a future, they were married at Glenville, on August 7, 1942, the day the Marines invaded Guadalcanal.

Three weeks later. Private First Class John Bing sailed with the Marines' First Aviation Engineers for the Solomons hotspot, where he helped repair Henderson Air Field and enlarge it for the present ambitious bomber operations, while under almost daily bombing and occasional strafing attacks from the Japanese.

PFC Bing served on Guadalcanal from November 11, 1942. until his outfit was sent to New Zealand for a rest last April 6. Soon after landing in the Solomons he was stricken with a combination of malaria and yellow jaundice. Despite occasional periods of hospitalization, he managed to carry on as chief fuel man for his outfit's multi-millionaire dollar array of excavators, bulldozers, tractors and trucks.

Working for Standard Oil in Albany was never like his job in the Solomons, however, for early in the occupation period supply was such a difficult problem that PFC Bing spent much of his time foraging over the island for usable Jap gasoline.

Among the closest calls he had—next to the mosquito bites which gave him malaria—were a divebombing attack on his transport and a high level bombing attack on their beachhead the day he landed. Heavy bombs fell so near they sprang eight plates on his ship and one Jap plane came so close "I could have shook hands with the pilot," he replied.

In February, 1943, the Japs made their famous low-level bombing and strafing attack on Henderson Field, causing Bing to "hit a hole in a hurry." He got up but some of his comrades did not.

Bing was bitten by the aviation bug as well as mosquitoes while on Guadalcanal. His engineers' outfit was attached to the Marines' 14th Air Group which was in turn attached to the First Marine Division. Thus he had many opportunities to chum with men directly connected with air operations.

"I could see aviation was a coming thing after the war," he said, "so I tried for a long time to get a transfer into the air group. I still had hopes of making it until I was discharged from the hospital."

In New Zealand, PFC Bing had a severe recurrence of malaria and was sent back to the United States for treatment at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Balboa Park in San Diego. Calif. He was there from May 30 until September 16, 1943.

Meantime, Lois Bing was doing her best to bring the war to a favorable conclusion as an instructor in aircraft relay switch assembly at General Electric's Schenectady plant. On July 10, last year, she caught a flyer to California, obtained a job in the office of Walker's department store in San Diego, and frequently visited her husband.

PFC Bing was given an honorable medical discharge from the Marines on September 9 and on September 16 the reunited couple caught a train for New York. While the husband convalesced they alternated in visiting his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Bing, at Kinderhook, N. Y., where they now reside, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeGraff, Amsterdam R. D. 6.

Early last month, Lois saw an ad in a New York Sunday paper which said "men" in one corner and "women" in the other. Since the couple had had more than enough separation in their short married life, this attracted their attention.

On November 16 they both became aircraft mechanics trainees at the Casey Jones School. They will graduate the middle of February with a Civil Service rating of "general mechanic's helper" at \$1,500 a year plus overtime. In addition to a \$100 a month salary while learning, the government pays for the training course. In return for this expenditure the enrollees agree to stay in their Civil Service jobs a year, after which they are free to work anywhere.

The Bings are the first married couple to enroll in the Newark school although other couples have graduated following romances in mid-term. The arrangement is ideal because the Civil Service program at present calls for an equal number of women and men in each class.

Lois Ann DeGraff Bing (GFG – B) 1921-1915 is a great-great-great-granddaughter of Catherine Getman (GFG – B 2) 1761-1813 and Ludwig Richard 1757-1819. She and John Benjamin Bing had three children.

Gold Star

The Newton Graphic, Massachusetts
Thursday, August 2, 1945

Cpl. David Getman, 23, T.J.S.M.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. Adalbert Getman of 75 Harding street, West Newton, who was wounded twice in the Pacific, has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second medal. The presentation was made by Lt. Col. Baily M. Copenberg at exercises held at the Quonset Point Naval Base in Rhode Island.

Cpl. Getman was at first wounded in the hip on June 10, 1944 on Saipan but recovered in time to take part in the invasion of Tinian Island where he received a wrist wound on July 24.

A graduate of the Newton High School he was employed at Grover Cronin, Inc. in Waltham until he enlisted in the Marines in April 1941. He served with the Fourth Marine Division and renewed his four year enlistment last April.

He is married to the former Catherine Foley of Philadelphia and they have an 18 months old son, David. His brother, Cook 1c Herbert Getman, who has been on sea duty for four years recently spent a 30 day furlough at home. Cpl. Getman was at home over the past week end.

David Ignatous Getman (GFG – C) 1921-1997 is a son of Katherine E Getman, 1904-1969. He was raised in Massachusetts

by his grandparents, Adelbert F. Getman 1871-???? and Catherine Hynes 1878-????

Getman Association 1949

The Canajoharie Courier
– Fort Plain Standard
Thursday, October 21, 1949

Suggestions were offered for stimulating additional interest in the Getman family organization at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the family at the home of Mrs. Albert Getman. Fort Plain, Friday evening.

It was agreed that a committee be appointed with representatives in all sections of the country, particularly in the Mohawk Valley area, to make a survey and locate all pertinent records and data. After this information has been assembled, an inventory will be made to locate all family Bibles, deeds, wills, church and other records which may contain family history. The members of this committee will also assist in correcting mailing lists, reporting deaths, marriages, births and the securing of all other information which may be of mutual interest.

Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale, the family historian, presented the board with a booklet of blueprints; which contains over 5,000 names of descendants of the ancestor, Frederick Getman. He stated that with the assistance and cooperation of all members of the family this record should eventually contain over 10,000 names.

A plan to publish a quarterly magazine was discussed. It was pointed out that since the Getman family has now spread from coast to coast, the only real method of maintaining mutual interest and binding the group together is through the publication of a magazine. This matter was referred to a committee to study.

The next meeting of the board will be held in May.