

THE

GETMAN NEWS

December 2022

Web page <https://getmangenealogy.wordpress.com/>

Research Data: getmandata.org

Facebook [Getman Family of America](#)

Seasons Greetings Merry Christmas Happy Hanukkah Happy New Year

This is a festive time of the year for almost everyone in the US, and I send you the very best possible wishes for now and the future, whatever your traditions may be.

Our collective ancestors spent their lives working for the improvement of our lives. Individual contributions may have been small, but collectively they have been significant.

Some gave their lives in battle. Others worked hard to raise a family who might be in a better position to succeed than the previous generation. The basic idea has nearly always been to leave the place better than you found it.

This is an appropriate time of year to remember the contributions of those who came and went before us. Each of their stories has helped make us who we are. It is also an appropriate time to remind ourselves that we are helping to create the future for those who follow.

Getman Genealogy Book Available

A book covering the first six generations of Getmans, starting with Caspar is available. This book was published in 2013. 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 to Wayne Getman.

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)

Editor' Note:

The following article relates to a little known part of the American Revolution, The Battle of Stone Arabia. This battle involved several Getmans and their relatives who were living in the area. In addition to participating in the battle as members of the militia, many of them had their home and harvests destroyed during the engagement.

A Story of Col. Brown's Bravery, Gen. Van Rensselaer's Indecision

Courier-Standard-Enterprise
BICENTENIAL SECTION
September 6 1972

Though the history books seldom mention it, a battle was fought at Stone Arabia, also known as Klock's Field, Oct. 19, 1780.

Essentially, it was a fierce struggle between the forces of the infamous Sir John Johnson's "Royal Green" and Indians. and a detachment from the stockaded garrison known as Fort Paris, near the Stone Arabia crossroads.

Utilizing guerilla tactics, Johnson's large force had previously attacked Tribe's Hill, German Flatts, and made an excursion through Palatine. In later months, Harpersfield was attacked, followed by an attempt to pillage Johnstown.

Joseph Brant, a Mohawk leader, was one of Johnson's associates, and his force managed to cut the connections between

Fort Stanwix and German Flatts. On Aug. 2, 1780, he led 450 Indians in an attack on Canajoharie, killing 14 and taking another 50 hostages.

On both sides of the Mohawk river, the combined forces terrorized the citizenry, and in one instance managed to burn down the \$65,000 home of Jelles Fonda at Palatine. Fonda was away, and his wife escaped to Schenectady, making the 26 mile journey by foot.

Relief Force

On Oct. 19, Sir John sent a force to attack Fort Paris and Gen. Robert Van Rensselaer was dispatched with a force from Albany to send relief to the settlers.

However, Van Rensselaer was reluctant in the pursuit. On the evening before the battle, his force encamped on a hill near what is known as Sprakers soon after Johnson's forces crossed the river, sent word to Col. John Brown at Fort Paris to engage the enemy at the front while his forces would attack from the rear. Relying on the general's words, Brown began the attack on Johnson's forces. Certain of the rear attack, Brown covered two thirds of the distance to the river before he had engaged the enemy. Van Rensselaer still hesitant, kept his forces on the other side of the river while Brown fell on the battlefield mortally wounded.

An attempt was made to relieve the Fort Paris garrison by a Capt. McKean and Lt. Col. Louis, but Van Rensselaer ordered

them back until he finished eating dinner with Governor Clinton in Fort Plain. He did not return until late afternoon and then began a cumbersome crossing of the river by wagon.

Because of these actions, Col. William Harper protested with the general while Lt. Louis, another officer in the force, waved his sword in Van Rensselaer's face, calling him a Tory.

Troops Fatigued

Later, it was discovered that Sir John Johnson's troops were fatigued, and had expected to surrender to Van Rensselaer's fresh unit. It is said that Johnson and Van Rensselaer had a friendly relationship, explaining the general's action. Following the battle, Joseph and Conrad Spraker, Warner Dygert, and William Waffles returned to the area, finding the bodies of Col. Brown and 30 of his soldiers, naked and scalped. They were buried in a trench, now marked where they fought, and later Brown's body was reinterred in the burying ground at the Stone Arabia Reformed Church.

Following the battle, the enemy scattered, devastating the Mohawk Valley region from all sides. Van Rensselaer crossed the river at Fort Plain and overtook the enemy on the north side above St. Johnsville, near what is now the Fort Klock Historic Restoration. Johnson retreated to a point of land jutting out into the river, but Van Rensselaer refused to launch an attack, despite the urging of his officers and Johnson escaped. After the war. Capt. Duncan, a member of Johnson's forces from Schenectady, stated that the Tory group had made preparations to surrender to Van Rensselaer, but they had not been given the opportunity to do so.

Court Martialed

Van Rensselaer was court martialed in March, 1781, for his actions, but was acquitted because of conflicting testimony.

However, he was removed from his command and replaced by the able Marinus Willett, a true patriot. To this day. Stone Arabia Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, honors Col. John Brown by decorating his grave following a dinner-meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, a few hundred feet from the graveyard where he is interred.

(Editor's note: [1972 publication] Recent exhaustive research indicates that General Van Rensselaer was neither a coward, nor an incompetent, but a victim of circumstances as is shown by the records of the court martial which acquitted him. However, he was not a popular commander and his inability to effectively utilize his troops, probably cost the Americans a great victory at Stone Arabia.)

Getman Association 1964

Courier-Standard, Fort Plain, NY
Thursday, August 13, 1964

The annual reunion of the Getman Family of America was held at the picnic grove of the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church, East Stone Arabia, last Saturday.

A covered dish dinner was served at 1 o'clock in the newly erected pavilion. Sixty-two persons were present.

The president, Frank Parent, presided over the business meeting. The historian Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale explained the plans for having a History of the Getman Family printed by August 1965. Officers elected for the coming year were: President, Frank Parent, Herkimer; vice president, George H. Getman, Ilion; second vice president, Charles Getman, Baldwinsville; secretary, Mrs. Beverly Buddle, Grand

Gorge; treasurer, Donald Saltsman, Fort Plain.

Directors elected for two years were: Mrs. Edna Leneker, Mrs. Grace Hillabrandt Mrs. Nellie Getman, Mrs. Gertrude Getman and Mrs. Myrtle Eaker. Directors for one year are: Mrs. Natalie Swanson, Douglas Saltsman, Carl Getman and Mrs. Magdalene Kimball.

Prizes were awarded as follows: Youngest, Terri Bernstein; oldest, Mrs. William Abel, Keck Center; traveling greatest distance, Mr. and Mrs. James McClosky, Hamburg, and largest family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Getman, Nelliston.

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great-grandparents
16 second great-grandparents
32 third great-grandparents
64 fourth great-grandparents
128 fifth great-grandparents
256 sixth great-grandparents
512 seventh great-grandparents
1,024 eighth great-grandparents
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment..

Send Us Your Stories

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

wayget@ntcnet.com

Alligators Anyone?

The Miami Herald, Miami, FL
Monday, January 24, 1983

Howard Taylor a retired boat captain and 30-year resident of Dade County died Thursday at James Archer Smith Hospital in Homestead,

Mr. Taylor 59 had been the chief tour-boat operator in Everglades National Park for the past 23 years.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., he began his career during the 1950s by chartering fishing boats in Marathon. His love of the outdoors and familiarity with Florida waterways enabled him to obtain a concession with the Everglades National Park at Flamingo. He retired in 1982.

Prior to his work at the park Mr. Taylor had worked as an engineer, commercial pilot, aerial photographer and dust-cropper — skills he developed while serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

His longest assignment at sea came in 1968 when he traveled to Alexandria Egypt to captain an oil transport vessel.

Mr. Taylor is survived by three daughters Noreen Chervinski, Debi Helman and Kathleen Trimble and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 6 pm today at the Lithgow South Miami Chapel Mr. Taylor's ashes will be scattered over Florida Bay.

Howard Taylor (GFG – I) 1924-1983, is a 6th great-grandson of Anna Maria Getman (GFG – I) 1721-1811 and Johann Meyers, 1715-1810.