

THE

GETMAN NEWS

December 2023

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

Research Data: getmandata.org

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Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

From our home to yours, we send you the season's greeting.

Wishing you and yours an enjoyable holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year

Getman Family Reunion/Meeting Moves to Washington D.C. August 2-3-4, 2024 More Details to Follow

The 2024 reunion/meeting will be held in Washington DC at the invitation of the Victims of Communism Museum.

A display of artwork by Nikolai Getman. Known as the Gulag Collection the display "is a unique collection of 50 paintings by Ukrainian artist and Gulag survivor Nikolai Getman, who spent eight years in Siberia and then worked for 40 years to create this stunning visual chronicle of the Gulag."

As likely distant relatives of Nikolai Getman we have been invited to view the display and to hold our annual meeting in the museum's facilities.

The museum is located on McPhearson Square, at 900 15th Street, NW, Washington DC.

There are several hotels within walking distance of the museum. Participants need to inform us of their intention to attend in order to assure adequate arrangements.

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.

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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)

**Old Getman Family
Data Turned Over to
Historian**

The Evening Telegram Herkimer, NY
Wednesday, June 13, 1962

A box containing historical data on the Getman Family of America, has been received by the family historian, Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale, President Ralph Parent said today.

Bowman has just received the box from the widow of William F. Getman. who resided near Cleveland, Ohio. He was a great grandson of Capt. John Getman who was born Feb. 11, 1801 and died April 6, 1876.

In the box were scrap books, history books, the John Getman family Bible with notations dating back to 1800, newspaper clippings of important events which occurred in the early days of the family, and many other original historic documents, Parent pointed out.

One document is a tax warrant, signed and sealed by the 18 supervisors of Herkimer county, authorizing the tax collector to collect the following taxes and make payment to the following Town of Columbia officials;

To commissioner of common schools \$113.63.

To commissioner of highways \$00.00.

To the supervisor \$161.60.

To county treasurer \$489.43.

Total Tax for year 1834 \$764.66.

It is interesting to note there was no road tax, due to the fact each resident furnished labor and or team to work on the road and in this way no funds were then required.

A clipping from a Utica paper Jan. 19, 1918, gives an account of bequests of the late Crawford Getman who died in the Town of Cleveland, N.Y. The clipping states "There has been much interest in Utica and vicinity, in the will of Crawford Getman whose death occurred in Cleveland recently. Mr. Getman was for many years, the largest manufacturer of window glass in the country if not in the world. The will totals into the hundreds of thousands and has 24 distinct bequests mentioned." Many friends and relatives were mentioned in amounts which ranged up to \$20,000 each.

These documents will be photostated and the originals will be presented to one of the local historical societies for safe keeping. Parent said.

Does anyone know where these documents are now? Franklin J. Bowman placed his research materials in the library at Union College, Schenectady, NY. Are they included there or does a historical society have them?

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Father, Daughter Meet After 31 Year Separation

The Modesto Bee
Modesto, CA

Wednesday, October 19, 1949

SAN JOSE, Oct. 19, - Father and daughter who each thought the other dead are reunited today for the first time in 31 years.

The father, Melville Homer De Covey, cafe operator near Mofferr Field, north of San Jose, was found by his daughter, Mrs. Valorie Schwoob, Butte, Mont., in a several years search for his relatives.

Here for the reunion were Mrs. Schwoob's husband, George, and her two daughters, Marjorie, 14, and Lorna, 5.

Thirty one years ago De Covey, working in Texas, was informed his wife had died in the 1918 flu epidemic. His daughter was with her grandmother, Mrs. Stella Wade of Three Forks, Mont. But through a misunderstanding in correspondence De Covey thought his daughter, then 2 years old, also had died.

The young girl grew up thinking her father was dead and in 1937 began looking for his relatives. In 1942 she wrote to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, asking for his assistance.

Last September the FBI located De Covey. She wrote him asking him if he were related to her father. De Covey wired back.

Dear daughter. Your search is over. Got quite a shock. Letter follows. Your father.

Melville Homer De Covey, (GFG - A) 1894-1959 was a great-great-great-grandson of Elizabeth Getman (GFG - 7) 1771-1858 and Johannes Saltsman, 1767-1832.

He had changed his surname from Covey to De Covey. Valorie's mother died 26, July, 1919 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Early Myers Family Record Discovered

Evening Recorder
Amsterdam, NY

Thursday, January 11, 1962

Franklin J. Bowman, historian of the Getman family, while searching for information which still pertained to the early settlers of the Mohawk Valley, discovered certain old manuscripts in San Diego, Cal., which relate to the Myers family and to Hendrick Meyers, who settled in the Herkimer area in 1725.

These records contain the birth and death dates of over 3,000 of his descendants as well as the position of these people on the Myers family tree. These records also show that there were two brothers, Christian and Hendrick, who migrated to America with the Palatines in 1710.

At first, they settled on the Livingston Manor Tract, on the Hudson, with many of their countrymen but after remaining there several years and after becoming dissatisfied with the treatment which they and the other members of the Palatine group were receiving, these two brothers decided to leave the Manor and settle elsewhere.

In 1724, Christian Myers purchased land at Churchland, just west of Saugerties, N.Y. He first built a house and then a mill. At a later date, he added a large tract of land to his holdings, so that his sons would each have a farm of his own when he became married.

In 1730, Christian was one of the elders of the Katsbaan church and in 1732, he was one of the builders of the new stone church which was built to replace the old church. His initials "C. M. 1732" still show on the wall of this church. The lineage of the Christian Myers family taken from "Old Ulster," shows that Christian Myers 1688-1781 married Anna R. Theunyes 1690-1766. They had 13 children and the records of the first four generations are quite complete.

Hendrick, Myers, migrated to the Herkimer area in 1725 when he became a patentee in the Burnetsfield Patent. He settled here and he raised a family. His son, Hendrick Jr., married Anna Maria Getman, a daughter of the original pioneer, Frederick 1693-1758. This couple had 11 children and in a short time, the Myers Clan was well established at German Flats. All of the sons and all of the grandsons who were old enough to bear arms, were soldiers in the American army, during the American—Revolution.

An article, written by Alice Myers Barnes in 1931, entitled. "The Genealogy of the Myers Family" is very complete and informative. In one instance, she relates the story as to how Catherine Myers Harter, the daughter of Hendrick was captured by the Indians and while being transported to Canada, gave birth to a baby girl, while she was being rowed across the St. Lawrence River in an Indian canoe. Her husband, Capt. Harter, with a party of soldiers, gave chase and they eventually caught up with the party and they were able to rescue his wife and child. A Myers descendant. Carl Myers, was a pioneer in the development of balloons and lighter than air craft. His residence was known as the balloon farm and it has been said that he worked with and assisted the Wright Brothers during those early pioneering days.

When the bodies were removed from the old Myers burying ground in Herkimer, this land was reclaimed by the city and this plot later became Myers Park.

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Statue of General Nicholas Herkimer at the Battle of Oriskany located in Myers Park, Herkimer, NY. This park occupies an area known as the old burying ground. Persons buried here were relocated when the park was created in 1897, many of them are now in Oak Hill Cemetery, Herkimer, NY.

Myers Park Once Village Cemetery

The Evening Telegram
Herkimer – Ilion, NY
Friday, July 3, 1959

Myers Park was the village cemetery from 1800 until 1897. More than 400 persons had been buried there and all but 150 were transferred to Oak Hill Cemetery when in 1897 the village voted to convert the old cemetery into public park. The headstones of those remaining in the park were laid flat over the graves and covered over with earth when the grading began.

The original land for the Myers Park cemetery was donated to the village from the Frederick and Henry Myers estates. The exact date of this gift is unknown but an inscription on an old tombstone shows that the first burials were made in 1800.

Within the four acres of this cemetery were interred the remains of many military and political pioneers of the county. Among them may be mentioned the names of General Christopher Bellinger, who commanded the German Flatts regiment; Colonel Frederick Bellinger, who participated in the bloody fight at Oriskany;

Dr. William Petrie, Herkimer's first doctor; General Michael Myers, who fought in the battle of Johnstown in 1781 and later became county judge; and Rev. John Spinner, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Herkimer, grew steadily during the nineteenth century and its boundary extended further westward until the old cemetery was surrounded on all sides by new homes. In 1868 Oak Hill Cemetery was laid out to meet the demand for new burial grounds and the cemetery at Myers Park fell to neglect.

Finally, in 1897, the Village Board of Trustees resolved to convert the neglected burial plot into a public park. On June 10, 1897, the citizens of Herkimer voted unanimously in favor of the resolution, although it met with stiff opposition from minority who felt that the remains of the dead should be left undisturbed.

In a last effort to save the burial grounds from complete obliteration, the opposition, led by the "Herkimer County Record newspaper pleaded with the Village Board of Trustees to allow "the grave of the gallant soldier, Aaron Helmer, be left as it is for present (in the park) and temporarily enclosed so that sometime in the future when Herkimer gets ready to erect its soldiers' monument, it may be placed near the spot where lies the last of this gallant soldier." Apparently the plea went unheeded for there is no soldiers monument in Myers Park except those of Gen. Herkimer and Gen Skinner.

During 1896 the task of locating the next of kin and personal representatives of those interred in the park was completed and in October 1899 the work of removing the bodies and monuments began.

Many families had plots at Oak Hill and the remains of their kin in the park were transferred to those plots at Oak Hill. A section of Oak Hill was laid aside to receive

the remains of those who had no claimants. As the work of removal progressed, it became evident that because of the state of the remains of some of those buried in Myers Park and the conditions under which they died, some would have to remain forever in Myers Park. The work was finally completed in the latter part of 1899.

Myers Park was officially dedicated during the Herkimer Centennial celebration in 1907 when General Herkimer's statue was erected. An essay written for the Evening Telegram for the centennial pleaded: ". . . Let us tread softly over the spot where still lies some of the remains of these Mohawk Valley pioneers. "

Editors Note: A significant number of the interments relocated to Oak Hill Cemetery were Getman descendants and in-laws. Additionally some families chose to have their ancestors relocated to other area cemeteries as well. Frederick H Myers (GFG – I) 1748-1822 and his wife Anna Margareta Weaver 1753-1831 are an example of this practice.



Do you reflect your family history?