

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)

Train Stories

This month I have a couple of stories that involve trains. They also involve Getman descendants we didn't have a record of until the past month.

An inquiry that came in about a month ago led to a genealogy link that we had no record of. That link was Mary Margaret Getman (GFG – B 23) 1786-1865 and Lewis Frederick 1791.

Keep those "cards and letters" coming (emails).

Load of Ice

Fulton County Republican, Johnstown, NY

Thursday, January 19, 1899

Abram Frederick of Mill street, had a narrow escape from being instantly killed yesterday, and in his present condition it is not positive that he will recover. He was drawing ice from the Maylender pond to Miller, Argersinger & Co's mill, and was making the last trip before dinner. His sleighs were heavily loaded and he was going from Perry to Mill street across Mason. Neither he or his assistant, William Nellis, who was on the rear of the load, saw anything of the approaching train until the train was within a short distance of the Mason street crossing of F. J. & G. railroad, and passenger train No. 2 which arrives in this city at 12:15 was only about 200 feet away, coming at full speed. At that time the steam whistle was blown with tremendous force and Frederick saw his dangerous predicament. At first he thought the team could be stopped on the east side of the track, but going along at a slow trot, the momentum of the load was too great and it could not be done. He then proceeded to hurry the team across, and although the engineer was doing his best to stop the train, it was still going at least twenty miles an hour, and before Mr. Frederick could whip the team across the engine crashed into the center of the load with tremendous force.

Nellis who was on the rear of the sleigh, had jumped off, but Frederick who was seated on the front of the load, held his position until the crash came. Bob sleighs, etc., went every direction, and Mr. Frederick was thrown at least twenty feet in the air, striking on his face as he returned to earth. Parties

who saw the accident rushed to his side and found him apparently lifeless, but after a few moments he began to move and soon regained consciousness. Mr. Frederick was taken in a sleigh to his home on Mill street and by the that time was intent on alighting without assistance, but was carried into the house.

Dr. E. C. Potvin was immediately summoned, who was shortly followed by Dr. Frank Beebe. The physicians found that the smaller bone of the right leg had been broken just above the ankle and that the flesh had been punctured in several spots. His side was badly bruised and a gash and bruises had been left on the side of his head. His wounds were soon attended and although still suffering somewhat from the shock, he is in as easy condition as can be expected. As his injuries now appear Mr. Frederick will no doubt recover in due season, but there is the possibility of internal injuries that may be more serious.

As a result of the collision the bob sleighs were splintered in many places and cakes of ice were strewn for several rods. One of the horses was thrown down but neither were injured. Engineer Quinby held the throttle and within the next 100 feet after the load was wrecked the train was stopped. President Ledlie Hees of the F. J. & G. railroad, was among the passengers and aided in assisting Mr. Frederick to the house. It is probable that the engine bell was ringing as the train neared the crossing, but the whistle was not blown until it was too late. The whistle is blown at the upper crossing but as the train is in sight for a considerable distance, it is not deemed necessary at this point and the railroad company can hardly be blamed for the accident.

Abram Frederick (GFG – B) 1843-1920 was a grandson of Mary Margaret Getman (GFG – B 23) 1786-1865 and Lewis Frederick 1791.

Send us your family stories.

Wayne Getman c/o

wayget@ntcnet.com

And Again

The Fulton County Republican, Johnstown, NY
Thursday, May 18, 1899

Abram Frederick was placed in an unenviable predicament, this forenoon, as a result of a broken wagon. Since the railroad accident in which he was severely injured, last winter, he has only been able to ride about in a carriage, one leg being practically helpless, and this morning when he met with a sudden accident he was placed at a great disadvantage. He was driving along Washington street, and when about to cross the railroad track his horse gave a sudden start and broke the reach to the wagon, which threw him out over the dashboard, on to the horse's back and heels. Luckily the animal was gentle enough to stand still, so that Mr. Frederick awaited assistance without injury to himself. W. H. Johnson and a few others removed him from the entanglement and from the track just in time to avoid a passing train. Railroad crossings seem to be a "Jonah" to Mr. Frederick.

Abram Frederick (GFG - B) 1843-1920 was a grandson of Mary Margaret Getman (GFG - B 23) 1786-1865 and Lewis Frederick 1791.

Same Family

Fulton County Republican, Johnstown, NY,
October 12, 1891

Jacob L. Frederick familiarly known as "Old Jake Lady" narrowly escaped death, while walking on the railroad track October 14th. Mr. Frederick and the 5:30 train from Gloversville, reached a small bridge that spans the creek near Thompson & Lord's, shoe leather factory at the same [time]. When the engineer caught sight of him he whistled for him to leave the track and slowed up the train, but Mr. Frederick paid no attention to the signals, not thinking the train was so close to him. He crossed the bridge just ahead of the engine and, as he reached terra firma, and placed one foot outside the rail, the front of the engine struck him on the left shoulder and tipped him over into the ditch where he lay, flat on his back. The train was stopped as soon as possible and backed to the scene of the accident. A large crowd had already gathered, but Mr. Frederick had gotten up without assistance and taken himself off up the ditch, refusing to again walk up the track. He was uninjured except from the shock and fall.

Jacob L Frederick (GFG - B) 1818-1892 was a son of Mary Margaret Getman (GFG - B 23) 1786-1865 and Lewis Frederick 1791 - ? He was twice married and had a total of 13 children, 8 with his first wife, Catherine Palmateer and 5 with his second wife Louisa Lykes.

Obituary

Ilion Citizen, NY
Thursday, August 4, 1910

In the death of Frank Skinner. August 3 the town of Columbia loses one of its upright and most highly respected citizens. The end came quickly after a brief period of illness. He was stricken with heart trouble, suffering three attacks, going into a state of coma at midnight and not regaining consciousness. Mr. Skinner was a native and life-long resident of the town of Columbia and was of Revolutionary descent from both branches of his ancestry. His parents were Gersham Skinner and Jane Dygert. He was a great-grandson of Gersham Skinner, who participated in the Revolutionary struggle and was at the burning of the mill at Little Falls, and the deceased had the little trunk, purse and colonial money his ancestor carried from the burning mill of that occasion. The mother of the deceased was descended from the Revolutionary Dygerts graves of both being recently marked with appropriate ceremony at South Columbia. On his mother's side he was a descendant of Judge Storing about whom history tells how he caused the arrest and fined a man for traveling Sunday. The man paying the fine asked a receipt, so that he might not be arrested again, which Judge Storing gave him, and the man converting the receipt into a note, had the same cashed by a Mr. Kane at Canajoharie and Judge Storing later had to pay the note. The deceased was a farmer quiet and unassuming and his life was a credit to the sturdy ancestry from which he sprang. There survive his widow and a brother, J. W. Skinner of Herkimer. The funeral will be held Saturday from his late home at 1 p.m. Rev. Mr. Cook of Miller's Mills will officiate and burial will be made at that place.

Frances "Frank" Lucious Skinner (GFG - C 348 / VIII) 1851-1910 was a great-grandson of Marie Margaretha Getman (GFG - C 4) 1761-1840 and Gersham Skinner, 1751-1824. He was the twin brother of Frances Lucien Skinner, 1851-1897.

**Mark Your 2019
Calendar
August 2, 3 and 4**

Barn Fire

The Citizen Advertiser, Auburn, NY

Saturday, November 14, 1969

A raging fire, whipped by strong winds, swept through the Stephen A. DeWitt farm, Route 41A Town of Niles Friday, causing an estimated \$50,000 damage and putting the entire farm out of operation, fire officials report.

Origin of the blaze is undetermined, according to New Hope Fire Chief Leland Weed. Investigation of the fire is continuing, according to Chief Criminal Deputy Frank J. Sikora. There is no indication at this time that the fire was started by an arsonist. Deputy Sikora said.

Chief Weed estimated the damage at \$50,000. The farm was partially covered by insurance, the chief said.

Lost in the blaze was 24 head of cattle, two 70 by 40 foot barns. 100 tons of baled hay, 125 tons of grain, firemen said.

Flames, stirred by a wind of up to 30 miles per hour, jumped 50 feet from the barns and set fire to the farm house and a small shed, according to firemen.

Firemen described the fire with:

The west wall of the house was destroyed and the interior entirely gutted. Some clothing and furniture was saved. The 12-by-12 foot shed, which housed small tools, was destroyed. The valves on two butane gas tanks near the shed were popped and the gas burned.

Mr. DeWitt was in the barn which house the cattle at 9:06 p.m. when he smelled the smoke. The blaze started in the extreme north end of the barn nearest the house in a hay loft. Mr. DeWitt was able to save one of the 25 head of cattle and a tractor before the heat became unbearable and prevented further salvage. He then called the firemen.

New Hope fire fighters under Chief Leland Weed were first to arrive at the scene. They were followed closely by Owasco companies 1 and 2 with Charles Edgar Canavan and Samuel DeFabio, Skaneateles, Fleming and Moravia volunteers gave mutual aid bringing the total number of volunteers fighting the blaze to about 125.

The fire had already had a good start when firemen arrived and with the strong winds quelling the blaze was difficult. A light rain was falling but did little in cooling the flames.

As the fire reached the DeWitt house the wind subsided considerably giving firemen a better chance at dousing the blaze. Once the flames reached the house they worked up the wall and into the partitions and into a blind attic. Firemen chopped holes in the wall and roof to douse the pockets of flame.

Water used in putting out the blaze was brought in from Bear Swamp Creek, located about one mile from the farm. Trucks equipped with water tanks carried the water from the creek to the fire scene, fire officials said.

According to friend of the DeWitts it was not known where the DeWitt couple and their son, who is a student in high school were going to stay but it was indicated that they would stay with relatives.

Sheriff John H. Milliman. Criminal Deputy P. M. Pettigrass and Deputy Allen Sharpsteen were at the scene. Trooper A. A. Leja assisted in the investigation.

Stephen Adam DeWitt (GFG - C), 1912-2008, was a great-great-great grandson of Maria Ann Getman (GFG - C 2) 1755-1839 and Melchert Folts 1746-1829.

Lands A Good Job

Amsterdam Evening Recorder, NY

Saturday, February 8, 1919

Floyd Veeder Wemple, son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Wemple of Gloversville and grandson of Mrs. Robert L. Veeder of Johnstown, all former residents of this place, is now at the head of one of the many DuPont munition factories in New Jersey. Mr. Wemple after leaving Berryville was graduated from Gloversville High school and later from Pratt Institute at Brooklyn. He is a graduate chemist of high standing. Probably no other young man Berryville commands a higher salary or occupies a more responsible position than does Mr. Wemple. His many friends here are very glad to hear of his success.

Floyd Veeder Wemple (GFG - B) 1892-1982 was a great-great-grandson of Mary Margaret Getman (GFG - B23) 1786-1865 and Lewis Frederick 1791-. Berryville was a small settlement near Fonda, Montgomery County, NY.