

Note:

More recently discovered documents provide information to supplement that which is presented in these initial documents. This information is available at Getmandata.org.

THE

GETMAN NEWS

Volume 1 No. 1

FEBRUARY 1963

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

At the beginning of this year 1963, we greet you and wish you Health Happiness and Prosperity. We also wish to thank you for the cooperation and support which you have given us in the preparation of the Getman Family records. This assistance has enabled us to operate as a team, with the result that many thousands of names have been added to the Getman Family tree and many valuable historic documents have been passed on to us for our inspection and for recording. In order to secure their safety and preservation, we have deposited them in several of the libraries and museums which are located in the Mohawk Valley. This is where the history was made and this is where the records should be permanently housed for the inspection and study of interested students.

While making visits to many institutions located in this area, we found that, over the years, a wealth of historic material has been collected and classified. It is our purpose to seek out this data, assemble it and then pass it on to you on the pages of the Getman News. This will be a Readers Digest approach to valuable historic stories. We who live near the large libraries and other sources of information, can render a real service to those interested relatives who live far removed from these metropolitan areas. We must always remember however, that this is a joint venture and if we hope to put this project over the top, we must have the cooperation and support of the *entire* family because this is a non profit publication. Your Historian is glad and willing to contribute his time and service gratis.

We also wish to thank those relatives who have contributed financially, toward the establishment of this magazine. Without their support and able assistance, this project would not be possible. Now that the start has been made, we will try to stimulate the

interest and cooperation of this family to a point where we will be able to print and publish a Getman History which will command the respect and interest of all historians. Our family has a record and a history of which we can be proud. Our forefathers made heavy sacrifices and large contributions which assisted in the formation of these United States. They made it possible for us to live as free men and to enjoy the greatest blessings which mankind has ever known. Let us not forget those sturdy pioneers who made our way of life possible. Let us be ever vigilant, so that the liberties which we now enjoy, are not taken away from us. Let us also be thankful to God for the blessings which he has bestowed upon us.

Why not lend your support *now* by signing the application below and then returning it immediately to your Historian. **TO ALL WHO SUBSCRIBE NOW, A BONUS WILL BE GIVEN.** This bonus is a copy of a deed suitable for framing, wherein, the original pioneer FREDERICK GETMAN born 1693, transferred to his son Captain Christian Getman certain land which was part of the original Stone Arabia Patent. This deed was preserved over the years by Asa Getman and it was donated by his daughter Mrs. Frances Lane.

To Franklin J. Bowman, Historian

266 Madison Road, Scarsdale, New York

Please enter my subscription for one year for the Getman News. The Two Dollars (\$2.00) which I enclose will cover the cost of the magazine and in addition, I will receive a copy of the Frederick Getman Deed.

Name _____

Address _____

Frederick Getman 1693-1781 m Mary Bierman, a daughter of
Their Children: Johannes
 Anna Marie Getman 1721-1811 m Johan Heinrich Myers 1715-
 George Getman 1723-1789 m Udelia Shoemaker 1723-1789
 John Getman 1728- m Anna Merckles (Markle)
 Anna Eve Getman 1731- m Frederick Orendorf
 Christian Getman 1734-1808 m Ann Eve Timmerman 1743-1822
 Frederick Getman 1736-1791 m Marie Broadhack
 Elizabeth Getman 1740-1840 m Gershon Skinner 1740-1824

George and Christian remained at Stone Arabia while the other children settled in the German Flats area. Now called Herkimer.

Anna Marie Getman 1721-1811 m John Henrich Myers 1715-
Their Children:
 Margretha Myers b____d____ m Johannes Helmer 1747-d____
 Maria Myers 1743-1830 m Jacob Bell (Killed at Oriskany)
 m Johannes Hilts 1744-11/3/1820
 Gertrude Myers m 1765 Conrad Frank Jr.
 Jehave Gerlock Myers 1746-1773 m 1770 Anna Eliz Rasbach
 Frederick H. Myers 1748-1822 m Anna Margaret Weaver 1753-1831
 Anna Eves Myers 1750- m Frederick Christman
 Johannes Myers 1752- m Elizabeth _____
 Peter H. Myers 1757-1833 m Not married
 Johannes Nicholas Myers 1758-1843 m Camelia Lake
 Henrick H. Myers 1760-1789 m Christina Leather 1756-1855
 Catharina Myers m 1784 Johannes Phillips

NOTE: We have the names of about 2,000 descendants of this family, they are mostly from the Frederick H. and the Henrich H. lines.

George Getman 1723-1789 m Udelia Shoemaker 1723-1789
Their Children:
 Frederick Getman 1751-1812 m Ann Eve Frank 1752-1812
 Thomas Getman 1752-1820 m Elizabeth Helmer 1753-1837
 John Getman 1754-1806 m Margaret Loucks -1829
 George Getman, Jr. 1755-1828 m Elizabeth House
 Mary Getman 1755- m John L. Kring 1758-1836

NOTE: The records of the above are considered quite good.

John Getman 1728- m Anna Marie Merckles (Markle)
 Johann Getman 1763-
 Margretha Getman 1764-
 Johannes Getman 1767-

NOTE: As this family went to Canada at the time of the Revolution, we have no family records. I have been told that his property was confiscated and that he was read out of the Getman family.

Ann Eve Getman 1721- m Frederick Orendorf b____-1802
Their Children:
 Katherine Orendorf 1741-1812 m Michael Edick 1734-1806
 Eve Orendorf m Hans Thomas Shoemaker _____
 Conrad Orendorf 1748-1819 m Katherine Shoemaker 1748-1814
 Frederick Orendorf, Jr 1758-1830 m Lucy Fulmer
 Elizabeth Orendorf Baptised 11/28/1759 No other record.
 Henry Orendorf 1765-1854 m Ann DeMuth

NOTE: Mrs. Hatch names two additional daughters. One married Mr. Earl while the other married Mr. Bellinger.

(Continued on page 3)

EARLY GETMAN HISTORY

The first record which we have of the Getman family, is found in the Public Record Office, London, England. In volume 2 Number D 69, we find a record entitled "List of poor Palatines who arrived at St. Catharines June 11, 1709, list taken June 16th." This list contains the names of 1745 refugees who arrived that particular day. Among those listed, we find the following:

Getman, Caspar Hs & V age 36 sons 16-14-8-5- dau 6-5-2 L

Note: Hs & V indicates that Caspar was a husbandman and a vinedresser. L indicates that his religious denomination was Lutheran. The ages of the children are shown but the name of his wife and the names of all other wives who arrived that day, are not listed. We have found from other sources that the name of Caspar's wife, was Maria Barbara.

Frederick Getman was born in the Palatinate, German Pfalz, which was a principality located on the Rhine, about midway between its mouth and its source. The castle at Heidelberg, was the seat of government and the home of Prince Frederick, a cousin of Queen Anne of England. When King Louis XIV of France, decided to expel the Huguenots from France, many took refuge in the Palatinate, where they were given clothes and shelter by our ancestors. King Louis became displeased with this offer of friendship, so he decided on a scorched earth policy. It was at this point when the French armies were invading the Palatinate and burning everything in their path, that Caspar Getman decided to join the many thousands of other refugees who were fleeing for their lives.

Due to the fact that Queen Anne and Prince Frederick were both Protestants, she decided to give shelter to these unfortunates who through no fault of their own, were being driven from their homeland. The English authorities received them, they listed their names and other vital data and gave them shelter in tents, warehouses and any other place which was available. The problem which then confronted the English, was, what should be done with this wave of humanity which was suddenly thrust upon them. Some joined the English army, others migrated to Ireland, some went to the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Carolinas, while others went to New York.

A flotilla of ten ships was assembled and about 3,000 Palatines set sail in the spring of 1710 for New York. About 20% of this number died during this passage, from disease and unsanitary conditions on board ship. When they landed in New York, they were placed in quarantine on Nutters (Governors) island. The widows and orphans were held in New York while the able-bodied were placed in the camps on the Hudson near Saugerties. President Herbert Hoover's and President Eisenhower's ancestors were among these arrivals.

The fact that Marie Barbara Getman was listed as the head of a family on Governor Hunters list taken in 1710, indicates that Caspar Getman in all probability, never arrived in America. We know of only one other member of the family who did arrive, her son, Frederick born 1693.

Frederick Getman was naturalized at the Mayors Court in Albany, N. Y. November 22, 1715. As we check this list, we find the name of Johannes Bierman next to that of Frederick. This indicates that these two men were naturalized at the same place and the same day and it also might indicate that these two men were in each others company at that time. I have never seen Johannes Bierman's will but I have been told that he refers to Frederick Getman as his step-son instead of his son in law. This would indicate that Bierman might, at some time after arrival have married Frederick's mother Barbara, because we know that Frederick married Mary Bierman, the daughter of Johannes.

Johannes Bierman and his daughter Mary, each took plots of land at the time the Burnetsfield Patent was opened April 30, 1725. The original map shows the location of each plot at German Flats (Herkimer, N. Y.)

Frederick Getman and Johannes Bierman purchased 700 acres of land in the Stone Arabia Patent in 1743.

This land consisted of lots 92, 94, 96 and 98. The transfer of lot #94 by Frederick Getman is recited in a certain deed recently uncovered, whereby this land is transferred to his son Captain Christian Getman. After a joint ownership of several years, Frederick purchased the interest of Johannes Bierman. The old homestead was passed on to the elder son from generation to generation and at present, a certain portion of this property, is still owned and occupied by descendants of the original immigrant. The old bury-

(Continued from page 2)

Christian Getman	1734-1808	m Ann Eve Timmerman	1743 or
<i>Their Children :</i>			1736-1822
Catherine Getman	1761-1813	m Lewis Rickard	1757-1819
Peter Getman	1764-1845	m Elizabeth Richter	1763-1820
Anna Getman	1765-1765		
Anna Eve Getman	1767-1814	m John Jost Shull	
Christian Getman, Jr.	1771-1809	m Mary Eacker	
Jacob Getman	1773-1758	m Susan Joslin	1784-1822
		m (2) Maria Hapeman	
Frederick Getman	1780-1867	m Not married	
Adam Getman	1783-1864	m Mary Vauche	1784-1867
Elizabeth Getman	1787-		
	or 1767-1857	m John Saltman	1767-1822

The name Elizabeth is recorded in the Christian Getman Bible without a date. There is a question as to the identity of Eliz who m John Saltsman.

Frederick Getman	1736-1791	m Marie Catherine Broadhack	
<i>Their children:</i>			
Mary Ann Getman	1757-1836	m Frederick Stevens Killed at Oriskany	
		m (2) Melchert Folts	
Marie Margareta Getman	1761-1840	m John Skinner	1761-1853
Peter F. Getman	1760-1840	m Ann Elizabeth Frank	
Conradus Getman	1763-1836	m Mary Catherine Frank	
John Getman	1766-1826	m Ann Elizabeth Frank	
		m (2) Katherine Steele	
Frederick Getman	1776-1841	m Magdaline Frank	
		m (2) Margaret Hess	
Mary (Polly) Getman	1780-1840	m George J. Getman	1778-1860
Margaretta Getman	1784-	m John Hess	
Elizabeth Getman		m Norman Sharp	
George F. Getman	1787-	m Margaret Haner	
Katherine Getman	1789-	m George Weber	
Bartlett Getman	1790-1870	m Elizabeth Grant	1786-1856

Elizabeth Getman 1762-1840 m Gershon Skinner 1750-1824
NOTE: Mrs. Hatch gives Elizabeth's age as above. Byron Getman gives her birth date as 1740, which seems more reasonable. Her mother Mary was of age in 1725 when she took the land grant at Getman Flats.

Their Children:

Peggy Skinner		m Augustinus Hess	
Polly Skinner		m Frederick Hess	
Nancy Skinner		m John Myers	
Katherine Skinner		m Samuel Bloodgood	
		m (2) Jeremiah Barringer	
Amy Skinner		m Henry Hess	
John Skinner	1785-1863	m Betsy Shoemaker	

NOTE: The records of the Skinner family are poor. If any relative can offer assistance, it will be appreciated.

ing ground is still to be found on the hill overlooking the site of the original house. It is in a fair state of preservation and the records on the stones give valuable information of a historic nature. At the entrance to the plot, we find two large field stones. These stones were pointed out to your historian by an old man over fifty years ago, as the markers which show the location of the resting place of Frederick Getman and his wife Mary.

THE PALATINES WHO RESIDE IN NEW YORK STATE CAN TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY 250 YEARS

Even though many citizens of these United States may not have the actual records which trace their ancestry to the PALATINES who landed in 1710, the fact remains that millions of Americans who reside in this country today, are directly descended from those early pioneers who contributed so much to the formation of our government and helped shape the character of our society. The census of 1790 shows that there were 375,000 persons of German descent (mostly Palatines), out of a total U. S. population of 3,172,000.

The Palatines who settled in New York, arrived on board ten sailing ships during the summer of 1710 and they numbered about 3,000 souls. In addition to this group, other Palatines landed and settled in Virginia, in the Carolinas, in Pennsylvania and in New Jersey.

To know something about these people and to learn the reasons for their urge to migrate to this new world, we must go back in European history and learn something about their background.

Our people reached Central Europe before the dawn of the Christian Era and they eventually settled on the banks of the Rhine. The history of this era goes back 3,000 to 4,000 years and possibly more. It is not a history which follows a single line of development because this area was first inhabited by different races. In the paleolithic period, man lived in Germany because the stone and bone implements which he used, have been found in the neolithic age, he was spread over a wide portion of the country. This has been proved by the discovery of his dwellings, his implements and his graves which have been located in various parts of the land. The bronze age saw a marked increase in the civilizing agencies and soon the people possessed chariots and other weapons made of metal. They lived in strongly built houses and they knew something about the arts and the refinements of life. Such is the evidence of the soil and

spade. Written evidence begins with the Romans.

Nearly a century before the Christian Era, the Romans invaded Germany and at that time, Julius Caesar conquered some but not all of the tribes which inhabited this area. He built military bases along the Rhine, where camps were established in the valleys near the river. The present cities of Cologne, Mainz, Spire, and Worms, trace their origin to these Roman camps. After the Romans withdrew, Germany gradually became united with the Frankish Empire of Clovis 481-511. When he came to power, Charlemagne 771-814, consolidated the Empire and extended his rule from Spain to Italy to Hungary. In 843, when his Empire was broken up in three parts, these territories became known as Germany, France and Italy. At that time Germany consisted of a number of Duchies, the rulers of which, together with the rulers of their most powerful vassals, elected the King. For this reason, the hereditary Prince of the Palatine, was also known as an Elector.

Our ancestors lived in Central Europe in a land of scenic grandeur. The Alps, the lakes and streams together with the fertile soil held them steady habitants for a long time. They fished and hunted for food and they fought when their right or authority to be there was questioned. With the dawn of civilization, there came increased troubles and conflicts. The States to the south locked horns in deadly combat with the people of Central Europe. First one, then the other would gain control of the land. Our ancestors were in the thick of these gigantic struggles and after wandering over Europe for centuries, from the Alps to the Baltic, the old spirit of settlement returned and they emigrated to the land of the Franks in the first few centuries of the Christian Era, where they lived in peace and plenty in the locality now known as Alsace-Lorraine. They remained in this area for many centuries.

(Continued in next issue)

GETMAN FAMILY OF AMERICA

Franklin J. Bowman, Historian
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SCARSDALE, NEW YORK

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