

Greetings,

With the new year, our Getman Family Board is looking to invite other Getman groups around the country to contact us and let us know what they are doing. Our goal is to expand our resources and share information for as many Getman family members as possible.

If you would like to get to know our group better, please contact us. We hope to have a reunion this summer August 7, 8th., depending on COVID-19, check our newsletter for information.

Marty Chase
President

More Genealogy Data Available

During the past few weeks additions have been made to the Getman Association information that is available via the internet. The website is under repair. In the meantime the new information is available at getmandata.org.

The Getman genealogy data has been updated. The new update includes information more recent than the previous version. Data included has been gleaned from publicly available sources and includes Getman descendants and in-laws more recent than the 1940 census. A total of 64,671 persons, 25,516 marriages found in over 2,500 different sources.

The new version of the Getman Association Newsletter has also been added and includes all newsletters since it was resumed in 2004. A few other documents are also there that have not previously been available.

Reunion Plans Under Way

A Getman Association reunion for 2021 is being planned. This will be held in Johnstown NY, August 6-7-8, 2021. A block of rooms has been arranged at the Johnstown-Gloversville Holiday Inn.

Our plans currently feature looking more closely at the Battle of Stone Arabia and visiting the Stone Arabia churches where our early ancestors worshiped were baptized, married, and buried.

You are encouraged to “pencil in” this date on your calendar. Details will be provided as they become available.

DOWN FROM THE BOOKSHELF

By Clyde J. Getman

Walter A. Knittle , *“Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration: A British Government Redemptioner Project to Manufacture Naval Stores.”* Philadelphia: Dorrance & Company, 1937, pp. xiv +320. Rep. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965, pp. xiv + 320.

Anyone with an interest in the settlement of the Stone Arabia (1723) and Burnetsfield (1725) patents surrounding Ephratah and Herkimer-German Flats-Little Falls, should be acquainted with Knittle’s work, the first exhaustive study of the massive German migration known as the 1709ers who left their homes in Germany and settled in the Mohawk Valley. While not the first material to be published, Knittle focuses on the first large group, the 1708-1710 migration to New York. While there were about 13,000 who left the Palatine area in Germany in 1708-1710, some settling in the British Isles, and groups going to North Carolina and Virginia, the major part of the study is on the group who landed in New York in 1710 and settled around Newburgh with some moving on to Stone Arabia and Burnetsfield.

Themes addressed by Knittle are the causes for German emigration from the Rhineland, the 1709 emigration to London and the New World, the need for naval stores for the emerging British world power, settlement in New York, the Old West frontier and the Mohawk Valley.

Knittle is worthy not only to be read, but to be a continuing reference on the shelf in the library of historians and researchers of the 1709ers and the Mohawk Valley.

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)

Johannes B. Getman **“John”**

1728 -????

John Getman is the fifth born child of Frederick and Maria Bierman Getman. He is also the first son born to them. He was not assigned an identity code when the 1975 Getman genealogy was published. The reason for this will be outlined further in this article. Based on his birth order he has now been identified as GFG – V, as have each of his known descendants. He was born at the family farm in Burnetsfield, near the current city of Little Falls, NY, and is presumed to have moved with his parents to Stone Arabia about 1743.

“During the French and Indian War he served in Lieutenant Deychert's (Dygart's) company. They marched to the relief of Fort William Henry, Mar 20, 1757 - Mar 29, 1757.” (“List of Names”. Fort Klock NY)

The French and Indian War (as it is known in the United States) otherwise known as the Seven Years War was a conflict between the English colonies and the French for control of the new lands in what is now known as North America. One of the primary motivators for the conflict was the wealth available from beaver fur which the Indians provided. The French used their Indian allies for most of the fighting. This alliance caused widespread fear on the part of settlers in what is now the northern and eastern parts of what is now the United States.

The action at Fort William Henry that is referenced above is also known as the Fort William Henry “Massacre” (see accompanying article.) Area militias were activated in order to support the fort against French and Indian attack but were unable to arrive in time. John was one of the Militiamen who was called upon.

John married Anna Marie Merkel, at the Stone Arabia, Dutch Reformed Church August 10, 1762. Anna Marie was born in Stone Arabia about 1742. This couple had three known children baptized in the Stone Arabia church; Johann Peter b. 29 Aug 1763, Margaretha, b. 14 Nov 1764 and Johannes b. 1 Apr. 1767. A fourth son, Henrich, b. Oct 1771 who was not in the baptismal records has also been identified. There is little doubt this couple most likely had more children after Henrich, who have not been identified.

John and his descendants have become separated from the rest of his siblings as a result of the Revolutionary War. The branch of the Merkel family John married into were loyalists at the time and fled to Canada when combat came to the Mohawk Valley. Anna Marie was one of eleven siblings in a family of Stone Arabia Merckels. During the war most of her siblings went to Canada, some of them remained in the Mohawk Valley and served as members of the local militia fighting for independence. Those who went to Canada in the general area of Kingston, Ontario, joined the King's Royal Regiment of militia supporting the crown. It is entirely possible that during the Battle of Oriskany

(Aug. 6, 1777) members of the Merkel family served on both sides of the action.

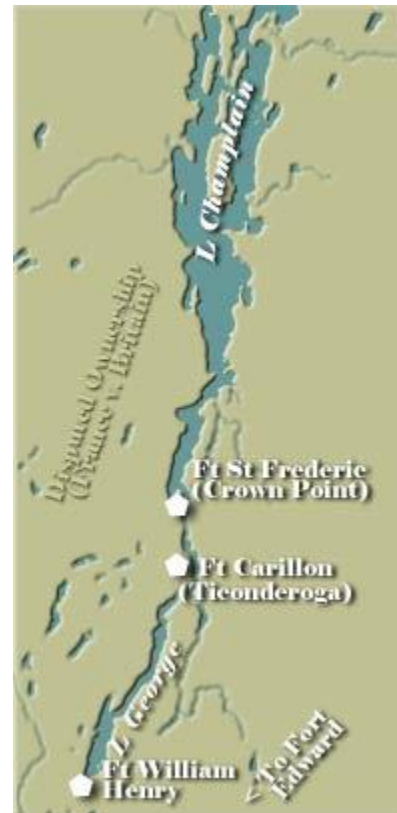
John Getman disappears from the records when his family left. It is known that he did not join the loyalist militia but no other information concerning he or his descendants is currently known. Limited research into the subject of his family has yielded no results. At one time this researcher suspected that his surname had been recorded differently (Gateman or German) by a scribe when they arrived. Since the family was quite likely illiterate this remains a possibility. I have also suspected that since John did not want to go into battle against his brothers, he and his family continued westward when they arrived in Canada. This also remains a possibility. As a result of his departure to Canada and the apparent lack of communication with him after the departure he and his descendants are a mystery that remains to be solved. This is also the reason that the 1975 Getman Genealogy publication does not assign him a GFG #.

Fort William Henry “Massacre”

(U.S. History.com)

In the 1750s, the European imperial powers in North America, France and Britain, faced one another as rivals in the greater Lake Champlain region, an area of economic and strategic value to both. [Fort Carillon](#), located between lakes Champlain and George (Lac du Saint Sacrement to the French) was the southernmost outpost of New France. The closest British position was Fort Edward on the banks of the upper Hudson River to the southeast. The British gradually increased their presence in the Lake George area and by 1757 had completed a road through the dense forest from Fort Edward. In late summer of that year, a French army unsuccessfully

attacked British forces under William Johnson on the south shore of the lake. The victors solidified their position by constructing the wood-walled Fort William Henry, which was designed to serve as a base of operations for future campaigns against French positions to the north.



During 1756, both sides increased their troop strength on the lakes and conducted small raids against each other. In the following year, the French commander at Fort Carillon, the [Marquis de Montcalm](#), decided to end the stalemate and moved against William Henry. His army numbered more than 7,000 — French regulars, Canadian militia and native warriors from several dozen tribes. The French had stirred Indian interest by promises of great plunder to be gained in the conquest. British General Daniel Webb had visited Fort William Henry, but withdrew to the safer confines of Fort Edward after receiving reports of the advent of the large French army. Lieutenant Colonel George Munro (Monro) was left at the fort in

charge of 2,200 soldiers. The modest installation could hold only 500 persons, which forced the remainder to dig trenches outside the walls. Montcalm arrived in the area in August 1757 and commenced a protracted artillery attack; as the days passed, the French slowly tightened their lines around the fort. Nevertheless, Montcalm's looming victory was threatened by shortages of ammunition and supplies. Before the general could order a retreat, the French intercepted a message sent by Webb in which he expressed his inability to bring reinforcements and urged Munro to surrender. The note was quickly passed to its intended recipient under a flag of truce and the British, lacking any other alternative, negotiated terms of surrender.

The French agreed to allow their foes to leave for Fort Edward in possession of their side arms and a token cannon. The fort formally changed hands on August 9. The departing British forces camped outside and anticipated getting an early start the following day. The gentlemanly cooperation between the British and the French was shattered by the Indians, who were unhappy that they had not received the promised booty.

Reports of the following events differ widely. All authorities agree that the natives, many intoxicated by liquor, attacked soldiers and civilians in the British party. There is also



Massacre at Fort William Henry

general agreement that Montcalm and other French officers acted honorably and risked their lives by trying to stop the slaughter. What has been open to debate, however, was the extent of the killing. Some contemporaries reported that

as many as 1,500 men, women and children were shot, scalped and bludgeoned to death. More recent accounts describe less killing and make the point that the Indians were well aware that prisoners were more valuable alive than dead for ransom. Guns, clothing, and implements also were more important to the natives than scalps and the number of likely deaths ranged somewhere between 70 and 180. After the "massacre" was quelled, French soldiers accompanied the British survivors to Fort Edward and then returned to Lake George to burn Fort William Henry to the ground. 1757 was another bad year for the British cause in North America. Not only did they suffer a bitter defeat in northern New York, but also in the Ohio Valley and Nova Scotia.

The local version of this story tells that the departing British party of soldiers and civilians was attacked while they were on route to Fort Edward, shortly after they had left the protection of Fort William Henry.

A reconstruction of Fort William Henry is now available in the village of Lake George. Archaeological digs on the site, particularly in the well have yielded many interesting artifacts.

Send Us Your Stories

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

wayget@ntcnet.com

A Misunderstanding

Utica Herald-Dispatch, NY

Friday, September 13, 1907

On warrants sworn out by Alexander Mercer Pell, who lives at Pelham farm near Little Lake in the town of Warren: William T. Weldon, an attorney of Richfield Springs, Milo Towne, a deputy sheriff of Otsego county, and Harvey Getman, were arrested last evening and brought to this village by Under Sheriff Firth. The warrants charge robbery in the second degree. Pell claims

that the defendants and others came to his house last Saturday evening and took therefrom goods amounting to five wagons loads and worth \$10,000, that he was assaulted when he remonstrated and that his housekeeper was told to keep still or she would go to jail.

Pell, it is said had some trouble with his wife some time ago, and it is said this culminated into a divorce suit. Mrs. Pell receiving a divorce, but appointing Pell as overseer of her property, which was in this county. Without letting Pell know, she appointed lately a Mr. Henry of Richfield Springs as her overseer, and, he being busy, he asked Mr. Weldon to go and get the goods, that belonged to him, so a few days ago he came to Herkimer and got warrants for the arrest of the defendants.

The men were arraigned before Justice Brown last night at 11 o'clock but the case was adjourned until 10 this morning when the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge. Bail was fixed at \$7.00 each. The trial was set for Monday, September 23.

Harvey Elmer Getman (GFG – C 787) 1863-1934.

Help for the Allies

The Brookfield Courier, Brookfield, NY
Wednesday, October 22, 1941

Central New York has contributed another man to aid in rushing supplies to the Middle East forces of the Allies. He is Frank Joseph Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harris J. Myers of West Winfield, who sailed Oct. 9 for an air base in Africa. Myers has signed a contract for 13 months with the Pan-American Airways as steward of one of their bases somewhere in Africa. It is his work to see that the pilots delivering bombers to the Middle East are provided food and shelter at the base, also to look after passengers and officers traveling the new Pan-American route across Africa.

Myers is a native of West Winfield. He was graduated from West Winfield Central School in 1933 and from the Hotel Management College of Cornell in 1939. Since leaving Cornell he has been steward in large hotels and restaurants.

Frank James Myers (GFG – C) 1916 - ????. is a great-grandson of Sophronia Getman(GFG – C 196) 1817-1892, and Jeremiah Myers, 1816-1891.

Antartica

Utica Daily Press, New York
Monday, December 14, 1959

Quartermaster seaman Robert L. Fenton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle F. Fenton of Forestport [New York] recently arrived at McMurdo Sound in Antarctica aboard the icebreaker USS Atka for participation in this year's Operation Deep Freeze 60.

Robert L. Fenton (GFG – VIII) great-great-great-great-grandson of Catherine Getman (GFG – VIII) 1737-1806 and Johannes Shoemaker, 1727-1813.



Family trees often show us that close friendships and descendant marriages are far more common than we might expect. In many cases the "related" participants do not even know of their connection. My wife is a 7th cousin one removed. Why did I not know that?