

January 2007

Genealogy Research Continues

Work on the Descendants of Caspar Getman has progressed well over the past several months. Wayne Getman, family historian, with the assistance of Clyde Getman, Association President, has been continuing research into all lines of Caspar's descendants.

By using internet sources that were not available as recently as five years ago, new descendants have been identified and several puzzles presented by past data have been answered.

Census Records Invaluable

Using various census records your researchers have been able to identify many family links that were previously questioned or unknown.

How does this work ?

Beginning with the 1850 federal census, each member of a family at a given residence is named. Their age, gender and occupation are also identified. Prior to 1850 only the head of the household was identified. Each family member was placed in an age group such as 2 males between the ages of 10 and 15, or 1 female age 30-40. Changes in the 1850 census are a benchmark for accurate genealogical reference.

In addition to name, gender, and occupation later census records include such information as relationship to the head of the household (a great help when working with in-laws), home ownership, immigration and naturalization dates (year only), state or country of birth and so on.

Using these more current census records allows the researcher to identify family migrations, career changes and marriage patterns.

By federal law, US census records are held in confidence for 70 years. The 1930 US census were available to researchers in 2001. This availability has led to the common practice of considering information pertaining to living individuals as confidential until they appear in a public census record. The Getman Family Association uses this policy, Data relating to persons born after 1930 is intentionally not included in the internet database.

Web Page Updated

The Getman Family Association Internet Web Page has been updated with a great deal of new information. In early January the web site data was replaced with a much expanded set.

The newly updated web site includes 8824 individuals, 3737 marriages and references to 423 sources. The update more than doubles the number of individuals who have been identified as having a direct association with the Getman family.

Using census records your researchers have been able to identify where members of the family resided based on ten-year intervals. We are now able to clearly document the whereabouts of a branch of the family that emigrated to Michigan. Once there the next generation married their neighbors who had also emigrated from the Mohawk Valley. Subsequent generations moved further south and west. Prior to census record research we were uncertain which generation left the Mohawk Valley and where they had settled. We are now able to clearly identify (in most cases) which state and township a family resided in. in a few cases we are able to locate a specific village. Future researchers will be able to use tax maps and local directories to pinpoint a specific residence.

You may view this updated information by visiting <http://web.mac.com/maureengetman/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html>.

Jordanville to Host Getman Association August 11, 2007

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of August. The Getman Family Association will once again gather for fellowship and family history.

Activities for the day will include gathering at the Jordanville Federated Church, a meal prepared by church members and a visit to the Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Columbia, Herkimer County, NY. The cemetery is approximately five miles from the church.

Frederick Getman, b. 1725 – GFG # C1 and a number of his nephews in the GFG A line had moved to Columbia prior to the outbreak of the American Revolution. Many of their descendants are residents of the area, although many do not realize their connection because it is through female Getman descendants.

A Message From Our President

Clyde J Getman

As we look forward to the next couple of years in the Getman Family Association, there are a couple of things I see as important for us.

1. A need to build a database of descendants, with names and addresses of people who are interested in being a part of the association. We have said that all descendants of Frederick Getman (1693 - 1781) and his father Casper Getman (1676 - 1710) are members of the association, However it is more than this. More individuals are needed who are willing and able to accept some of the responsibility for making the business of the association more successful.

Some of the work is related to historical records, finding who has been part of the family. In another version, this newsletter listed some of the descendants, marriages, births, etc., that have been listed and are now posted to the webpage. We have progressed quite well with this aspect since September 2003, when we decided to go forward with the webpage.

2. Another area includes the collection of copies of historical documents, wills of the early family members, pension applications for veterans of the Revolutionary War and their widows. These can tell us even more about some of the early families.

3. There is a need to locate and record graves of family members in the cemeteries of the Mohawk Valley.

4. The burial ground at the family homestead needs cleaning, resetting of gravestones, and general restoration with ongoing maintenance. This is a project in which our association can take a leading part.

5. There are a number of family Bibles, whose location is no longer known. It will be helpful to locate, identify, and scan the appropriate pages to make the historical family material available to a wider public.

All of us can identify some of our Getman relatives, and send their name, address and some info to the historical committee. The committee will be pleased to follow up when we have received this information. Each of us is able to check our own backgrounds for at least a couple of generations back and add it to what is known. Since the 1975 publication of The Getman Family Genealogy, 1710-

1974 and the 1982 Supplement, there have been two generations of descendants about which little is known.

Within the past month I have been in contact with a lady who may be the last survivor of the 23 grandchildren of my great grandparents Jerome Hudson Getman (1856-1920) and Charlotte Ann Getman (1861-1917), children respectively of Stephen Getman 1825 and Peter Getman 1829, and descended from Abraham 1792, Christian 1772, Christian 1734, and Frederick 1693. Hopefully I will be able to meet with her soon and learn some of her story. Others can be doing similar activities. It is not as hard as it might seem.

Family Bibles Why are they so Important ?

Before the advent of the internet, the most sought after genealogical document may have been the family bible. Why was this so important, and does it matter today?

Lets start by putting old bibles in context. Most families could not afford a library, many were unable to read and the cost of a book was tremendous, especially when a family was engaged in subsistence farming or a low paying labor intensive employment. When a bible was purchased it was a large enough investment that it automatically became a family heirloom.

In addition to the relative value of the family bible they included bound pages created for the sole purpose of recording births, marriages and deaths. Families readily recognized the importance of this record and began to record these benchmark names and dates. Families who were unable to read and write would often have their clergyman or other educated person record information for them. Inclusion of the information in the bible vastly increased it's value as an heirloom. Traditionally the family bible would be passed to the oldest surviving son who would continue the record, either in the original bible or in a new one for his family.

In many cases the family bible is the only written record of genealogical information. Because of fire, moisture and neglect, many church records have been destroyed and still other genealogical data was never recorded in a central location because a family had no church affiliation. The end result is that the historical family bible often remains the only reliable source of critical information.