

Mark Your 2019 Calendar August 2, 3 and 4

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

Our August reunion may be months away, but you can put it on your 2019 calendar now!

We are hoping you will gather stories and information you would like to share with your Getman Family. That is the time we can all learn something.

You will be in the area your ancestors lived and built their lives through Indian raids and the American Revolution. You are the result of all that wonderful history.

I look forward to hearing lots of stories.

Marty Chase
Chairman

We Need to Know

Let us know if you are planning to attend so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Call 315-845-804

Email wayget@ntcnet.com

Send us your family stories.

Wayne Getman c/o
wayget@ntcnet.com

Getman Genealogy Book Available

A book covering the first six generations of Getmans, starting with Caspar is now available. 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 payable to Wayne Getman.

Union Hall Inn Johnstown, NY 7:00 pm, Friday August 2

The Friday gathering dinner will be held at the oldest restaurant in the area.

The hall was erected in 1798 by Captain Jean Batiste Vaumane de Fon Claire, former officer in the French Army under Louis XVI. Tradition says that it was in this house that Nicholas Stoner, a noted soldier and hunter, killed an Indian to avenge his father's death.

It was also the favorite Inn of Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, who came to Johnstown to race his horse.

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)

100th birthday

Post-Standard, Syracuse, NY
October 26, 1974

NILES - Happy Birthday, John DeWitt!

John DeWitt of DeWitt Road will celebrate his 100th birthday on Nov. 2.

Sharp of wit and humor, John speaks vividly of the past, with sagacity of the present and expectations of the future.

He and his wife, Nellie Forbes DeWitt, live on a farm here which has been in the family since 1814 and has been handed down from son to son for over a century.

He was born in 1874 on an adjacent farm, now owned by Jack DeWitt. The farm was the family home of his mother, Mary Kenyan DeWitt. His father, George I. DeWitt, moved to the present farm before John was 6 months old.

The first mention of a DeWitt ancestor in America is Tjerk Claessen DeWitt. The record of his marriage to Barbara Andriessen on April 24, 1656 is recorded, in the lists of the Reformed Dutch Church of New York.

Both bride and bridegroom were immigrants from Holland.

A descendant of Tjerk, Egbert DeWitt purchased the Niles farm on March 8, 1814, for \$600.

Egbert and his wife, Jerusha, had 10 children. Their only daughter, Mary, married Gen. James Clinton and became the mother of one of New York's most noted governors, DeWitt Clinton. Clinton's greatest service was his promotion of the Erie Canal, also called Clinton's Ditch, which connected Lake Erie with the Hudson River.

Clinton is John DeWitt's great-great-great-uncle.

DeWitt's education began at a Niles district school, Chamberiin, which is still standing. He attended Moravia High School for two years, until he was 18 years old, and worked summers with his father and only brother, Denton, on the farm.

At age 19, he became a teacher for four winters, instructing grades 1-9 at Chamberiin, Niles District 3,

Mandana, Dutch Hollow and Cream Hollow schools. His salary was \$1.10 a day.

His oldest student was exactly his age. The schools were one room and, according to him, "generally quiet" Boys were taught in the winter and "young ladies" in the summer, with the students walking to school.

Busing school children is one thing that gets on his nerves now. "They fuss around and send the kids 15 or 20 miles to school and we have to pay for it," saying he feels taxes are too high.

In 1908, John met Nellie Forbes at a neighborhood party given by Lewis Lockwood. John says he was 35 when he met Nellie, but she disagrees. "I was 21 when I was married, and you were 31," she chuckles, "Now don't make it any worse than it is!"

Mrs. DeWitt was born in 1885 in Frozen Ocean, south of Twelve Corners. When she met John, she was employed in Auburn as a bookkeeper for Leroy R. Carl, a retired Methodist minister, who was a contractor. He built houses and specialized in banisters, and columns. John by now was employed by New York Central in Syracuse.

After a seven-month courtship, they were married on Feb. 7, 1907, in the rectory of the First Presbyterian Church in Auburn, by the Rev. William Hubbard.

They left on a honeymoon trip for Niagara Falls, but turned back at Rochester because of the intense cold weather.

They have two sons, Stephen and John; eight grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

John laughs, "We're getting a lot of Dewitts up here in the woods."

In 1897, having moved to Syracuse, he was employed as a New York Central railway mail clerk. He held that post until 1917. His brother, Denton, also was a mail clerk.

John's job was to sort the mail en route. Three 14-hour round trips were made every week and each trip required three hours work in the depot. When asked the distance the trains traveled into New York, Nellie quipped "John, what was it that postal clerk said to you? You went down as far as where the rails turned up!" That was Grand Central Station.

There were 30 men on a mail train crew. They rode Eastbound Train No. 32 and returned on Westbound 35. The engines normally pulled six mailcars, three working and three storage cars. John also worked for a time on passenger trains such as the 20th Century limited and the Empire State Express.

After 20 years with the Postal Service, he returned to Niles to work the farm. In those days, every farm had a herd of 8 to 10 cows, chickens, and raised corn, potatoes, oats, some barley, and wheat. No hay was sold, but was kept to feed stock.

With foresight and an eye to the future, John DeWitt became one of the first dairymen in the Town of Niles to sign up 11 cows for the tuberculin test, in October, 1928. Only one reactor was found in his herd.

His two sons run his farm and their own today, producing cash, crops on over 500 acres — as DeWitt Brothers.

John says, "It's about the same up here as it used to be. All direct roads. In 1917, I gave gravel out of my bank to get the road fixed,"

He doesn't think Auburn changed much — size-wise — but mentioned farmers used to go to town with horse and wagon. He commented, "of course, they're tearing it all apart now!"

A further opinion was "I think it's getting to be kind of a 'queer' country; It doesn't make any difference whether you've got any money or not."

He notes, "It's wonderful for us old people. We get a nice monthly check?"

Nellie says, "We've had a wonderful life. I have loved the farm, loved to milk, loved the chickens and we had everything."

Asked how he plans to spend his birthday, John said the family may visit.

Then he continued, "My daughters-in-law wanted to have an open house," he laughed, and added, "I'm too dead."

I think John DeWitt is "dead wrong" about that!

John Westfall DeWitt passed away September 18, 192, at the age of 107. John married Nellie A Forbes (GFG – C), 1885-1983. Nellie was a great-great-great granddaughter of Maria Ann Getman (GFG – C 2) 1755-1839 and Melchert Folts 1746-1829.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GETMAN REUNION AT GETMAN PARK

The Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown, NY
Friday, July 16, 1937

The fifteenth annual reunion of the Getman family of America will be held at Getman Park, situated twelve miles north of Gloversville on the Gloversville-Northville road on Saturday, August

7th, at 1 o'clock, DST. Members are asked to bring lunches. Coffee will be furnished and there will be a program of sports and music for all. F. C. Shults of Fort Plain is the secretary.

Model Dairy Farm Exhibits Attract Many Fair Visitors

The Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY
Friday, August 24, 1951

Frankfort—Visitors at the Herkimer County Fair are becoming acquainted with the only two fully-equipped dairy farms ever to fit in the Frankfort Municipal Building. The farms, detailed models of real dairy outfits, were built and set up by a pair of 16-year-old Schuyler boys, Robert Pashely and Robert Upson, and the Livewires 4-H Club, Salisbury Center.

The farm of the two Schuyler youths is so complete in detail, at first glance it resembles an air; view of a typical Mohawk Valley farm. There are forage harvesters, hayers, a modern barn, a silo, John Deere Combines, a barnyard, registered Holstein cows, electric milk coolers, and an assortment of other equipment as well as scale landscaping. The project, explains Bob Pashely, measures 5' by 12' in area, and took over four months to prepare. The landscaping is made up of a mixture of sawdust, sand and grain, all dyed green and carefully molded to give the impression of land contours, while the hay bundles are small blades of grass, cut and bound.

The two youngsters are old hands at model building, having worked on miniature farms for "over five years." Pashely, whose father is a retired farmer, and Upson, whose family owns the Elmer Upson farm, both have a large collection of models at home, although the one they set up at the fair is their first public display.

While the boys have collaborated on many projects other than farm models, the farms "come out best," they admit.

The Livewires 4-H Farm is another detailed model, made by a group of youngsters from 10 to 15 years of age. George Buck, the leader of the group, supervised the building of the model farm. Another 4-H exhibit is a Chick Brooder which "really works" at a cost of only six dollars. Robert Wiegand, Frankfort, a member of the West Winfield 4-H club, built the brooder, which is used to help young chicks to grow and keep warm.

Robert Earl Upson (GFG – C) 1934-2001 son of Elmer Dewitt Upson (GFG – C) 1911-1989 was a fifth great-grandson of Maria Ann Getman (GFG – C 2) 1755-1839 and Melchert Folts 1746-1829.

From one of Our Readers

to you Wayne and all Getmans scattered far and wide.

Attached please find the photo of Clara Mains Getman, Mom/Grandmother/Great Grandma's 100th Birthday party with 50 of her 4 of 5 children and 37.5 grandkids, plus a few other long time "adoptees", on December 29 in Rehoboth Delaware where she lives vibrantly at The Brandywine Senior Center. 3/4th of those pictured are Getmans from her 4 sons and many grandsons.



No wonder the name continues to proliferate from the humble and singular 1709-10 beginning! Of the 4 siblings Thomas R, James R, Cynthia L, Charles E and William Frederick all but Jim who is recovering from surgery in Colorado were present.

Today January 2, 1919, was her actual birthday in Seymore Indiana, but she grew up in Phoenix Arizona, married in 1940 my dad Dr. Gerald Nathan Getman (died in 1990), son of Dr. Nathan Earnest Getman (died in 1957) and grandson of Richard Getman (died in 1939 circa)...from the "George Line" after our Joint Great Great, etc, Grandfather progenitor Frederick.

The second photo is our son Tim and his wife Gabriella and their daughter Clara...the first to be named after Mom of soon to be 38 grandkids. Little Clara's mom Gabi is pregnant with their second...little doubt a boy to keep the name going from our side. Sister Cindy and I are going to try our best to be at the August Getman 2019 NY reunion. She is the mom/grandmom of the other 1/4th of this crowd and is sitting immediately in front of Mom.

I'm standing on the far left and our first born son and the first born grandchild of Jerry and Clara, Andrew Fisher Getman, is on the far right.

Send us your family stories.

Wayne Getman c/o
wayget@ntcnet.com



Thanks for keeping us in touch. We look forward to meeting more of the family in NY soon. Andrew, Mom and I had a wonderful time in Mohawk and surroundings in about 1991-2, taken round by T. Richard Getman, with a stop at the family homestead to meet the two maiden aunts who urged us to buy the last section of the original homestead sadly unsuccessfully as it was impossible for us. The 2 ladies looked identical to my Aunt Lola Getman McNerney who was my dad's only sister of 5 siblings.

With very best wishes for 2019 to you and your family,

Tom

(Thomas Richard Getman
Partner, the Getman Group
International/NGO/UN affairs)

Note: This story came in after I had started the past up with the earlier 100th birthday of John DeWitt.

People Projected on Screen

The Auburn Citizen, NY
Monday, January 13, 1930

Actors and others may have themselves projected on a large motion picture screen in natural colors by use of a device recently Invented by J W. Forder of London. At first it will be used in making tests of members of audiences in 26 English cities in a quest for movie talent, The subject enters a box. similar in shape and size to a telephone booth, at the back of the theater. Immediately he is projected on the screen by a system of lights and his voice is carried to the projection by means of a microphone. Forder says that a political party is considering use of the apparatus to enable everyone in a large hall to see and hear the speaker. The device may also be used for community singing by projecting the leader and his voice so that all may see and hear

Who would have thought?

Worker Caught in Belt, Badly Injured

Syracuse Journal, NY
Wednesday, November 17, 1926

PULASKI, Nov. 17.—A fracture of the right forearm and a scalp wound which required 10 stitches to close, as well as other severe injuries were suffered yesterday by Horace G. Farrington, when his arm was caught in the rapidly revolving belting at the coal trestle of Grant Farrington & Son, S. Jefferson st., and in vicinity of the passenger station of the New York Central lines.

Victim of accident is a member of the firm. Mr. Farrington, who is about 25 years old, was engaged in putting a non-slip powder on the revolving belt and in some manner his arm was drawn into the belting, his body being whirled around the shaft and the injuries suffered before he could be released by an employe who witnesses the accident.

That he did not meet with more severe injuries seems almost like a miracle. He was attended by Dr. Fenton E. MacCallum. to whose office he was taken, and later removed to the home of his parents in Richland road. The attending physician stated last night that he did not consider the young man in a serious condition. Ethel M Farrington (GFG -C), 1897-1991 married Earl Charles Dexter, 1889-1975.

Horace Farrington (GFG- C) 1900-1998 was a great-great-grandson of Maria Ann Getman (GFG - C 2) 1755-1839 and Melchert Folts 1746-1829.

WILLIAM B. GETMAN FOR MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY

Watertown Daily Times, NY
Friday September 26, 1910

PROHBS.OF FIRST DISTRICT NOMINATE HIM IN PLACB OF S. V. BARKER

William B. Getman of Chaumont was nominated by the Prohibitionists of the First Assembly district as assemblyman from the district at the convention held this noon at Leffingwell & Leffingwell's office in the Flower building. The convention was held for the sole purpose of filling this office. At the regular convention held several weeks ago the name of S. V. Barker was put upon the ticket but as Mr. Barker is not a resident of the first district he was not eligible for the nomination.

William B Getman (GFG A 732) 1862-1951, was a successful farmer in Jefferson County, NY. He married Laura Winch 1861-1943, they had one child, Howard Scott Getman (GFG - A 1312) 1891-1926.



MORAVIA TWINS DIED MONDAY FEW HOURS APART

The Cortland Democrat, Cortland, NY
Friday, July 18, 1947

Identical twins, 84 years old of Moravia, died within a few hours of each other Monday.

They were Mrs. Emma Helmer, who died yesterday morning in the Cortland Hospital and Mrs. Ella Wilson who died during the afternoon at her home in Moravia, without knowing of her sisters death.

The twins were born May 5, 1861, at Niles and were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Forbes.

Mrs. Helmer, the widow of Smith Helmer, lived all her life in Niles and Moravia. Taken to Cortland hospital, she died following an operation. A member of Moravia Methodist church and Owasco Valley chapter, OES, she is survived by a daughter, Miss Mary Helmer of Moravia; a brother, Ray Forbes of Niles, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were conducted at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday at Wade's funeral home.

Mrs. Wilson died as a result of a heart attack at her home at Quaker Church, Moravia, where she spent her entire life. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Emma Wilson and Mrs. D. N. Slover of Niles; a son Coe Wilson of Moravia; a granddaughter, Mrs. Frank Webb of Union Springs; a brother, Ray Forbes; one niece, Miss Mary Helmer; a nephew, Mort Springer, and three great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted at 2:30 p. m. Thursday at the home at Quaker Church, Rev. Fred Whiting, pastor of the Sempronius Baptist church, officiating. Burial was in Indian Mound cemetery, Moravia.

Emma and Ella Forbes (GFG - C) 1861-1947 were great-great granddaughters of Maria Ann Getman (GFG - C 2) 1755-1839 and Melchert Folts 1746-1829.