

## **August isn't Far Away If you haven't called do so now!**

Dear Cousins,

The time is nearly upon us for our Reunion in August. We hope many of you can plan to make all or part of it.

The Getman tree has many branches far and wide and go back into our nations history. From serving to safeguard our colonies, especially our New York area, to our becoming the Empire State, the Getmans have been involved.

Going to area locations that saw early settler and Revolutionary War conflicts, or homes of heroes, (or loyalists!) gives us history. That is the fabric our ancestors were woven into that is our history today.

Please bring your family stories to share and help us celebrate and share our heritage.

Looking forward to seeing you Friday or Saturday, August 2nd and 3rd.

Marty Chase  
Chairman

## **Getman Reunion in Missouri**

Getman Reunion on September 7 at Finley River Park in Ozark Missouri. The park board informed me that there is a Race in the park that morning and will be closed to cars until 11:30. Pavilions 1 & 2 are reserved for us from 12 to 6 pm. Please bring your favorite foods or drinks to share with everyone.

Prayers and sympathy for the family of Terry Getman who died unexpectedly January 28, 2019.

## **Johnson Hall State Historic Site**

Saturday morning, August 3, we will be visiting this incredibly unique site. This is the home of the English crown's pre-Revolutionary War Indian Agent, Sir William Johnson.

## **Lunch at Saltsman's Hotel**

Saturday, August 3, 2019 at 1pm.

The cost per person for our traditional buffet of Saltsman's Famous Fried Chicken and Baked Ham will be \$22 per person inclusive. In addition to your two meats, the meal will include our creamed potatoes, baked onions, vegetable of the day, coleslaw, corn fritters, bread, homemade dessert, and iced tea / hot coffee.

We look forward to seeing the Getman clan this summer!

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

### **Saturday Dinner at Sam's Steak House**

We will gather at Sam's Steak House, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A group reservation has been made but you need to let the Getman Association know if you plan to be there, otherwise there might not be enough seats reserved.

### **Johnstown Holiday Inn**

Arrangements have been made for a group room rate at the Johnstown/Gloversville Holiday Inn, 308 N Comrie Ave, Johnstown. The group rate applies to persons identifying as part of the Getman Reunion when making reservation. Do not wait until the last minute to make your reservation, as this date falls with the "Saratoga Season" at the flat track in Saratoga Springs.

Reservations 518-762-4686  
Then Wayne Getman 315-845-8014

### **Union Hall Inn 7:00 pm, Friday August 2**

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

We will be ordering from the menu with separate checks.

## 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)

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### **Editor's Message**

Things have been busy around her for the past several weeks, so I have used a document about the Palatine society as the content of this newsletter.

If you are planning to attend the reunion in Johnstown, NY. Let me know ASAP.

### **The Palatine Society**

THE PALATINE SOCIETY is an organization incorporated in 1938 under the laws of New York State, to preserve the memory, records and heritage of [the Palatine German immigrants](#) who came to America in large numbers in the early 1700's. A few came in 1709 and settled in Newburgh, New York. About 4,000 men, women and children, left the shores of England in ten ships in January, 1710, for the colony of New York. The last ship arrived at Nutten Island (now Governors Island) in New York Harbor in June, 1710. It was a long and terrible voyage and about 20 percent of their number perished at sea.

The [Palatinate is a region of southwestern Germany](#), along the Rhine Valley extending as far south as Switzerland. The Palatines embarked from Holland for England on the invitation of Queen Anne. They were Protestant in faith, Reformed and Lutheran. As many as 30,000 were in London in 1709, as guests of the Queen and the Board of

Trade.

[They left their homeland for a number of reasons](#). Prime among these were to escape the conditions in Germany and to seek religious, social and economic freedom.

The British authorities saw a chance to settle them on the colonial frontier of the Colony, which was at that time the upper Hudson, Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys, as a buffer against Indians and the French. They were to be engaged in manufacturing pitch, tar and other naval stores for the British navy.

Many were settled on the middle Hudson in October of 1710 by Governor Hunter, on the east side of the river at East Camp (now Germantown) in Columbia County, and on the west side of the river at West Camp, which still bears its original name. They were to repay to the British Crown all expenses incurred in transporting them to America and for their maintenance of food and implements and utensils for their personal use and the carrying on of the project of the pines. And each man, woman and child was to receive eventually 40 acres of land.

But adequate provision was not at hand; the party in power in England which had conceived the idea lost its position and the ["distressed Palatines"](#) (as they are called in colonial records) were left quite on their own. There was the direst need. The trees were not of the right kind for the making of naval stores. Dissension arose in their ranks.

Colonial leadership failed them. Many left the camps and spread out to the north and south along the Hudson. Some took up the task of living in the Schoharie Valley. And some journeyed to the Mohawk. One group went to Berks County in Pennsylvania.

From these pioneers have descended thousands and thousands who have helped make America. They gave their lives freely at Oriskany and made possible the capture of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga.

For the purpose of perpetuating their memory, their ideals, their deeds of valor, and to record their contribution to American life there was organized and incorporated in 1938, ["The Palatine Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc."](#).

The Society has taken title by deed to the Old Palatine Church Building built in 1770. The deed was issued by the Lutheran Congregation which had worshipped in the building for 200 years. According to the terms of the deed the Congregation would always have the right to worship in the building. (It had been yoked in a parish with Trinity Lutheran Church of Stone Arabia.). [The Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America](#) and its predecessor Synods has supported the restoration of this Palatine "Shrine of Lutheranism in the Mohawk Valley", as the Old Palatine Church Building is now called. The building has been restored in recent years to its "original" colonial style.

Mrs. Lewis M. Fowler and the late Mr. Fowler, formerly of The Palatine Dyeing Company, St. Johnsville, made restoration of the entrance, the windows and ceiling possible through a very generous gift. The late Mr. M. S. Somers of New York City and his sister, Mrs. Robert L. Dawson, of Johnstown, New York, made a gift of a

replica of the old colonial pulpit. (They are the great, great grandchildren of the Rev. Peter Nicholas Sommer, founder of the Congregation and one of the first Lutheran pastors in America, coming from Hamburg, Germany, in 1743.)

The Tillapaugh Family Association presented lovely Offering plates of brass. The late Mrs. A. W. Tutchings of Gloversville, New York, presented a fine Communion Table in harmony with the interior plan. Mrs. Fowler had installed an adequate oil heating system. Louis C. Smith made the Society a gift in the amount necessary to refinish the pews. In 1987, roof and tower repairs were made through donations from the Palatine Society membership.

The case work of the organ is designed to simulate the organs built by the [Moravian David Tannenberg](#), the first organ builder of note in the colonies, who flourished in [Lititz, Pennsylvania](#) from 1729 to 1804. The organ has direct electric action and an [American Guild of Organist](#) standard console. It contains 648 speaking pipes and two manuals. Built by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Rowland in Ossining, New York, transported and assembled at Palatine Church in 1978, the organ was dedicated to Buelah Mae Rowland on August 6, 1978.

The Society issued a book, The Palatines of New York State, which was reprinted in 1976 and is available for purchase. All this has added to the work of preservation by those who are interested in maintaining the heritage of Lutheranism in the Mohawk Valley.

Renovation is an on-going work of the Palatine Society to make this a fitting Shrine to the Palatines, a museum of Palatine antiquities, and a center for meetings,

conferences, retreats, concerts and worship services of local Congregations. In addition, records of the Palatines, the Church and the Society are maintained by the Society through the good Offices of the [Margaret Reaney Memorial Library](#), St. Johnsville, New York 13452.

The maintenance of this historic site is derived solely from money received from memberships and donations to the Society under the sponsorship of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

#### Palatine Society Membership

Any interested individual may become a member of the Palatine Society upon the payment of the established rate of yearly dues or life membership and shall have a voice and vote at all general meetings of the Palatine Society.

Annual Meeting: Normally, first Sunday in May 3 P.M. at the Shrine  
Regular membership \$10.00 per year

Life membership \$100.00

Send Memberships and all communications regarding the use of the building to:  
The Palatine Society  
P.O. Box 208, Nelliston, New York 13410



*Tending the tree takes a lot of time and work.*