



Down From the Bookshelf

By Clyde J. Getman

Selected for Interest in the Mohawk Valley, Palatine Immigrants, and New York State History.

Getman, Anson. Lure of the Valley. New York: Pageant Press, 1956, 284 p.

Anson Getman (1877-1959), a fifth generation descendant of colonial Getman progenitor Frederick Getman in the Mohawk Valley, was born and raised in Tribes Hill, Montgomery County, NY, along the Mohawk River about 15 miles east of the Getman Homestead in Stone Arabia. He became an Attorney and served as Recorder in Johnstown and Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York.

Lure of the Valley is his reflections and reminiscences of life, including times visiting and staying with family members in the Mohawk Valley communities between Tribes Hill, Johnstown and Ephratah communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He learned from family members and from the writings of historian Jeptha Simms the common family legends and lore passed down from persons with first-hand knowledge of the events.

In a real sense, he had lived the life of which he wrote. This writer has used Anson's *Lure* as secondary verification for history in the valley and specifically for Getmans and their kin.

Lure of the Valley is an enjoyable read and a worthy addition to the library of persons interested in a history of the Mohawk Valley.

Hold the Date
August 11-13, 2023
Getman Association Reunion in
Utica, NY

Getman Genealogy Book **Available**

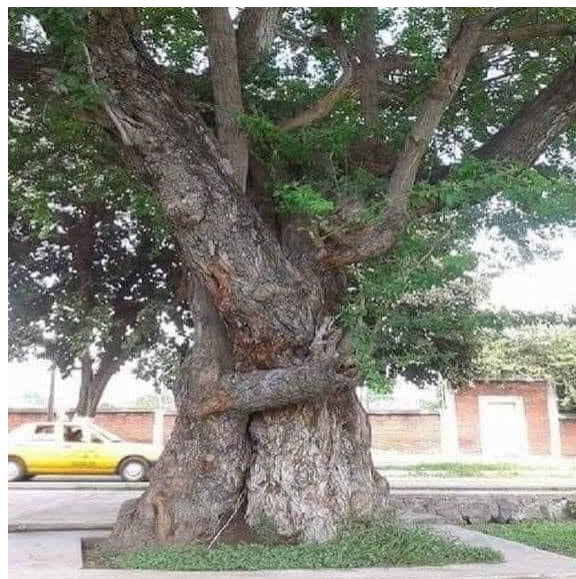
A book covering the first six generations of Getmans, starting with Caspar is available. This book was published in 2013. Included in the book are the known descendants of all of the family lines, including daughters.

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 to Wayne Getman.



Do you love your family tree?

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)

A Closer Look at the Getman Arrival in the New World

When Frederick Gettmann and his step-mother and the other Palatine refugees arrived in New York they were isolated on Nutten Island, now known as Governor's Island. Nutten Island, in the Hudson River, had long served as a fortification and provided a convenient place to isolate the new arrivals. They were isolated for several reasons, perhaps the primary was the sheer number of them. The city at the time had a population of about 6,000 and nearly 3,000 refugees were expected. It is estimated that the actual number of arrivals was about 2,400 due to the attrition (deaths) along the way. A second reason for their isolation was the illness they had brought with them.

While on Nutten Island tallies were made of the group. It is here that the records indicate "1710, Gettmannin Barbara 2 - 0" telling us that only Frederick and his step-mother survived the trip.

During their stay on the island the government removed orphans and placed them with families who were able to take care of them or could use them in their businesses as apprentices or servants.

This is perhaps a good time to focus on the conditions imposed on the refugees to compensate for the cost of their transportation and upkeep.

Most of the Platine refugees were of the opinion they were to be given a plot of land

where they could restart their lives. While in England they had elected representatives to negotiate details for this process. The English were not inclined to be so generous. A simplified version of the final arrangement, which very few understood, is that the refugees were required to serve as indentured servants to the English, and their indenture required them to produce supplies, specifically pine tar and masts for the English navy.

In the colony two individuals were in positions to take advantage of the situation when provided with a significant labor force and the need to produce naval supplies. The first was Robert Hunter, Governor of the New York Colony. It was he who took the orphans and distributed them around the region at the mouth of the Hudson river, and arranged for the establishment of work "camps." The second was Robert Livingston. Livingston owned a vast tract of land on the East side of the Hudson River. Governor Hunter purchased 6,000 acres of land from Livingston which was to be used as property for the emigrants. Livingston owned additional land nearby that would provide trees for the pitch project. In addition Livingston would provide necessary supplies for the settlers and their work. The area purchased from Livingston would become known as East Camp. It is here that Frederick and his step-mother were sent. This is also where she would marry Johannes Bierman.

A smaller section was surveyed and allocated for naval supplies production on the West side of the Hudson. This area became known as West Camp. West Camp can be found in the township of Saugerties, NY and is directly opposite East Camp, an area now known as Germantown. Because of their proximity (just across the river) it was common for the two groups to keep in touch with each other. Boats could be rowed or paddled across the river, a distance of about one-half mile from shore to shore.

Unfortunately, the refugees were not skilled at pitch collecting and tar making. Additionally, their hearts were not in the project. More importantly pine trees in the area were not productive for the purpose intended. Tar production was a slow process at best and useful masts were not to be found.

Failure to produce supplies quickly in the camps and delays providing adequate funds by the English government led to a collapse of the entire project, and it was abandoned after about two years. Both Hunter and Livingston had made expenditures they would never recover and the Palatines were left to fend for themselves. The Palatines recognized the indenture had been violated and concluded it was no longer in effect.

Frederick Getman (we do not know at what point the spelling changed); with his step-mother, Barbara; his now step-father, Johannes Bierman and Bierman's daughters Maria Johanna and Margaret had to decide what to do.

Once again the decision was made to leave in order to avoid potential starvation.

Send Us Your Stories

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

wayget@ntcnet.com

MOYER BROTHERS CALLED BY DEATH WITHIN AN HOUR

The Canajoharie Courier, Canajoharie, NY,=
January 23, 1941

Two brothers, Prescott W. Moyer of Wheelock street, this village, and Edgar B. Moyer, of the Town of Root. Who resided on the Sprakers-Currytown road, died in hospitals within 20 minutes of each other on Sunday morning. Both had been suffering from heart trouble for some time.

Prescott Moyer died in the Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville on Sunday morning at 2:10 o'clock and Edgar Moyer died in Amsterdam City hospital at 2:30 o'clock.

PRESCOTT W. MOYER

Prescott W. Moyer was born In the Town of Root on December 23. 1873, a son of John and Harriet Loucks Moyer. His early years were spent in the vicinity of his birth; later he was an employee of the firm of S. W. Cohen and Brother, a general store at Speakers. Later, on removal to this village, he was employed at the Beech-Nut Packing Company until His health forced his retirement. He was a follower of baseball and for several years was the manager of the amateur team which represented Sprakers in the Mohawk Valley.

He was a member of Canajoharie Lodge, 816, I. O. O. F., of this village and the Reformed Church of Sprakers.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Susie Bundy Moyer; one sister. Mrs. Stella Dopp of Montgomery street, this village. The funeral service was held at the Houghtaling funeral home at 20 Otsego street yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with the Rev. Edward R. James, minister of the Reformed Church, officiating. The body was placed in the Arkell Memorial Chapel vault In Canajoharie Falls cemetery to await

Interment later in Canajoharie Falls cemetery.

EDGAR B. MOYER

Edgar B. Moyer was born in the Town of Root on January 20, 1879. a son of John and Harriet Loucks Moyer. During his entire lifetime he had been a resident of the community. Mr. Moyer was the president of the Dairymen's League of Montgomery County and a member of the Reformed Church of Currytown and Mapletown Grange, 613, P. of H.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. May Olmstead Moyer; two sons, Haverly Moyer of Plattsburg and Richard Moyer of Rochester; one daughter. Mrs. Coleman Russell, at home; one sister, Mrs. Stella Dopp of Montgomery street, this village.

Funeral services were held at the Lens funeral home at 69 Otsego street on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and the body was placed in the Arkell Memorial Chapel vault in Canajoharie Falls cemetery to be interred later in Canajoharie Falls cemetery. The Rev. Clinton W. Clough, former minister of the Reformed Church of Currytown, now retired, conducted the service.

Prescott W. Moyer (GFG – I) 1872-1941 and Edgar B. Moyer (GFG – I) 1879-1941 are great-great- great-grandsons of Anna Maria Getman (GFG – I) 1721-1811 and Johann Meyers, 1715-1810.

Conundrums.

1. Why is ambition like a weathercock?
Because it is a vain and glittering thing to aspire (*a-spire*).
2. What preserve would an egg name if it could speak? Ma-me-laid (*Marmelade*).
3. What is the difference between a schoolmaster and an engine driver? One trains the mind, the other minds the train.



Time to Make Coffee?

A coffee recipe for a Civil War military hospital from the "The Hospital Steward's Manual," by Joseph Janvier Woodward, published in 1862:

"No.1. Coffee for ten men.

"Put 9 pints of water into a canteen, saucepan (or other vessel) on the fire; when boiling, add 7 1/2 oz. of coffee; mix them well together with a spoon or piece of wood; leave on the fire a few minutes longer, or until just beginning to boil.

"Take it off, and pour in 1 pint of cold water; let the whole remain ten minutes, or a little longer; the dregs will fall to the bottom, and the coffee will be clear. Pour it from one vessel into another, leaving the dregs at the bottom; add 2 teaspoonfuls of sugar to the pint. If milk is to be had, make 2 pints less of coffee, and add that much milk; boiled milk is preferable.

"REMARKS. - This receipt, properly carried out, would give 10 pints of coffee, or 1 pint per man."

Source:

Woodward, Joseph Janvier, M.D., "The Hospital Steward's Manual," Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1862.