

THE

GETMAN NEWS

June 2023

Web page <https://getmangenealogy.wordpress.com/>

Research Data: [getmandata.org](http://getmandata.org)

Facebook [Getman Family of America](#)

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

**Block of Rooms Established**  
**Red Roof Inn Utica.**  
**Information for reservations**

The block code for our group is **B180GETMAN**. This block code needs to be used when making reservations. The phone number for guests call to book their reservation is the general reservations at 1-800-733-7663; they are open 7 days a week, 8 AM – 1 AM EST.

Our group has until Tuesday, 07/11/23 to reserve a room out of our block. After that date, all the unclaimed rooms will be released back into the property's inventory, and the group discounted rate will be closed.

**Schedule of activities:**

Friday, August 11

7:00 Dinner at Delmonico's  
Steakhouse

Saturday, Aug 12

10:00 am General Herkimer Home  
Tour and picnic lunch  
3:00 Erie Canal Boat Tour  
5:00 Dinner at Waterfront Grill

As always you need to let Wayne Getman know if you will be attending. Reservations at these locations require an accurate number. [wayget@ntcnet.com](mailto:wayget@ntcnet.com) or 315-845-8014

**Get Your Canal Tour Tickets**

You **MUST** purchase these in advance at [Sight-Seeing Cruise Details](#) or by calling 315-717-0077. It is unlikely that tickets will be available for purchase on the day of the event.

**Meet your Getman**  
**Association Board**

**Tom Getman**

Thanks to my beloved Grandfather Nathan Ernest Getman we as a family became acquainted with the family historian Borden Getman. He contributed to the 1975 *Getman Family Genealogy*. Also thanks to Grandpa Nathan, as a young man, I visited the grave of his grandfather Nicholas in Tomah, Wisconsin and along many tribal holy sites in my childhood. Having been born in SW Minnesota in 1875 he had become familiar with Native Americans and their plight including the circumstances around intruding settlements on native land, and the Mankato massacre. As a teenager he moved further west to herd cattle for, and be trained in pharmacy, by an uncle in NW Iowa...coincidentally on the "Plains Indian" summer confederation grounds. As he became the first optometrist in Iowa he maintained close association with the First Nation people, true to the heritage as well of Grandmother Eliza Wayne's Quaker family.

Our grandparents' children and grandchildren, including me, were all drawn to similar lifelong interests. Upon my retirement in 2009 Nathan and my father

Gerald's' (Jerry) outsized influence regarding family lore and concerns continued to inspire me. I am pursuing actively the history of the adventurous courage and faith of all the forebears, including Gen. Casper Gettmann (b. circa 1640s). Their gifts to us have made it possible for the whole Getman family to have lives of opportunity. Like the Native Americans teach, "Our grandparents ride with us".

My father Jerry was also an optometrist, focusing on special needs children, and he maintained an active interest in family genealogy until the day before he died. I was born along with my 4 siblings in Luverne, Minnesota, and all of us pursued public service careers. I considered optometry but through the influence of my mother Clara Main's family influence in Arizona my Christian faith blossomed. As a result I prepared in college and seminary for a public (not ordained) ministry in Young Life in Philadelphia and Boston. I met my wife Karen through this ecumenical youth ministry. We have 3 children: Andrew an analyst for Hachette publishers in California, Eliza a UK Anglican priest-school chaplain, and Tim a stage actor in Oregon. We have 6 grandchildren, 4 boys, whose father Jonathan Burns is a British South African doctor, and 2 girls, whose mother Gabriela Fernand is Puerto Rican, and also an actor.

As my social justice interests widened, I became a legislative director for Senator Mark Hatfield (OR-R) for 8 years in Washington working on human rights and foreign policy. We moved our family to DC in 1976. Hatfield was a board member of both Young Life and World Vision, the largest faith-based relief and development agency and partner with the World Food Program. As the Senator approached retirement, I opened WV's DC government relations office and subsequently served field posts in Palestine and the wider Mid

East, as well as short term assignments in Africa and Asia. I concluded my career as an NGO representative to the UN in Geneva Switzerland. I now in "retirement" have returned to Capitol Hill as a consultant on foreign policy to Senate staffers, serve on several boards including Getman Association, sing in our Episcopal church choir, and explore the genealogy of my father, mother and wife, including research trips to UK and Germany. Two enticing discoveries have been finding that Karen's ancestral villages are only 30 minutes from mine in the Palatine region of SW Germany; and my Grandmother Eliza Wayne Getman's English forebears can be traced back to 1490 and arrived in colonial Pennsylvania in the early 1700s just as the Getmans did to New York. They then arrived separately in Ida Grove/Larchwood Iowa as pioneers in the 1890s. 130 years later the history unfolds for, "The boundary lines have fallen for me (us) in pleasant places...surely a delightful legacy". Ps. 16

## **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.

## 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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### **Errors in Records**

One of the things genealogists, historians, etc. need to be watchful for is inaccuracies. Word of mouth histories are often filled with exaggerations and untruths. These errors frequently make their way into wide-spread acceptance until further research proves them inaccurate. The problem then becomes removing them from acceptance.

Enter the computer. Research using computers is a double edged sword. The existence of millions of documents that are available via the internet allows the researcher to locate accurate descriptions, photographs, records and documents that provide answers to many questions, some of which we are not wise enough to ask. The internet can also reveal errors that have been entered into common knowledge. The following article is a combination of both truth and inaccuracies. Written by a knowledgeable family historian, this article contains information that was considered accurate at the time. Corrections are included for material identified as by underlining.

Perhaps at time in the future additional information will help fill in current unknown questions.

### **GETMANS HOLD NINTH REUNION**

Enterprise and News, St. Johnsville, NY,  
Wednesday, August 12, 1931

Annual Get Together Held on Original Land Grant in Ephratah. [*There was no land grant in Ephratah. That property was purchased in 1743.*]

Ephratah, Aug. 10.—With a large attendance the 9th annual reunion of the Getman family was held Saturday on the original and historical land grant of the pioneer, Frederick Getman at Ephratah. The event was the most enjoyable and entertaining ever held by the family.

Members were present from many states and the president, Norman Getman was kept busy welcoming new members and placing all in the proper line of descendants.

A basket picnic was served at 12:30 p. m. White Abel's orchestra furnished entertaining music for dancing and singing. The younger folks engaged in a baseball game, the Pioneer defeating the Hawks 11 to 6.

#### Officers Elected

At the business meeting, the following officers were elected for the 1 next year: President, Prof. Jesse Rickard, Fort Hunter; vice president, Charles Getman, Buffalo; secretary, Borden Getman, Gloversville; treasurer, Bertha Saltsman, Fort Plain; historian, Byron L. Getman, Gloversville; honorary- president, Hezekiah Eaker, Inghams Mills; chaplain, Samuel Parent, Tribes Hill.

Directors named for two years I John Getman, Mrs. Ralph Kimball, Mrs. Lilly Van Wie, Mrs. Samuel Parent and Mrs. Charles Winslow.

Frederick Getman, pioneer landed in America 221 [1710] years ago from the Palatine region on the river Rhine in Germany. He proceeded immediately to Kingston, N. Y., where he stopped eight months, going then up the Hudson and Mohawk rivers to the vicinity of -Palatine Bridge. From there he and four brothers started out for themselves and located on a tract of land in the Town of Ephratah where they pitched their tent on a flat rock and for six days existed until they built themselves a log cabin. *[The preceding is incorrect and will covered in upcoming articles in this newsletter. The most notable error is that Frederick was an only survivor when he arrived on the American shores, there were no brothers. The story about a tent on a flat rock is pure folklore/fable.]*

This was later replaced by a modern dwelling. The present house is the third the two preceding having been torn down. [

Upon the homestead is a family burial plot as it was the custom in Colonial days to bury the dead upon the land of the owner. Although no authentic record is available, it is concluded that the remains of the pioneer and his family were interred in this family plot, and while some graves there are marked, others have only slabs of slate or flat stone to designate them. It was with the aim of reaching a conclusive idea which would clarify the family history that the place for this year's reunion was selected.

#### Old Account Book

An old account book, kept by Captain Frederick Getman from 1787 to 1790 was exhibited with pages so yellowed and worn with time as to be scarcely legible.

One of the items contained in the book was this, dated January 10, 1789: "Received of Captain Frederick Getman, 64 pounds and 17 shillings on an order for his pension and retired on a note from me." It was signed by the name, Christopher Fox. Among those present for the reunion were

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Winslow and sons, Springfield, Mass.; Rev. and Mrs. Charles Palmer, Boonton, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Getman and daughter, Watertown, N. Y.; George T. Getman, Lyons; Mrs. Elizabeth Kendall and Frank Allen, Santa Ana, Calif.; Ferdinand Getman and family, Baldwinsville; Paul Bowman, Scarsdale; Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Shultz, Pittsfield, Mass.; Mrs. George Brown, Sammonsville; Mrs. Andrew Van Wie, Palatine Bridge; Mrs. Lizzie Bowman, Nelliston; and many from Johnstown, Gloversville, Fonda, Amsterdam, Sr. Johnsville, Cherry Valley, Richfield Springs and Ilion



## Send Us Your Stories

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

[wayget@ntcnet.com](mailto:wayget@ntcnet.com)