

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)

Getmans Travel to England

(Wayne Getman)

Once the decision to leave their homeland was made, Caspar, his second wife and their children needed to travel approximately 240 miles to Rotterdam. From there they would be transported to London.

Having decided to either buy permission to leave, or leave as fugitives without paying, the next step was to decide how to get to Rotterdam. The main and essentially only "easy" route was to travel on the Rhine River. The alternative would be to walk along roads following the river, using a cart or carts to manage their limited possessions.

Travel on the river would have been done on a sailing ship if it could be paid for, or using a scow (large row boat) if it could be purchased. Travel along the roads would be on foot. I would like to think that Caspar was able to afford the sailing ship. I suspect however that the cost for a family of ten as passengers would have been too expensive. In either case the journey would take 4 to 6 weeks.

Records show that that they arrived in London on the 11th of June 1709. If we estimate at least 10 weeks for this portion of their journey, they would likely have left home in Late March or Early April. Most of that time was likely spent with the mother, father and older sons rowing a scow or hauling a cart.

Traveling down the Rhine they would have encountered three kinds of people; 1 – Supporters who helped them find food, housing, transportation and frequently provided them with small amounts of cash. 2 - Those who would take advantage of them by charging tolls, passage fees and other attempts to take advantage of or steal from the refugees; 3- Agents who would force their return to where they had come from. This was often done even if the family or individual had purchased a "Letter of Recommendation" from the local authorities prior to departure. Many ship passengers were forced to return. Two boats laden with Palatines were seized on the Rhine River and the emigrants were imprisoned.

When Caspar and family arrived in Rotterdam, they most likely were housed in a make-shift rustic encampment near the harbor. When they arrived at Rotterdam, "Palatine" refugees were arriving at the pace of 1000 per week. Here they were to await transport to London, a sailing voyage that could take up to 8 days.

The Dutch had so many emigrants arriving that a crisis was created, an appeal was sent to England, in order to maintain good international relationships the Royal English Navy was authorized to use Army transports to carry them. In May, 4 ships carried 852 persons to London. It is reasonable to expect these ships were crowded. In an effort to speed up the process, Dutch merchant ships were engaged

for transport in June. Since passage was paid on a per person basis, including provisions, it is reasonable to expect these ships were also heavily loaded, each carrying 60 – 100 persons.

Before boarding a ship bound to London each refugee was required to prove that they were a protestant. This was necessary because the invitation had been specific as to the religion of those who would be accepted. (More about that later.)

The arrival of Caspar and his family as part of the fourth group sailing from Rotterdam was recorded in London as follows.

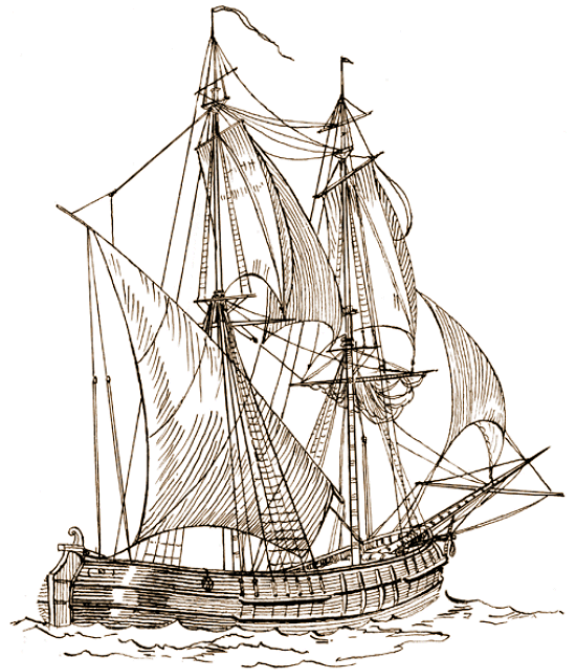
FOURTH LIST - Vol. 2, No. D69 and D 70. Public Record Office, London List of Poor Palatines who arrived at St. Catherine's June 11th, 1709, Taken June 16

Getman, Caspar, Hs. & V., age 36, sons 16-14-8-5, daughters 6-5-2, L.

Kasper Gettman, his wife, and 8 ch. were of Capt. George Golands ship in the 4th party in Holland in 1709 (Rotterdam Lists). ... were in the 4th arrivals in England (London Lists); the family was recorded near other N.Y. 1709ers such as Henry Fehling, Conrad Krantz and Martin Zerbst on the English list. (*The Palatine Families of New York, Henry Z Jones Jr, Picton Press, Rockport Maine, 2001*)

Later because the influx of emigrants was so much larger than anticipated, any emigrant who had not arrived in Rotterdam by the 24th of June was denied transportation. They were expected to return from whence they came.

At long last they were in London. Now What?



Sketch of a Dutch merchant ship of the type the Getmans would likely have been transported to London on.

Getman Association 1965

Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY
Monday, August 16, 1965

Members of the Getman Family of America held their 37th annual reunion at the United Brethren Church Grove, East Stone Arabia with 85 present from the Valley area, Sidney, Cobleskill. Venice Center, Marion. Williamson, Syracuse, Scarsdale, Wilmington, Dela., and Darby, Conn.

Officers chosen for 1965-1966 were Ralph Parent, Herkimer, re-elected for a tenth year as president; George H. Getman, Ilion, first vice president; Charles M. Getman, Baldwinsville, second vice president; Beverly Buddle, Grand Gorge, secretary; Donald Saltsman, Fort Plain, treasurer; Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale, historian; honorary chaplain, Pauline Bowman, Scarsdale.

Named new directors were Douglas Saltsman, Verona; Miss Gwen Getman, Nelliston; Mrs. Edna Cristman, Fort Plain; Carl Getman, Nelliston; Mrs. Magdaline Kimball, Fonda. Directors whose terms carry over are Mrs. Edna Leneker, Palatine Bridge; Mrs. Grace Hildabrandt, Fort Plain; Mrs. Nellie Getman, Fort Plain; Mrs. Myrtle Deaker, Canajoharie; Mrs. Gertrude Getman, Ilion.

Following the picnic reports were given at the business meeting by the secretary, treasurer and various committees. Franklin J. Bowman historian, reported on progress of the family history book being prepared. He said 178 paid orders from 15,000 members of the family from coast - to - coast have been received to date. He said details for preparing the manuscript and its publication are proceeding.

Named to a committee to clean up and care for all Getman cemeteries were Carl Getman, Nelliston, chairman; Russell Getman, Fort Plain; Donald Saltsman, Fort Plain; Dell Leneker, Palatine Bridge; Wesley Caswell, Palatine Bridge.

Youngest member present was Eric Zanker, four months, of Newport, Pa.; the oldest, Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins, 86, of Danbury, Conn. The family traveling the longest distance, 400 miles was that of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zanker, Newport, Pa., that with the most members present, Mr. and Mrs. Borden Getman, 15, of Sidney.

Send Us Your Stories

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

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Christian Getman Bible

The Evening Telegram, Herkimer-Ilion, NY

Thursday, February 11, 1954

The old family Bible of Capt. Christian Getman, colonial ancestor of many Herkimer County residents, has recently been acquired by his great-great-great grandson, Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale, it was learned today.

Bowman Informed The Telegram the historic book, lost for many generations, was recently found in an attic by Henry A. Carroll, who presented it to Bowman, historian of the Getman Family of America.

The volume will be deposited in one of the libraries of the Mohawk Valley so it may be preserved for the inspection of future generations, Bowman said.

The birth dates of Captain Getman in 1734 and his wife, Anna Eva Zimmerman, in 1743, are recorded, together with data pertaining to their nine children. He was a son of Frederick Getman who emigrated to America from Palatine, Germany, in 1710.

During the Revolution, a company of rangers under Captain Getman was stationed at Stone Arabia. This group built Fort Paris in the winter of 1776 under direction of Isaac Paris. This fort is described as, "A palisaded inclosure of strong block houses within the grounds and was intended to accomodate a garrison of 200 to 300 men if necessary, also it's exposed inhabitants."

The historian, Simms, records that Mrs. Getman was shot and scalped by the Indians in the summer of 1757. She survived because when shot she played dead, and was not tomahawked. She married Captain Getman three years later, and died in 1822 at the age of 79. It has been stated that, because the top of her head was hairless where the scalp had been removed, she always combed her hair so that this bald spot was covered.

At the 25th annual reunion of the Getman Family held in Ilion Aug. 8, 1953,

consideration was given to a proposal that all of the 25 or 30 groups in the Mohawk Valley who are descendants of the Palatine families, consider a 250th anniversary of the early settlers landing in America, which would be in 1960. Ralph Parent, Iliion, chairman, Borden Getman, Sidney, Jerry Saltsman, Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. Spencer, all of Fort Plain, were the committee in charge of the 1953 reunion. Russell Getman is chairman of the board of directors of the family group.

Bowman reported at present there are approximately 7,500 names on the Getman family tree with prospects of 10,000 names being reached in the near future.

Many members of the Getman family reside in Herkimer county and others are scattered throughout the entire Mohawk Valley,

Editors Note: Is anyone aware of the location of this Bible? Does anyone have information concerning the referenced 1960 gathering?

Wanderlust

The Leader-Republican
Gloversville and Johnstown, NY
Tuesday, August 19, 1941

A touch of wanderlust believed brought about by a nervous condition suffered during the last few years nearly cost Leland LaRowe, 16, of 49 West Eleventh avenue, his life Friday night when he rode from Schenectady to Cambridge, Mass., opposite Boston on the Charles River, in the closed trunk of an automobile.

Cambridge police reported LaRowe, who had been visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Lena Livingston in Schenectady and earning spending money as a caddie on golf courses and a pin boy on bowling alleys, got the urge to travel Friday night. He saw a tractor-trailer bearing new cars and climbed to the

top automobile and squeezed into the trunk, not knowing it bore an automatic lock.

Through Friday night and the greater part of Saturday he rode cramped inside the tiny compartment, shouting and banging against the sides to no avail. A mechanic began a routine inspection upon the transport's arrival in a Cambridge garage and the discovery was made.

"I thought I was done for," LaRowe commented as Cambridge police took him into custody and notified his family here.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland LaRowe went to Cambridge yesterday and their son was examined by a physician. It was decided to leave him at a Boston hospital to see if a cure for the nervous disorder can be effected.

Leland R. LaRowe (GFG I) 1927-2011, is a 6th great-grandson of Anna Maria Getman (GFG - I) 1721-1811 and Johan Meyers, 1715-1810.

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.

Orders with payment should be sent to: Wayne Getman, 2672 Newport Road, Poland, NY, 13431. Checks should be made to Wayne Getman.