

## 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)

## Getman News From The Present

### Getman Association to Meet August 1-3, 2014

The Getman Association Annual Reunion will be held August 1-3, 2014. Lodging has been arranged at the Budget Inn, Palatine Bridge, NY. Those who prefer to attend for the day have that option.

The Budget Inn has put together the following package for the "Getman Reunion".

When making your reservations, please ask for Neil Anders, Manager, also please notify Wayne Getman concerning the Association meeting and your rooming arrangements.

#### Aug. Fri. 1 – Sat. 2 – Sun. 3

\$55.00 per night per room. Meals are not included. A block of ten rooms is available. In order to take advantage of the group rate, identify yourself as part of the Getman reunion.

**Friday:** arrival, check in, have your evening meal etc. according to individual schedules.

**An upscale coordinated evening meal is being offered for those who wish to participate.** [beardsleecastle.com](http://beardsleecastle.com)



#### Saturday:

- 8:00 +- breakfast
- 9:30 meet in the lower parking lot of the Budget Inn.
- Drive to and tour Arkel Museum, Canajoharie, NY [arkellmuseum.org](http://arkellmuseum.org) (\$5.00 admission fee required)

- 12:30 Lunch at Saltsman's Hotel  
[www.saltsmans.com](http://www.saltsmans.com)  
SALTSMAN'S HOTEL C 1910

- 1:30 Getman Association Annual Meeting.
- 2:30 Afternoon program covering the migration of Getmans to the New World.
- 7:00 Evening meal (to be arranged)

**Sunday:** am, breakfast and depart according to individual schedules.

**Reservations:** Please notify both the Budget Inn and the association.

**Budget Inn:** 518-673-3233

**Association:** Wayne Getman 315-845-8014  
[wayget@ntcnet.com](mailto: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, which is estimated at \$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.

## Send us Your Getman Stories

Family history is a lot more than lists, charts and compilations. These are some of the tools that guide us as we learn about our heritage, but they aren't the most interesting part. People, their personalities, and

achievements are their contributions to future generations.

If you have a story about a Getman or Getman descendant, that you would like to share, please send it in for inclusion.

### Getman News From The Past

#### **Can You Fill in Any Information About This?**

William Getman b. June 1861 in NY married Harriet A. Osterhout b. Aug 1861 in Parish, Oswego County, NY.

I cannot identify this person's parents. [WG]

#### **William C Getman** **True Western Style Lawman**

Sent to us by Neil Getman

I am taking your suggestion to write about William C. Getman, based primarily upon the book that I am reading. With the aid of the book's index, I was able to extrapolate key information directly related to him and quote the book accordingly. Hopefully, I can bridge a little narrative of his exploits over the time period that he lived as a lawman in and around Los Angeles, CA, circa 1850,s.

"William C. Getman was an ideal example of the gunfighting western lawman. Born in Fort Plain, New York, in 1828, he was a daring soldier in the Mexican War, and was wounded in the battles of Monterrey, Cerro Gordo and Mexico City. Billy Getman arrived in California in 1849 and soon settled in Los Angeles, where he ran the Montgomery House (a popular hotel and saloon). On August 1, 1853 prominent citizens organized the Los Angeles Rangers, consisting of twenty-five volunteer mounted police. Getman became one of its founding members and soon was elected lieutenant."

I will add some personal notes as a prelude to the subsequent activities of William Getman (as a lawman). Shortly after the discovery of gold in the northern area of California, a deluge of fortune seekers migrated to the gold country. Some hit it big, many others were not so lucky and thus started a life of crime, pillaging, murder, rape, hold-ups, horse thefts, acts of mayhem, etc. Of course, many were professional criminals that came in with the migrant flow. Unable to fend for themselves, many of these "bad guys" moved into the California coast-line communities to ply their trade. Thus, about the

time that William C. Getman appeared on the scene, criminal activities were escalating. Due to space limitations, I can only highlight some of his more significant episodes as follows:

"On the night of January 20, 1854, a dozen masked Mexicans burst into the grand opening ceremonies at the first bordello in Los Angeles and announced a hold-up. All the guests were systematically searched and robbed. On the way out of town, the bandits stopped at the adobe home of one Martin DeLong. They looted the house, stealing coin, jewelry and gold watch. After gang raping Delong's wife, they escaped. Billy Getman and the other Rangers set off on long and fruitless manhunt.

Meanwhile the bandits circled back into town, raided several houses and carried off some resident Mexican girls. Two weeks later, a "respectable" businessman (Atenacio Moreno) tried to sell Martin DeLong's gold watch to a local hardware and jewelry store owner who recognized the watch as that belonging to DeLong. The merchant slipped out the back door to inform the Rangers. Billy Getman and two other Rangers rushed to the store. Moreno went for his six gun and was pounced on by the Rangers who wrestled the gun away. He was identified as one of the bandits that robbed DeLong and it was eventually determined that he had killed two of the other bandits for the reward. Moreno was convicted of grand larceny and robbery and sentenced to 15 years in San Quentin prison. On May 5, 1856, Billy Getman defeated four other candidates and was elected marshal of Los Angeles (at that time, one of the most violent communities in the West). Billy Getman would encounter more than his share of gunsmoke in Los Angeles, but his first scent of it was from his own gun. A month after being elected he was taking off his pistol when the hammer caught on the gunbelt and discharged. The ball entered his hip, inflicting a dangerous wound. But the resilient Getman quickly recovered only to be shot again in the July 22<sup>nd</sup> riot involving Constable William Jenkins. Once more Getman recovered only to be shot again in the line of fire. On August 31, he and Undersheriff William Peterson tried to arrest Diego Nieto for slashing another Hispanic with a sword. Several of Nieto's friends drew their knives and gathered around to

protect him from the officers. Getman, pistol in hand, warned them off and they wisely complied. Nieto warned Getman and Peterson that there was determination among his countrymen to kill them off.

The following night Getman, Peterson and another officer were standing in the plaza when a Mexican horseman rode past at a very leisurely pace. One of the lawmen remarked that "it was singular to see a Mexican riding so slowly". He passed by, but soon returned at a quicker pace. When directly opposite the officers, he drew a pistol and fired. The ball went between Getman and Peterson and lodged in the wall of the building behind them. Putting spur to his horse, the Mexican escaped in shower of pistol balls. He was never captured.

In January, 1857, Getman set off in pursuit in of a man accused of horse theft. Getman's horse was exhausted by the time he came in sight of his quarry. At the Marshal's order to stop, the thief broke into a dead run. Getman opened fire at a distance of sixty yards but failed to bring down his quarry. The horse thief drew pistols and fired back. Undaunted, Getman remained within revolver range and kept pace. The thief unbuckled his saddle at full gallop and threw it on the road. Thus unencumbered, his horse darted off like an arrow and was soon out of sight. Getman lost his man, but recovered five stolen horses that the thief had abandoned during his flight.

In the same month, the marshal played a prominent role during a manhunt for the Juan Flores-Daniel band. By now, a highly popular officer, Getman, who ran unopposed, was reelected city marshal on May 4, 1857. The lawman was politically astute; pioneer lawyer Joseph L. Brent recalled Getman's skill at manipulating and controlling the "various functions", including Anglos and the Californio (native) rancho class. On September 9, 1857, City Marshal Getman was elected sheriff of Los Angeles County. Some of the troublemakers that Getman had to police were his own friends, including Ranger Gabriel Allen. Harris Newmark, recalled, "This Gabe Allen was really a notorious character, though not altogether bad. When sober, he was a peaceable man, but when on a spree, he was decidedly warlike and on such occasions always 'shot up the town'. On one occasion...while passing along the street, I observed Gabriel Allen....on one of his jollifications with Sheriff Getman following close at his heels. Having arrived in front of a building, Gabe suddenly raised his gun and aimed at a carpenter who was at work on the roof. Getman promptly knocked Allen down, to which Allen said, "You've got me, Billy!" Allen's only purpose, it appeared was to take shot at the innocent stranger and thus test his marksmanship."

Just a few months after taking office, on January 7, 1858, Getman received word that a crazed Texan named Reed, armed with three pistols and a Bowie knife, was causing a disturbance on Aliso Street. With Constable Robert Hester and Frank Baker, Getman found Reed in

the street and walked up to him, saying "I want to speak to you." "Keep away from me," Reed responded, drawing a derringer. "Don't come near me." Sheriff Getman replied, "You don't want to shoot me. I merely want to speak a few words to you. Don't shoot." No sooner were the words spoken than Reed fired point blank into the sheriff's heart. Getman crumpled onto the dirt street. "Boys, I am shot," he gasped and was dead. Then Reed ran into a pawn shop and opened fire on the two officers that had accompanied Getman to the scene. Soon, two more officers arrived on the scene. A gun fight ensued and eventually Reed fell dead, riddled with about a dozen balls (bullets). In death, Billy Getman joined at least five other Los Angeles lawmen who had been slain by badmen in the 1850's."

Footnote: William C. Getman was involved in several other incidents that are detailed throughout the book and would require considerably more story telling. There is probably enough details of his career (already provided) to provide an overall view of his amazing life as a lawman. 90% of the storyline is quoted directly from the book.

Reference book: "Gold Dust & Gunsmoke" by John Boessenecker, published by John Wiley & Sons, 1999

- William C Getman is believed to be the son of Wilhelm Getman and Catherine Charlesworth. No specific documentation confirming this has yet been identified. [WG]

Much of this information can also be found at <http://www.jcs-group.com/oldwest/good/angeles.html>

## **"Micky Spillane" Comes to the Rescue**

John R Dworschak GFG # A 1964

- Newspaper Article (The Pelham Sun, NY, Friday, July 14, 1939)

A "kidnap scare" had Pelham Manor police scouring the village Tuesday afternoon for a "band of Gypsies" who, it was feared, had snatched John Dworschak, 4, son of Village Engineer and Mrs. Julian Dworschak of No. 1073 Washington avenue, Pelham Manor, but in fifteen minutes the whole thing was cleared up and the boy safely returned to his parents.

It all started when George Hopkins of No. 35 Windsor Place, Pelham Manor came to police headquarters and reported that a "band of Gypsies in a dark sedan" had hailed his uncle, Sam Hopkins, of the same address, near his home. When Mr. Hopkins approached the car, he told his nephew, the Gypsies "frisked" him and tried to drag

him into the car. Mr. Hopkins said he broke away from their grasp and ran to his home."

Five minutes later, after police had learned that the "gypsy" car had been teen in the vicinity of Clay avenue, Mrs. Dworschak called and reported that her son was missing. Pelham Manor police immediately sent out a teletype and general radio alarm for the mysterious car. The kidnap scare ended, however, when about 10 minutes later, Sergeant Michael Spillane located the Dworschak boy on the corner of Clay avenue and Monroe street. The lad had not seen the Gypsies.

An hour later, police of the 48th Precinct, the Bronx, notified the Pelham Manor department that a "band of Gypsies" had been halted in the Bronx. Chief James McCaffrey, Lieutenant Fowler and Mr. Hopkins drove to the Bronx station house, but Mr. Hopkins was unable to identify the Gypsies as the ones who halted him.

Chief McCaffrey believed that the Gypsies, who travel in large numbers in the Bronx, were going about reading palms for silver. He believes that they were trying to encourage Mr. Hopkins into having his palm read

**GETMAN REUNION OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, N. Y.**  
1934 (Watertown Daily Times)

A clipping about the Getman Reunion held August 19, 1934, was found pasted in the 1934 Diary of Mrs. Minnie A. Conklin.

August 19-- The second annual Getman family reunion was held Sunday at the camp of Mr. and Mrs. Peron Kiechle on Indian River.

Dinner, served to about 73 members, was followed by a business meeting called to order by the president, Joseph Getman. Officers for the coming years are: President, Joseph Getman; vice-president, Emery Paul; secretary, Mildred Flath; and treasurer, Bessie Walts.

Those present at the reunion were: Andrew Getman, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Timmerman, son Lyle; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Getman, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Getman, children Harold and Alice Marie; Ray Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Getman and son, Douglas; Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Stanton and son Ralph; Miss Lois Van Alstyne, Paul Getman, all of Lafargeville; Anna Gladwyn, W. H. Chapman, Bessie Walts, Mr. and Mrs. William Conklin and three children; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Conklin of Brownville; Matilda Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Paul, Corinne Paul, Helen Goode, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Walts and son, Allison; Mr. and Mrs. Orville Walts, Ida Mae Waldrath (Walrath) all of Evans Mills; Mr. and Mrs. Emery Paul and son Jack; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knapp, Earl Knapp, Helen Tunney, Earl Getman, Shirley Getman of Watertown; and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Getman and son, Harold of Theresa; Mr. and Mrs. George Eaton, David and Martha Joan Eaton of Mannsville; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allen, Martha Getman, Carrie Allen of Limerick; Frank Clemons of Depauville; Niles Horton, Jean Ormsby and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Flath of Dexter.