



Down from the Bookshelf

By Clyde J. Getman

Immigrants, and New York State History.
Edmonds, Walter D. *Drums Along the Mohawk*. Boston: Little, Brown Selected for Interest in the Mohawk Valley, Palatine, and Company, 1936, 608p.

Drums Along the Mohawk. A 1939 film directed by John Ford and produced by Daryl Zanuck.

Walter "Wat" Dumaux Edmonds (1903-1998), best known as a writer of historical novels was born in Boonville, Oneida County, near the Mohawk Valley, with a knowledge of the events in the book, a historical novel featuring major events in the Valley in 1777 and 1778. The 1777 Battle of Oriskany and the 1778 Attack on German Flatts are featured in *Drums*.... While a novel, the book is a realistic account of events in the area, even to the bivouac at "Freddy Getman's farm" known now as the home of Frederick Getman, grandson of colonial progenitor Johann Frederick Getman (1693-1781). The book is an historical novel and worthy as a history of the Revolutionary era in the Mohawk Valley.

John Ford utilized the book in the film as a historical narrative and presentation of the patriotism, bravery, and heroic character of the locals in resistance and rebellion against the mother nation. His direction required compressing locations and events to provide an entertaining and an educational film about the history of the area. The names of DeMuth, Helmer, Herkimer, Petry, Bellinger, Foltz, and Rosenkrantz appear and are familiar among

descendants of Mohawk Valley families and appear in our genealogical studies.

Drums Along the Mohawk in both Edmonds' novel and in Ford's film adaptation of the book to the screen are enjoyable as a read and a viewing for persons interested in learning more about this notable period in local, state, and national history.

Getman Zoom Meeting

Zoom is a free download from the internet.

May 16 at 7 pm Central Daylight Time.

Zoom Login: 815 9505 6154

Passcode: 539552

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)

“Somewhere in New Guinea”

The Canajoharie Courier – Fort Plain Standard, NY,
Thursday, September 21, 1944

Pfc. Roger H. Swartz Writes of
Soldiers' Life and Natives

“Somewhere in New Guinea” Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Swartz have received an interesting letter under date of August 29. from their son. Pfc Roger H Swartz. who is with a Medical Detachment of Paraglider Infantry "somewhere in New Guinea." which reads, in part, as follows.

"We left here at noon and drove about thirty miles from camp. The road was like a trail and very hard to travel on. This New Guinea is really a rough place. We arrived at our new camping place and set it up. First, we had to make a small clearing in the Jungle and put up our tents. Some of the boys had hammocks but most of us built lean-tos. The two boys with me built ours so. when the water came off the roof, it was right under us. The first night, it rained all night and I didn't get much sleep. The next day. we built up the lean-to better and put a ditch around it. We put banana leaves on the ground to sleep on and on the roof to keep the water out. The leaves were about a foot and a half wide and some ran up to ten feet long. They kept us pretty dry after we got things fixed up right We stayed in camp all Thursday and we found a nice, cool stream where the water was about four feet deep and very clear We all had a good swim and was the water good!

"On Friday, we went to visit the native villages and there were quite a few of them. There are no roads to them and the only way to get there is on the trails, which are very pretty You know how the Wintergreen Flats are well it was just like that. These trails run all around through the jungles. We saw lots of natives, old and young, and we got a lot of fruit from them. But the only way we could get it was to trade for" it with the natives. All of the fruit belongs to the natives and we can't touch it unless they give it to us and then we have to give them something in return. They wanted to trade. Some of them have beautiful gardens. There is a mission up there where the natives are taught English and go to church. It is built up nice and there are grass and flowers growing all around it. I saw some beautiful poinsettias and begonias. Some sugar cane and coffee is also grown there. In the gardens, they grow everything we do – corn, lettuce, all the common vegetables- also cocoanuts and bananas. We traded for papayas and bananas, corn and limes. Some of the boys bought native spears, masks and combs. I bought a comb. We paid them in small cans of stew and hash or cigarettes, which they like. One of the boys bought a bunch of bananas for two cigarettes and I bought one for a book of matches. They gave us ripe ones to eat and green ones to take with us. When we got back to camp, we had over thirty dozen – all for a few cans of meat and a couple packs of cigarettes. I wish I could do that in the States.

About all these natives were head hunters before but the white people came in and they stopped them. There are only a few of the old ones left. We got a picture of one and he still had a bone in his nose. He said "I kai-kai many a man." He meant that he had killed many people. But, they don't do that now.

"We left our camp at noon Saturday and got back about three. I took a shower and ate supper. After that, I fell asleep and didn't wake up till Sunday morning. Before I started out on Wednesday I received a Courier-Standard and a box you and aunt Minnie sent on the Fourth of July. Everything came through ok and it went fast. Saturday night when I got back, I had seven letters waiting for me and the pictures I was glad to get them. I'm going to stop now and go to chow. I'll finish afterward.

'8p.m. – I just got through playing pinocle with the boys, We played outside of the tent. The moon is out so bright that we only had two little lamps, Sunday I washed all day. I thought I would never get it done. I went to the show at night and saw "Tarzan." Yesterday, I had the same old routine again. Monday night I received two more letters and another Courier-Standard. I also received a carton of cigarettes for the Folks Back Home. I'll write the Courier-Standard and thank them. We are having our usual night snack – hot dogs and coffee and are they good?

"Roger"

Roger H Swartz (GFG – B / B) 1924-2012, was a great-grandson of Almira Getman (GFG - B 192 / B) 1855-1883 and Charles S. Gray, 1856-1928.

Send Us Your Stories

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

wayget@ntcnet.com

Complicated Situation

Albany Morning Express, NY, Saturday,-
July 9, 1892

LOVE AT SIGHT, HASTY MARRIAGE
Wedding Trip in a Carriage, From Saloon to
Saloon,

BRIDE AND GROOM LOCKED UP

An Ephratah Farmer Has a High Old
Time in this City.

HE HAS SEEN 62 WINTERS-HIS
BRAND NEW WIFE IS FAIR, FRAIL
AND FORTY— "SHANKS" O'MELIA
BROUGHT THE TWO TOGETHER, AND
THE POLICE ARE UNKIND ENOUGH
TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A
CONSPIRACY TO GET THE OLD
MAN'S MONEY —BUT HE KNEW
WHAT HE WAS DOING, AND HE'S
MARRIED FAST ENOUGH.

**** Getman, of Ephratah, Fulton
county, came to this city to have a good time
on Thursday night, and according to later
developments, he had a particularly lively
one.

Yesterday, about 3 o'clock in the
afternoon, the chief of police was notified
that an old man, who had a large sum of
money in his possession, and who appeared
to be a farmer, was making a fool of himself
in "Shanks" O'Melia's resort, No. 40
Madison avenue and the probabilities were
that he would be robbed. The chief's
informant told him that "Shanks" had been
arranging that the farmer should marry one
of the frail women in the house, and buy
O'Melia's saloon, for \$1,800, and that
O'Melia had sent for a minister to marry the
couple, and for a lawyer to consummate the
sale of the saloon.

The chief sent Captain Davidson and
Detective McCann down to O'Melia's place
to investigate the matter. O'Melia at first
said he knew nothing about the matter, but
afterward recollected that a man from the
country had taken a fancy to one of the
women in his resort, and had been married

to her in the morning. He was asked where they then were, and he stated that they were out celebrating their marriage with a carriage ride. Captain Davidson did not believe this story, and he and the detective searched the house from attic to basement to ascertain if O'Melia, who is one of the trickiest toughs in Albany, had not secreted the two on the approach of the police; but they found nobody answering to the description of the persons they were seeking.

The chief was then informed by telephone of the alleged carriage ride, and he detailed Special Officer Curtain and two patrolmen of the second precinct to intercept the carriage on its return to O'Melia's place. They were successful in doing so, stopping it on Green street; and the bride and bridegroom were taken to police headquarters, where they were held under arrest.

The bridegroom was taken into the chief's office and questioned about the matter. He said he did not understand why he had been arrested. He said his name was **** Getman, of Ephratah, and that he was a farmer. He said he had come to Albany on Thursday evening to see the city, and amuse himself. During the evening he had drifted into O'Melia's place, and after having had several drinks, he had been introduced to a woman in the place, who made herself so agreeable to him that he asked her if she would not marry him, as he had no wife. She said she was perfectly willing to do so, but did not wish to live in the country, and she suggested that he should buy O'Melia's saloon if he had money enough, and go into business there. He said he had plenty of money, and would think of the project after they were married.

Getman stayed all night in the house and yesterday forenoon between 11 and 12 o'clock, with his consent, a minister was sent for who came to the house in a cab and

married them. Getman gave \$5 to the minister for tying the nuptial knot and then he and his bride got gloriously tight together in company with "Shanks," who had acted as "best man," and two frail women who acted as "bridesmaids."

Afterward, he went carriage riding about the city with his wife, and Mrs. Getman bought for herself two small diamond pins out of \$100 which she had got from Getman before the marriage.

When asked if he knew that his wife's character was bad, he declared that he did not care. She had caught his fancy and he was going to take her home with him. If she then behaved herself everything would be all right, but if he did not like the way she acted he would turn her out. And if she did not like the way he treated her, his door was open and she might go in peace.

He said further that he had \$320 when he came to Albany on Thursday night, but when his money was counted yesterday afternoon by Chief Willard he had only \$100 left.

He seemed to be very much under the influence of liquor, but talked fairly sensibly. He said he was 82 years old. He is tall and broad-shouldered and appears to be robust, though his hair is perfectly white. He was dressed in a suit of grey and wore a new soft felt hat.

While talking with the chief he appeared to feel perfectly at home. He lit a cigar, and, tilting his chair back, placed his feet comfortably on the top of the chief's desk and spoke to him good-humoredly, as to an old friend.

He had a bad bruise about two inches square on his forehead and he accounted for it by stating that he had fallen down stairs while fooling with his wife in O'Melia's.

Minnie Heffernan, the "happy bride." has the reputation of being one of the most disreputable women in the city. She has a very long and bad Police Court record: in

fact, she was released from the penitentiary only about two weeks ago. She is 40 years of age, but does not look quite so old, as she retains some of the good looks of her youth. She was drunk when arrested.

The whole affair seems to be plainly a conspiracy between O'Melia, who is a notoriously bad character, and the woman to get at the old man's money.

"Shanks" has been carefully looked after for a long time by the police authorities, who are "spoiling" to send him to the penitentiary, but although innumerable charges have been preferred against him he has always managed to wriggle out of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Getman passed the night in adjoining cells in the second precinct station house. Just what the police intend to do about the case does not clearly appear, as the two prisoners are legally married and there seems no question that Getman knew very well what he was doing when he took the woman as his wife. The clergyman who married them felt chagrined and mortified when he learned the intelligence of the case. "I was a tenderfoot and they took me in." he said to an "Express" reporter. "The man had been drinking, but he was not drunk by any means, and was perfectly clear-headed. I questioned them both carefully as to whether there was any reason why they should not be united, and I had no reason to believe that everything was not all right. After all." added the clergyman, "a man who is not too good to associate with that class of women is not too good to marry one of them."

Minnie Struck it Rich

The Argus
Albany, NY,

Wednesday, August 24, 1892

Minnie Heffernan who married Farmer **** Getman, of Fulton county, in "Shanks" O'Melia's dive on Madison avenue recently, is back in her old haunts again. It is said that

Getman's relatives, having learned of his bride's character, refused to recognize her, and tried to induce her to break with her. This he refused to do, and took her on a wedding tour as far as Buffalo, where he told her of the objections his family had to receiving her. Minnie was not put out in the least by the intelligence, and informed Getman that she did not want to make trouble for him, and that if he would give her \$500 she was willing to leave him. Getman objected to the \$500 and the couple lived together until about a week ago, when Getman's relatives struck a bargain with Minnie for \$200, which she took and left her hubby. She has been having a royal time in this city with the \$200 for the past few days

Bad Sneeze

The Morning Herald
Gloversville and Johnstown, NY
Monday, December 16, 1918

WAS DISASTROUS SNEEZE FOR MRS. ORVIA GETMAN. Mrs. Orvia Getman of 109 East Montgomery street, returned home Saturday from the Nathan Littauer hospital, Gloversville, where she has been a patient for several days. About two weeks ago Mrs. Getman was showing the children how to blow a small round tin whistle and while doing so she sneezed, causing her to swallow the whistle. Her condition became quite serious and, she was removed to the hospital on Monday of last week. An X-ray examination was made to determine, if possible, the location of the Whistle, but without success. During the past few days she has shown considerable improvement and no serious effects are looked for.

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and traditions with
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Clark Saltsman

Four Score and Ten

St. Johnsville Enterprise and News
Wednesday, March 9, 1938

Clark- Saltsman of this village observed his 90th birthday yesterday, quietly. His friends throughout the village extended congratulations and the ladies of the Reformed church gave him a handsome birthday cake. Rev. R.A. Geddes and the consistory of St. John's Reformed church presented Mr. Saltsman with an inscribed parchment memorial signed by the officers and members. The memorial set forth his many years of church service as well as important dates in his career. It is bound in leather and makes a lasting gift.

Clark Saltsman was born in Stone Arabia March 8, 1843 on the old Saltsman farm settled by his immigrant ancestors in the 18th century. His parents were Josiah P. Saltsman and his wife Mary Getman. His grandparents on the Saltsman side were Peter I. Saltsman and Katherine Saltsman.

He came to St. Johnsville May 9, 1868 and began his apprenticeship with his uncles, the Saltsman brothers, (W. H. and Alvin,) carriage and sleigh manufacturers. He received \$5 a month for three years. Carriage makers were much in demand at that time and when masters of their craft, received good wages. His first work was in the wood working department making wagon spokes. This plant was located on South Division street, most of which has been removed in recent years. Here he remained 27 years until the breaking up of the original firm.

When the old firm broke up due to the advanced age of the original founders Mr. Saltsman in company with Alvin Saltsman Jr., bought the business and carried on for a matter of ten years.

The encroachment of the trade wagon some of them prison-made which sold for

half the price of the hand made Saltsman wagons brought the business to an end for they realized that it was too late to enter the lists against organizations built to carry on mass production.

Mr. Saltsman remembers on occasion in which the elder Saltsman Brothers let a fortune slip through their grasp. An inventor engaged them to build a dump wagon, the first of its kind, and Clark Saltsman was the actual builder of this innovation. The right to manufacture was offered to the Saltsman Brothers who passed it up in favor of the finer top buggy which was then the most attractive item in the carriage field. They built the fines in the land but the dump wagon which they declined to build was built later in Canistota and became a flourishing concern. The coming of railroad building was the occasion for employing dump wagons and in fact in one form or another they are still in demand after the carriages have long since passed to become museum pieces.

After the closing of the carriage works, Mr. Saltsman found employment in the wood working department of the Clark Machine Company making threshing machines. Here he remained for many years. He has witnessed the passing of both the wagon and threshing machine industries during the span of his life.

In 1877 he married Josephine Bright who died in 1915. Two children Harold and Mildred were born to them both of whom are now dead. His only surviving direct descendants are a granddaughter Mrs. Mildred Bell of Gloversville and a grandson Kenneth Duesler of Oneonta and a great-granddaughter Marilyn Duesler of Oneonta.

He has been a member of St. John's Reformed church since he came here. He was chorister for 15 years and has filled the office of deacon and superintendent of the Sunday School. One political office that he recalls, that of collector, in which he made a

record of collecting every dollar spread on the roll even if he had to pay the tax out of his own pocket for the sake of making his record 100 per cent perfect.

Mr. Saltsman is in fair health and active. His friends are wishing him many happy returns for his birthday and there seems no reason why he should not live to enjoy many more of them.

Clark Saltsman (GFG – B 184 / A) 1848-1939 son of Josiah P. Saltsman (GFG – A 187) 1831-1891 and Mary Getman (GFG – B55) 1813-1899.

Farming Accident

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, NY
Monday, October 15, 1900

Fort Plain, N.Y., Oct. 14.-Yesterday, about dusk, as James G. DeWandelaer and his hired man, James Cook, were hauling cornstalks from the field to a barn, the team of horses became frightened at a portion of the load sliding upon them and ran away. The horses dashed directly toward the barn, and before DeWandelaer and Cook could leap from the load the entrance was reached.

The men, both greatly excited and standing erect, crashed against the upper portion of the entrance with terrific force and were hurled from the load. Cook was killed instantly, his neck being broken, and DeWandelaer was seriously injured, probably fatally, a number of his ribs being fractured, an arm broken and internal injuries received.

DeWandelaer is prominent as a farmer and member of the New York State Grange. His farm, where the accident occurred, is in the town of Palatine, across the Mohawk from this village.

James Ganesveort DeWandelaer (GFG – B205) 1835-1901 is a son of Delia Getman (GFG – B 63) 1807-1876 and Ganesvort DeWandelaer 1797-1867. He survived 13 ½ months after this accident.

Rasbach Cares for Wounded On 5th Army Front in Italy

The News of the Tonawanda, NY, Wednesday, April
18, 1945

With the Fifth Army, Italy — Staff Sergeant Raymond F. Rasbach of Middleville, New York, has been caring for wounded of the 88th "Blue Devil" Infantry Division for more than a year on the Fifth Army front in Italy. He is chief of a surgical team in Company B of the 313th Medical Battalion, Rasbach and his team work in the collecting company, caring for casualties brought in from the battlefield and infantry battalion aid stations. Wounded never are kept long at the collecting point, but are evacuated to rear installations for treatment as soon as possible after being checked and given additional aid. Rasbach himself, was a casualty, two days after the start of the drive to Rome, May 13, 1944, when he was hit by shell fragments. He later was awarded the Purple Heart. Entering the service at Fort Niagara, New York, in 1942, Rasbach has been a member of the 88th Division since it was activated at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, in July, 1942. The 88th, commanded by Major General Paul W. Kendall, was the first all-Selective Service infantry division to enter combat in this war. The sergeant is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond M. Rasbach of Middleville, New York. His wife, Mrs. Mary P. Rasbach, resides at 361 Tremont street, North Tonawanda.

Raymond Failing Rasbach (GFG – B) 1919-1986, Is a grandson of Anna Getman (GFG – B 544) 1856-1918 and Norman D Failing, 1854-1916.