

November 2022

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

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

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## Giving Thanks

Three Hundred and twelve years ago in the year 1710, Frederick Getman set foot in North America. He, a brother and their step-mother were the only members of a family of ten who had left their home in what is now Germany who had survived the trip. His brother would die during the next two years and his step-mother would remarry.

There was no Thanksgiving holiday for these arrivals who would endure indentured servitude in a labor camp along the Hudson River. We can however anticipate they and the other refugees who are known as the "Palatinates" were thankful to finally arrive. Their voyage had been difficult involving many hardships and disease which in Frederick's case ultimately claimed the lives of all but he and his step-mother.

We have the opportunity to be thankful for his safe arrival. He and others like him helped to create the country that became the United States.

This Thanksgiving, remember those who helped create this great country as you celebrate with family and friends.

Best wishes to you all

Wayne Getman

## Message from the President of the Getman Family of America

Greetings to all Getmans!

Who are we?

I would like to introduce and provide background information on your Getman board members, a 'Get to know your board members' column. And in addition, you are invited to share your information with us in order to get to know one another better, so when we meet in person at our annual meeting we will feel more like family in knowing a bit about one another.

I was born Marjorie Frances Koenig in Rochester MN (home of the Mayo Health system) and grew up in Austin MN (home of Hormel Foods). I live with my husband, Al, in Woodbury MN. We have three adult children, Andrew, Martin, Amy, and five grandchildren. I am a retired physical education teacher, athletic coach, and a 20 year volleyball referee at the high school and college level. The final 20 years of my career were teaching adapted physical education at the high school and middle schools in Anoka MN (Halloween Capital of the World!). For 27 years I also worked the officials table at Anoka Ramsey community college, keeping the scorebook for the men and women's basketball teams.

We like to travel both in the US and internationally, and my hobbies are mostly athletic related: playing golf and pickleball, attending athletic events (especially the grandchildren's) and of course genealogy! My interests involve doing the research, visiting repositories, digging in the archives, to find more and more information! I do belong to several family associations but am not on their boards.

On behalf of the Getman board, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Marjorie Rosendahl

## 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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## **Visitor Finds Place In Little Falls History**

Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY

Wednesday, November 2, 1966

By Franklin J. Bowman

Getman Family of America, Historian

A stranger driving through the Little Falls area last summer happened to meet an old time resident, and while discussing history of this area, discovered the man's name was Fink.

The old timer asked if his for bears (sic) came from this area and when the stranger answered in the affirmative, he was asked if he ever heard of Fink's Basin. The answer was "yes," but he did not know where it was located until told "you are practically in Fink's Basin right now."

An interesting conversation followed and it was soon established Fink's ancestors had owned and operated a tavern in the early 1800's at Fink's Basin. Andrew Fink and his wife, Delia Getman Fink, had built a tavern about two miles east of Little Falls and according to family stories about the couple. they had been very successful in this venture.

Knowing the location of that tavern. the stranger suggested we look it over. The place had been vacant and without care for many years, but the architecture showed the type of building it had been in the early days. We then went and inspected the old Fink-Van Valkenburgh burying ground.

The guide explained the Erie Canal was not completed until 1825 and prior to that time all transportation across the State of New York, both passenger and freight. was by horse and wagon. Because this means of travel was slow and the distance which could be traveled in any one day was short, it was necessary to spend many nights in taverns on the road when an extended trip was made as a result, many inns and taverns sprang up along this road and the revenue received by the local residents was an important source of income.

Simms, in his "Frontiersmen of New York ", gives a list of taverns which were in operation from Herkimer to Albany. He states. "As remembered by Andrew A. Fink, George Wagner and several others, the following inns were located from Herkimer east: John Rasback, John Potter, a Mr. Heacock; then across West Canada Creek Nathaniel Eldridge, a Mr. Upham, James Archer, John McCombe. Warner Dygert. At Little Falls, John Sheldon, a Mr. Carr, a Mr. Harris. Major Morgan. Below Little Falls, A. A. Fink. From Fink's to East Creek there are 13 dwellings in five miles and 12 of these 13 dwellings were once taverns."

At a later date, Benjamin G. C. Fincke. the stranger referred to, called me at my Scarsdale home and asked for added information about the ancestors of Delia Getman. I was able to answer his questions. It was established that Fink's Tavern was a very famous inn where all of the best stages stopped and their passengers entertained. It

has been reported this place had accommodations for 100 guests.

During this period of our history, all passenger travel was by stage coach and all freight was transported by huge wagons which were drawn by four or six horses. The horses never moved faster than a walk and the driver usually walked at the side, with reins to the lead horse only.

As the loads were heavy, and the roads poor, the rate of travel was slow. It often required two weeks to move freight from Albany to Rochester. As a result of this slow travel, the number of overnight stops of a traveler were many and the inns along the way did a good, profitable business.

Freight rates were high. The rate from Albany to Utica was \$1 per hundred pounds. No toll was charged the large wagons with tires six inches wide because these large wheels tended to act as rollers and they helped fill the ruts left behind by wagons which had large wooden box bodies that could hold a hundred bushels of wheat. Even though there were many taverns on the road, the traffic was so heavy it was a common practice to send a runner ahead to book accommodations for the convoy.

The male parents of both Delia Getman and Andrew Fink were veterans of the American Revolution and both made some very valuable contributions to the American struggle for independence. Delia's father, Capt. Frederick Getman, was a captain of his company at the Battle of Oriskany. His name is inscribed on the Oriskany monument. After the war he represented his district as a N. Y. State assemblyman and later a senator from 1794 to 1802. Lt. Christian Fink was in Col. Jacob Klock's regiment during the Revolution and later when he served in the War of 1812 was promoted to captain.

People who now live in the Mohawk Valley should remember they live in an area which is very rich in Colonial and

Revolutionary history. This is the area where the sturdy pioneers stood up and fought to defend their families, their homes and their way of life. They prevented the French (sic) from dividing the Colonies in two parts. Had the British been able to drive a wedge between New England and the New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia area, the outcome of the struggle probably have been entirely different.

These people gave their all so that we, their descendants could enjoy a better life and be assured of a more secure civilization.

It may not be generally known that the first flag of the United States which we fly today was first flown in the battle in the Mohawk Valley. Montgomery, in his "American History Text Book." says: "The first United States flag adopted by Congress, June 14, 1777, having the stars and stripes was made, it is said, out of a soldier's white shirt, an old blue army overcoat and a red flannel petticoat. It was hoisted by our army at Fort Stanwix, near Rome, N.Y. during Burgoyne's invasion in 1777."

Why not teach our children to drape and to respect this flag on stated holidays. We are now passing through a critical period of our history. Respect for law and order must be maintained. Let us be thankful for the many blessings which these sturdy pioneers passed on to us through their heroic efforts and actions in those early days of our history.

*It seems to me that the last paragraph still has merit today*  
[editor]

## **Send Us Your Stories**

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

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

# Bridge Specialist

The News and Observer, Raleigh, NC  
Thursday, April 14, 1994

New York - James Becker one of the country's leading tournament bridge players died Tuesday at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan. He was 57. He lived in Manhattan.

The cause was heart failure said Joan Dziekanski his business partner at the Beverly Bridge Club in Manhattan which he founded.

In 1991 Mr. Becker won almost 3000 master points the third-highest calendar-year total of all time. This earned him the Barry Crane Top 500 title making him the only East Coast winner in 30 years. That year he played more than 3,000 deals and attended 36 tournaments. His lifetime total of 18,700 master points placed him 14th on the American Contract Bridge League's career listing.

He won consecutive victories in the Intercollegiate Par Championship in 1959 and 1960 the first of more than 100 titles he won. In 1983 he was the New York Player of the Year a title awarded to the most successful performer in local events.

In 1975 Mr. Becker bought a small bridge club renamed it the Beverly and built it into the busiest in the world. Now at 130 E 57th St the club has about 400 tables in play weekly and 60 tables of instruction.

Mr. Becker, known as Jim, taught the game to thousands. He was responsible for seven revisions of "The Greatest Little bridge whiz Bridge Book in the World," a popular student text.

He also translated from Italian "Precision and Super Precision" by Giorgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo, the world champions. He served on the Greater New York Bridge Association's Board of Directors and as an alternate on the National Board.

Mr. Becker was born in Gloversville, N.Y., and received a degree in electrical engineering at Columbia University in 1959. He worked briefly as an engineer before pursuing a career as a bridge teacher.

He is survived by his father Richard Becker and a cousin Bruce Becker both of Gloversville, N.Y.

James Becker (GFG - I) is a 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandson of Anna Maria Getman (GFG - I) 1721-1811, and Johann Henrich Meyers (1715-1810).

## Joshua R. Getman

Co.E 115th N.Y.V. Inf.

Joshua Getman, age 26 enlisted on August 9, 1862 at Ephratah, NY to serve a three year tour. Mustered in as private with CO E the August 15, 1862. Regiment Rendezvoused in Fulton, NY and at the end of the month, they boarded trains for Sandy Hook, MD to meet up and join the Army of the Potomac. Two weeks later, they faced the enemy at Harpers Ferry, VA. Historians differ as to why but General Miles surrendered to General Sherman, but due to the sheer numbers of troops they were paroled the next day, Sept 16, 1862 and allow to leave in peace but without rations or supplies. Wounded while on picket duty before Petersburg, VA - no date - Wounded again, July 30th 1864 in a mine explosion at Petersburg, VA and in action October 27, 1864 at Darbytown Road, VA Mustered out 3 June 1865 at Albany, NY

Joshua Getman was killed in an accident while working in the Nelliston Quarry on Luft Lane. (Getman Family Genealogy)

## Newspaper Article

The Register, Fort Plain, NY  
December 9, 1881

On Saturday last as several men were at work in Snyder & Cranker's stone quarry in

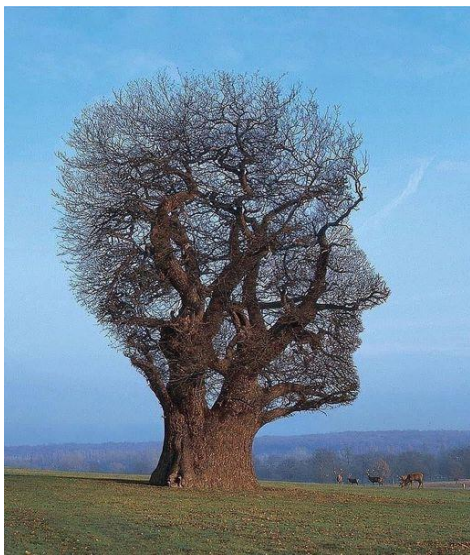
Nelliston, a large derrick, with which stone were being hoisted, fell, striking Joshua A. (sic) Getman breaking three ribs, fracturing his spinal column and otherwise injuring him. He was removed to his home and Dr. Douglas Ayres was summoned. Although his limbs became immediately paralyzed he remained conscious most of the time, and his injuries are such as will render him a cripple for life should he survive. The doctor thinks that recovery is possible, although not at all probable. He has a wife and five children.

## Death Announcement

The Register, Fort Plain, NY  
January 27, 1882

DIED ... GETMAN - In Nelliston, Jan. 20, 1882, Joshua R. Getman, aged 47 years.

Joshua R. Getman (GFG – A 276) 1837-1882)  
Joshua was married twice, first to Eva Ann Van Alstine (1843 - ???) and second to Jessie Keller (1857-1926)



What does your tree look like?

## Instantaneous Education

The Amsterdam Daily Democrat, NY  
Monday, December 29, 1884  
[New York Cor. Chicago Journal.]

I happened to witness an interview between Thomas A. Edison and Leander Miles, the conclusion of which was as follows: -"I am a scientist," said Miles, "like yourself. I come to you with the greatest invention of this or any other age. There is something; lacking, and I think you can supply it, in which case we will share the glory and profits. Now, what is the greatest possible drawback to the progress of human knowledge? Simply the necessity of each individual beginning to learn at the rudiments. He loses most of his lifetime in acquiring familiarity with the facts which have been ascertained before him. Now, if he could in a flash become as learned as all the preceding men have been, he could thereafter devote himself to the search for new things. Then our progress would indeed be rapid. Is it not so?"

"Undeniably," assented Edison.

"Very well," and here Miles paused dramatically, before his next utterance. "I have invented a device for instantaneously educating human beings. It was suggested by those photographic methods by means of which Portraits are made in a flash, combined with the principle of intensifying sunlight with lenses. I am able to so concentrate an entire book that, with a comparatively simple apparatus, the sum total of its matter can be injected into a person's head as quickly as I can snap my finger. I only lack - "

"Good heavens," Edison ejaculated; "I fancied I could detect a cracked inventor at sight, but it seems that I can't."