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Message from the President of the Getman Family of America

Your Getman Family of America Board of Directors met on Oct 25 via Zoom.

Items we discussed:

1. The updated constitution which was approved at the annual meeting in August, 2021.

2. Status update from the treasurer, the turnover to the new treasurer, Randy Getman, was completed.

3. Getman Family Facebook page. As of October, we have 209 members, of which 180 are active by reading the postings, clicking on like, or leaving a comment. We discussed the owners of the original Getman homestead in Stone Arabia being members, even though they are not Getman descendants. We would like to keep them included, as they have an interest in preserving the history of the property which is important to our association.

4. Concerns were brought up about the low attendance at the 2021 annual meeting,...some thoughts were that families are busy with work, raising children, maybe many who live in the area are not aware that they are Getman descendants, and some had Covid concerns.

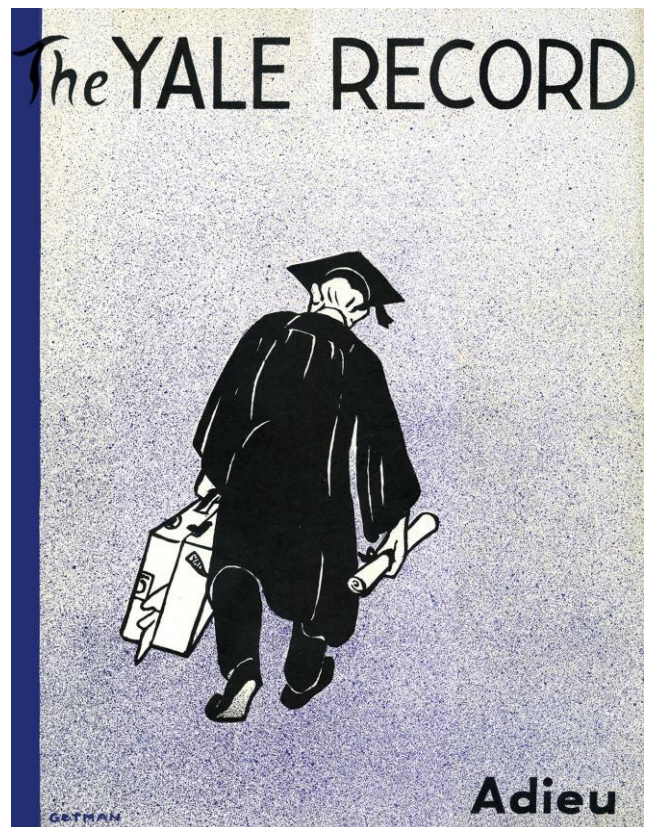
5. We discussed having a Getman Round Table discussion via Zoom open to all Getman descendants. Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 3, at 8 pm Eastern Time. Details are being worked out as to the format. Look for more information in the December and January newsletters.

Marjorie Rosendahl

Do You Know About This Person?

William Taylor Getman
b. 1916, Buffalo, New York

William T. Getman (GFG - A 1498 / C / VIII) was an accomplished artist and Yale alumnus. The article in September's issue of the Getman Newsletter stimulated an inquiry from the Yale Record Archivist who is looking for additional information about this person. Anyone who has additional information is encouraged to share with myself and the archivist.



William Taylor Getman '38 June 1, 1937 © The Yale Record 1936

Yale graduation cover 1936
By William Taylor Getman

Editor's Note

The history presented by Franklin J. Bowman is essentially correct. There is however one essential misunderstanding at the beginning of the segment included in this newsletter. It has been stated many times that Queen Ann encouraged protestant Germans to come to England and then to the new colonies.

In his book "Becoming German" Philip Otterness uses considerable research and documentation to explain the Queen Ann story was actually a misunderstanding. The queen supported an initial small emigration of Germans led by Joshua Kocherthal. He in turn published a book in 1709 known as "The Golden Book," based on the color of it's cover. In the book he suggested that the English queen would support immigrants to the colonies. The book was frequently read in public places throughout what is now south-western Germany.

Two factors enter into the previous statement. First; most people of the era could not read or write so a published document had to be read to them. Kocherthal knew this and wrote accordingly. Second; Germany was not a county. The area was a collection of small feudal states ruled by local Lords with a wide variety of policies. Residents of an area were required to purchase their "freedom" from the local ruler in order to leave the area where they were born. This practice is known as manumission.

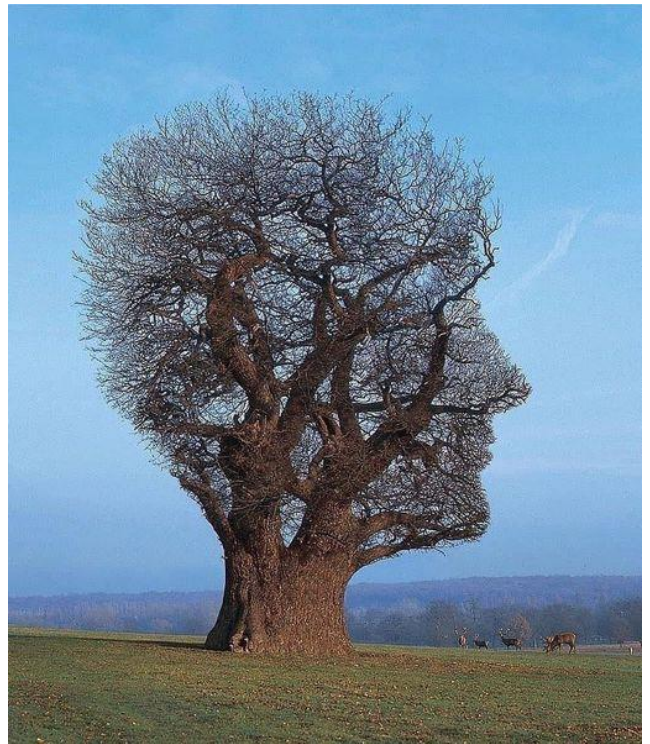
In his book Otterness clearly states that the primary reasons for leaving were poverty and hunger.

I highly recommend the book "Becoming German" for all who are interested in this portion of our ancestry. This book was reviewed by Clyde Getman in the September issue of this newsletter.

Send Us Your Stories

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

wayget@ntcnet.com



Do you look like your family tree?

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)

Valley Palatines of Sturdy Stock

Part Two

By Franklin J. Bowman
Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY
Saturday, July 25, 1960

Queen Ann of England was approached at this time, and she decided to offer assistance. During the year 1709, about 13,000 refugees entered England. They were quartered in tent colonies, vacant warehouses and any other place where shelter could be found. The influx was so great that it soon became evident that some permanent solution must be developed for the relief of this large group of refugees. The crowded condition of their crude shelters made many of them ill and much sickness developed.

On August 30, 1709, the London Board of Trade began considering a plan to locate the Palatines in the Province of New York and having them manufacture naval stores for the British government. It was definitely known in England that the Carolinas produced excellent pitch, tar and turpentine. Reports from competent authorities stated that the same tar content could be expected from the white pine in the New York area. As a result, it was decided to send about 3,000 Palatines to New York and have them engage in the manufacture of ship stores.

The plan was adopted by the London Board of Trade on Nov. 12, 1709. Governor

Hunter, the newly appointed governor of the Providence of New York, expressed fears that after arriving in New York, the Palatines might be lured away from the naval stores project, so he asked that the Board of Trade place them under contract. The settlement of the Palatines in New York seemed to the British Cabinet the answer to their problems of finance, naval stores, provincial defense and the retention of the great fur trade.

To the Palatines in London, it seemed that their settlement in New York would be an escape from their untold miseries of war and persecution which they had suffered. A contract was signed and arrangements were made for the mass migration of this large group of emigrants.

It is fortunate that the Board of Trade recorded the names, ages, occupations, data on children and religion of thousands of refugees as they arrived from the mainland of Holland. These records are of priceless value today when we, the descendants, wish to secure pertinent information about our ancestry. It is also fortunate that men of the caliber of Boyd Ehle had the foresight to have a record compiled from the original records so that the future generations would know of the arrival of their forefathers. Lou MacWethy also had the foresight to publish long lists of Palatine information while he was the publisher of the St. Johnsville Enterprise and News.

Ten ships were assembled to carry the 3,000 Palatines to New York, This was the

largest single group to come to America from Europe before the Revolutionary War. The Palatines were placed on board ten ships shortly after Jan. 1, 1710, but they did not set sail until some time around April 1. The foul air, vermin, little sunlight, lack of exercise, poor food and lack of good drinking water, soon caused many on board to fall ill. Eighty deaths were reported on one ship before they left Portsmouth. It was also reported that 446 persons died on the way over and another 250 died during the latter part of the summer after they landed in New York.

As the local inhabitants objected to the landing of these sick people, arrangements were made to place them in quarantine on Nutten Island (Governor's Island) pending their disposition to other locations. Governor Hunter bound out the orphans. The single women and elderly people were allowed to remain in New York while the able bodied men and women were sent to East and West Camps on the Hudson. These locations are now known as Germantown and Saugerties.

Among those who were bound out, was John Peter Zenger. He was bound out to William Bradford, New York's first printer and newspaper publisher. Bradford was a kind Christian man who gave his ward a good home and a good education. A. Chrysler, an ancestor of Walter P. Chrysler of Chrysler Motors, was also bound out at this time.

After Bradford died, Zenger established the second newspaper and publishing business in New York. That he became a great lover of freedom and a fearless editorial writer, may be judged from an extract in his weekly journal: "We see men's deeds destroyed, judges arbitrarily displaced, new courts erected, without the consent of the legislature, by which it seems to me, trials by Jury are taken away when the governor pleases, men of known estates

denied their votes contrary to the best exposition of any law."

All America was startled by such plain speaking. These ringing challenges, uttered in 1734, had never been voiced before in this country. They aroused the ire of William Crosby, the Governor of the Province. He had Zenger arrested for libel, denied him bail and he also disbarred the two New York lawyers who had been hired to defend him. It was at this point that the elderly and distinguished Scotch attorney, Andrew (sic) Hamilton was brought from Philadelphia to defend Zenger.

After nearly a year in jail, Zenger eventually was brought to trial before Judge Delancey and in spite of the court's charge to the contrary, he was acquitted by the jury. Alexander (sic) Hamilton, in his summation to the jury declared: "The question before the court and you gentlemen of the jury, is not of small or private concern, it is not the cause of a poor printer, nor of New York alone which you are trying. No, It may in its consequences, affect every free man who lives under a British Government on the Main of America.'

These were prophetic words and it must be remembered, that they were uttered by Hamilton more than 40 years before Tom Paine wrote "Common Sense" or Jefferson had written the draft of the Declaration of Independence. New York engaged in a wild demonstration of joy. the night after Zenger was acquitted. The Palatine orphan became the father of "Freedom of the Press." Samples of John Peter Zenger's handwriting were among the most interesting manuscripts exhibited by the New York 'State Freedom Train during 1950-1951.

(To Be Continued)

Not in My Front Yard

The Canistota Times
Canistota, Steuben County, NY
Thursday, August 18, 1938

39 Years ago in Canistota ... In erecting telephone poles at Avoca Monday, Jerome Shults and wife objected to location of one in front of their residence. The laborers dug the hole anyhow, whereupon the old lady jumped into it and the old man got a gun. After two or more hours' argument without visible effect upon either of the Shults, the men changed the direction of the line.

Jerome Shults, (GFG – B 111) 1832-1901 is a grandson of Catharine Getman 1761-1813 and Ludwig Rickard, 1757-1819. His committed wife was Amanda Catharine Everson 1838-1908. The event apparently took place in 1899 when they were aged 67 and 61, respectively.

New Rural Telephone Line

The Iliion Citizen, Iliion, NY
Thursday, September 20, 1917

The Mohawk & Southern Telephone Association has been organized, with the following membership: John J. Edick, James Conkling (farm), G. W. Heacock (summer home), S. A. Bubb, T. D. Warren, Eugene H. Crisman, W. H. Goodrich, M. Becker, A. P. Myers, John Minon and Floyd Shaver. Its line, which is well advanced toward completion, will connect with the exchange of the New York Telephone Company at Herkimer.

John Jefferson Edick (GFG – C/II); Samuel Albert Bubb, husband of Lena Marie Harter (GFG – C); Eugene Hudson Crisman, husband of Emma Getman (GFG – C)

Lost Colonies Report

Courier-Standard
Canajoharie-Fort Plain, NY
Thursday, August 8, 1963

Franklin J. Bowman, Scarsdale, reports that in several instances he had made contact with colonies of Getmans who are descended from relatives who went west in the early days. During the process of contacting Getmans in all parts of the United

States, it was found that there were many Getmans listed in the telephone books in the western part of the country. As a result a questionnaire was prepared and circulated to all persons who were listed under that name.

The response from areas far removed from the Mohawk Valley was surprising. People were located who had heard that their Getman ancestors had migrated from New York State in the early days and that is about all they knew of their ancestry prior to the time of their forefathers' migration. When they were advised that there was a possibility of connecting their line with the early eastern pioneers, they cooperated and furnished records.

It was fortunate that a previous Getman historian, Byron Getman, who lived in Gloversville, had inserted notes along side of certain names "Went West". When the names and birth dates of these people were compared and it was found that they were one and the same, it was established without any possibility of doubt that these western relatives were related to the group which remained in the east.

One relative, Dr. Ernest Getman, Rock Rapids, Iowa, prepared his own questionnaire and circulated it to all of his relatives who descended from Aaron Getman, 1799-1853. Dr. Getman had information to the effect that Aaron had migrated York State and that is all the western family knew of their ancestors. As a result of information received from one questionnaire, over 1,500 names were forwarded to the Getman historian in Scarsdale.

Byron Getman's records showed that Aaron Getman was the grandson of Captain Frederick Getman who was a veteran of the 2nd Tryon County Militia (Col. Jacob Klock's Regiment) and the records show that he was engaged at Oriskany. The records also show that Capt. Fred Getman served as a New York State assemblyman

and later as a New York State Senator. He is buried in Manheim and his grave was marked in 1910 by the DAR.

Another group of Getmans was located near Elmira. They knew that their forefather's name was Zelora Getman, but had no records to connect his ancestry with the Getman family in the Mohawk Valley area. After months of correspondence, a relative was located in Kansas City, Mo., who stated that he had an old letter which referred to Zelora Getman as being a son of Mary Getman, Manheim. He also stated that he now has Zelora Getman's Boot Jack with his name carved on it. Zelora apparently first settled in the Elmira area and later left part of his family there and went to Missouri.

Grindstone Kills Columbia Man

Richfield Springs Mercury
Thursday, July 28, 1938

Herkimer—David Getman, 57, of Getman's Corners, south of Mohawk, was instantly killed yesterday afternoon when a grindstone which he was using broke in four pieces.

One piece struck Mr. Getman with terrific force, putting out one of his eyes and fracturing his skull.

A large piece of the grindstone struck Henry R. Myers, 27, a farm hand employed at the farm, on his right arm, bruising and tearing the ligaments.

According to a statement, by Mr. Myers, he and Mr. Getman were engaged in smoothing down the grindstone, run by a gasoline engine, preparatory to sharpening farm utensils.

Mr. Getman was in front of the wheel, and Myers stood at the side, where he was holding a small belt on the machine with a crowbar.

Suddenly, the huge stone broke apart and two of the fragments struck the two men. Myers had a narrow escape from death, the jagged stone striking him a glancing blow.

Mr. Myers called for help and his mother, Mrs. Maude Myers, went to help Mr. Getman.

Dr. Merton Brown of Columbia Center was summoned, but Mr. Getman had died almost instantly following the accident.

Coroner James W. Graves of Herkimer was called and by his direction the body was taken to Fred Graves' undertaking parlors in Mohawk, and an autopsy was performed by Dr. F. M. Nuendorf and Dr. W. J. MacDonald of Mohawk.

The autopsy disclosed that the skull was fractured, and the whole side of the face, jaw and eye were completely crushed and the brain injured.

Dr. Brown treated the injuries of Mr. Myers, who is resting comfortably. Mr. Getman was born Oct. 6, 1880, a son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Fillmore Getman. Town of German Flatts, and had since resided there except for 13 years, when he was a resident of Salisbury. Herkimer County.

He was a farmer by occupation. He was a member of the Baptist Church and of the Fort Dayton Grange.

He is survived by his father Fillmore Getman, and one sister, Mrs. Louis Firman of Monticello.

Mr. Getman was associated with his father in the management of the farm.

David Harvey Getman (GFG - C) 1880-1938

Encountered Panthers

Utica Herald Dispatch
Saturday, June 25 1910

Dolgeville. June 25.—Lynn Getman had an encounter with panthers a few days ago while on an outing in the region of Black Cat Creek, about 25 miles north of this village. Mr. Getman had left the camp armed with only a 32-caliber revolver when, a short distance away, he saw a male and female panther slouching along ahead of him in a threatening attitude. They came closer and he fired several shots from his revolver, wounding one of the animals. When the last shot was gone Mr. Getman began his way in the direction of the camp, managing to keep the panthers at a safe distance by keeping his weapon pointed in their direction. With a final spurt he reached the camp in safety and his pursuers sneaked off into the woods. Other panthers have lately been reported in the Black Cat section and every few days the remains of a sheep waylaid by them is found.

Lynn Getman (GFG - C 517) 1889-1971