

Editor's Note:

Wayne Getman

While working on genealogy research I have been using old newspapers. One of the best sources I have found is a private non-subscription website that has developed into an outstanding resource for papers in the New York area, other areas are included as well. Please consider fultonhistory.com when doing your research.

The final article in this month's issue of Getman News was found at this site. The author, Franklin J. Bowman (GFG - B 916 / A / B / B) 1889-1968, served as a board member of the Getman Association for many years. In that capacity he was also family historian. He Assisted with the compilation of the original Getman Genealogy Book and published the original Getman News. When he died his research material and correspondence material was given to Union College, Schenectady, NY.

The article included here was submitted to at least two Mohawk Valley newspapers. The Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY published the article by dividing it into several sections. The first section is included this month.

Mr. Bowman's research was extensive. Although time has revealed additional information and expanded available knowledge and resources his material effectively tells the story of our ancestors.

The editor's note at the beginning of the article is from the original publisher.

Are all Getmans Related?

Wayne Getman

Oddly enough this is a question that currently does not have an answer. When I was younger I would have answered yes. Now that I

have been researching for a number of years and have access to census records via the internet there is no clear answer.

Most of the Getmans in the US can trace their ancestry to Caspar Getman who left for the "new world" in 1710 and died on the way. His son, Johann Frederick survived the trip, married his step-sister Maria Bierman and had 8 children who are known to have survived, resulting in thousands of Getman descendants.

There are however other Getman lines residing in the US that are known to the Getman Association. Some of them are listed below.

Any assistance identifying a linkage between these people and the Caspar / Frederick Getman Line of 1710 will be greatly appreciated.

It is the current opinion of this and other researchers that there is a connection that will in all likelihood be in the area now known as Germany. This is based on the current knowledge that each of the known lines has identified their or their parents language as German, or in one case Yiddish.

The earliest known of these other Getman lines shows up in Pennsylvania: Johan Peter Getman and his wife Maria Catharina had children born in Pennsylvania in 1787 and 1789. I have no further information on this line.

A George Getman was born apparently in Montgomery County, (near Philadelphia), Pennsylvania about 1793. Perhaps he is a son of the earlier listed couple. Little is known of this line.

Martin Getman arrived from Germany about 1830. He married Frederica who was born in Maryland. This couple had 7 known children of whom little is known.

There was a Kasper Getman who arrived from Prussia with his wife Katie around 1900

and had at least one child in Nebraska around 1908.

Herman Getman and his wife Ida, both born in Russia had a son Aaron J who was born in New York in 1920.

Abraham Getman, b. abt. 1870, and his wife Ida from Russia immigrated in 1890, had a son Emanuel born in Pennsylvania and moved to Illinois where at least two additional children were born.

Abraham Getman, b. abt. 1871 in Russia and his wife Anna, were living in Boston, Massachusetts during the 1920 census, with three children, the youngest having been born in Rhode Island, the older two were born in Russia.

John Getman, born in Germany abt. 1822 and his wife Carolina, also born in Germany were living in Luzerne County Pennsylvania during the 1880 census.

Two presumed brothers, George and Daniel Getman are listed in Putnam County, Ohio in 1900. Their parents are listed as having been born in Germany.

Michael Getman, b. abt. 1812, in Pennsylvania and his wife Mehala show up in Connecticut in 1860 and Stony Creek, New York in 1870.

Alex Getman, b. abt. 1875 in Poland and his wife Sylvia, born in Germany, with two children are listed in the 1930 Chicago, Illinois census.

Louis Getman, b. abt. 1896 in Russia and his wife Ida, also born in Russia, with three children born in Massachusetts, are listed in the 1930 Boston census.

Charles Getman b. abt. 1887 in Lithuania and his wife Isold also born in Lithuania are living in Arlington, Vermont during the 1930 census.

Herman Getman, b. abt. 1868, born in Pomerania and his wife Lena, born in Wisconsin were living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with two children in 1920.

Kasper Gettman, b. 1855 in Russia and his wife Anna Katharina Grunwald, also born in Russia, are residing in Portland, Oregon with their 8 children during the 1900 census.

There are other examples of uncertain Getman lines as well. Any information you may have concerning them will be greatly appreciated.

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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)

I thought as we approach election time this following article deserved to be used showing how things were different and the same a century ago.

A non-endorsement ? Nominated for Office

Elmira Star-Gazette, New York
Wednesday, October 26, 1910

The Democratic convention of Steuben County, which recently met at Corning, N. Y., nominated Lewis K. Williamson of Avoca for the office of Superintendent of the Poor of that county.

That the selection is a wise one is the general expression of all who know Mr. Williamson. While it is frequently customary to eulogize a man who happens to be a candidate it is not the intention of this brief notice to distort facts just because Mr. Williamson is supposed to be a Democrat. Mr. Williamson needs no highly colored newspaper articles and people no longer take stock in such matter. But it is only fair that some of the good people of Steuben, who may not know him personally, should be reminded of his actual record as a good business man and official.

Besides the signs this Fall point to a strong desire on the part of the people to elect honest and capable men to office and there will be a heavy independent vote in the Republican party in Steuben by those who are tired of voting for incapable men just because they are nominated by the machine in politics.

Lewis K. Williamson was born near Fort Plain, Montgomery County, N. Y., and is the son of Uriah Williamson, who came with his family to Avoca, 50 years ago and engaged in farming. Mr. Williamson was reared on his father's farm and attended the public schools. He was in the produce business about ten years and in the livery business 16 years. This he sold and has since been in the auctioneer business and is also interested in farming.

He served three years under Sheriff Page as deputy sheriff of Steuben County, and, during 1906 and 1907 was president of the village of Avoca, being elected on the Citizens' ticket. He made, it is stated, the best president the village ever had, being very active in promoting its enterprises, making public improvements and securing cooperation and good feeling among its business men. He has held several other minor offices, in all closely attending to his public duties.

Mr. Williamson is a well known fraternity man and belongs to both the Masons and the Odd Fellows. In 1896 he married Miss Fannie Moss, a most estimable lady of Avoca and a member of the Baptist Church. During the same year Mr. Williamson erected a handsome brick residence on Maple street at Avoca, where he has since resided.

Probably Mr. Williamson's chief characteristic is his executive ability. He is a first class all around business man. His experience has brought him into contact

with many people in Steuben County, especially the farming community and he has made many friends by his fair dealing with those he has done business with.

As a public official he has made a special study of the duties of the offices he has filled and has faithfully discharged them. Better still, Mr. Williamson is a man with a heart. There is a genial cordiality in his greeting and he has been able to make and to hold friends. As one of his neighbors remarked he would make a good superintendent of the poor because he would take kindly care of the helpless unfortunates entrusted to his keeping.

Being thus perfectly familiar with the executive details of public affairs and possessing unusual acumen in their administration, Mr. Williamson was selected not merely as a Democrat but as a Citizens' and Business Men's candidate to put the affairs of the office of Steuben County on a satisfactory basis and to maintain a good business system in that office.

If elected he will do it.

Lewis K Williamson (GFG – B 338 / B) 1853-1926, It a two way descendant (great-grandson) of Catherine Getman (GFG – 2) 1761-1813 and Ludwig Ricard 1757-1819. His parents were first cousins.

Street Fight

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, NY
Monday, May 10, 1880

Saturday night there was quite a serious fight on Lowell street, but the facts in some manner have been kept quiet and have not before been published. About nine o'clock as Policeman Peart was approaching Roman Ovenburg's saloon, on Lowell street, he saw two men come out of the door together in a violent struggle, and as he drew nearer he saw one of them strike the other an ugly blow square to the face. Hastening to the scene of the affray he found David Yanney suffering with a demolished nose, which was bleeding profusely. Yanney said it was

Ovenburgh who had hit him. Calling the assistance of Policeman DeWitt and separating the two malcontents, the officers arrested Yanney. At the station house the prisoner's nose kept bleeding a perfect stream from an internal injury. He explained that Ovenburg and he had a war of words inside and the latter not only threw him out of the saloon, but assaulted him as related. Yesterday morning one of the police commissioners paroled Yanney. If the latter does not swear out a warrant for Ovenburg's arrest to-day Policeman Peart says he will, for he saw the blow struck. There is liable to be a revelation or two concerning the manner in which a certain saloon is managed.

Yanny, as many will remember, has had quite an unpleasant it not lamentable career. Ten or a dozen years ago Yanney had a fortune amounting to some \$80,000 or \$90,000, which he had made in the oil business, Since the acquirement of his easily gotten gains he has spent money in various forms very rapidly, and he was pretty generously intoxicated when arrested Saturday night. It is now stated by those who know, that Yanney 's property has winged away and that the only remnants of it are some almost valueless premises in the oil country.

David B Yanny 1831-1914 married Lisanda Williamson (GFG – B 332 / A) 1837-1878.

Valley Palatines of Sturdy Stock

By Franklin J. Bowman
Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY
Saturday, July 23, 1960

Editor's Note:—Still residing in the Mohawk Valley are many of Palatine descent whose forefathers landed in New York Harbor 250 years ago this summer. Franklin J. Bowman. Scarsdale, N. Y.,

historian of the Getman Family of America, one of some 28 or 29 families in the area who trace direct descent to these hardy pioneers, has written an article for The Telegram about their contributions to the United States, including defense of the Mohawk Valley during the Revolutionary War. It will appear in four parts, of which this is the first.

Even though many citizens of these United States may not the actual records which trace their ancestry to the Palatines who landed in 1710, the fact remains millions of Americans who reside in this country today are directly descended from those early pioneers who contributed so much to the formation of our government and helped shape the character of our society.

The census of 1790 shows there were 375,000 persons of German descent (mostly Palatines), out of a total U. S. population of 3,172,000.

The Palatines who settled in New York, arrived on board ten sailing ships during the summer of 1710 and numbered about 3,000 souls. In addition to this group, other Palatines landed and settled in Virginia, in the Carolinas, in Pennsylvania and in New Jersey. To know something about these people and to learn the reasons for their urge to migrate to this new world, we must go back in European history and learn something about their background.

Our people reached Central Europe before the dawn of the Christian Era and they eventually settled on the banks of the Rhine. The history of this era goes back from 3,000 to 4,000 years, possibly more. It is not a history which follows a single line of development because this area was first inhabited by different races. In the paleolithic period, man lived in Germany because the stone and bone implements which he used have been found. In the neolithic age, he was spread over a wide

portion of the country. This has been proved by discovery of his dwellings, his implements and his graves which have been located in various parts of the land

The bronze age saw a marked increase in civilizing agencies and soon the people possessed chariots and other weapons made of metal. They lived in strongly built houses and they knew something about the arts and the refinements of life. Such is the evidence of the soil and the spade, written evidence begins with the Romans.

Nearly a century before the Christian Era, the Romans invaded Germany and, at that time, Julius Caesar conquered some but not all of the tribes which inhabited the area. He built military bases along the Rhine, where camps were established in the valleys near the river. The present cities of Cologne, Mainz, Spire and Worms trace their origin to these Roman camps.

After the Romans withdrew, even though many citizens of Germany gradually became united with the Frankish Empire of Clovis 841-511 when he came to power, Charlemagne 771-814, consolidated the Empire and extended his rule from Spain to Italy to Hungary. In 843, when his empire was broken up in three parts, these territories became known as Germany, France and Italy. At that time Germany consisted of a number of duchies, the rulers of which, together with the rulers of their most powerful vassals, elected the king. For this reason, the hereditary Prince of the Palatine was also known as an Elector.

Our ancestors lived in Central Europe in a land of scenic grandeur. The Alps, the lakes and streams together with the fertile soil held them steady habitants for long time. They fished and hunted for food and they fought when their right or authority to be there was questioned.

With the dawn of civilization, there came increased troubles and conflicts. The states to the south locked horns in deadly

combat with the people of Central Europe. First one, then the other would gain control of the land. Our ancestors were in the thick of these gigantic struggles and after wandering over Europe for centuries, from the Alps to the Baltic, the old spirit of settlement returned and they emigrated to the land of the Franks. In the first few centuries of the Christian Era, where they lived in peace and plenty in the locality now known as Alsace-Lorraine. They remained in this area for many centuries.

The Reformation began in Germany in 1517, under leadership of Martin Luther, and its echos were soon heard in all Christian lands. At first. It was demanded that the church be purged from the scandals which were existant at that time. The movement was purely in the Interest of religion. As time went on, social and economic grievances were added to the list of complaints and as a result the Reformers or Protestants became a political party.

In France they were known as the Huguenots. In opposition, we find another group, "The league of the Guises" led by Catharine de Medici, an Italian princess who had a passion for power. She, at this time, was the Queen Mother and was ruling France for her son Charles IX, who had not as yet reached his majority.

A truce was eventually arranged and the warfare ceased but on St, Bartholomews Day 1572, in a surprise move, the Catholic Group suddenly set upon the Huguenots and began a mass slaughter. It has been reported that within period of a month, over 50,000 Huguenots were killed in France, The struggle continued until Henry IV, King of Navarre, negotiated an agreement, the Edict of Nantes, which gave the Huguenots full religious freedom.

After Henry IV died, his widow Marie de Medici, another Italian princess, became regent for her son Louis XIII. She was an ambitious and unscrupulous woman and

soon through her influence, religious persecution was again revived Louis XIV continued this persecution and the treaty of Nantes was revoked in 1685. When this action was taken, the Huguenots, fearful for their lives and for the safety of their families, fled to the Palatine where the local residents gave them refuge. Louis used this as an excuse for invading this area, because he claimed that his subjects were being received and hidden by the Palatine residents.

Conditions went from bad to worse for our ancestors in the Palatine. It eventually became so bad that thousands decided to leave their homeland and migrate to some other place where they could have religious freedom and be able to live in peace and quiet. Charles Burr Todd, in his story of the Palatines says: "The period of American Colonization was productive of many romantic incidents and tragedies, few of which have been told adequately. One of the most striking and least known of these, is the settlement in New York in 1710 of a large body of Germans who were victims of religious persecution. The original home of these people, the lower Palatine, was a beautiful and peaceful country of vineyards and gardens with a soft climate under a mild government of a hereditary ruler who was a Prince Elector and a Protestant.

"When the armies of Louis XIV marched into the country, they ravaged it utterly. Everything except the bare soil, was totally destroyed. This included churches, houses, public buildings, cattle and vineyards. In that time of terror, the Prince of the Palatine looking from his castle saw two cities and 25 towns in flames at one time. Over 3,150 square miles of territory was laid waste and the inhabitants were driven into exile."

(To Be Continued)

Getman Family of America

The Getman Family of America was founded about 100 years ago in the Mohawk Valley, New York, where many of our ancestors lived. Our members are descended from Caspar Getman, born in 1673 in the Sien-Hachenbach area of present day Pfalz Germany, who emigrated to England where he died; his wife and son traveled to New York in 1709-1710. We have a Facebook group entitled Getman Family of America.

We invite you and your family to join with others who support our organization in annual voluntary contributions of \$10 per family, or any other amount you wish to donate.

Our officers in 2021-2022 are:

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