

Getman Family Association Officers

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Your President's Musings

Clyde J Getman

As we look forward to the next couple of years in the Getman Family Association, there are a couple of things I see as important for us.

There is a need to build a data base of descendants, with names and addresses, who are interested in being a part of the association. I know we have said that all descendants of Frederick Getman (1693 - 1781) and his father Casper Getman (1676 - 1710) are members of the association, but it is more than this. We need persons who are willing to be more than a name on a list, persons who are willing to take on some task to help make the business of the association actually happen. Some of the work is related to the historical records, finding who has been part of the family. Another part of this newsletter lists some of the descendant's marriages, etc., that have been listed and posted to the webpage. We have been progressing quite well on that since September 2003, when we decided to go forward with the webpage.

Other areas included collecting copies of wills of the early family members, and pension applications for veterans of the Revolutionary War and their widows. This can tell us even more about some of the early families.

There is a need to locate and record graves of family members in the cemeteries of the Mohawk Valley. The burial ground at the family homestead needs cleaning, resetting of gravestones, and a general restoration with ongoing maintenance. This is a project in which our association can take a leading part. There are a number of family Bibles, whose location is no longer known. It will be helpful to locate, identify, and scan the appropriate pages to make the material available to a wider public.

All of us can identify some of our Getman relatives, and send their name, address and some info to the historical committee; we will be pleased to follow up when we have received some of the information. And all of us can check our own backgrounds for at least a couple of generations back and add it to what is known. Since the 1975 publication of "The Getman Family Genealogy" and the 1982 Supplement, there have been two generations of descendants about which little is known.

Within the past month I have been in contact with a lady who may be the last survivor of the 23 grandchildren of my great grandparents Jerome Hudson Getman (1856-1920) and Charlotte Ann Getman (1861-1917), children respectively of Stephen Getman 1825 and Peter Getman 1829, and descended from Abraham 1792, Christian 1772, Christian 1734, and Frederick 1693. Hopefully I will be able to meet with her soon and learn some of her story. Others of us can be doing some of the same thing. It is not really as hard as it might seem.

E-Mail Change

Your newsletter editor has moved to Newport, NY. Wayne and Sara Getman are now receiving e-mail at wayget@ntcnet.com.

2008 Meeting Survey

Your Input is Critical

Several options have been considered for the annual meeting of the Getman Family Association. In the interest of increased participation and maximum benefit for all the following survey has been developed. Please take the time to complete this, add any comments and return to Wayne Getman during the next two weeks.

Date: Sat Jul 19, 2008 or Sun Jul 20, 2008
Sat Jul 26, 2008 or Sun Jul 27, 2008
Sat Aug 2, 2008 or Sun Aug 3, 2008
Sat Aug 9, 2008 or Sun Aug 10, 2008

Time: a mid day meeting including lunch.

Place: Ephratah (Stone Arabia), NY

Jordanville, NY

Farmers Museum, Cooperstown, NY

Fort Klock, St. Johnsville, NY

The latter two options require an admission fee. They both relate well to Getman history and provide a more enjoyable format for children.

When responding, please indicate first and second choices.

It has been suggested that a gathering for an optional evening meal either the day prior or following the meeting would allow members to get better acquainted. Would you be interested in this option?

It has been suggested that planning and announcing the meeting location 2 years in advance would be beneficial. Please make suggestions for the 2009 meeting.

Jacob Getman (1804 -1887)

Clyde J. Getman
10 Sep 2007

The Getman Family Genealogy 1710 – 1974 (1975) after compiling the known Getman family members and descendants arranged them in one of the three lines of the three sons George (A), Christian (B) or Frederick (C). The editors were unable to place one family group and included it as “D: Unplaced Jacob Getman” (pp 419 – 428) following the other three subgroups, with the explanation “Just where he fits in the Getman Family has not been determined.”

Information for the publication (GFG) was received from several descendants of Jacob. When the data was compiled, it was vague and unclear, and appeared inconsistent in some places. Jacob’s birth and death dates were unknown. There were seven children listed with birth years from 1844 to 1876. Elizabeth Wells was named as wife; a child’s obituary about 1955 listed her mother as Libbie Smith. No birth, marriage or death info was given for either wife.

The 1982 Supplement to the Getman Family Genealogy did not address D7 Jacob Getman.

Jacob appears in the 1870 and 1880 census enumerations in Ephratah, Fulton, NY.

In 1870 Jacob Getman is listed in Ephratah, age 68, farmer. Also listed is Elizabeth Wells, age 27, house keeper, with children Jacob (age 2), Jane (age 4) and Mary (age 5).

In 1880 Jacob C Getman is listed in Ephratah, age 82, pauper, with Elizabeth, age 36, wife, keeping house, and children Mary, age 16, Jane, age 14 and Jacob, age 11.

Elizabeth Wells is listed in 1870 with Jacob and is listed in 1880 as wife. Beyond this and the entry in GFG, nothing further has been found for Elizabeth Wells or Libbie Smith.

GFG (p 419) lists children Jacob, Delia, Jane, twins Nancy and Abram, Louise and Charles. Later census records suggest order of children and estimated birth dates as Mary (1865), Jane (1866), Jacob (1868), Louise (1872), Abraham (1874), Nancy (1874), Charles (1876) and Delia (1877).

Jacob’s date of birth (DOB) is estimated from the 1870 and 1800 census records as about 1798 to 1802.

My personal database has 20 listings for Jacob Getman. Six were born between 1780 and 1820. Five are identified as deceased before 1870. The remaining persons can be excluded because of later births, known identification, distant residence or other factors.

One person remains for consideration. A son Jacob was born 4 Aug 1804 to Peter Getman (son of Christian) and Elizabeth Richter, and sponsored in 1804 by Peter’s brother Jacob and wife Susannah (SAL). He was married 18 Feb 1826 to Naomi Hotaling (Caughnawaga Reformed Church).

Jacob Getman is listed in 1830 in Oppenheim with two females (wife Naomi and daughter Lucinda), near brothers Lewis, Peter and Aaron. Jacob has not been found in 1840. In 1850

Jacob P Getman is listed in St Johnsville, age 46, innkeeper, with Naoma, age 47; Elizabeth, age 17; Peter, age 13; George, age 9; Joseph, age 6; and Hellen, age 2. In 1860 Jacob P Getman is listed in Oppenheim, age 56, Farmer, with Naoma, age 45; Peter, age 22; George, age 21; Joseph, age 18; and Hellen, age 13.

The material on Jacob in GFG (p 228) is lacking in completeness and is undocumented. His date of death (DOD) is given as 1887 or 1891. Records give his wife’s name as Naomi or Leona, both with DOB & DOD as 1808-1878. It is presumed Naomi died before 1880 and Jacob died after 1880. Burial locations are not known.

GFG and census records name the children of Jacob and Leona as Lucinda (1827), Elizabeth (1833), Peter (1837), George (1841), Joseph (1843), and Helen (1843).

Jacob and Naomi are not found together in census records after 1860. Naomi is living in 1870 in Oppenheim with her daughter Helen and husband William Strobeck.

The 1865 New York census lists Jacob P Getman, age 62, Farmer. This census also lists Jacob as married twice and currently married. There is no one listed in the household with him.

The 1880 census lists Jacob as Jacob C Getman; it is transcribed as "C" in Ancestry.com. Understanding the "C" to designate the father's name, there is no placement for Jacob C. A closer study of the 1880 census image has the possibility of reading the C as a P and interpreting the name as Jacob P Getman. This would be consistent with the readings in 1850, 1860 and 1865. 1830 and 1870 do not include the middle initial. And this interpretation would indicate Jacob to be the son of Peter.

It is suggested here the unplaced Jacob Getman of 1870 and 1880 is the Jacob Getman born 4 Aug 1804, son of Peter Getman 1764, son of Christian Getman.

Jacob was married to Naomi Hotaling in 1826 and lived in Oppenheim in 1830, in St Johnsville in 1850 and in Oppenheim in 1860. Oppenheim is bordered by St Johnsville on the south and by Ephratah on the east. The dwellings from 1830 to 1880, while listed as three communities in two counties, could have been close together, possibly the St. Johnsville dwelling of 1850 having earlier been in Oppenheim before 1838, due to town formations.

The two women and two sets of children would initially make it seem unlikely the two Jacobs were the same. There are other factors which make it more likely the two Jacobs were the same person.

1. The Jacob of 1830 to 1860 disappears after 1860 in the federal census.
2. The Jacob of 1870 and 1880 with Elizabeth (born about) 1843 has not appeared previously. Elizabeth was about 40 years younger than Jacob.
3. Jacob appears in 1865, listed as married a second time.
4. Jacob in 1880 could be Jacob P Getman, son of Peter, and the Jacob in 1830-1860.

It appears that Jacob and Naomi were separated (divorced?) after 1860, with Jacob probably married to Elizabeth before 1865, and Naomi living with her daughter Helen in 1870.

Elizabeth was not listed in 1865 with Jacob. While it is possible she was omitted from the census by the enumerator, it is also possible she was staying with a relative at time of childbirth.

The 1870 census lists her as Elizabeth Wells, housekeeper. It is possible to understand her as a housekeeper and the three children as surnamed Wells, making them children of a possible previous marriage. It is also possible to understand her as wife of Jacob, following the 1865 census of a remarried Jacob, with the children having the surname Getman and their father Jacob, especially with a son Jacob. Why was the name Wells listed for Elizabeth? This cannot be explained at the present time. GFG has a possibility of Elizabeth Wells and Libbie Smith as two wives of Jacob, but the two Elizabeth's could be the same person with one surname as a maiden name, the other as the name in a first marriage. No evidence has been found in support, beyond an obituary for daughter Louise about 1955 (GFG, p 419, 421).

As is often common in family history, the hard data proof has not been provided. There are questions which remain. However, the evidence leans toward Jacob Getman, son of Peter being the same person in the 1830 to 1880 census records, with two wives, Naomi and Elizabeth, and with two families.