

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)

Kindly Wife

Richfield Springs Mercury, NY
Thursday, March 18, 1920

The recent death of Miss Martha Stevens at the Utica State Hospital deserves more than the brief notice it has received. In Revolutionary days one Frederick Stevens and his wife Mary Ann Getman and their little son Frederick, Jr. lived in Herkimer, and the father marched with Herkimer to Oriskany never to return. Time passed and an Indian called at the home, of the widow asking for food. It is impossible to describe the feelings of Mrs. Stevens when she recognized the coat he wore as one she had spun and wove, cut and made for her husband, and she knew that his slayer stood, before her. But with heroic bravery she hurried him from the house fearing others of the household should recognize the garment and disastrous results would ensue. The little Frederick married and his son Henry married Rebecca Cristman and in time came to Columbia to live, at an earlier date than any one now living remembers. Theirs was a home of plenty and of unbounded hospitality, and their large and pleasant family made it a social center. But all are gone. Jacob married and established himself in the west before the middle of the century. Frederick was a sergeant in the Civil War and died a few years later. Lois was emphatically a home girl, but after a long illness died years ago. Nelson married and remained at the homestead but upon the death of the parents established himself in business in Kendall, N. Y., where he died several years ago. The sister Helen married Andrew Miller and remained at the homestead where she drifted into ill health and after a painful hospital experience her life ended at its midday. Martha, meanwhile had been consigned to the home she has since occupied. Two years ago Andrew Miller died and the homestead passed to other hands, and now the death of the last survivor, with no kin in town and few who knew her is most pathetic. Hers was not a remarkable career but those who knew her have kindly recollections. She was a dressmaker and did fine needlework. She was a

member of the Baptist Church and of Columbia Grange. She had neared her four score limit and was one alone and we can duly hope that her future is brighter than her past. We trust a memorial service may be held later. A number of nephews and nieces living without the town and without the state.

Martha Stevens (GFG - C) 1842-1920. Maria Ann Getman (GFG - C 2) 1755-1829.

GASOLINE CATCHES FIRE IN HAGCERTY STORE AND SEVERAL RECEIVE BURNS

Jamestown Evening Review
Thursday, June 13, 1940

SUGAR GROVE- Several persons were burned and several hundred dollars loss was sustained late Thursday afternoon when gasoline in the D. H. Haggerty hardware store caught fire.

It was reported that an employe named Kibbey was drawing high test gasoline from a drum in the implement room when the gasoline burst into flames.

The Sugar Grove Fire department was called and used foamite on the blaze.

Meanwhile, another employe, Lawrence Dalrymple, carried the flaming drum of gasoline from the structure, receiving burns about both arms. He was treated by a physician.

Several spectators who sought to extinguish the fire with hand extinguishers were burned slightly about the hands. The Haggerty store was badly damaged eight years ago when a fire swept several buildings here. The structure was rebuilt following that fire.

Lawrance A. Dalrymple (GFG - C) 1901-1987, Lawrence was a great-great-great grandson of Maria Ann Getman (GFG - C2) 1755-1829 and her first husband, Frederick Stevens who was killed during the battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.

Getman Coroner

The Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown, NY
Friday, January 4, 1952

DR. N.W. Getman
CORONER FOR OVER 36 YEARS
Starts 13th Term On first of January

Dr. Norman W. Getman of Oneonta, who has served as Otsego county Coroner for the past 36 years begins his 13th consecutive term in that office on Tuesday of this week. Dr. Getman was reelected at the November 6 general election.

Oldtimers say he has held office longer than any elected official. Curiously, he never sought office, never campaigned and never asked anyone to vote for him unless it was in a joking manner.

Dr. Getman entered public life after moving around a bit. Born in Richfield Springs, he was taken to Kansas City, Mo., when a year old. His father Attorney Herbert Getman, retired in 1910 and came back to Richfield Springs.

That same year, Dr. Getman graduated from University Medical College in Kansas City, and two years later, when his father's health broke, he also came back, settling in Oneonta in 1912.

An uncle, Dr. A. D. Getman, had practiced in Oneonta. His grandfather, Dr. Norman W. Getman, for whom he was named, had practiced for 50 years in Richfield Springs. A cousin, Dr. Albert A. Getman, practiced in Syracuse.

In 1914, an attorney and political leader named Dewey McLaurie, who lived in Oneonta, asked him to run for coroner. Since then he has become a favorite fixture with voters.

COO CASE

Otsego county has no organized crime, hence attempts at concealment have been few, Dr. Getman said. However, there have been exceptions. The Eva Coo case, of course, was the most widely publicized of the homicides he worked on. Another attempt to pass off a violent death as an accident was nipped in the case of an infant, Thomas Hinkley Jr., 14 months old.

Clyde Proctor, who lived with the boy's mother on Hemlock Road near Oneonta took him to Fox Memorial Hospital and said he had fallen from a high chair. The child was dead on arrival, and there were nothing, at first to excite; suspicion.

Death was ascribed to brain injuries, but when finger-shaped bruises showed up on an arm, Dr. Getman told police to begin working. Proctor eventually admitted he had manhandled the child. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter in 1937 and got a 10-to-20 year term. Dr. Getman suspected the death of a

baby about 20 years ago in Cooperstown. He ordered an autopsy which showed arsenic in the body. The mother confessed.

The most gruesome case was at Gilbertsville. A youth chopped his mother's head to pieces with an axe as she lay in bed. He went to Matteawan prison for the criminally insane.

CRUMLEY MURDER

The murder of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Crumley three years ago near Morris was described by Dr. Getman as probably the most unusual, of any he had worked on.

"It was the only one where I was sure it was murder and was unable to hold someone for it," the coroner said. It was "almost the perfect crime," he said. Two persons were present, father and son. One was arrested, the other held as the star witness. Yet the character and credibility of the witness, Edwin W. Crumley, Jr., was such that jurors discounted his testimony. After a mistrial, the indictment was dismissed.

When authorities were building their cases against Matthew L Armer for the killing of State Police Cpl. A. M. Diffendale, Dr. Getman was aware all the time of the state's grave weaknesses to identification.

He kept the secret, although he was questioned by friends every day. . . "everytime I went out on the street they asked me if we had the goods on Armer . . . I told them yes."

Dr. Getman said Armer's plea to second degree murder probably was based on belief that the state had him dead to rights. "Dr. Getman has always regarded coroner's work as separate from criminology . . . determining the cause of death-was my job . . . it has always been interesting and stimulating . . . I have enjoyed, the work and also the association with all the different district attorneys. All have, been able men. And I've also had fine cooperation from local police, the state troopers and the sheriff's office."

One more thing about Dr. Getman: he has never been addicted to "whodunit" mystery stories. Eighteen hundred coroner's cases have more than satisfied any urge for mystery reading.