

families. Frederick and Maria Johanna settled with their family about 1725 in a 100-acre plot on the north side of the Mohawk River just west of present-day Little Falls. Later, they moved to what has become known as the Getman Family Homestead, a farm in Stone Arabia where they lived the remainder of their lives, died, and are buried.

Most, if not all, of us are members of a singular family of Mohawk Valley Palatines through a network of multiple intermarriages of not too distant “cousins,” many of whom we are unaware in our own family research, having different parents and siblings and more closely related than we have known.. What better reason to claim our common family heritage along with our individual parental names in a time of declining interest in all sorts of group activities – family, church, genealogy, lineage, patriotic, fraternal, and benevolent societies and organizations. Far better to remember who we are than who we once were.

Who were the 1709 Palatine emigrants from somewhere near the Rhine River? From what villages or cities did they originate? What language did they speak? Why did they suddenly up and leave their homes of several generations? Where were they headed and why? What were they looking for and what did they hope to find? How much wealth did they have on their person and how did they plan to sustain themselves?

For those with an interest in the Valley Palatines, there are perhaps four musts for your personal bookshelf to be read and reread. First is the 1937 classic study by Walter Allen Knittle, Early Eighteenth-Century Palatine Emigration , with a focus on the redemption project on the Hudson River in 1710-1712. Second is the 1897 narrative by Sanford H. Cobb, The Story of the Palatines. Third is an 1823 Brief Sketch of the First Settlement of the County of Schoharie by the Germans , by John M. Brown. Cobb was minister in the Schoharie Reformed Church with children of the immigrants as parishioners. Brown was longtime a beloved judge in Schoharie with his grandfather a Palatine immigrant and a schoolteacher among the West Camp Germans.

Another worthwhile read is William E. Roscoe’s History of Schoharie County, New

York , 1713-1882, updating the history from Brown’s 1823 monograph with recollections of residents in 1882 of life and people of earlier years, similar to the style of recording of Jephtha R. Simms.

A contemporary “best read” on the Palatines is the 2004 Becoming German by Philip Otterness. Well researched and attending to the questions raised above, Otterness develops his work about a group of refugees from ?, adventurers toward ?, or maybe a blending of both, speaking what was labeled in London as German, but really a variety of Germanic dialects, coming from a Germany which would not become a nation until late in the following century, and including some from the Rhine Valley but more from outside the Valley, and developing an ethnic identity which did not exist but was being formed from a number of political, social, religious and family identities, becoming a new Palatine people embracing a firm and lasting commonality in a new world, distinct from the Dutch. French, British, African and Native American peoples and cultures around them while living among them as a self-identified German-American people.

Otterness draws on “what was” and documents more than sufficiently, then leads to “what is becoming,” and summarizes with “what is” at the then present time. Becoming German is a book to be read, and read again, then studied, page by page, and even thought by thought, then read again, to gain an understanding of who our Palatine immigrants of 1709-1710 were and what they passed along to us.

Send Us Your Stories

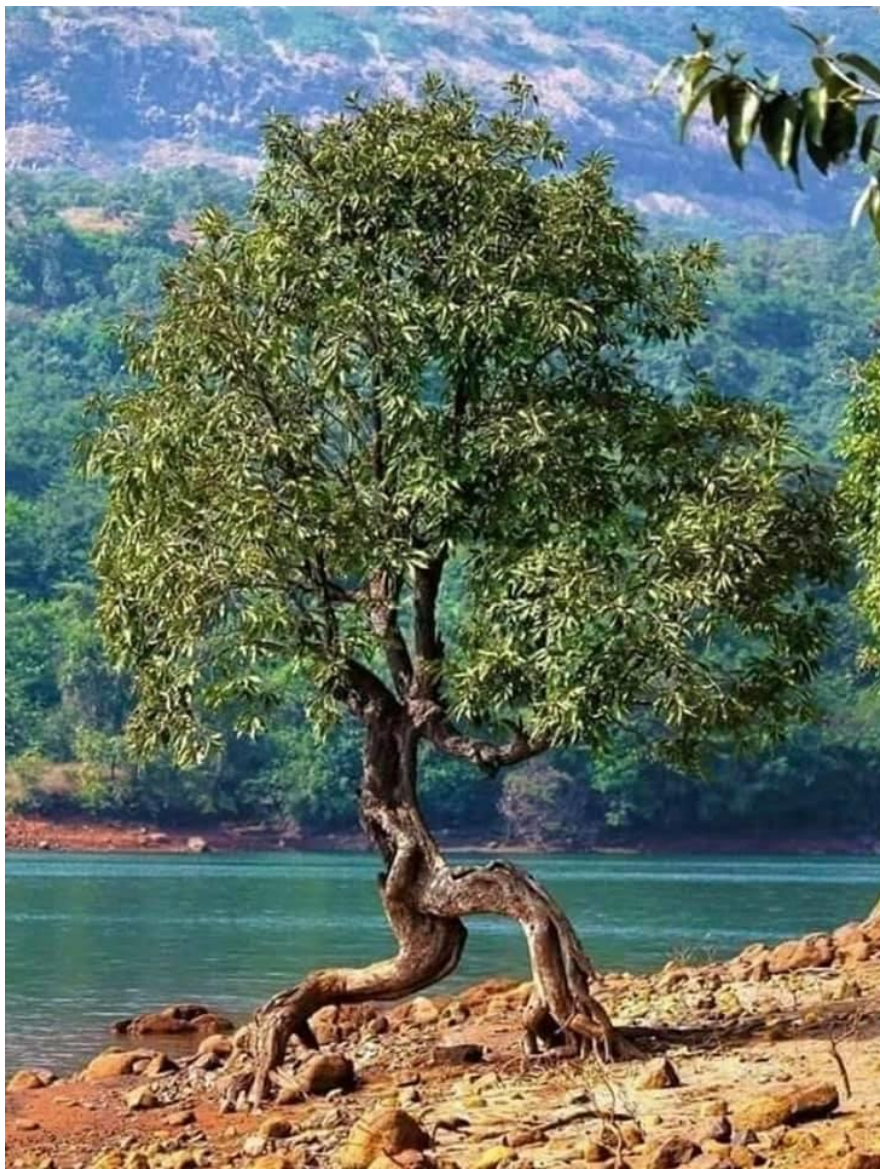
**Share your Getman histories
and traditions with
your cousins, near and far.**

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Entertaining Historical Fiction Covering the Palatine Germans

Review by Marcia Getman Armstrong

Author is Kay Ellen Gilmour. The 4 book series is called “The Palatine Journey”. The first book is “Winters’ Wrath”- “Charity’s Chains; “Fames Fate; and Palatine’s Plight”. Gilmour’s ancestors are from Schoharie County and she is a Daughter of the American Revolution. Gilmour was born in Utica and moved with her parents to Florida when she was 8 years old. Gilmour was a



Is your family tree sneaking up on you?

cardiologist in Florida and is now retired and continues to live in FL. Gilmour’s fictional characters accompany authentic dates and she documents her research at the end of each book.

The heroine of the series is Anna, a woman who is albino who also has an extensive knowledge of healing herbs. Book 1 takes place during the winter of 1708-09 in the Palatine area of Germany following the dominance of the French Monarch Louis XIV’s troops. Cows are dying from starvation, there is no food and Queen Anne invites the desolate dwellers of the Palatine area to come to England and help the Britain colonize America. There were 13,000 people who accepted.

Book 2 takes place in London and describes the charity the immigrants receive while there. They finally board 10 boats then wait on the boats for 4 months before leaving.

Book 3 tells of the grueling 66 day experience of the immigrants on the ocean before arriving in New York Harbor.

Book 4 tells the story of the surprise the Palatine’s had when they learned they would be working for nothing in the pitch fields as they had a debt to pay to Britain for their journey. There is to be a 5th book coming that tells more about the life in the colonies. These books can be purchased on Amazon. I was fortunate and purchased mine at the Herkimer County Historical Society’s location in Herkimer, NY.

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)

The 86th Birthday

Evening Telegram, Herkimer, NY

Tuesday, January 2 1945

Mohawk, Mrs Stella Barger, a resident of the Old Ladies Home here for 13 years, quietly observed her 86th birthday there yesterday, receiving gifts, cards and congratulations from visitors.

Mrs. Barger is able to eat in the dining room daily and to attend religious services in the parlor on Sunday afternoons. She occasionally goes for a drive in pleasant weather.

Born New Year's Day, 1859, in Millers Mills, she was the only child of James and Maria Lyons. With her parents, she moved as a child of five to Kruger's Pond, where they resided for the next 16 years. She attended the Brown's district school near Dennison Cornels, later discontinued when the Mohawk district was centralized. The school had no desks, only benches arranged around the sides of the room, with the teacher's desk near the entrance. Both teacher and pupils brought their lunches and stayed all day. For one winter, Mrs. Barger attended the select school at Jordanville, boarding there and returning home weekends.

As a young woman, she herself taught in District No. 10, town of Stark, before her marriage to Alonzo Barger at the home of her uncle, Andrew Miller, near Columbia Center. The couple first resided with his parents, then purchased the old Barger

homestead near Spinnerville, living there until his death in 1931.

Mrs. Barger is still a member of the old Columbia Center church. One of her prized possessions is an "album quilt," made by her as a girl, and containing the names of many friends.

Eve Estella Lyons Barger (GFG - C 407) 1859- is the granddaughter of Eve Getman (GFG - C 53) 1808-1853 and Jeremiah Lyons, 1801-1873.

89

Evening Telegram, Herkimer, New York

Wednesday, December 31, 1947

Mohawk—A former schoolteacher, who once risked parental disapproval by her fondness for dancing, will observe her 89th birthday tomorrow together with the New Year.

Mrs. Stella Barger, who has long lived in this vicinity, has been a resident of the Old Ladies Home, E. Main St., for the past ten years. The former Stella Lyons, she was born in Columbia Center on Jan. 1, 1859, and was past two years old when the Civil War broke out.

As a young girl, she helped her parents on the farm and later taught school. At the age of 25, she was married to Alonzo Barger, who died 15 years ago.

Small in stature and lively in expression, Mrs. Barger yesterday was wearing a gray dress and gray shoulder shawl, with her hair neatly braided. She uses glasses only when reading, and both her mind and memory are keen. Her daily

custom includes reading the Bible' and she often sits by her window to watch children play in the snow. She terms them her "human movies."

Until a few years ago she often took walks and attended Reformed Church services regularly. She does not sew nor does she enjoy cards, and can no longer follow her favorite youthful pastime of dancing. She remarked with a chuckle that "I have had a good many spankings for going to a dance, and just the same, it was worth it." She received many Christmas cards and expects birthday greetings as well, though she said that the near occurrence of the two dates often hardly gives friends the chance to send another card. A cousin of her late husband, Jesse Barger, lives in Ilion, and his wife and daughter, Miss Helen Barger, recently called on her. She is the last of her family and of those living in Columbia Center at the time of her birth. Even the house where she was born has since been torn down.

Wedding Announcement

Ilion Citizen, New York
Friday, December 25, 1896

North Columbia ... A very quiet little wedding came off at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Miller, near the centre of the town last Wednesday. The contracting parties were Mr. Alonzo Barger and Miss Estella Lyons, both well and favorably known in this locality. Rev. Mr. Baker who officiated on the occasion, informed the groom and bride that the laws of the State of New York were very strict in regard to the marriage of young people and it would be quite necessary to have the consent of the parents or good evidence of the marriageable age of the couple, but Mr. Miller came promptly to the rescue and vouched for their ages and all was quickly and pleasantly adjusted. Br. Barger and Miss Lyons had both been members of the M. P. church at the centre for a number of years

and they have not only taken a active part in the choir but contributed liberally for the support of the church work in their locality. They have the best wishes and hearty congratulations of a large circle of friends.

NOTE Alonzo was 53 years of age and Estella was 37.

Murdered?

The Morning Herald
Gloversville and Johnstown, NY
Friday, July 12, 1929

William DeNure, a glove worker employed by John Snell of Gloversville. who resides on the Johnstown-Caroga lake road, was fatally wounded and passed away shortly after receiving the discharge of a shot gun, alleged to have been in the hands of Guy Phillips, another resident of that locality, about 9:30 last night.

According to a statement made by Phillips the shooting and killing of the man was accidental. After the shooting Phillips and others came to Johnstown in an automobile after a doctor and later Phillips gave himself up to Sheriff Robert Brewer. He was locked up at the county jail last night to await further investigation.

Phillips and DeNure were friends so far as could be learned and investigation conducted by Coroner Joslin, Sheriff Brewer and Chief Joyce last night failed to disclose any motive for the shooting, It is stated. Chief Joyce was one of the first to arrive at the place and found DeNure dead lying on the floor.

The investigation last night brought out from Phillips that he was asleep on a couch in one of the rooms, when DeNure came in and grabbed him. Phillips alleged he was drowsy and a shot gun standing by the side of the wall was grabbed. In the scuffle the gun was exploded. Phillips also claims that he then went to a neighbor's and a Mrs. Caldwell took the gun from him and a paper shell fell on the floor.

Phillips then went to Tom Lenegrin's and it is stated Phillips stated he had shot a man and he wanted to get a doctor. They started for Johnstown to get a doctor according to the statement and found Chief Joyce who accompanied them back to the house.

Chief Joyce who accompanied the party back went to the place where he found DeNure lying on the floor face down. He was dead when the chief arrived. In the meantime Officer Laird and Cowles had notified the Sheriff's office and First Deputy Wesley Jones left for the scene and Sheriff Brewer also followed in his car. Chief Joyce as soon as he discovered the man was dead sent for Coroner J. W. Joslin who was also quickly on the scene and started an investigation.

An examination of DeNure showed that practically the entire charge from one shell of the shot gun had entered the abdomen at close range, the abdomen was laid open for some distance exposing the inside. It is believed that death was almost instantaneous.

Coroner. Joslin ordered the body removed to the C. A. Buchanan Undertaking parlors to be prepared for burial. Coroner Joslin had not completed his investigation last night and could not give his verdict in the case.

Phillips after giving what information he did surrendered to Sheriff Brewer and was locked up.

According to Phillips he had the firearm, which was a double barrel shot gun handy to hunt woodchucks. It was stated by one of the investigators that he did not deny the shooting but claimed it to have been accidental. There was but one shell in the gun according to reports.

The shooting took place in one of the rooms on the ground floor of the building which is located about a mile and a half or so on the lake road after leaving the

Rockwood and lake junction on the lake road. The place conducted by Phillips was among those raided by Federal Prohibition men some time ago.

Both Phillips and DeNure are well known. The dead man is said to have resided in Gloversville at different times, but was now a resident of that section although he worked in Gloversville.

DeNure was born in Gloversville the son of Stewart DeNure and Jane Getman DeNure. He had resided in Gloversville for a number of years having moved recently to the place on the lake road.

Besides his wife the survivors are one half brother and two sisters, Mrs. Charles Strobeck and Mrs. Myron Dempster, of Scotch Bush.

The funeral arrangements will be announced later.

William DeNure (GFG - B / D 19) 1887-1929 is a son of Jane Getman (GFG - B / D 4) 1866-???? And Stewart DeNure - 1849-?????. He is a descendant of Christian Getman (GFG - B) who was initially placed in the unconnected line of Jacob Getman b. 1804. Thus he has the identification of B / D.

Unloaded Gun Shooting

April 15, 1886

Stone Arabia ... A shooting affray occurred last Friday afternoon on the road leading from Stone Arabia to Ephratah, Asa a son of Jacob Getman, aged about sixteen, while on his way to Ephratah met Oliver Getman, a son of Nathaniel, aged nineteen. Asa pulled out a revolver and jokingly said "Give me leave to shoot?" Oliver replied "Yes shoot away." With that Asa pulled the trigger and shot; the ball entering the shoulder near the neck, inflicting a dangerous wound. It is supposed that Asa thought the pistol was unloaded. Dr. Wood, of Ephratah, probed for the ball, but has been unable to get it as this writing.

Asa C Getman (GFG - B 504 / B / A / A) 1872-1952 and Oliver Getman (GFG - B 221) 1871 - 1940)

Wedding Announcement

Fulton County Republican, Johnstown, NY
Thursday, June 21, 1894)

Editors note: The following wedding announcement was elaborate and fanciful, even for it's time.

June is the ideal month for weddings - nature flings broadcast her beauty and woman-kind can vie with the rose and lily in the splendor of their array. At least it was on Thursday evening, when the marriage of Miss Bertha Van Heusen to Frederick James Skinner, filled the Methodist church full to overflowing with eager and expectant guests. The first fore-shadowing of the beauty of the interior was a large table in the vestibule covered with ferns and flowers. The ushers received each guest; escorting them to the best places possible, and left them to listen to the pulsing of the organ and admiration of the chancel filled with plants and flowers until it made an ideal garden in the beautiful church. Directly over the chancel rail hung a bridal bell, composed of daises.

Many and varied were the beautiful toilets, and each received its meed of admiration as the wearers took their places. At last there was a lull in the music. The ushers drew the white ribbons down the aisles. The organist, Ernest Hodgee, struck the first notes of a wedding march and the bridal procession entered, the groom and minister, Rev. Mr. Washburne awaiting them at the chancel rail. Preceded by two ushers, came the little flower girls, Mabel and Bessie Getman, looking like bits of sunrise in pink, and yellow. Slowly up the aisle came the maid of honor, Amelia Gerrie, we would say of Brooklyn, but that Johnstown is a true mother and never forgets her children nor ceases to claim them. Miss Gerrie was dressed in a gown of white tulle illusion, or whatever it is; that looks airy and fragile as a cobweb on the summer grass;

her bouquet of La France roses was tied with floating pink ribbons, making an effective bit of color against the white of her gown.

But the cynosure of all eyes was the bride—clad in white satin with the train, that makes the youngest and most girlish figure majestic, her veil covering but not concealing its beauty, and carrying a large bouquet of roses, she was led onward by her father, Mr. Van Heusen, a man of such fine appearance, as to be an addition to any scene where a fine physique and dignified carriage counts, as it does on such occasions. The remaining ushers brought up the rear. There was a silence that might be felt, as giving his daughter's hand into that of the young man so soon to be nearer her than all the world beside, Mr. Van Heusen stepped aside and the young couple knelt in silent prayer. The voice of the good minister broke the silence, and the impressive ceremony as furnished by the Episcopal church, or very nearly following it, was read.

There was no doubt of the sincerity of the response, "Frederick James took Bertha to be his wedded wife," proudly, joyfully, but with the tender solemnity befitting this, the holiest of the sacraments, and his bride answered as clearly if not as bravely. The ring was blessed, the bride given away, and then, by the magic of a few words, Bertha Van Heusen, the young girl, was Mrs. Skinner. With the reverent tenderness that distinguished Mr. Skinner throughout the ceremony, he turned and kissed his bride, while in older eyes there stood a dewy moisture, and into hearts where romance had become a half forgotten dream there crept an assurance that here was a lover true to bride, as a knight of old.

Down the aisle came man and wife, the dainty little flower girls scattering the contents of their baskets in their path. Following them were the ushers: Edward Van Heusen, of Brooklyn; Will Austin, of Amsterdam; John Hutchinson, Frank

Prindle, John Potter and George Vosburg. The father of the bridegroom, Mr. Skinner, and his daughter, Amy, were present

About 150 of the 600 guests that filled the church were invited to the house, where an Albany orchestra made sweet music. The house was beautifully decorated by Florist Aucock, the ladies of the church displaying their good taste in the arrangement of the church decorations. The building itself is beautiful and well suited for such occasions as that of last Thursday evening.

Upon reaching the home of Mr. and Mrs. Van Heusen, the young couple received the congratulations of their guests, who also paid their respects to Mr. and Mrs. Van Heusen, Mrs. Lucy McDonald, of Amsterdam, Mrs. C. E. Yates, of Lincoln, Neb., a sister of Mr. Van Heusen, and Mr. Skinner and daughter.

A bountiful repast was served, reflecting in all its appointments great credit on the caterer, Wright, of the Opera house. Later the bride and groom bade their friends good bye and started for a trip through the west and Canada, returning, they make their home at Gananoque, where the groom has a prosperous business.

The gifts were the usual beautiful display of silver, glass, products of the brush and needle, and will be cherished as souvenirs of the old home and old friends, destined to grow dearer still as the years stretch on, and other ties grow stronger.

That the young couple may have all the happiness that can fall to the lot of mortals, is the wish of the REPUBLICAN, as of a host of friends who follow them on their way with kind thoughts and earnest prayers, voiced in a hearty "God bless them."

There has perhaps never been a finer display of tasteful toilets. Among the ladies whose appearance caused a ripple of approval from the throng, was Mrs. John Getman, of Gloversville; Mrs. Yates, of

Nebraska, in pale green, and Mrs. Van Heusen, the bride's mother. As to the young ladies, one might as well distinguish between the lily and the rose.

Mr. Jack Phin of Brantford, Ontario, officiated as best man.

The following were the guests from out of town: Ed. H. Van Heusen, Brooklyn; Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Chapman, Sylvester C. Skinner, Miss Amy Skinner, Gananoque, Ont.; Mrs. Lucy McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Austin, Mr. C. Wilber, Amsterdam; Mr. and Mrs. William Wiles, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cross, Miss Henrietta Cross, Fultonville; Misses Helen and Jennie Simpson and Luella Clark, Fonda; Warren Hall, Skaneateles; Mrs. C. E. Yates and son, Lincoln, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Filmore Getman, Mrs. Albert Putman, Carrie Sanford, Tribes Hill; Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Getman, Mr. Edward Getman, Gloversville.

Among the very many handsome and costly presents we noticed a beautiful Steinway piano from the groom and a check for \$500 from Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Van Heusen.

Bertha Zieley Van Heusen (GFG – B 521) 1872-1933, daughter of David Zieley and Sarah Whitmore, adopted daughter of David Van Heusen and her aunt Margaret Whitmore, is a granddaughter of Catherine Getman (GFG – B 56) 1815-1868 and Jacob Whitmore 1805-1875.

Send Us Your Stories

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

wayget@ntcnet.com

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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