

GETZ ANCESTRY IS LONG

John Nicholas Duly Certified as
Good Lutheran

UNDER DATE MAY 12, 1764

He Was the Great-Great-Great-Grand-
father of J. Alton Getz, of 343
West Fourth Street—Other
Interesting Data

Dark and musty nooks of a farm house erected 111 years ago along the state road leading westward from this city and about four miles east of Lock Haven are yielding a romantic story of a family whose forefathers entered this section of Pennsylvania as pioneers.

J. Alton Getz, of 343 West Fourth Street, this city, who is the sixth generation of this family, has brought to light some exceedingly interesting documents in his delving amid the secrets of the old homestead of the Getz family.

The Williamsport man has succeeded in tracing his family and its history back into the days of his great-great-great-grandfather, John Nicholas Gets, who is said to have lived in the vicinity of the Getz homestead as early as 1764 and perhaps even before that date.

MAINTAINED CHURCH STANDING

The following document throws light on the character of this pioneer. The document is labeled a "Communion Certificate" and is made out to John Nicholas Getz. It reads as follows:

"The presenter of this, John Nicholas Getz, of the Evangelical Lutheran religion, a blacksmith, has professed himself a member of our Evangelical Lutheran Church according to its rules during the time he spent here. He has several times partaken of the Lord's Supper and maintained good standing in the church. Hereby attested May 13, 1764, in the true faith."

The document, which is written in German, is signed by "L. P. Reinwald, Evangelical Lutheran pastor."

Tracing the ancestry of John Nicholas Getz, the Williamsport man has arranged his ancestors in the following order:

John Nicholas Getz, great-great-great-grandfather; Thomas Getz, great-great-grandfather; John N. Getz, great-grandfather, and Jacob Getz, grandfather. George Getz, the father of the local man now is living in the old homestead.

Although many of the old papers and relics found in the Getz home have not yet been translated, some apparently of historical value have been read and studied by the local man and his friends.

One of these documents is a will made in 1789 and a copy made in 1801. The will is written in English and is very legible. The maker of the will, among other provisions, bequeathed his wife "half a dozen teaspoons."

BIRTHS, AND WHISKY

In the collection are a number of birth certificates dated from 1789 to 1825. Statements for whisky sales dated about 1830 quote prices of 50 cents a gallon and \$11.25 a barrel.

Another relic is a hand-made arithmetic made by John N. Getz and bound in a copy of a German newspaper published in Lancaster, Pa., many years ago. This book contains, in the handwriting of John N. Getz, examples and illustrations in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and proportions.

The Williamsport man expects many more interesting facts to be uncovered as he continues his studies of the old documents and books.