



Teator - Teter Tree

Fall 1998

Newsletter #12

Holiday greetings to all! I trust this (abbreviated) newsletter finds all of you in good health and able to enjoy the holiday season.

Enclosed is a picture of the 1998 Teator/ Teter Reunion on July 18. The weather again was satisfactory; actually, the weather was better than satisfactory. Because we have alternated between Saturdays and Sundays, the next reunion would be the third Sunday in July of 2000. If you want a different date, please let me know by this coming summer.

The Norman Teator branch was well represented this year, numbering as many as the other lines added together. Josh Hayner was the youngest reunion attendee, and Mark and Tammy Teator came the farthest. We had two winners for the oldest, with John Monette the overall winner, and Fanning Teator the oldest of the direct descendants of John Teter.

Introductions of each line were done, and Debra Teator directed the picture taking of the group and of each of the lines.

The variety of food and dessert was ample as usual. A big thank you to Linda for her generous culinary contribution, and to all of you who helped out on the food front.

People who have disappeared from my mailing list are Lyn Shortsleeve, Bradley Teator Jr, Lori Forgey, Gayle Hallock, Sheila Hallick, William Hallock (both), Kevin Rogers, and Linda Carey. If you know any of their addresses, please let me know.

For those of you whose children have grown up and moved out, let me know what their addresses are, and I'll make a new mailing.

For the spring newsletter, I will have attempted to have someone create a family profile; I will also try to work up a history / genealogy piece. If you have anything you'd like to submit to

the newsletter, mail it to me, or email to teator@aol.com.

Finally, I had mentioned the idea that someone should write up Shirley Ritter's profile, and Rob Armstrong did so. Thanks, Rob, for your nice piece of writing, on the back.

Happy Holidays,

Vitals:

From the **past**: Although Barbara had written me, I had forgotten to include the birth of Josh Hayner, the son of Sharon and Ken Hayner who now live in Mechanicville. Joshua Kenneth was born in Cooperstown on July 5, 1997. Thanks, Barbara and Sharon, for reminding me.

New to me: On the day of our reunion, July 18, Brian Brink, son of Brian and Bonnie, was married to Delsia Bogucki in Stottville, Columbia County, NY. Congratulations! and a thank you to a proud grandmother, Katherine Brink, for keeping me up to date. Brian and Delsia are now living in West Durham.

Also, in the Brink family, is the birth of Emiliana Kristine Brink, the first child of Brian and Delsia Brink. Emiliana was born May 15, 1997. Congratulations, Brian and Delsia.

Katherine updated my list on the vitals of step-marriages and children, and I'll make note of those in our genealogy report.

On the Monette front, Jill, the daughter of June and John Monette, married Scott Carkner on March 17, 1998 in Albany, NY. Congratulations, Jill and Scott.

If there are any other additions or changes, please let me know.



Ed & Shirley
1994 Reunion

Family Profile

Shirley Ritter

Our aunt, Shirley Ritter, recently passed away. Her death was unexpected; it didn't seem possible that she could be gone.

An event such as a death

in the family causes one to review the images we store in our memories, much like going through a photo album or viewing a videotape.

Shirley occupies my earliest memories. As a little boy, in the fifties and early sixties, I remember a slender, attractive, dark-haired young woman, neatly dressed to go to work at the Pioneer Insurance Company. She lived at home in the farmhouse in Durham. At that time, the household consisted of six people, give or take a couple. For a little boy, that house was always an active, fun place to visit.

Shirley's personality was very similar to that of our grandmother, her mother. She was quiet and soft-spoken, a little on the shy side. Like her mother, however, she didn't hesitate to speak up when it was necessary.

Shirley was rarely the center of attention, but she enjoyed the jokes and fun of our family gatherings as much as anyone. In her own quiet way, she was warm, loving, and generous. She cared about our concerns and was always ready to listen and offer her support.

I remember Shirley at Christmases throughout the years. She loved the holidays. With her generosity, she was the one to spoil the kids with extra special presents.

On Saturdays Shirley and our cousin, Linda Turner, would come over to our farm to visit and spend some time with

my mother, also to help her with her work. We kids were always excited to see Shirley's Buick pull in our driveway.

In 1963, Shirley met and married Ed Ritter, a gentle, soft-spoken man with a big laugh. He was (and is) a hard-working farmer from Coxsackie. They were made for each other. Their personalities mirrored each other. His laughter became one of the many family sounds I remember from our gatherings at the farmhouse. I remember how happy they looked together, and how happy we were to have Ed for our new uncle.

We kids didn't get to see Shirley as often after her marriage, but we now had a special new place to visit: the farm next to the railroad tracks. We got to see trains down there, and to flatten pennies on the tracks!

Shirley transformed from an office worker to a farmer's wife, but she had grown up on a farm, so it was not difficult for her. I have many images of her working around the farm and their trailer. She and Ed lived their lives together on their farm for almost thirty five years.

As we kids grew up and moved away, we saw much less of our aunt. Usually we would see her at a holiday gathering. She would greet us with a big hug and kiss, and ask all about our lives and how we were doing. She remained the kind, gentle, warm, loving, generous person we had known as children. We will always feel the loss of such a wonderful aunt from our family. We will always be grateful that we had her in our lives.

I would like to write one last thank you card to my Aunt Shirley:

Dear Shirley,

Thank you so much for giving us your wonderful gift, the gift of yourself.

Love always,

Your Family

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