



Teator - Teter Tree

Spring 2007

Newsletter #25

First, greetings to all you descendents of John Teter. I trust Spring 2007 finds all in good health and able to look ahead to productive days and months ahead. More notes later.

Don

Houses: Yours & Your Ancestors

In the excitement of my early Teator genealogy hunt, I was mostly interested in names and how to figure out who was related to whom. From Nora Baldwin's hand-drawn sketch of what she remembered and had written down, with many familiar names and some not-so-familiar, with dates that sprouted from all directions, I was mesmerized by the puzzle in front of me.

Of course, there was the desire to find out who I was, where I came from, what larger group I had come from. I have explained some of that in past issues of our newsletters and will probably repeat it again!

A side topic that became increasingly interesting, and more humanizing the more I searched, was the places these people lived. And, the more I found out, the more connections I made and the more satisfying my family hunting became.

Where did John Teter live? Why there? How large a parcel of land? Where did he live when his kids were growing up?

Where did his wife live when they met? Where did she grow up? Who did they live next to? What events of the community did they participate in? Who outlived the other and under what conditions? What stages of their lives paralleled local and national events?

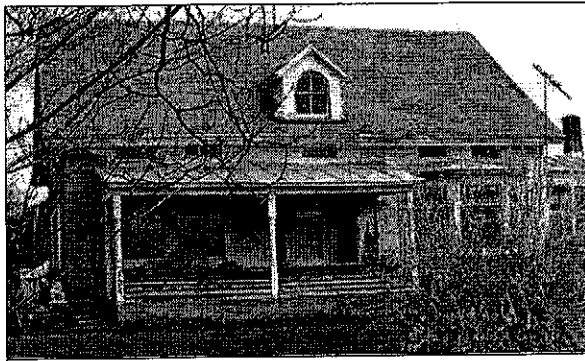
(They could have made the family history hunters' jobs easier if they had written all this stuff down! I suspect, though, each of us could write a book, but that's a task that most of us seldom think about because we are too busy, or it's not important enough, or the common-ness of our lives seems not remarkable enough to write down.)

Eventually, the question comes to: What kind of people were they? What kind of person am I? How will our grandchildren know that?

Amongst our busy lives and the need pay the bills, I think it's important to ask the



Olin and Carrie Teator's house
Stone Bridge Road Extension, East Durham



Norman and Evelyn Teator's house
Mansard Ave, Durham

bigger questions.

OK, OK, I'm getting way ahead of this newsletter's topic but I hope you see why genealogy can be so absorbing and why I find the discussions we have at family reunions so rewarding.

One of the very physical parts of family history, a part that makes me pay attention to geography and history and psychology, is to know where people lived, and to trace our personal stories and the mirroring of American history (world history also) in the everyday situation of where we have lived.

At the end of April, in preparation for this piece, I traveled to East Durham, Durham, and Livingstonville to record, by photograph, four houses. Two of them are so recent that many of you have memories of those houses: visits, interiors, the people who lived there (maybe, even you), etc.

As houses are renovated, as they are destroyed or fall into ruin, as they adapt to modern times, it is easy to think they are always there, until no one can remember the house.

One house that I was in as a kid was Olin and Carrie's house on Stone Bridge Road Extension, just over the bridge from 145 from the East Durham traffic light. (I need to get current 911 addresses to make it easier for everyone to check the Teator trails.) Some of you reading this lived there or visited there. It is now undergoing some renovation so the façade is barely recogniz-

able, and I suspect the interior has undergone major changes, judging from the dumpsters I have seen there in the last year or so.

A mere few miles up Rt 145 brought me to the left that goes into the village, a right onto Mansard, and the last structures on the road marks where Norman and Evelyn Teator lived for so many years. (Just under the hill is Ray Teator's house.) This house means more to me than Olin's because my father knew Norman's family, occasionally visited or stayed there, and passed along some of his stories he experienced, especially during his rough-and-tumble growing up years. I can still "see" Norman talking about the farm, before Rt 145 came through and changed the traffic pattern, and bits and snatches of other memories. For some reason, I remember one afternoon when my father visited, Ray was watching the Yankees in a World Series game, probably in the early 1960s. There's a lot more that happened there, and those of you who lived there can testify to that. (Someone who wished to remain unnamed wrote "The Gift" in the Spring 2000 issue, evoking many of the memories of that house that one carries throughout life.)

Within view across Rt 145 is where Alexander and Elsie Teator lived, in a small country house, on Allan Teator Road. (On the northern crossing of Allan Teator Road with Rt 145, the road continues up and over



Alexander (1847-1929) and Elsie Teator's house
Allan Teator Rd, Durham

to the Allan farm, and the road sign reads Allen Teator Road. Which spelling is "right" will probably be determined by the sign makers.) I have no memories of that house, Alexander having died in 1929 and Elsie Sweet Teator to follow in 1936. I do recall Norman retelling of the Cheese Hill fire that destroyed the Teator house there and they moved to the site on Teator Road (a few structures north of the Kohrs farm, an active and sizeable farm currently). Anyone have any memories of that house?

The oldest Teator house that affects all of us is John Teter's house. I recall Norman, on the one or two rides we took before his death in 1999, pointing out this rather plain house, sitting up on a slight rise, a hundred feet off the road, and still being lived in. From Durham, one goes west through Cooks-burgh and Preston Hollow, leaves Greene County, rides through the short distance that Albany County occupies Rt 145, before entering Schoharie County. Just past the metal bridge that crosses the Catskill Creek (the fishing entry spot) but before Livingstonville, approximately the 260s by the 911 markers (my apologies for not making notes right then), sits a house that Norman identified as John Teter's house.

To be honest, John Teter is mostly just a name, to me. He died a hundred-forty-some years ago, and Norman retold the stories he remembered being told. (If you want to be remembered the way you want to, you need to write them down yourself. Otherwise, someone else will spread their memories!) The Fall 1992 issue recounts the 1865 census agricultural report, which lists the farm output of John Teter. This account allows me to visualize the amount of work that was needed to maintain that farm.

But, I have little else, other than the swords and stirrups from when he served in the local militia (a family heirloom that has passed through the generations and will continue to do so). In 1865, he was nearing 50

years of age, and he would die the following year. I wonder how he met Lydia Richmond, where they lived, what life was like for their children (the second generation for our Teator/Teter Reunion), how active they were in the community, how the Civil War affected them, etc.

Where else did John live? He is buried in the Stone Store Road Cemetery, and he probably lived on the long-forgotten road that leads from the metal bridge on 145 up through the hollow until it crests that ridge



John (1816-1866) and Lydia Teator's house
Rt 145, Schoharie Co, Livingstonville

where it comes out to Teter Road at the very top of the long climb from Potter Hollow leading to Broome Center. (The August 2005 issue shows a J. Teter residing in a offshoot from that road in the 1860s, and a J. Teeter living north of Cheese Hill in the mid-1850s map, neither house I can identify today.)

Seeing the house is a physical reminder, despite the ghostly memories and the stories people recall, that people actually did live, just as we are doing. And, our lives will be told similarly unless there are accounts written down elsewhere.

So, please start recalling and recording your memories and stories about houses of our big family. If you have a computer and wish to send digital photos, I will store them in my files. Otherwise, do it for your family and make a resource that others can share.

More Notes:

Next Reunion

The next reunion is planned for the third Sunday in July, 2008 (next year). If someone has ideas for a different arrangement than we have traditionally done, please share them soon. And, if someone wants to assume a major role in the planning of the reunion, I welcome your help.

Vitals:

—**Births:** none noted

—**Marriage:**

Amada Every (Gene and Claudia's daughter) married Christian Stegner, son of Tom & Leslie, on August 19, 2006, at Bavarian Manor, Purling, NY.

—**Deaths:** none noted

If I missed someone or some event, please let me know.

Reminder: Please let me know about any of these:

- changes of address — yours or others
 - a mailing label that needs correction or change
 - a new household that should receive the newsletter
 - clippings of news, births, marriages, deaths
- (reach me at 3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY 12431 OR call 518-634-2397 OR email me at don@dteator.com

Past Features

For those of you who keep track, many of the earlier issues had genealogical and historical information. The issue number and the topics are listed below. If you want to do some research, or can think of an idea for someone to pursue, contact me.

- 1- 1865 census, agricultural statistics for John Teter
- 2- the "correct" way to spell Teator
- 3- Hank Jones' book about the 1710 Palatines
- 4- the weak line – who is our David Teter?
 - –medical family trees
- 5- Richmond genealogy (John Teter's wife – Lydia Richmond)
- 6- Finger Lake Teeter, mid-Atlantic Teter
- 7- Hess genealogy (John Teter's mother was Catherine Hess)
- 8- Phil Teeter's article on his genealogy
- 9- administration of Luther Teter's estate by his brother Calvin (brothers of John's father David)
- 10- a copy of the family tree of John Teter
- 11- none
- 12- none
- 13- none
- 14- none
- 15- Palatine Monument
- 16- none
- 17- none
- 18- Palatines to the Helderbergs
- 19- Finger/Fingar family
- 20- Robert Teeter's notes on our ancestor's immigration; an immigrant story
- 21- none
- 22- Alexander marriage notice; maps
- 23- none
- 24- none
- 25- houses

Reunion invitations and write-ups came in Issues 1 (1992); 4 & 5 (1994); 7 & 8 (1996); 11 & 12 (1998); 13 & 14 (2000); 16 & 17 (2002); 20 & 21 (2004); and 23 & 24 (2006).