



Teator - Teter Tree

Summer 2008

Newsletter #27

The Descendents of John Teter Reunion of 2008 is in the history books. A very warm 85-90 degree day (although Legacy Bank on Rt 145 read 94 when we passed it on the way home), quite humid, with the slightest of stir from the wisp of a southern current that crept over the Brandow Park hill, made for a sultry day that could have been worse. Deb's fan kept some air moving, and live music from the Grey Fox festival was transmitted from local reception.



One of my summer's highlights is the chance to see many familiar faces once again at our reunion, some of whom I had not seen since 2006, and several whose last acquaintance stretches back four, or six, or more years. For a couple of you, it was the first reunion! Reassuring chitchat about

reasonable health, work, retirement activities, doings of the children, special events, community involvement, etc., help cement the family bond over the years.

A look at past reunion group shots reminds us all that just when nothing changes a year at a time, the total effect of the sixteen years since our first reunion in 1992 tells us all that much has changed. The knee-nippers are just graduating from high school, the kids are now

young adults, the young adults are approaching middle-age (sorry to tell you), and on it goes. Ultimately, the photos remind of us of our loved ones, who meant so much, who have passed away.

Also available were the duplicated photos from past years, as well as a family tree.

Deb and I had arrived about 11:15, unloaded the grill and other supplies, set up the fan and radio, and Deb swept up a bit.

Nancy LaBarbera arrived, hands full with a cake she and a friend had baked specially for the reunion. Although Nancy apologized for not having more information on the cake, it was a good start of an idea of having a Teator tree as dessert. Thanks, Nancy. (Nancy recounted how green frosting exploded from the icing gun and some ended up on the ceiling!)

By noontime, a few cars had pulled in and by 12:30 most of the crowd was there, although another dozen came just after 1 pm.

By reunion's end, nearly 60 Teator-ites had appeared. And although a bigger number does not make our family history any more important, it is nice to share a half of an afternoon every couple of years with a larger group.

Enclosed is a group shot for everyone, while any family attending should also have a family line photo included.

Chris Kohrs (Town of Durham clerk) arrived just after 11 to open the bathrooms, and I assume she appeared after we left to close things up. I would urge any of you to thank the Town Board (7309 SR 81, East Durham, NY, 12423, or call) for our use of Brandow Park. It serves our purpose well, and I will write a note to the Town Board. Overall, we run a fairly inexpensive operation, with no additional costs for park use.

The food, as usual, was plentiful

and good. A special thank you goes to Katherine for preparing the ham; another to Nancy to the aforementioned cake; another to Roberta for the meal's blessing; a big one to Debra for filling in the operational pieces that make my life much easier.

The range of dishes and desserts is a testament to originality, good planning, good cooking, and perhaps some good luck. I found myself wishing I could have had a spoon of several more dishes but there's only so much room. And, the desserts were top notch.

Of course, a thank you goes to all of you who came out. I suppose I don't need any validation but I do feel rewarded when you do attend, whether you come for the family history, or to see relatives we only see once every two years, or to check out the best dessert (not that I would do that, mind you), or reconnect with people who have become friends over the sixteen years since the first reunion, or whatever the reason may be.

I know a couple people stayed away because of the heat. I wish I could

do something about the weather, but that is the "charm" of an outdoor reunion. Most of us were gone by 3:30-ish, and I think Oak Hill was none the worse for wear from the Teator invasion. (We did witness a few hundred cars leaving the mu-

sic festival; and the water hawkers with the bull horn were just far enough away at the corner of the bridge to be amusing, at times.)

As usual, we did superlatives. I was so pleased to see the oldest from last time still come to this one. Katherine



Nora's Line



Olin's Line

Brink, our eldest blood-line descendent, again claimed the prized for the blood-line attendee. John Monette claimed not only the non-blood-line attendee but also is the eldest person on the family tree. Congratulations, Katherine and John, and may you we see you again in 2010. Serious competition came from Bob Armstrong, as well as a half-dozen others within a half-dozen years. First prize did not go to Gene Every, even though he claimed to be ninety-two.

The youngest attendees were Brezny Lyon (6, daughter of Charles Lyon) and Dillen Wade (9, son of Lori Teator and Joe Wade).

A lot of competition arose for those traveling the farthest. Alfreda and Bud came from Florida and took top prize, but right behind were Steve and Karin Page and family from Indiana. And, it was nice to see Larry Armstrong from Ohio. From the NYS residents,



Willis' Line

Gary and Margie came from Dutchess County, and Bradley Teator came from West Davenport. I noted it is so interesting that so many of us live so close to where Henrich Teter moved in the early 1800s (Cheese Hill; and he was born in

the 1760s). We truly are bound to the family earth.

The closest, again, were Robert and Loretta Kudlack. Next were Roberta and Charles Soderblom, and then Ray Teator, all within a mile or two. I never take for granted the attendance of those living close by.

Photos were taken, and the large group photo is enclosed. For the official photo, 23 posed from the line of Olin, 15

for



Norman's Line

Nora's line, 11 for Norman's line, 5 for Orlando's line, and 4 for Willis' line. Unofficially, but still noted, a few who came later probably added at least one more to Norman's line, another one or two to Nora's, and another one or two to Olin's line. In terms of percentage possible, Nora's line is the impressive one with one-half of the line showing. (And, for you teens who came willingly, an extra pat on the back goes to you.)

The crowd started thinning out after 3:30-ish and headed home in the shimmering haze of a hot afternoon.

It was heart-warming to see all of you; I trust the next newsletter (maybe, next summer?) finds all of us in good health.

Take care,

P.S. Did I say something about John Teter's swords? Argh! I had them on the front seat of our truck, thinking I would bring them to the pavilion during the meal. I got distracted and by the time I remembered, half the crowd was gone. Next time.

P.S.S. A few reminders:

— Perhaps, I missed some vitals (births, marriage, deaths) of the last couple years but I have only one to note. Reproduced is the obituary of Astrid Teator. Let me know if I have not made any reference to a vital in a previous newsletter (even if it is years old). Thank you.

— Any notice of change of address is greatly appreciated. Only once did a mailing happen with no returns.

— As young adults gain new addresses, let me know so I can send out one more newsletter.

— Is your mailing label correct? Do you want a change the way it is written?

— As new births and marriages happen, let me know, please. You can send to my address or email me (don@dteator.com)

— If you have ideas for an article or profile, I will be glad to accept your contribution (or try to make it happen). Especially appreciated would be a general biographical sketch – individual or family.

— If you see newspaper clippings relating to family matters, please send them to me. (especially marriage write-ups and obituaries) (I don't think I have a paper clipping, if one exists, about Holly's wedding and Amanda's wedding. Are there more?)

— I send out a newsletter to everyone for whom I have an address. Currently, there is only a handful for whom I have no address.



Orlando's Line

— I will put the reunion photos online (www.dteator.com); click on Teator Genealogy; click on 2008 reunion (by the end of summer)

— I have some family history on my web site (www.dteator.com). If there is material not clear or accurate, let me know. I'll try to fix it as soon as I can. And I'll start working on filling out the other parts.

Teator, Astrid Jean

VALATIE, N.Y. — Astrid Jean Teator, 67, of Elm St., Valatie, died Sunday, June 1, 2008 at Albany Memorial Hospital.

Born in Hudson, N.Y., September 8, 1940, she was the daughter of the late Howard and Theresa (Witkowski) Fisher. Mrs. Teator was a senior filing clerk for the NYS Retirement System in Albany. She was a communicant of St. John the Baptist Church in Valatie and was involved with the CCD program there for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Norman W. Teator; one aunt; and several cousins.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 11:00 a.m. from St. John the Baptist Church, Route 9, Valatie with Rev. Joseph O'Brien officiating. Interment will be in St. John the Baptist Cemetery. Friends may call Thursday from 5-8 p.m. at the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Inc., Route 9, Valatie.

For those who wish, contributions may be made to either the Valatie Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 242, Valatie, NY 12184 or the Valatie Santa Claus Club, P.O. Box 601, Valatie, NY 12184.

Raymond E. Bond

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