

Teator - Teter Tree

Spring 2012

Newsletter #32

Descendents of John Teter Family Reunion

Good day, all Descendents of John Teter (1816-1866), plus two more:

Here's hoping that Spring/Summer 2012 is finding you in good health!

Yes, it's been two years since our last reunion (and twenty years since our first Reunion!), and this is your invitation to:
the 11th Biennial 2012 Reunion
Sunday, July 15, 2012
at Brandow Park, Oak Hill, NY

Food:

- Meat will be provided. I will make sure to have hamburgers and hot dogs. (However, if anyone would like to prepare a ham, or to bring a grill, or to bring burgers & dogs, call me. Costs will be reimbursed from the "Teator treasury.")
- Each household should bring a covered dish (salad, main dish, and/or dessert) to feed 4-6.
- Families are encouraged to coordinate with others, if you choose. Any single person can bring chips, munchies, etc.

- "Silverware", liquids, cups, napkins and chairs will be the responsibility of each household.

Tentative Schedule:

- Arrive around noon, or whenever you can.
- Food will be served probably about one o'clock.
- We'll do introductions of the family lines.
- Remind me to do the oldest, farthest, etc.
- Plan on electric not being available.
- I'll bring the photo albums & family tree.
- If anyone has anything else they'd like to share, please feel free to do so.
- Deb will take the group photos again
- Bring a current photo of your family and children that can be given to the Teator/Teter archives, if you can.
- Clean-up help is much appreciated.

A few other notes:

- As always, come prepared for what Mother Nature throws our way.
- The Town of Durham had a gigantic cleanup of Brandow Park after Hurricane Irene.
- The Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for Poultney Flats, just across the street, finishing the Sunday we are there. The last couple of times, there was little effect to us reunion-goers.
- reach me at 3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY 12431 OR call 518-634-2397 OR email me at dteator@gmail.com
- If you need a change in the mailing label (move, change in family, preference, marriage, etc.), let me know.
- After the last issue was mailed, I learned of the passing of Charlie Lyon.

Thank you, for the note, and included in this newsletter is Charlie's obit. (pg 3)

- Again, if I have missed any vital records, please let me know, no matter how far back it goes.
- I am repeating a list of names to whom I send a newsletter (below). If you know of a family member (probably the "kids" who moved away, or have finally settled) who would like to be added to the list, let me know. Otherwise, I am hoping there's an informal way of keeping in touch.
- I will be putting the reunion photos online. Notice will be in next newsletter.
- I would be pleased if anyone has an idea for a newsletter article, even more so if you are preparing it. Either way, keep in touch.

Receiving the mailing:

Lawrence & Michele Armstrong
Robert & Bonnie Armstrong
Janet Armstrong
Ken & Pat Baldwin
Vernon & Kirsten Baldwin
Sky & Diane Ben
Brian & Delsia Brink
Bruce & Bonda Brink
Ernest & Peggy Brink
Katherine Brink
Katherine & Kevin Ceroalo
Douglas & Pamela Dunavin
Gene & Claudia Every
William & Jennifer Hallock
Ken & Sharon Hayner
Robert & Robin Koochagian
Loretta & Robert Kudlack
Nancy LaBarbera
Charles Lynk
Robert & Nancy Lynk
Tamara S. Lynk
Charlie Lyon
John & June Monette
Cindy & Wes Moore
Jennifer Murray
Steven & Karin Page
David & Cindy Phillips
Charles and Susan Radick
Herman & Susan Reinhold

Hayden Reynolds
Mark & Kim Reynolds
Cliff & Phyllis Richardson
Charlotte Rogers
Jeff Rogers
Glenna & John Ryan
Rose Salisbury
Andrew & Bonny Sattler
Roberta & Charles Soderblom
Amanda & Chris Stegner
Adam Teator
Alfreda Teator
Althea Teator
Bradley & Marjorie Teator
Constance Teator
Darren Teator
David & Connie Teator
Donald & Debra Teator
Gary & Marjorie Teator
Jay Teator
Lynne Teator
Mark Teator
Norman Teator
Raymond Teator
Ron & Leona Teator
Stella Teator
William & Kim Teator
Wayne & Charlene Teter
Susan Weaver

Charlie Lyon

1976 – October 24, 2011

Rensselaer- Charles J. "Charlie" Lyon age 35, passed away with his loving family by his side, after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. Charlie was born June 16, 1976 and was the son of the late Archie and Carol (Brink) Lyon and lived in Durham, NY until moving to Rensselaer in 1997.

Charlie was a graduate from the former Rensselaer Jr./Sr. High School on Broadway and was employed by Janitronics, where he worked out of the OCFS Building on Washington Street, Rensselaer until his illness progressed. In his spare time, Charlie loved sports and was a huge NY Giants and Yankees fan. He was also a big fan of NASCAR and Dale Jr. Charlie enjoyed working on small motors, riding his four-wheeler and fishing with his best friends Stephanie Slater and Denise Bates. In addition to his parents, Charlie is predeceased by his grandparents Charles Brink and Eva Lyon and also his father-in-law and best friend Boyce Sauer.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife, best friend and high school sweetheart Jennifer A. Sauer-Lyon and his beautiful daughter Brezney E. Lyon, who had her daddy wrapped around her finger and his four dogs and five cats. Charlie is also survived by his loving grandmother Katherine Brink of Durham, NY, brothers Daniel (Katrina) Lyon of East Merideth, NY and James Lyon of Catskill, NY, Stepmother Ruth Lyon and his four Stepsisters Jenn, Heather, Lisa and Sarah and their families, mother-in-law Sharon Poole Sauer of Rens-

selaer and his grandmother-in-law Agnes Poole of Rensselaer. Charlie was uncle of Nicole and Andrew Lyon, Thomas and Cameron Lyon and Caleb and Madison Burnett. Also survived by several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff of New York Oncology Hematology of Albany Medical Center including Dr. Susan Weaver and nurse Betty for their love and care during his 10 year battle. A big thank you to Dr. Semenoff, Dr. Savage and recently Dr. Adamo. The family would also like to thank the caring and loving staff of the Community Hospice of Rensselaer County, including nurses; Jamie, Sandy M, Trish, social worker Dominica and Chaplin Tony. A special thank you to the police and fire departments for all their care, concern and compassion shown to us during this time.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Charlie's funeral Saturday morning at 10:00 from the W.J. Lyons Jr. Funeral Home 1700 Washington Avenue Rensselaer. Calling hours will be Friday from 4-8 PM at the funeral home. Interment will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Greenbush. The family has requested that those who wish to remember Charlie in a special way can make a contribution to the UTMA fund for his daughter Brezney's education by stopping into any SEFCU Branch of mailing to SEFCU Member Group Development 700 Patroon Creek Albany, NY 12206.

Palatine Pursuit

6:409 KF

■ *A restoration project in Rhinebeck is a story some 300 years in the making.*

By **ROCHELLE RISERVATO**
Correspondent

TO FULLY understand why The Palatine Farmstead Committee has spent the past seven years restoring a dilapidated house and barn in Rhinebeck, one must be acquainted with the history behind these structures and how they played an extremely important role in the development of a great portion of the Hudson Valley.

According to research and lots of information from Palatine descendants, committee members Alvin Sheffer of Germantown and Rhinebeck Town Historian Nancy Kelly, the Palatine migration was the largest single group of people who ever immigrated to America during the Colonial period.

Said Sheffer, "In 1710, approximately 3,000 German Palatines were brought over in 10 English ships to start naval stores with an agreement made between then-Governor Hunter

and the Whig Party in England, who was in power at that time." Sheffer explained that only about 2,100 Palatines survived the trip — about 600 families — with 470 people either dying on the way over or immediately after while staying in quarantine at Governor's Island. The Palatines were then brought by small boats up the Hudson to form little work camps. The first settled sites were called West Camp (now Saugerties) and East Camp (now Germantown).

The German Palatines were natives of the Rhineland-Palatinate region of Germany, and the project's original goal was for the settlers to produce ship supplies such as hemp rope, turpentine and tar pitch for ship building. In exchange for their passage to America, the families worked in the camps and were supplied with food and staples.

"The Whig party was in control when Governor Hunter started this thing," Sheffer said, "and then the Tories Party came into power. And, by 1712, the governor, who had lost much money he had invested in the project, had to tell them (Palatine settlers) that they had to support themselves."

By the mid-to late 1700s, close to 850 families settled in the Hudson River Valley, primarily in what are now Germantown and Saugerties.

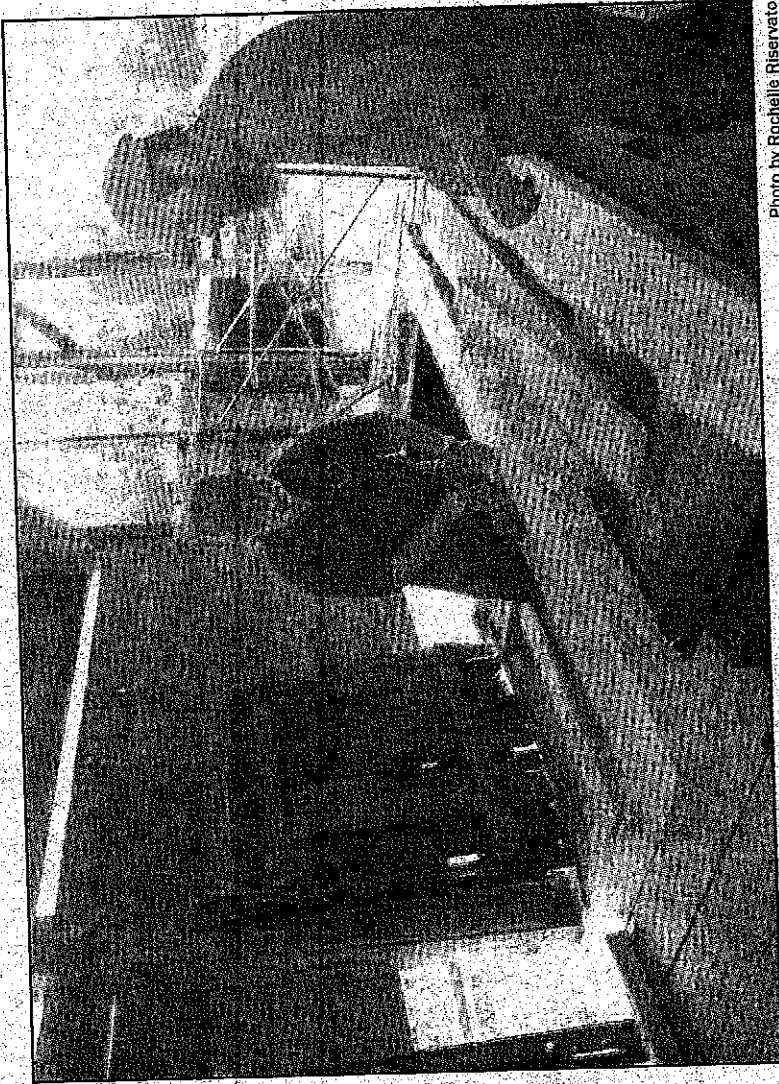


Photo by Rochelle Reservato

Alvin Sheffer, left, and Bob Hedges use old tools to plane a barn beam authentically.

Nancy Kelly said Henry Beekman, the largest landowner in the area, invited 35 Palatine families from the early settlements when they were cut off from English support. Upon his father's death in 1716, his son, Henry Jr., made formal arrangements with the Palatine families, issuing deeds that were actually indentures or leases. They required the settlers to

pay an annual rent of bushels of wheat, fowl and work for the landlord.

"So they would feel at home, Beekman called it Rhynbeck, indicating the original farmstead which was at Wey Road and Route 9," Kelly said.

The Palatine Farmstead, located at the historic center of Old Rhinebeck, is one of a small number of surviving structures

built by first generation Palatine immigrants in the Hudson Valley. The house is significant because of its location and the fact that only one family occupied it for 242 years — from 1762 until 2000. In addition, the untouched character of this colonial structure was also a remarkable factor in its historic

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value, with the additional bonus of an early Dutch-style barn sporting hand-hewed oak rafters measuring 18 to 22 inches in thickness.

The original owner, Franz Nehr was a cordwainer (shoemaker) by trade. Upon his death, Ludwig Elsifer, who was orphaned during the Palatine immigration, became the next inhabitant of the house in 1762. From that point on, the house, barn, service buildings and other structures remained in the family, being handed down on the female side of the lineage. Elsifer's great-great-granddaughter, through marriages with the Cotting and Losee families, was Catherine Losee. She was the last descendant to inhabit the house until her death in 2000 at age 68.

Kelly described Losee as a single woman who wanted to carry on a family tradition of farming and a simple lifestyle. She raised Black Angus and hosted 4-H Groups who came to the farmstead. Losee would teach about livestock raising and also worked with the 4-H children in showing the cattle at various fairs, according to Kelly. Living simply meant that Losee never had plumbing or electricity installed in the house, which, Kelly said, she was thrilled about.

"We thought that was great because it was a property that

was in one family for so many generations and had stayed untouched," Kelly said. "They hadn't even put central heat in the house and not even plumbing and electric. It gave a starting point to the way that the family lived and also the opportunity to highlight the original settlers of Rhinebeck."

Marilyn Hatch, the Palatine Farmstead Committee chairperson, said, "I had talked with Catherine Losee about deeding this property with life tenancy to a not-for-profit organization. She was a really proud, hard-working woman who loved her animals and cattle and was a farmer at heart.

"I always kept my eye on that property, as I knew it had significant historic value and represented an important chapter in our regional history."

She added, "Not only we were able to acquire it, but we have been fortunate to have the financial support through grants and public donations to see it come back to life."

Upon Losee's death, her niece and nephews inherited her property. They then sold it to the Rhinebeck Equine, which wanted the land, but not the barn or house. As a result, those two structures were deeded and donated, in July 2002, to the Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, a not-for-profit organization the Palatine Farmstead Committee works under.

The house still incorporates elements of the original Frans Neher house, which was approximately 20 by 24 feet, according to dimensions of the basement excavation. When restoration began on the home's front, much damage from honey bees, water, fire and just time and neglect was discovered, along with a completely disintegrated framing post south of the entrance. Both the post and portions of the siding needed replacement.

The newly painted creamy white exterior was determined by an analysis of paint layers, completing the front facade restoration in the spring of 2005. Similar damage to the rear of the house revealed the main structure was completely gone, and the house was being supported by exterior siding and interior wainscoting.

Restoration of the rear commenced with major foundation repair. Traditional timber framing were implemented to replace the rotted frame. The rear door of the farmstead is from the original 1727 structure. The committee decided to retire the door and let it become a museum display to depict the story of the house fabric's use and reuse. The door has since been replicated with authentically crafted hardware by a blacksmith artisan, Jonathan Nedbor of Alligerville.

ALTHOUGH EXTERIOR restoration was completed in the summer of 2006, interior work is still ongoing. Future restoration plans include reconstructing the front porch using archaeology and physical clues found in the framing.

Using a Legislative Initiative Grant, the committee, beginning in spring of 2007, started the north side of the house's restoration with the restoration of the original kitchen fireplace — complete with the reinstallation of a beehive bake oven removed in 1890.

The restored beehive oven has since been used to bake bread during a workshop last month. It will also be used during the "Let's Go Deutsch" Event taking place on Sept. 20 at the farmstead site. The festival event will include information on Palatine history, demonstrations and foods, including

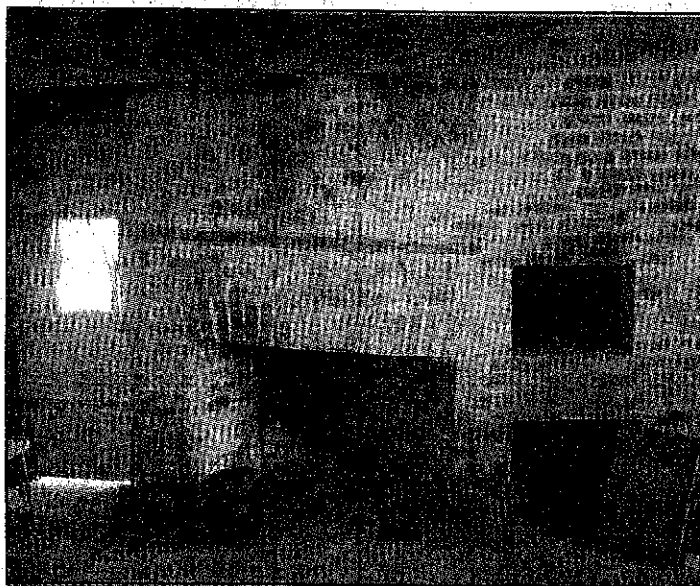


Photo by Rochelle Riservato

Architectural findings revealed there was once a beehive oven. One was recreated and has been used to bake bread at workshops.

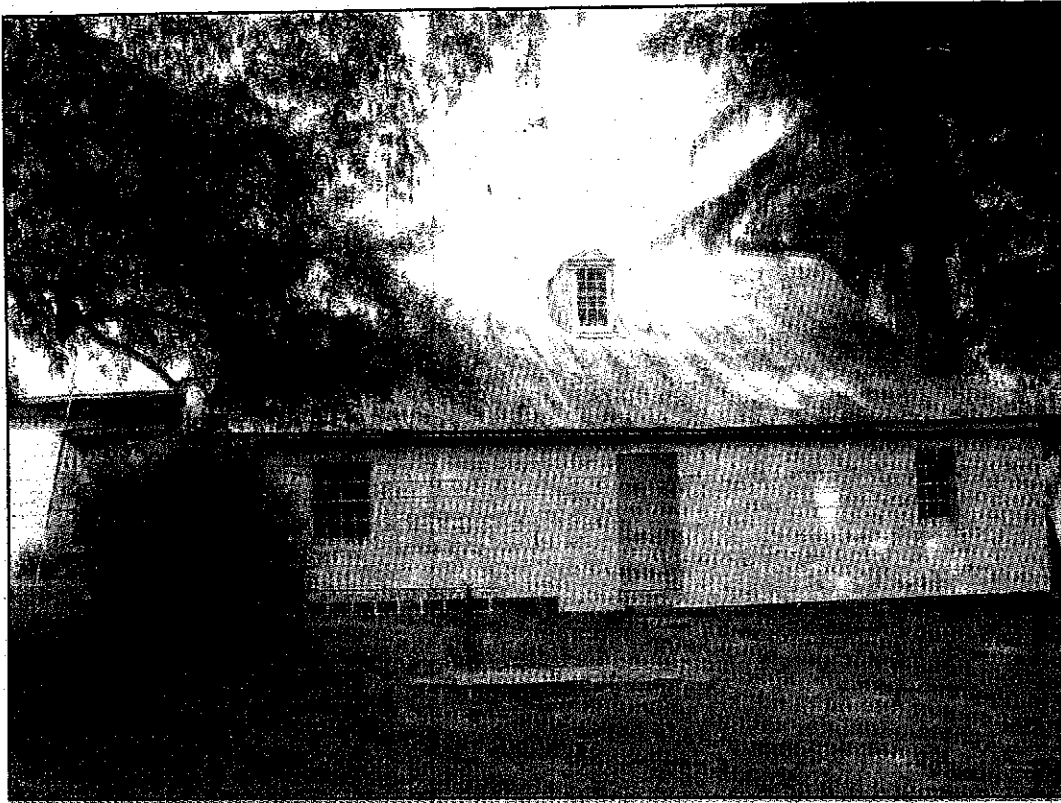


Photo by Rochelle Riservato

The rear exterior restoration of the Palatine Farmstead home was completed in 2006.

special beehive oven-baked bread, along with family fun from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission will be a \$10 donation toward future restoration. Other donation levels are also available.

In 2008, the committee was awarded a \$35,000 matching funds grant from the New York State Barn Restoration and Preservation Grants Program for restoration of the 1770 Dutch-style Losee Barn. Bob Hedges, a traditional timber framer, barn restorer and three-year committee member said, "This barn is typical of the Dutch form, but it is the most finely crafted that I have come across in 20 years."

He detailed the condition of the barn to be average, considering its age. He added there is always extensive sill work needed and upper structural work where the roofs have not been maintained.

He said the barn also had the side aisles removed and about 5 feet of the original height. The barn originally had Dutch-style Harr-hung doors, which Hedges described as "doors that pivot on its heel rather than on

hinges. The style of the door is rounded to form an axle on which the door pivots in a round mortise." Hedges has built new, historically-accurate barn doors.

Since last summer, Hedges has spent uncountable hours of work on the restoration. His motivation? "My focus is on 18th century barns, which closely reflect the builder, unlike later barns, which were mass-produced. In preserving these barns, I get insight into the original builder's thoughts and processes."

As fervent as Hedges feels about barn restoration, unofficial farmstead groundskeeper Sheffer is passionately involved in all aspects of this project. He belongs to many other historical organizations—including a group that's close to his heart, "Palatines to America."

He said the group has already started plans for next year's anniversary celebration. "It's the 300th anniversary of the immigration, which will be held in fall of 2010. This is a big, big deal.

"I have studied the Palatine

migration for the past 30 years," he added.

Said Hatch, "Our hope is to have it (the farmstead) become a center for the history of the Palatines because they tripled the population in the colony of New York."

In order for this valued restoration to progress, a volunteer workforce has given almost 3,000 hours of its time, energies and devotion to the project. Grants that have been received include those from the Preservation League, the New York State Council on the Arts, a Legislative Initiative Grant, a New York State Environmental Protection Fund Grant and the Dutchess County Industrial Developmental Agency.

To make a donation to help raise money for the matching funds grant, call Committee Treasurer Ernst Steubesand at (845) 876-7517. For more detailed information on the project, events or how to help finance the ongoing reconstruction through Hudson River Heritage's Project Hard Hat, go online to www.quitmanpreservation.org/palatine.htm.