



# Teter- Teator Tree

Summer/Fall 2016

Newsletter #39

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Happy mid-Autumn, Teator Family,

Teter/Teator Reunion 2016 sits now in the past tense.

A pleasant low-80s, medium humidity day awaited, and it felt comfortable compared to the previous three days of near 90 and humid.

I find it satisfying to write the Reunion accounts, and the 2016 account adds to the list. Renewing acquaintances since the last Reunion, or the one before that, or longer as the case may be is an event to anticipate.

If my math and photos were accurate, I counted the following members of each line:

- Nora – 14
- Olin – 11
- Norman – 6
- Willis – 2
- Orlando – 2
- Calvin – 5

Calvin's line of five counts a duplicated line of three.

And the numbers do not include Nancy's friend Wilma who drove Nancy to the Reunion.

Attending for the first time was Polina Petrun Reinhold (from Sochi, Russia; Herman B.'s

wife) and two sons, Herman L and Evan. And Emmalyn, of course.

The family tree just enjoys catching up on news from everyone else.

The category winners:

- Living the closest, and attending: Loretta and Robert Kudlack (806 feet, I estimated!)
- Coming the furthest: Polina and children, from Colorado; and the Page family from Indiana.
- Youngest: Emmalyn MacNeill – 9 months; Evan Reinhold – 1.5 yrs
- Most recently married: Sky Ben – 2 yr, 2 mos; Lisa and Kevin MacNeill – 4 yrs
- Longest married: Charlene and Wayne Teter – 53 years (deserving our round of applause)
- Newest grandparents: Claudia & Gene Every
- Newest great-grandparent: Janet Armstrong
- Oldest female: Janet Armstrong took honors. Congratulations, Janet, and we wish you future awards!

—Oldest male: three winners:

- non-blood line: Gene Every
- Calvin's line: Wayne Teter
- John's line: Don Teator (really? how did that happen? first time: there are two other non-attendees who could wrest this prize away from me)

On my list of things to do, but forgotten, was to have a moment of silence for those who passed on since last Reunion:

- Bruce Brink
- Amy Hansen
- Ray Teator
- Norman Teator

They were all special to our families. For me, the ghosts of closer memories of Bruce and Ray still stir through my mind – Ray, especially, because I would stop in several times a summer on my bicycle, usually 10-20 minutes, catch up on news, and depart for some destination. I have cycled past the house a dozen times this summer since his passing and can hear Ray listening to the Yankees or to Rush Limbaugh.

Farewell, friends.

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Deb and I arrived about 11 a.m. to set up – moved tables, used our power blower to clean up, called about opening the bathroom, started the food table, spread out photos, set up the family tree (13 ft), welcomed the first arrivals – Nancy and Wilma (actually, they were waiting for us), set up the grill, and waited for anyone who claimed to be Teator/Teter clan!

By the time the dust settled, about 35 signed in (coloring one's spot on the tree) and we made re-acquaintances.

(The nationally known Grey Fox festival was ending its four day stay on the Walsh Farm just across the street from Brandow Park, and a steady stream of departing traffic paraded past all midday.)

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Vital records since last newsletter, or catching up.

#### **Births:**

- Ava Marie Monette, daughter of John and Tanya Monette, born 10 Aug 2012, at St Peter's, Albany, NY
- Jordyn Rose Monette, son of John and Tanya Monette, born 15 May 2012, at St. Peter's, Albany, NY
- Zoey Iris Ben, daughter of Heather Rae Jones and Sky Ben, born 15 Aug 2015 at Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY
- Violet Brink Palmer, daughter of Alicia (Brink) and Shawn Palmer, born 8 June 2016, at Vassar, Poughkeepsie

#### **Marriages:**

- Sky Ben and Heather Rae Jones, 19 March 2014, in Greenville, NY.

#### **Deaths:**

- Ray Teator: 18 May 2016
- Norman Teator: 14 June 2016

If I have ever left anyone out, recent or not, let me know.

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I must note that the efforts of a couple of you at the Reunion (you know who you are) who encouraged others to contribute to Reunion expenses. In short, about ten kind souls, either personally or on behalf of their family, contributed, and all of it to go (or, went) to expenses for organizing and feeding the Reunion. Your support is most appreciated.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter that I have arranged to hire a local researcher to take my 30 years of notes and to write the book about the Teator/Teter/Tator/Dater family in America since 1710. A big undertaking, and one that I feared I might never make time for in a way that it deserved. And I promised I would get back to you when a product could be purchased.

We are not quite there yet and I do not have a firm price yet, but there are a couple options I see. One, a book with all the details might cost in the \$100-\$125 area, arranged by my compiler. Or, two, since I will be given the computer file, I could customize a book for you, probably done at Staples, the cost of which is how much information you want. Or, three, I can send you a computer file that you can print out whenever you choose, the cost of this would be the cost of a flash drive and postage, perhaps \$20, or if by email (small size file) could be at no cost.

The difference in prices reflects the difference of a Teator Reunion size file or, at the upper end, the national Teter/Teator/Tator/Dater info with details and documentation. This can range from 25 pages to what is now several hundred pages and counting. As I wrote before, stay tuned and I will contact you when ready.

For now, email or call me if interested in the book option. (If I had more emails, I could contact interested people more easily.)

I have mailed a paper copy of this newsletter to everyone for whom I have mailing addresses. See list of names listed further on; I know there are many new families I do not have.

Every family mentioned in this list are receiving a copy of the large group photo, and those

of you attending are also receiving a copy of your line photo (Olin, Orlando, Nora, Norman, Willis, and Calvin).

**Now a note about emails.**

I am making an **additional newsletter** that contains all the group photos, in color, in an email in a pdf format, a format that almost all computers can open.

I am emailing this newsletter to those of you for whom I have an email address, and that list comes later in the newsletter. (I'd love to see it grow longer.)

Can I encourage anyone else to try the email system? **One**, those of you who receive the email, let me know how the email worked. **Two**, those of you for whom I do not have an email address, can I talk you into trying it? I will send you the newsletter email once I have your email. And **three**, I do not have contact with "younger" family, and I would be glad to email them information if someone can forward me their addresses. If you can help me obtain those addresses, thank you.

I will be posting the "fancier" newsletter on my web site. So, go to [dteator.com](http://dteator.com) and click on the Teator Reunion link. (I am in the process of updating so give me a couple months.)

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## **RAYMOND N. TEATOR – a son's eulogy**

... it's high time to spotlight one of those guys who never sought it – but always did what needed to be done - my Dad.

...Raised with a conservative streak post-depression and entering WWII on a dairy farm, he was surrounded by strong adult influences. They were ridiculously hard-workers my Grandma and Grandpa, Evelyn and Norm, and his Uncle Bill, my namesake. Providing not only for the challenges of their own farm, but second or third jobs. Helping tend to neighbors farms during crises or to get the haying done.

Yes, they raised four strong and successful children – Dad being the youngest born right there on the farm ...

And they took in family - like our beloved Linda ....

...Dad met Mom as she waitressed summers at Grandpa's bar "The Cabin" that was just up the hill here. It was summers in the mid-60s while she had finished her degree and just after she started teaching. The story telling over holiday dinners were some of the purest moments of laughter and togetherness I can remember.

The advantage for me would be to send you the same information for a lesser cost. And I hope to be able to reach more of you.

Let me know how it works. And, if I do email a Teator/Teter group, I will bcc (blind carbon copy) so that your privacy is protected.

I am guessing that many of you email recipients would be satisfied with a digital copy only.

Elsewhere in this newsletter are the obits for Norman and Ray. And Bill was kind enough to lend me his eulogy of his dad, parts of which I have duplicated for this newsletter. Anyone at the funeral heard a moving tribute. Those of us who have buried a parent, you know that saying good-bye to a parent is one of those benchmarks of life that will stay with us forever.

Thank you, Bill, for the loan, and you "did your Dad proud."

I will try to get out the next newsletter next spring or summer. Till then, I trust good health, patience, good will, helpful friends and family, and worthy adventures await you and yours.

...Dad wanted to be a State Trooper since he was a boy. ...

But after graduating Greenville High School, Dad wasn't tall enough. See, they had strict height and weight restrictions for the job. 6' minimum height. Dad was 5'10".

So what to do – well, besides continuing to rise at 4:30 am to help milk the cows – oh yeah, -unless he was on night shift – 530 am was sleeping in – Dad got on jobs drilling wells.

...What about the troopers? Finally, they lowered the height restriction to 5'10". ...

Even stationed as a newbie elsewhere in the State, he would be back home to the farm in Durham and help milk cows when shift allowed and hay in the summers.

...So how would this farm boy get from hours away on early Trooper assignments around Whitehall, Lake George, or down the Taconic parkway, to Durham -- every day – to still help with farm chores?

Well, he bought two massive Caddy convertibles in those years– cash. Full fins

and all – yellow was one he always described to me. ....

...Hopefully you're seeing a picture – Dad was kind of a rascal as a young man – but still a rock – doing his work, multiple jobs really – to contribute at home.

...Dad had an encyclopedic knowledge of the Yankees. And why not? He was born during the final years of Ruth and Gehrig. And came of age during the Dimaggio and Berra dynasty with the handoff to the Mick. ... Dad was most enthralled with the rebels. The Mick, Whitey Ford reminded him of his crew. And he admired the fighting spirit of Billy Martin. ...

While his stint on the Troopers only lasted five years – he helped on many occasions to serve and protect. ...as Eleanor Roosevelt was being laid to rest down the river in Hyde Park, JFK and Jackie were there with many world leaders. Notably pre substantial secret service protection, the Troopers were augmenting the detail. Dad was positioned near the President's limo as protesters of the day were at a barricade. As one broke the lines and headed toward them, Dad got right in front of the limo door. He knocked the first one out with a straight punch. He still loved Jackie rolling down the window and giving a demure "Thank you Trooper" as the President smiled over her shoulder.

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So how was he our rock?

He bought the house down the hill maybe 200 yards from the farm where he was literally born. And it's where he would pass away – after cutting his lawn one more time this past week - nearly 80 years later.

Dad had purchased the house in cash and took my Mom there unannounced. Imagine that today – hey, "Here's our house Honey!" Maybe not every girls dream, but in his spirit of providing.

...Dad was the guy who would show up with his pickup (a 1972 Snow-fighter – he plowed a lot of neighbors snow), to help people move. Like to Sharon's in Oneonta when she and Ken got married. He came with Bobby



Ray Teator, perhaps age 18

Cook to move her out of her apartment piling up the pickup and trucking up and down stairs with anything they could grab. He was powerful and could really haul stuff and toss around logs or tree stumps like nothing.

...During college and after, he would still give me \$40 or \$50 out of his wallet every time home - even if I refused. "You never know if you need emergency help on the road side."

...He was a giver – and a doer – actions and deeds. Not so much the words. That's what I needed to grasp.

You could see his pride and joy hosting his little girl's wedding in 1990 – and our high school graduations.

Dad had a steel memory – he was masterful remembering numbers and probably knew about everyone in the extended family anniversaries, dates of births, and deaths. Family was always on his mind. He has at his house now all of our anniversary and birthday cards lined up ready for this May through August.

...I remember how steadily he was by her [wife Barbara] side through a nearly ten-year on and off struggle with her rare cancer. And in the end, cared for her at home. When she finally succumbed and I was asking him about staying in touch and prodding him to travel more, he just said "Bill, we are different people – and that's okay."

One of the wisest and simplest things that finally registered with me – stop casting my goals or desires onto others.

The evidence of who he was – his cause - right there. I just had to look and accept him. These are the facts of a life well lived.

His cause was us – and his home. That's where he was content and aptly, where he left this earth to be in our Father's eternal Home. God speed Dad – until we see you again.

(To fit the space, I edited a bunch but hope I kept the essence. Contact Bill for the whole piece [bteator1@gmail.com ]).

## Teator/Teter Reunion Mailing List

(if you know other families and addresses, please consider letting me know)

Lawrence & Michele Armstrong	Phyllis & Cliff Richardson
Robert & Bonnie Armstrong	Jeff Rogers
Janet Armstrong	Glenna & John Ryan
Ken & Pat Baldwin	Rose Salisbury
Vernon & Kirsten Baldwin	Andrew & Bonny Sattler
Sky Ben	Roberta Soderblom
Brian & Delsia Brink	Adam Teator
Bonda Brink	Alfreda Teator & Bud Breyer
Ernest & Peggy Brink	Althea Teator
Linda & Jay Blank	Bradley & Marjorie Teator
Katherine Ceroalo	Darren Teator
Douglas & Pamela Dunavin	David & Connie Teator
Claudia & Gene Every	Donald & Debra Teator
William & Jennifer Hallock	Gary & Marjorie Teator
Sharon & Ken Hayner	Anita Teator
Robin & Robert Koochagian	Lynne Teator
Loretta & Robert Kudlack	Mark Teator
Nancy & James LaBarbera	Ron & Leona Teator
Charles Lynk	Stella Teator
Nancy & Robert Lynk	William & Kim Teator
Tamara S. Lynk	Amanda & Chris Stegner
June Monette	Wayne & Charlene Teter
Cindy & Wes Moore	Susan Weaver
Jennifer & Dann Ganzhorn	Jay Teator
Karin & Steve Page	Margaret & PeggySue Teator
Cindy & David Phillips	Lisa & Kevin MacNeill
Chod & Susan Radick	Alicia & Shawn Palmer
Herman & Susan Reinhold	Diane Ben
Hayden Reynolds	Holly & Devon Morrison
Mark & Kim Reynolds	Barbara Teter

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## Teator/Teter Reunion Email List

(Receiving the newsletter, plus extra pictures, by email)

If you can help with the email list, thank you

Bob Armstrong	Chod Radick
Sky Ben	Herman Reinhold
Claudia Every	Phyllis Richardson
Loretta Kudlack	Alfreda Teator
Nancy Lynk	Bill Teator
Karin Page	Ron Teator
Andrew Philips	Gary Teator
Cindy Philips	David Teator
David Philips	Wayne Teter

## Obit – Ray Teator

DURHAM – Raymond N. Teator passed into God's eternal kingdom on May 18, 2016 at his home in Durham, New York. Born September 22, 1936 at the then Teator-Atkinson dairy farm of Durham, he was predeceased by strong and loving parents, Evelyn (Atkinson) Teator and Norman Teator, his siblings Shirley (Teator) Ritter and Howard Teator, and his niece Linda (Turner) Ruocco and many aunts, uncles and dear friends. He is survived by his sister Janet (Teator) Armstrong of Cornwallville and sister-in-law Stella Teator of Acra.

Ray was a devoted husband to his wife of 39 years, Barbara (Kerr) Teator who passed away in 2005. Together they were caring and dedicated parents to Sharon (Teator) Hayner (Ken Hayner) and William Teator (Kim Parr Teator). Ray was a proud and loving grandfather to Jessica and Joshua Hayner of Halfmoon, and Kendra and Alexander Teator of Saratoga Springs. He is survived by a generation of nieces and nephews, Robert Armstrong, Jr. (Bonnie), Larry Armstrong (Michele), Claudia (Armstrong) Every (Gene), Jennifer (Armstrong) Ganzhorn (Dann), Gary Teator (Marjorie), Mark Teator (Pam), Darren Teator, Jay Teator and many grand nieces and nephews.

Ray was a graduate of Greenville High School class of 1955 and the New York State Police Academy class of 1962. He served as a State Trooper until 1967 when starting an independent trucking business. Ray rejoined law enforcement in 1982 as Greene County Sheriff's Deputy serving until his retirement in 1997. Ray was a life member of the BPOE, Catskill Lodge.

While never shy about expressing his opinion, Ray was always quick with wit, courteous toward the public he served, and ready to help those in need. Ray would hold court and make family, friends and happeners-by laugh. Known for telling it like it is, he was a staunch political observer supporting conservative candidates and causes, our individual liberties and holding a deep respect for those who serve in the military and law enforcement. He inspired an independent streak and "up by the boot straps" outlook with care and attention to the needs of your household, family and community. As a father and grandfather, underneath the tough exterior, he was always caring and concerned. From his childhood on the family farm, through time with beloved Barbara to helping his ailing father, wife, family and friends gone before him, Ray was a steady rock of support.

There were few more devout lifelong Yankee and baseball fans than Ray. Probably only missing a few games per season, he could recite game scenarios, plays and Yankee lore from all the dynasty eras of the beloved Pinstripes. He will be missed and his many sayings, quips and traits reminisced over for years to come. Thank you for tolerating "such foolishness" as this tribute to your lasting legacy!

Calling hours will be at A. J. Cunningham Funeral Home, 4898 State Route 81, Greenville, NY 12083 this Monday, May 23rd from 4pm to 8pm. A funeral service in his honor will be held Tuesday, May 24th at 10 am at the funeral home with internment to follow at the Teator family plot in Potter Hollow Cemetery, New York. The family welcomes memorial contributions to the Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. ([www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org) , C.O.P.S., PO Box 3199 Camdenton, MO 65020) supporting children and spouses of fallen law enforcement officers in Ray's honor. Condolences can be posted at [ajcunninghamfh.com](http://ajcunninghamfh.com).

## Obit – Norman Teator

Norman W. Teator, 78, of Valatie died Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at Barnwell Health.

Born August 25, 1937 in Poughkeepsie, NY, he was the son of the late Willis and the Frieda (Whitbeck) Teator. Norm was a Truck Driver for Long Oil in Ghent. He was a communicant of St. John the Baptist Church in Valatie, a member of the John J. Curran Council Knights of Columbus and the Valatie Santa Claus Club.

He is survived by four sisters, Alfreda Bryer of Florida, Rose Salisbury of Watervliet, June Monette of Albany and Pamela Dunavin of East Chatham, close friends Donna and John Zimmerman of Valatie and several nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Astrid (Fisher) Teator, a sister, Elsie LaBate and a brother Donald Teator.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Friday, 11:00 am at St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie, with Rev. George Fleming officiating. Burial will follow in St. John's Cemetery.

Calling hours will be Friday from 9-10:30am at the Raymond E Bond Funeral Home, 1015 Kinderhook St., Valatie. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Valatie Santa Claus Club, P.O. Box 601, Valatie, NY 12184.