

Teator / Teter Tree

Spring 1993

Newsletter #2

First, a thank you for the response to the first newsletter. Many calls and notes assured me that there was interest in continuing. Donations at the reunion were sufficient to cover the cost of this mailing and most of next. The plan for a spring and fall newsletter still stands.

Some of you have asked what drives me? It started somewhat innocently. Nora Baldwin had produced a family tree of John Teter with as much information as she could find, had it copied, and must have given it to a few others. I got my copy from my mother who had had it for almost ten years in 1985. "Wouldn't it be nice to know who John's father was, and where John is buried?" was my mother's occasional reminder. I fell for it, and with an interest in social history, a semi-addiction to games and puzzles, and a weakness for challenges, I started.

Norman Teator (Durham) had a lot of information about the people on the chart but nothing further back. I was stuck and needed another lead; my wild goose chase was on.

I called Ralph Teter of Preston Hollow who referred me to Lydia Von Linden of Fultonham, just south of Middleburgh. She was born a Teter, knew her genealogy back to a Calvin Teter and his father David, but had not heard of a John Teter. She did mention that her father mentioned a cousin Alec. Could it be that was our Alexander?

Next, a call to Walt Pearson provided the key link. His mother had had genealogy work done back in the 1920's, mostly on the Cantine genealogy. Part of this work was the Teter family, including the naming of John Teter and his father David. (heart pumping, hands sweaty) Was this the same David, father of Calvin? How do I prove it? (Many of the old genealogies have no or little documentation and have proven inaccurate on minor, or even major, details. Proof is vital.)

I had heard that the Columbia County Historical Society had many church records that might be useful. I travelled there, found the books which mercifully had been transcribed and indexed by Arthur Kelly of Rhinebeck, and found to my surprise that there were tens and even hundreds of Teators in the Hudson Valley in the 18th and 19th century. So, I copied the notes, not knowing if any of it would make sense.

Ironically, the first two pages of notes I copied would turn out to be John's father and grandfather's birth records!

The next stop was the NYS Library for census records. I would end up finding the families of Alexander, John, David, and Hendrick in due time (or should I say lots of time, dozens of hours, hundreds of miles, a few notebooks, tens of phone calls, and lots of help from people like you).

In the meantime, in 1987, Hank Jones of California had published a two volume book about the Palatine immigrants of 1710 to West Camp and East Camp (today's Germantown, Columbia County; West Camp in Ulster County still bears the same name.) I leafed through, hoping the Teators would be one of the 500 families that he documented. No Teator, no Teter, no Tator, no Dater. I did see Dather, and having never seen that spelling before, didn't hold out much hope but looked anyway. Voila! The Teators for the first three generations in America were documented, but a gap existed between Jones' third generation and the Hendrick Teter that I had found and believed to be David's father. I would spend the next year trying to make a link between the two ends. I'll save that story for another time because it gets long and involved and, quite truthfully, that's where my weakest link is.

So, I have folders and folders of material and documentation, some of it caused when I wanted to do my mother's side, then my grandmothers' sides, my wife's side, my great-grandmothers' sides, etc.

Luckily for my traveling expenses, I would find out that the Teator genealogy hunt is centered in Columbia and Dutchess Counties, with side trips to Albany and Rensselaer Counties, and because of our recent ancestry, to Schoharie and Greene Counties and the Town of Rensselaerville specifically.

This is a long-winded way to show you how I got here and to encourage anyone to recheck information and to add to what we know. And if it's not for the Teator genealogy, do it for another side of your family.

Feel free to stop in sometime and look at what I have collected over the past few years. Maybe this "affliction" will spread.

A CALL FOR RESEARCH

Reprinted below is a letter from **Mark and Kim Reynolds**:

"Perhaps others would be interested in the medical history of the family. Being parents for the first time, we have been answering our child's pediatrician to the best of our knowledge concerning family medical history. We would like to know more."

The importance of genetics as it relates to family medical history has gathered much attention in genealogy circles. Although I am interested in the topic and can share some information, maybe someone else could start gathering information about our medical histories and then report on it sometime. If interested, let me know and start working.

A caution: some people might consider this information to be confidential. Before stepping too far, let's make sure we're not stepping on toes.

Thanks, Mark & Kim, for your idea, and for a topic that reaches into the past and into our future.

QUERY

The query column will address questions mailed in. If of a general nature, the question and an attempt at an answer may be included in the newsletter, as is this one. Other questions either will be listed with a request for help or will be answered or referred individually if the question is of narrow scope.

What is the Teator/Teter connection to England? (**Karin & Steve Page**, 5790 Sunset View Ln, Frederick, MD 21701)

No direct links that I know of. The Teator immigrant of 1710 is Palatine, I believe. These Palatines traveled from current-day southwestern Germany down the Rhine to Holland, sailed to England, stayed for a couple months, and then sailed on to the "land of milk and honey" (America).

The first few generations tended to marry into other Palatine families. However, John Teter's wife is Lydia Richmond whose ancestry was recorded in 1897 by Joshua Bailey Richmond who traced the Richmond line back to the immigrant, John, who arrived at Taunton, RI about 1637 from Wiltshire, England.

The only other indirect connection I've come across is the Pearson (married Kittie Gillespie) ancestry from England.

I'm not aware of other connections. If anyone reading this has a different answer, or more information to add, please contact Karin.

RECIPES

The first issue featured Alfreda's broccoli salad. Now for another reunion winner, Katherine Brink's Waldorf Rice Salad.

Waldorf Rice Salad (Katherine Brink)

Ingredients

1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 tblspn sugar
3/4 cup whipped topping
1/2 cup slice celery
1 large red apple (cored & coarsely chopped)
1/3 cup walnuts
1/4 cup raisins
1 1/2 cup chilled, cooked converted rice

Directions

-combine mayo and sugar
-fold in whipped topping
-fold in all other ingredients

Serves six

(I need more recipes for this column. If you have a favorite family recipe, whether it be appetizer, main course, salad, or dessert, please consider sharing it. Otherwise, you'll read about my peanut butter & jelly sandwich!)

VITALS

The vitals section will note births, marriages and deaths of Teator/Teter family members. If I've missed any since the reunion, let me know (include names, dates, places and other appropriate details).

Birth

Marissa Evelyn Teator; born August 27, 1992; to Gary and Margie; at Vassar Hospital, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Death

Bradley Teator, Sr., December 1, buried Winston Cemetery (East Durham), Town of Durham, Greene County, NY.

FAMILY SKETCH

(A thank you goes to Nancy Radick Lynk for the following article.

The purpose of these sketches is to "flesh out" the names and places of our family history. I hope that each of you consider writing your own sketch, of your own family or of another family member. Even brothers and sisters, despite coming from the same family, have their own memories and perspectives, thus remembering a family a little differently.

For those of you hesitant to write, please make notes and have someone write those notes into a sketch. For our newsletter, I am willing to turn your notes into a sketch, should you so choose.

On to Nancy's story!)

Robert and Nancy (Radick) Lynk

Thanks to the snowy winter of 1993, Bob and I were able to cross-country ski at Partridge Run on trails we had never explored. On one occasion, we found ourselves in a little cemetery on Bradt Hollow Road. There we discovered a stone marking the graves of George and Dorothy Turner, my mother's great-grandparents. Their lives overlapped those of John and Lydia Teter, my father's great-grandparents.

Off our skis and in the car, we eased our way down Cheese Hill. Perhaps we passed John Teter's first home.

Our next stop was the Brookside Cemetery in Preston Hollow. Despite the knee-deep snow, it was easy to locate the final resting place of my parents, my grandparents (both sets), and my great-grandparents, Charles and Angeline Teter Radick. Our goal had been the grave of May Radick White. Either it was covered by snow, or it's in another location.

Preston Hollow has been in my thoughts a great deal of late. It appears to have been the home of Radicks (or perhaps I should say Teters) for five generations. My brother, Charles Zina, and his family live in the house I once called home.

When I read the family sketch of Howard and Stella Teator in the fall Teator/Teter Tree, I thought how similar our childhoods were. I was born a year before Howard grew up, five miles from his house and have yet to meet him. Perhaps we'll compare notes at the next reunion.

Like Howard, I was born at home. Home was the house "up on the hill," at the end of Mercer Road which crosses the Catskill Creek near West Winds. I was delivered by my grandfather, Dr. Charles Shultes,

and I wonder if he delivered Howard and other Teators as well.

We had electricity and a furnace in the basement, but no refrigerator and the plumbing was out-of-doors. There was a privy behind the house and a well with an "old oaken bucket" in the front yard. Solid waste was no problem; left-over food was fed to the chickens or pigs. Old papers were used to start the fire in the kitchen stove or could have been burned in the furnace. The ashes were sprinkled on the dirt road for traction.

Sometime before World War II, we moved into the house in the village where my brother lives. We still used an outhouse, but we had a hand pump in the kitchen. There was no furnace, just an acorn stove in the dining room and a wood stove in the kitchen. In the winter, we closed off part of the house. In the summer, mother cooked on a kerosene stove in the summer kitchen.

Cleanliness meant a Saturday night bath in an oval enamel bathtub in front of the wood stove in the kitchen. (Sometimes I went down to Grandma and Grandpa Shultes' for my bath; they had a bathroom with black fixtures.) A furnace, running water, a modern kitchen and bathroom were installed after "the war", when I was a sophomore in high school.

Like Howard, I grew up on a dairy farm. My chores included "getting the cows" for the evening milking. Most of the milk was shipped out in milk cans, but some of it was sold to neighbors who came to the house with pint and quart buckets.

Sometimes I helped "make hay." I remember a horse running away with me on a hay rake after we went through a bees' nest. We never owned a tractor, but I did have three ponies, Dolly and Molly and Peanuts.

My elementary education was in the one-room schoolhouse in Preston Hollow. Again there were outhouses and no running water. There was no kindergarten. My class completed eight grades in seven years. I've always been proud that I got 100 on my eighth grade Regents exam in arithmetic.

The Middleburgh Central School Class of 1948 included 10 students from Preston Hollow. On July 10, I'll be reuniting with David Elsbree, Evelyn Hess Mackey, and Carolyn Cooke Salisbury who may be known to several Teators. For awhile, Donald Teator also made that 14-mile ride to school on good old bus #7. I believe he worked for Carolyn's parents, Leland and Dorothy Cooke.

Growing up in Preston Hollow was like living in a park. There were hills for skiing, tobogganing,

bobsledding, and just plain riding down, which I loved. We rode down Cheese Hill, Travis Hill, and the Fox Creek Road as well as the many open fields. We skated on the creek and on the flats when they flooded and froze. We fished and swam in every "hole" in the Catskill Creek.

Pleasant memories of picking a variety of wild berries, pussy willows, violets, and May flowers persist. I also remember going to baseball games with my father who was a Sodbuster and going to the fairgrounds in Cairo where he exercised and raced standardbred horses.

I shudder when I look at tractor trailers on Route 145 and remember riding my bike with balloon tires to Potter Hollow and Oak Hill by way of Durham. The goal was an ice cream cone at Carrie Bates' in Potter Hollow or an Eskimo Pie at Woodie's in Oak Hill. (Ice cream in the refrigerator or freezer compartment was not commonplace.)

As an adolescent, I looked forward to round and square dances at the Potter Hollow Grange Hall. I also benefitted from experiences provided by the Baptist Church choir, the Akita Fellowship, and the Monclova 4-H Club.

Esther (Peter) Elsbree may never know how much she affected my life. She organized a 4-H Club during World War II. We collected scrap metal for the war effort and milkweed pods for kapok jackets. We had victory gardens, canned fruits and vegetables, made the most of what we had, and sewed, which I really enjoyed.

College had never interested me until my mother suggested that I might go to Cornell University, study home economics, and become a 4-H Club agent. That is what I did, graduating in 1952. I was employed as an assistant county 4-H club agent in Otsego County (1952-1953), Saratoga County (1953-1955), and Rensselaer County (1955-1957).

Bob Lynk came into my life at the Ballston Fair. He was teaching vocational agriculture in the South Glens Falls Central School. His F.F.A. boys had an exhibit in the 4-H Club building at the fair.

Bob, who is the son of Charles and Ruth Dygert Lynk, was born in Amsterdam and grew up on a dairy farm in Leesville. His brother and nephew own and operate the farm which has been in the family for six generations.

Bob attended a one-room school for grades one through three. Then he rode the bus to the Sharon Springs Central School where he earned letters in baseball, basketball, track, and soccer.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell in 1954. We were married in August of 1955, and a month later he was one of the artillery men helping to keep the peace in North Korea. Participating in the ROTC while at Cornell, he became a commissioned officer (second lieutenant) when he graduated. He taught long enough for us to meet and was called to active duty in the spring of 1955.

After his tour of duty, Bob was admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. I worked his way through college as an assistant editor for the College of Home Economics (now the College of Human Ecology) and writing press releases and radio scripts and participating in tape recorded interviews with the faculty. Some of those interviews were broadcast by WGY on the "Farm Paper of the Air" hosted by Don Tuttle.

In 1958, we pooled our resources with my parents and purchased a very small lot and dilapidated cottage on Crystal Lake. We have since purchased adjacent property. We are not well-travelled, but slip up to the lake as often as possible from April through October. Just as we try to stay upright on skis in the winter, we try to do the same on sailboard in the summer. We do a better job of paddling our canoe.

In 1961, when Bob was approaching graduation, Dr. Thurman C. Vaughn, Jr., offered him a position in his practice in Clarksville. Bob was quick to accept the opportunity to work with a fine veterinarian in a practice near both of our families and the lake.

By 1963, the practice had outgrown the animal hospital in Clarksville. A new hospital was built in Delmar and we purchased the house that is our home today.

In 1985, Bob and 26 other veterinarians established the Emergency Animal Hospital in Latham. That facility, an answering service, and a staff of 15 at the Delmar Animal Hospital provide us with a far more enjoyable life style than was the case in 1961 when the business telephone rang in our house and Bob worked all weekend, every other week, and was called out on large and small animal emergencies all hours of the day and night.

Today, he is "commissioner" of a 16-church softball league and bowls in two leagues where he averages 195 and 202. In 1985, he won a color tv set on show 1000 of "TV Tournament Time." Howard Tupper came out of retirement to host that show. Bob also is an ardent Yankee fan and active Cornell alumnus.

All three of our children were born in the Albany Medical Center Hospital and graduated from the

Bethlehem Central High School. Robin and Tammy were inducted into the National Honor Society. Robin's high school activities included cheerleading, tennis, and the senior play, "Anything Goes." Tammy was active in student government and swam on several swim teams. Charlie was co-captain of the school's football team, but his real love was/is ice hockey. All three of them were on softball and/or baseball teams.

Robin Brewster, who was born in 1961 and entered kindergarten in 1966, has been a student ever since. She graduated from high school in 1979 and from Cornell University's College of Human Ecology in 1983. In 1984, she earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania where she hopes to receive a PhD degree in psychology in December. Human sexuality is her area of specialization.

Shortly after beginning her studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Robin met a fellow student, Robert Koochagian, the son of Armen and Adrienne Kalfaian Koochagian. Robin and Robert were married in 1985. In 1992, they presented us with our first grandchild, Kyle Robert. The happy family lives in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where Bob, a civil engineer, works with the project management firm of O'Donnell and Naccarato.

Tamara Susan was graduated magna cum laude from Springfield College in 1985. She majored in corporate fitness and accepted a position with the YMCA in Honolulu. She returned from that island paradise in 1989. After a year at the Albany Hilton, she moved to Worcester, Massachusetts in 1990. She kept moving east, arriving in Boston in 1991. Currently, she lives in a loft in South Boston and works as a waitress for the Marriott Corporation and for Brigham's, a restaurant near the Government Center. She devotes a considerable portion of her time and talent to the Aquarian Foundation, a new age religion.

Charles Matthew was awarded an associate's degree from the SUNY College of Technology at Canton in 1986. In 1990, he received a bachelor's degree from the SUNY College at Brockport where he majored in physical education. He had many good experiences, including hockey trips to Lake Placid, Chicago and Europe.

In the spring of 1990, he was in considerable demand as a substitute teacher of physical education, but he decided to establish a business of his own. Charlie is Suburban Housepainting. He paints inside and out, power washes houses, and does an excellent job with wallpaper, too. In the summertime, his cousin, Keith Radick, works with him.

Charlie continues to play hockey. He also enjoys skiing, both downhill and cross-country. By the time this letter comes out, his address will have changed from Delmar to Guilderland. If anyone wants him to give them an estimate on a painting or papering job, we'll relay the message. Our number is (518) 439-3948.

In 1981, with Robin in college and Tammy and Charley headed in that direction, I returned to the labor force. I am employed by Cornell University and work in downtown Albany, where I try to stay abreast of what's happening in state government that could affect the University. The Capitol and the Legislative Office Building are my beat.

Primarily because of the resources available to me at work, I chair the Legislation/Resolutions Committee of the New York State Home Economics Association. This year, I am completing a three-year term as a deacon in the Delmar Presbyterian Church.

Don Teator deserves a big thank you for the information he has provided about our common ancestors and relatives. On the enclosed sheet, I have plotted my side of the family in a slightly different fashion that Don uses. I hope he'll forgive me for using villages, when I've known them, rather than townships. I did not mention second marriages as none of them produced any descendants of John Teter.

It was Don who solicited this piece. Here's hoping you enjoy it as much I enjoyed the one about Howard and Stella. The primary difference I notice between our lives is that of the uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers and sisters Howard had. I had no such relatives until my brother was born when I was almost fifteen. Blessed with four wonderful grandparents, I never realized what I was missing.

- Nancy Lynk

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS

Family group sheets were included with most of the first newsletters. Please update and/or correct information for my files. I have received a few already but suspect a few more need to be revised. Especially wanted are dates and places of births, marriages, and deaths. In addition, I'd like to include the names of parents and grandparents for people marrying into the Teator line.

HISTORY

(This column will explain some aspect of history and/or genealogy as it pertains to the Teator family.)

What is the correct way to spell Teator?

The answer appears obvious at first:

T-E-A-T-O-R.

But, a digging through records, especially church records, reveal that we could just as easily spell "Teator" any one of four dozen ways. Following, in alphabetical order, are alternatives I've found and the earliest date I have found that spelling.

Daether 1816	Tator 1807
Dater 1744	Tater 1764
Dather 1710	Teater 1772
Deder 1760	Teator 1805
Dedhardt 1765	Teder 1717
Deeter 1787	Tedter 1772
Deter 1743	Teeter 1722
Dether 1777	Teetor 1788
Detter 1744	Teter 1754
Dider 1774	Tetor 1834
Didter 1761	Tettor 1827
Dieder 1715	Thater 1715
Dieter 1718	Theder 1745
Diethardt c1730	Theeter 1754
Diether 1804	Tidter 1772
Ditter 1761	Tieter 1778
Dittert 1743	Titer 1764
Dittor 1823	Titor 1823
Doder c1730	Titter 1799
Dodter 1745	Tittor 1825
Doher c1730	Toder 1749
Dother 1697	Todter 1750
Dotter 1708	Toeder 1750
Taetor 1818	Toedter 1752

Why so many spellings?

Widespread public education is the key answer. As soon as most people could read and write in America, which generally happened during the mid-19th century, the spelling of names (and other words) became standardized. Quite simply, since many of our ancestors were farmers and had no special need to know how to read and write, most were illiterate into the mid-1800's, at least by our standards.

Thus, when our forebears had their children christened or were married (probably in a Lutheran or

Dutch Reformed Church), and were asked their names, and since they probably spoke German for the first few generations, and since they could not spell their name ('twas of no significance yet), and since the person recording the answer did so in English (most of the time), Latin, or Dutch, many combinations of spellings occurred. One person hearing the same word could spell that word (name) differently from the next person hearing the same word.

In German, the d and t are very close in sound. In addition, the recorders must have had a difficult time agreeing on the same vowels. Thus, most of the spellings above are really variations of the d and t, as well as a vowel change. Even within the same family, the name is recorded differently. John Teter's grandfather's family had five different spellings for eight children! Not until John Teter's adult years did the spelling stay with Teter and even then his son Alexander changed the spelling that most of us use today. Alexander's daughter Mary even changed back to Teter!

So, what is the correct spelling for Teator? I, for one, will not be presumptuous to give an answer. My awareness for the variety of spellings is the reason for the spellings in the newsletter title and, should anyone ever expand to the immigrant, would have to wrestle with title spellings since four or five major spellings still exist. But that's another topic for another newsletter.

1994 REUNION

Responses thus far from the questionnaire and from phone calls are showing support for a similar type reunion for the next time. Jot down other ideas and share them with someone who will be on the organizing committee.

1994 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The organizing committee for the 1994 reunion should consider meeting during the fall or winter (after the next newsletter?). Last time, we tried to have at least one representative from the lines of Olin, Orlando, Norman, Nora, and Willis Teator; the Radicks; and the Pearsons. We met once to get general things done and met one more time to get details arranged. A few phone calls in between handled small things that came up.

If you'd like to be one of your line's representatives, contact me and I'll note your good times to meet.

SOME DESCENDANTS OF JOHN TETER(1) AND LYDIA RICHMOND GENERATION I

GENERATION II
(Radick) **Angeline C. Teter (3)**

b. November 26, 1849
Town of Broome
d. March 10, 1908
i. Preston Hollow
m. 1873
Charles Radick
b. July 3, 1852
d. March 10, 1936

KEY: b. Born
d. Died
m. Married
i. Interred

GENERATION III
(Radick)

Zina Benjamin (15)
b. December 1, 1878
Town of Rensselaerville
d. January 8, 1946
i. Preston Hollow
m. December 21, 1903
Mary Caroline Dingman
b. March 5, 1876
d. Spring, 1957

Norman J. (16)
b. January 19, 1881
Town of Rensselaerville
d. March 4, 1962
i. Potter Hollow
m. June 18, 1903
Jesse Mae Thorne

May (or Mae) (?)
m. George (?) White

(no children)

(no children)

GENERATION IV
(Radick)

Charles Arthur (45)
b. May 8, 1905
Preston Hollow
d. May 11, 1985
i. Preston Hollow
m. October 11, 1928
Doris Shultes
b. September 20, 1906
d. January 13, 1971

GENERATION V
(Radick)

Nancy Ann (98)
b. March 3, 1931
Preston Hollow
m. August 27, 1955
Robert Eugene Lynk
b. November 12, 1932
Amsterdam

Charles Zina (99)
b. January 9, 1946
Catskill
m. December 30, 1978
Susan M. Brown Perry
b. August 10, 1950

GENERATION VI
(Radick)

Children of **Charles Zina (99)**
and Susan M. Brown Perry
Keith William Perry (146)
b. December 7, 1971
Germany
Courtney Suzanne (147)
b. September 9, 1980
Niskayuna
Zachary Charles Brewster
(148)
b. April 16, 1982
Niskayuna

GENERATION VI
(Lynk)

Robin Brewster (143)
b. October 22, 1961
Albany
m. August 17, 1985
Robert V. Koochagian
b. April 2, 1962
Sussex, New Jersey

Tamara Susan (144)
b. June 1, 1963
Albany

Charles Matthew (145)
b. January 3, 1966
Albany

GENERATION VII
(Koochagian)

Kyle Robert (?)
b. February 3, 1992
Doylestown, Pa.