

Box 2188  
Orlando, Florida 32802

May 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Pennington,

Your letter finds me without my files -- they are in New York State. However, I'll attempt a brief sketch of the events and people who produced and may have influenced the thinking of Cyrus Read Teed, a distant kinsman of my mother's.

As you indicate, he was born at Teedville, Town of Tompkins in the substantial squared log house ( lathed and plastered inside, weatherboarded on the outside, four fireplaces) built in 1804 upon the marriage of my great-great-great grandparents John van Cortlandt Teed and Frances Jennings Teed. Cyrus Teed's grandfather Jesse ( c. 1778, Schenectady- ca. 1855, Moravia) was John's younger brother. Their parents Samuel Bayard Teed (1743, Huntington, L.I. 1809, Teedville) and Maria Reneaux (1753, Schenectady-1828, Teedville) settled on several lots in the Rapalje Patent in 1788. Traditionally, the Teed's had been substantial millers in Huntington, L.I., 1652-1764, and in Bergen Co. New Jersey 1764-ca. 1890) and in Orange Co. New York from the 1740's on. Andrew (1718- ca. 1800) father of Samuel acquired additional substance through his marriage to Rachel Pell, daughter of a mercantile family in New York. Each of Andrew's sons was given an opportunity to establish himself. The daughters married well. Of the lot, Samuel was least successful, was apparently unwell for many years, chose the least desirable land in which to invest his patrimony, seems not to have been overly ambitious, but -- married a superior woman, Maria, granddaughter of Heinrich and Catharine Liebeschonen Reneaux who emigrated from Alsace to the Mohawk Valley in the 1720's. Typical of the Anglo-Dutch Teed's, the oldest son was given a dominant social-economic role; the others were provided funds to migrate away from the family's home area. John stayed in Teedville, (Jesse moved to Seneca County where his mother's family were well placed -- also in Schuyler County; Samuel Jr. was an M.D. and located in Utica where it is said Jesse spent some time; Henry, a merchant, moved on to the Western Reserve in Ohio where he prospered; Jeremiah went to Tompkins County and on to Genesee where his descendents met with much success; the invalided Solomon stayed home and was provided for by his parents and oldest brother; Amos was a more than prosperous farmer in Masonville who's descendents were well qualified physicians out of the area, Catharine married the Rev. Joseph Bowers and removed from the area; Francis Reneaux married locally, worked in the Teed Mills, died young and left issue who removed to Florida early in its history.

Of the above, Jesse seems to have been the problem child. He was a millwright, clever mechanically, not an apt manager. I believe he married a member of the prominent Sears family of Groton/Dryden, Tompkins County. He spent time in Utica, I suspect working at the Bleecker/Williams iron foundry; set up his own mills and foundry at Moravia and prospered -- losing his property late in life. His son, Jesse Sears Teed returned to Delaware County, reason unknown to me. I suspect he worked as millwright/superintendent at the Postwick/law grist, saw and textile mills in the town of Meredith -- owned by my father's family.



While in Meredith, ca. 1835, he married Sarah Ann, Daughter of the Rev. Oliver Tuttle, pastor of either the Baptist or Presbyterian Church at Meredith Square -- an indeed beautiful village in its day. (She and her New England antecedents were anathema to the Episcopalian, Tory, Anglo-Dutch Teeds. I have papers which indicate the Jesse Teed descendents received advances on their inheritance from trustees.) I know little of the life of Jesse Sears Teed and his wife Sarah Tuttle. Their son Cyrus was born during their short residence in Teedville, and I believe married Malinda Bullock Jackson, daughter of Charles P. and Malinda Bullock Jackson -- cousins to the Teed's and Jennings, and also to my maternal grandmother Minerva Huntington Crary as Mrs. John Bullock was Anne Saltonstall Huntington. The Jackson inheritance did not go to the Cyrus Teed's. It passed through Aunt Mary Ann Teed Jackson and her husband John M. Whitney, M.D. (Yale) to my family and I have most of their possessions.

✓ ☆ My maternal grandfather, Chester Brown Teed mentioned to me that Cyrus had visited Trout Creek as late as the turn of the century trying to get my great-grandfather John Bayard Teed to help him buy lands in Florida. He was refused. As you know Cyrus' son Douglas Arthur Teed was a moderately competent painter and a member of the National Academy -- his 'Walled Jerusalem' is visible to me as I write. Cyrus did purchase a large tract of land at Estero, Florida -- which I visited last month. If you want information and pictures, write to Gerard Wertkind or Hedwig Michel, Koreshan Unity, Estero (Estero Beach?), Fla. They have his papers and possessions. I've found them apt in asking for information and reluctant to share. I'm sure you know the Chicago connections of Cyrus.

☆ Now, I've exhausted my meager store of fact and as an historian will advise you what I think. Teedville was an infertile, isolated, rural environment. Samuel Teed's investment was not well advised. Shrewdness and hard labor made prosperity possible for very few. Capt. John Teed and his dynamic wife, Frances Jennings (aunt to W.H. Seward) paid off and pushed out Capt. John's siblings. Socially and economically she greatly ranked over her sisters-in-law. Through the Philadelphia timber trade they and their sons became very well off. Again, their eldest, Samuel Jennings Teed III (1804-1888) inherited, the others were given ample starts and sent away. Samuel III married Elizabeth Cabot Curtis (1815, Boston - 1914, Teedville) -- they owned the large timber mills, including a steam mill which I suspect Jesse Sr. set up for them or which Jesse Sears Teed built for them during his stay there -- at the time said to be down on his luck. Samuel III was a money lender as his father and grandfather had been before him -- they didn't want the Jesse branch cluttering their turf. ☆ Samuel III and Elizabeth had one child -- when a family becomes well off they do not need the labor of a large family, they hire. He, John Bayard Teed was Harvard, married a Manhattan Dutch wife Julia Monfort Rapalje Brown, had a large family of daughters who were Oberlin, Smith, Wellesley who owned Delaware County property but were raised and educated and married in Albany and New York. The sons were sent to law and medicine and made their lives elsewhere. Grandfather inherited the Delaware County property and as eldest son did participate in management and renting of the farms and in banking in Sidney and Unadilla. As he told me, "it was all over when the railroads were too distant for economical provision of goods and services, and with the decline of the agricultural economy there was no money in the timber and grain business". My mother's generation were raised elsewhere and encouraged to stay there. I, in turn, am the youngest of my generation, was born and raised abroad -- father was Director of the NACA/NASA; mother was a professor --



and perhaps because of my complete separation from the family's origins was a more keen and interested observer than those who came before me.

I was always curious about Cyrus because he was quite lightly treated by my distinguished and well placed great-aunts and their spouses, whom I knew well and loved. However, I knew they lived in a very privileged late nineteenth-century manner, not necessarily the world in which I and my parents lived! Further, I believe the family -- descendants of Capt. John, my branch -- were critical of the religious preoccupations of the descendants of Maria Reneaux; too many Baptists and schismatics for their taste!

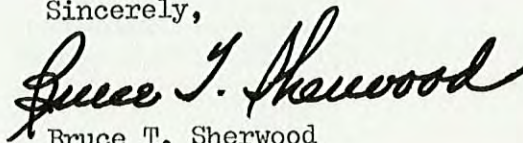
Carl and Betty Carmer were dear friends of the family. Carl's statements to the effect we were related to Joseph Smith --by his admittance at a later date -- were not clearly stated in Dark Trees.... Rather, I believe, the connection -- and I've never fully documented it -- was through the Cady's, the Rev. Oliver Tuttle's antecedents.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to ask. I'll likely not know the answers, but might direct you to possible answers.

Lastly, I suspect you are either a B.A. or M.A. candidate -- Brockport is a college town. I'm B.A. Cornell; MA. Harvard and Cooperstown Graduate Programs; Ph. D. Cornell -- for many years a Director at the H.F. du Pont Winterthur Museum; Coordinator and Professor in the Winterthur Program; former Director of Historic Preservation for the State of New York; consultant to many museums and restorations and Director of the Historic Preservation Commission here -- where I live because of people and property. I do have a healthy interest and background in NYS history.

With best regards to you in your quest, I remain,

Sincerely,



Bruce T. Sherwood

bs

Please excuse the typing, I'm too used to dictating and the cwpm's have slipped greatly!



S. 26. 81  
Box 2188  
Orlando 32802

Dear Mr. Pennington,

Your most welcome letter came with the day's mail. After years of answering questions -- mostly too long letters -- from the multitude who profess an interest in Cyrus Teed, I am truly pleased that one came through and so-to-speak, got it together.

I'm enclosing a xerox of your typescript with a few minor corrections, which I think presents an entirely adequate picture of Cyrus Teed's origins. A few items that occur to me as I read your manuscript are: the Teeds were highly literate and far better educated than most of the Delaware County settlers; Rutger Bleecker was my mother's gt.gt. uncle and Henry Williams was brother to my gt.gt. grandmother Martha Hazard Williams (Mrs. Elijah Lyman Atherton) I suspect Jesse Teed may have felt "ground down" by the aristocratic Bleeckers -- his Uncle and cousin Samuel Francis Reneaux Teed lived across the street from the Bleeckers and Williams families; and at last I know, thanks to you, why Cyrus quite a part from his religious beliefs was anathema to the descendants of Capt. John Teed. The Teeds are quite reticent, had a tradition of marrying well and most certainly lived very well by comparison to the Delaware County standard. The descendants of Jehoiakim Rowe of Meredith were/are not a particularly strong lot -- mentally or physically; the role of caste & class in a rural society. I always thought my family were really "harsh" on Cyrus and particularly his wife and children. It all adds up.

I have heard that Cyrus Teed's daughter taught in the Orlando High School for many years and was at one time it's principal. She had a substantial home on Palmer Street, now in the historic district. Strangely, descendants of Solomon came to live in Orlando and remain here. I have not met them, although one called to enquire about Teed genealogy.

As far as Cyrus character and values are concerned, I would wonder about the impact of his early years in Del. Co. and Moravia. I suspect it would have been difficult for the family to live, always, in the shadow of relatives who were very well provided for, when they were not well off. Such would have been the case in T.C. (Capt. John and Samuel Jennings Teed III, were very well off), in Moravia (The Carpenters, the Teed family in Trumansburg, the Ellis'es, Me Graws, -- benefactors of Cornell -- and the South worths in Dryden); in Genesee (Barnards and Wadsworths), and to the south of Ithaca the wealthy and distinguished Reneaux great-uncles. My grandfather implied the old uncles may have helped the Jesse's fund their mills and foundrys.

Enough of family and the past -- I would enjoy reading your manuscript and I assure you I can proof-read better than I can type!

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely,  
Bruce T. Greenwood

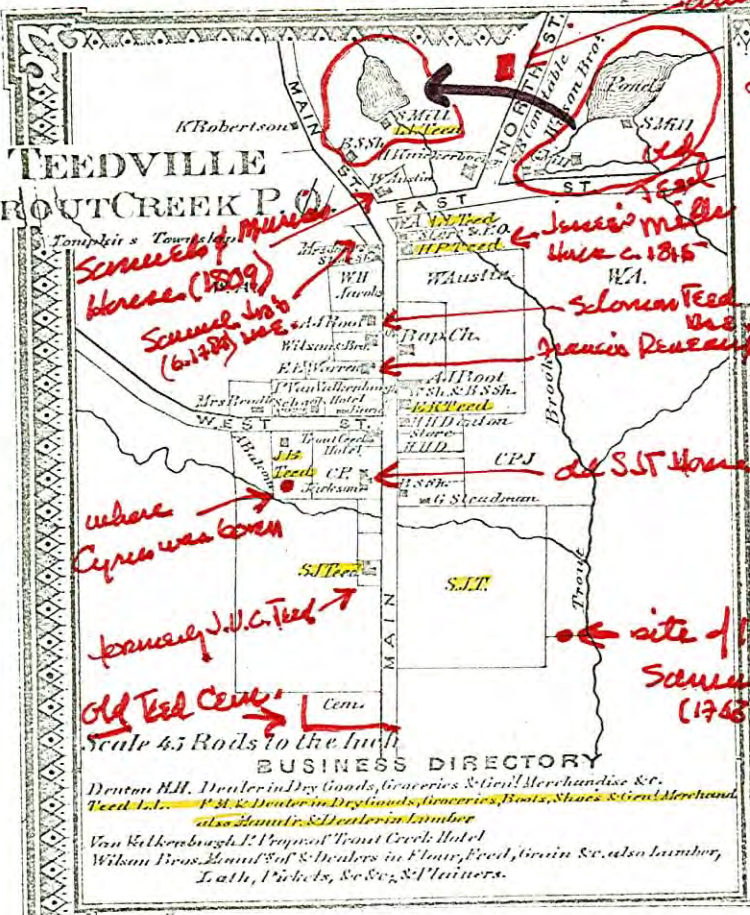
Cecil Cameron was the ultimate story teller -- he occasionally made fair sense his purpose. A.T.S.



6.1804 6.1806  
SJT & LJT = Curtis

1. Beers Atlas - 1867(?)

duos (1781) Teed's House



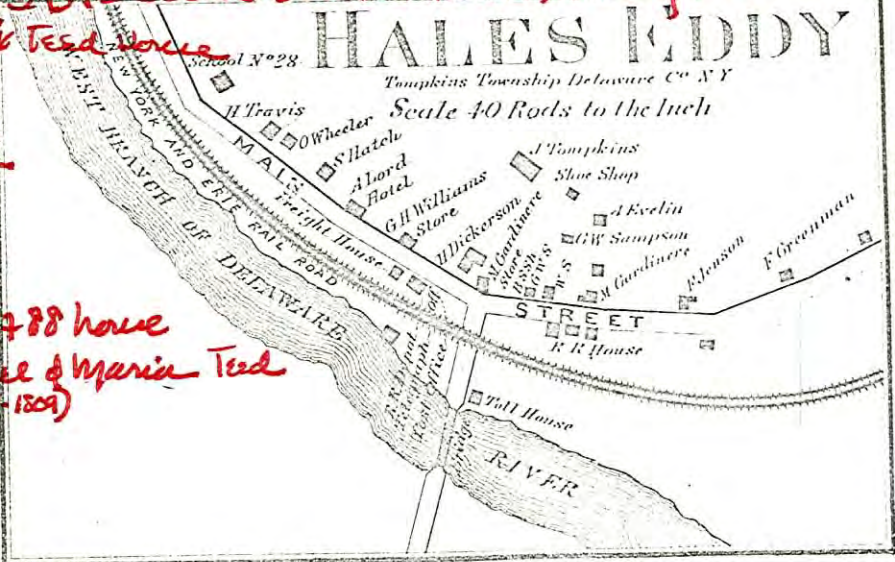
22 = Jobbens Lathrup Teed

HP = "

son Henry Page Teed

EK = Alanson Knapp Teed, son of Jobbens

SJT = Samuel Jennings Teed - son of John V.C.  
JBT = John Bisbee Teed, son of SJT

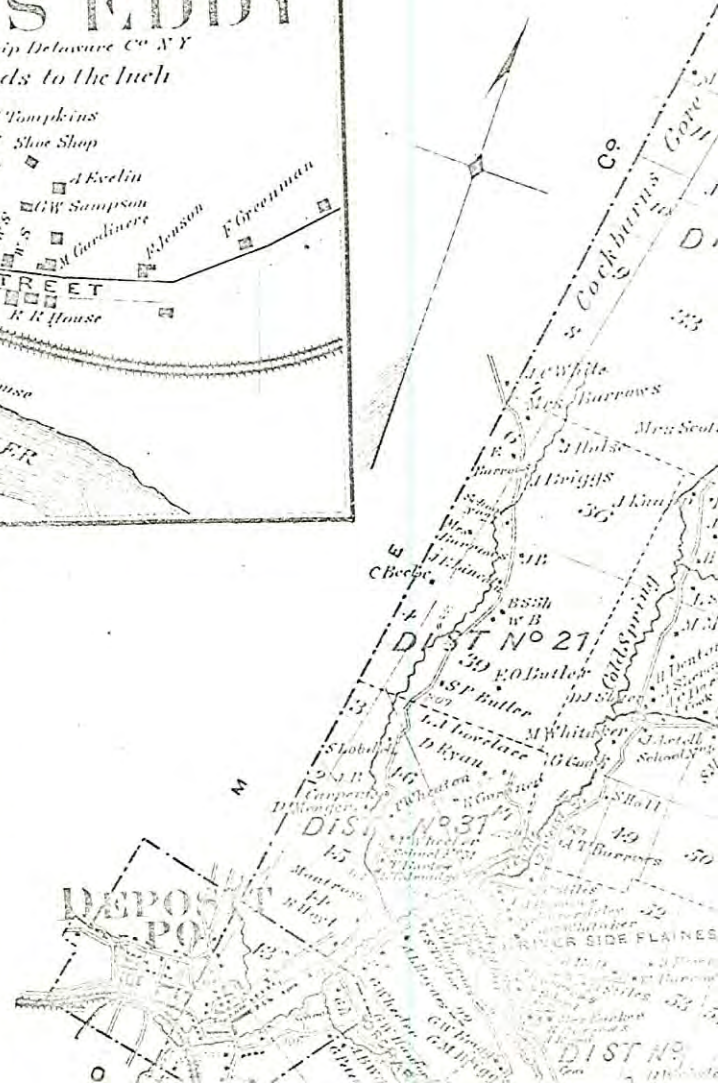


T O M

Scale 1 In

# CANNONSVILLE

Tompkins Township Delaware Co NY  
Scale 30 Rods to the Inch





1.

## TEEDVILLE

or TROUT CREEK P. O.

Tompkins Township

Scale 45 Rods to the Inch

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Denton H.H. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries & Genl Merchandise &c.  
 Teed J.L. P.M. & Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes & Genl Merchandise  
 also Stationer & Dealer in Lumber

Van Valkenburgh P. Proprietor Trout Creek Hotel  
 Wilson Bros. Shunt & Dealers in Flour, Feed, Grain &c. also Lumber,  
 Lath, Poles, &c. &c. & Planners.

## HALES FIDDY

Tompkins Township Delaware Co NY

Scale 40 Rods to the Inch

Scale 40 Rods to the Inch

## CANNONSVILLE

Tompkins Township Delaware Co NY

Scale 30 Rods to the Inch

Scale 30 Rods to the Inch

T



....Koresh was born with the more mundane name of Cyrus Romulus Teed on October 18, 1839. No miracle coincided with his birth except the miracle of another child born in the hilly ~~wilderness~~ of New York's Delaware County. He was born "on a farm where the road widened out" (Bickel:266) in a small hamlet village along the rippling Trout Creek by which the town today has derived its name. When Cyrus was born it was called Teedville.

\* War of 1812  
Among the first of the Teed's to arrive in Delaware County was "Captain" John van Cortlandt Teed and his younger brother Jesse (c. 1778, Schenectady-ca. 1855 Moravia), Cyrus' grandfather. Their parents, Samuel Bayard Teed (1743, Huntington, L.I.-1809, Teedville) and Maria Reneaux (1753, Schenectady-1828, Teedville) had invested in several lots in the Rapalje Patent in 1788 and had moved their family from Huntington, Long Island where traditionally the Anglo-Dutch family had been substantial millers since 1652. Maria was the grand-daughter of Heinrich and Catharine Liebeschonen Reneaux who had emigrated from Alsace to the Mohawk Valley in the 1720's. She was a superior woman who apparently managed affairs well enough to pull the family through in spite of Samuel's apparent lack of ambition and his years of illness. It further appears that it was through the Reneaux line that future Teed's developed a propensity for the Baptist Church and schismatism of various sorts, perhaps culminating in the religious views of Cyrus.

Life in Teedville was difficult. The soil was infertile and their settlement isolated. Shrewdness and hard labor

made prosperity possible for very few. Captain John Teed, as was his right as oldest son, paid off and pushed out his siblings. His marriage to Francis Jennings helped as her social and economic status greatly ranked <sup>TEED</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>that of</sup> her sisters-in-laws.

It has been recorded that their father, Samuel Teed, on April 3, 1798 was elected along with several other men to be an "overseer of highways" at a town meeting in nearby Walton, a town of some substance. Lebbeus Teed, John's son, we are told, was a prominent and substantial farmer and lumberman. An early map of Teedville describes an L.L. Teed as "Postmaster, and Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes and General Merchandise; also Manufacturer and Dealer in Lumber." \* (The map records the initials of several other Teed's in the area, yet who and what they were is unknown. There is also no record of how each were related to the others so we are often uncertain of their relationship to Cyrus. \*)

*I know them all if you want them.*

Cyrus' grandfather was not long in Teedville. It was typical for the Teed family to give the oldest son the dominant social-economic role while the others politely migrated away from the home area. Thus, provided with funds to begin anew, Jesse and a half dozen brothers scattered, all hopeful in establishing homes of their own.

Jesse first traveled to Utica where he sought out a job as a millwright for the Bleeker-Williams iron founderies. There he was found to be a clever mechanic but his skills as a manager were surprisingly found to be lacking. "Surprisingly" because, apparently not enjoying the idea of working under

*\* Lebbeus & wife were the P.R. crowd - John V.C. & Samuel J. III put up the \$.*



*extended  
too much  
credit ->*

another's rule, he traveled to Moravia, New York and successfully established his own mills and founderies there. (Yet, for some unknown reasons, he lost all his property late in his life.) It was in Moravia that Cyrus' father, Jesse Sears Teed was born.

Jesse Sears grew up in Moravia and became a millwright like his father. Also mechanically clever, he later invented and then manufactured the Teed Turbine Water Wheel. "This wheel is fast superceding all others of the kind. The principle factory is at Moravia; and there is one at Colbertsville, NY, and several in other states." (Tuttle:256)

For a short time he moved back to ~~Prout Creek~~ <sup>Meredith</sup> where he worked as a millwright and supervisor in the Bostwick-Law grist, saw and textile mills in the nearby <sup>and</sup> beautiful little village of Meredith Square. While there he met Cyrus' mother, Sarah Ann Tuttle (b. Oct. 27, 1815). Her father, Rev. Oliver Tuttle, was the pastor of the Meredith Baptist Church and he agreed to marry the two young people. The date was set for April 24, 1836.

Little more than a year later their first child was born, a son that they named George W. Teed. In life he became a photographer and portrait artist in Chicago, later returning to Moravia. Back home he met and married Belinda Holt (1853) with whom he had two children who both died in infancy.

Next came Cyrus. He was born in a substantial squared log house, lathed and plastered on the inside, weather boarded on the outside. The ~~small cabin~~ <sup>house \*</sup> was set along the creek. It had four fire places which were necessary for cooking meals and keeping the family warm during New York's cold blisterous

\* It was 24' x 80' - 1 3/4 stories



winters. It had been built in 1804 by Cyrus' great-uncle "Captain" John upon his marriage to Francis Jennings.

After Cyrus there were six more children, three boys and three girls. All were eventually married, except one sister, Alice Zannetta. All the sons proudly served in the Union army during the Civil War. Wilson B. and Oliver Francis both lived with Cyrus for short periods at various times in their lives, but it was only Emma, Cyrus' youngest sister born in the first days of 1857, who would become an ardent follower of her brother's religious beliefs and remain near him until the end of his life....