THE
DARTER-TARTER
FAMILY

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CHAPTER I

The Darter-Tarter Family Reunions

One of the most widely known and best loved stories told in all branches of the Darter-Tarter family is probably a blend of fact and fiction. There are many versions of the origins of the first Darter-Tarter men but this favorite story tells of two little boys who were lost from their homes in Germany following a fire. The boys were found by another family who named them for the nearby town of "Dörth," or, perhaps, the boys themselves, being of tender years, called themselves "Dörthers," a name which ultimately evolved into Darter or Tarter. Other branches of the family recall this story not as a fire but as a shipwreck after which the two little boys were found and named. In any event, a strikingly similar story is known by almost all the Darter-Tarters and is happily remembered at family reunions.

Splendid family reunions are a distinctive feature of the close-knit Darter-Tarter family. The Darter-Tarter Association was formed in Wytheville, Virginia in 1940. Wytheville is the site where Nicholas Darter built one of the first brick homes in Southwestern Virginia.

The purpose of the Association is to perpetuate the memory of Nicholas Darter, Jacob Darter, John Darter, Peter Darter (Tarter) and other Darter-Tarter families who were among the first families to brave the wilderness and to build homes on what was then the western frontier of Virginia.

The first meeting of the Association was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. B. A. Wagoner. Dr. Wagoner was a longtime friend of the Darter-Tarter families in the area and it was
he who organized and was elected the first President of the Association in Virginia. At this same meeting in 1940, Charles F. Tarter, Wytheville, Virginia was elected Vice-president; Miss Josephine Tarter, Rural Retreat, Virginia, Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Oscar H. Darter of Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia, Fredericksburg, Virginia, was elected Historian.

The Board of Directors included Judge Roscoe Conkling Tarter, Somerset, Kentucky; United States Senator John Sherman Cooper, Washington, D. C.; Miss Effie Bean, Surgonsville, Tennessee; Mrs. Nell Stubblefield, Russellville, Kentucky; Mr. O. L. Darter, Bristol, Tennessee; Mr. E. C. Grigsby, Dublin, Virginia; Mr. Harlow Tarter and Mr. Fred Hounshell of Rural Retreat, Virginia.

Arrangements were made to hold annual reunions on the grounds of the original Nicholas Darter home five miles northwest of Wytheville. These arrangements were made possible by the generosity of the present Mrs. J. W. Dicks and her sisters, Misses Georgia and Minnie Riggle, who live there.

In 1947 Senator John Sherman Cooper, whose mother was a Tarter from Kentucky, addressed the reunion group in the Pulaski County Park, Somerset, Kentucky. A crowd estimated at 2,000 persons attended this reunion traveling from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Illinois and Kentucky.

The large numbers of the Darter-Tarter families attending the reunions and the long distances traveled necessitated some distribution of the reunions by geographical area and subsequent reunions were held in Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. The following article was taken from the Somerset, Kentucky Messenger and tells of the reunion in 1953.

1500 DARTER-TARTERS ENJOY REUNION
SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1953

The Darter-Tarter get together and reunion held at the Pulaski County Park Sunday developed into an unusual event. The crowd that assembled there to observe the One Hundred and Sixtieth Anniversary of the arrival of the Darter-
DARTER-TARTER FAMILY REUNIONS

Tarters in Pulaski County was estimated at 1500. They came from many counties and other states. Clyde Tarter led the Ohio group, and Dr. B. A. Wagoner, the noted historian and orator of Wytheville, Virginia, represented the Virginia branch. The blood of John Darter and Peter Tarter, the pioneer brothers, now flows through more than a score of our prominent families. For hours these relatives and friends mingled together, exchanged greetings, and renewed old acquaintances and found new ones.

When reunions were held in Wythe County, Virginia, at the original home of Nicholas Darter, the Darter-Tarter families made many financial contributions to the Mount Mitchell Church which was originally built by Darter-Tarter families in the early 1800's.

At the family reunion in 1955 in Wythe County, Virginia, copies of a partial history of the Darter-Tarters, written by Professor Nicholas Tarter of Oregon State College, Oregon, were distributed to the guests. Miss Lena Belle Tarter, daughter of the late professor, stated that this preliminary history of the family represented Professor Tarter's contribution to the history of the family. Copy is shown in the appendix.

Complete records of the family reunions are not available but in 1956 the following persons served as officers of the Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee Association: Mrs. Joseph Riley, Kingsport, Tennessee; O. Lloyd Darter, Bristol, Virginia; Walter H. Hendricks, Atlanta, Georgia; Ernest G. Grigsby, Dublin, Virginia; Charles Winenger, Glasgow, Kentucky; Hugh Kyle Wolfe, Weber City, Virginia; Mrs. L. L. Nave, Johnson City, Tennessee; Miss Effie Bean, Surgoinsville, Tennessee; O. Murray Bean, Church Hill, Tennessee; Mrs. Roy Crowell, Asheville, North Carolina and Dr. B. A. Wagoner, Jr. of Wytheville, Virginia.

Walter H. Hendricks of Atlanta, Georgia was elected president of the Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky Association in 1958 at the annual reunion at Rotary Park, Johnson City, Tennessee.

These reunions continue annually in Virginia, Ten-
nessee and Kentucky in particular and constantly demonstrate anew the activity, strong family feeling and cohesiveness of the Darter-Tarter families.
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Two pots and oven at $4.00, one table at $3.00 and kitchen furniture for $6.00 .................................. 13.00
Five chairs at $1.66, one set of fire dogs at two ....... 7.66
One kettle and tub at $3.00, one candle stand at $1.50 4.50
One pair of steelyards and sundries ...................... 4.50
Grand total whole inventory ................................ $2248.96

The reader may weave his own imaginary portrait of Nicholas Darter from this inventory of his worldly goods at the time of his death. It must be borne in mind that Nicholas Darter, Senior had already given his most valuable asset, his land and home to his son Nicholas, Junior in 1814. The balance of an estate of $2248.00, represents a not inconsiderable holding for a man in that time and place in early America. As will be seen in the rest of this chapter, of all the early Darter-Tarters, Nicholas seems to have become the most firmly rooted in his Wythe County home. It was such stolid, energetic, durable and patriotic men as Nicholas Darter who laid the foundations of the existing society in Southwest Virginia.

Peter Darter

Most of what is known about Peter Darter (Tarter) is the result of his extensive Revolutionary War service. The Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C. provides the following information:

Peter Tarter was born March 10, year not recollected, in the State of Pennsylvania and moved from said State when seven years old with his father (Names of parents not given).

While residing in Lincoln County, North Carolina he enlisted about two months before Cornwallis besieged and took the town of Charleston, served in Capt. Jacob Money's & Taylor's Companies, Col. Hambright's and Campbell's Regiments...was stationed at New River to guard lead mines...Length of service 18 months. Moved to Wythe County, Virginia and served three months and one week in Capt. Lewis' Company, Col. Isaac Shelby's Virginia Regiment ...Later served two months in Capt. Lewis' Company, guarding the frontier.
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The soldier was allowed a pension upon his application executed March 17, 1834 at which time he was living in Pulaski County, Kentucky, where he had lived about 28 years. He was then about 76 years of age. He gave no reference to wife or children. He referred to an uncle living during the revolution at Harper’s Ferry; name not given.

Peter Tarter was pensioned under Act of Congress of July 7, 1832. His pension began March 4, 1831.

This information from the Veterans Administration provides a number of important clues to the story of the Darter brothers. If Peter was 76 in 1834 that would make the year of his birth 1758. This would make him too close to be a son of Nicholas Darter and since the story of his movement from Pennsylvania to North Carolina to Wythe County, Virginia closely parallels the story of Nicholas, it is reasonable to conclude they were brothers. If the move to North Carolina was made in Peter’s seventh year, this would mean that Johann Dörther moved his family from Philadelphia to Lincoln County in 1765, which is about the same time Johann’s eldest son, Nicholas was marrying Maria Parcell in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

Peter Tarter enlisted in the Continental Army some time in 1776, when 18 years of age. One can imagine the young, adventuresome soldier as he participated in the battle described by William H. Foote, Sketches of Virginia.

Col. Campbell with 400 men from Washington County, Virginia; Col. Isaac Shelby, with 240 men from Sullivan County, North Carolina; and Lieut.-Col. John Sevier, with 240 men from Washington County, North Carolina; assembled at Watauga, on the 25th of September (1780).

We began our march on the 26th, and on the 30th, joined by Col. Cleveland on the Catawba, Col. Campbell, acting as commander-in-chief. We marched to the Cowpens... where Col. Williams, with 400 men, joined us...a flag was immediately hoisted by Capt. DePoisture (Major Ferguson having been killed a little before) for surrender. Our fire immediately ceased and the enemy laid down their arms.

The enemy’s loss: 1 Major, 1 Capt., 2 Sgts., 15 Pts.,

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35 Pvs. wounded, left on ground not able to march. Taken prisoners: 2 Capt., 1 drummer, 49 Pvs.

Loss of the Tories: 2 Cols., 3 Capt., and 201 Pvs. killed, 1 Maj., and 129 Pvs. wounded; 1 Col., 12 Capt., 11 Lieuts., 2 Ensigns, 1 Qts.-Master, 1 Adjutant, 2 Commissioners, 18 Sgts., and 600 Pvs. taken prisoners. Total loss of the enemy, 1105 men at King's Mountain. Our loss was 30 killed and 60 wounded, 13 were killed from Washington County. William Campbell, Isaac Shelby, and Benjamin Cleveland were in command of the American troops.'

The Veterans Administration report places Peter Tarter in Wythe County either in late 1779 or early 1780 before his participation in the battle described above. It is reported that he guarded the lead mines in Wythe County at this time. These lead mines are mentioned in the papers of the Loyal Company as follows:

Edmund Pendleton, Clerk. Note: This dividend was a sum of—1794.17.4 received by Dr. Walker on the 15th May, 1764 of Mr. Robinson, Esq., for the Lead Mines, which sum was divided in a meeting of the Co. on the 24th April, 1775.

W. O. River.

Mr. H. M. Hauser, in *A Short Historical and Physical Description of Wythe County*, describes these mines as "located a few miles from Wytheville, at a place called Austinville."

As will be seen below, Peter's brother (?) Jacob was also in the Wythe County area in 1779 and 1780 and was also in the military service. It can be surmised that the two brothers, Peter and Jacob, were the first to see the great advantages of Wythe County and communicated this fact to their older brother, Nicholas, who was still back in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

Peter Tarter settled in Wythe County for a period, married and bought property as the following records attest:

Marriage Register, Montgomery County 1777-1853
May 6, 1787, date of Bond: Peter Darter to Elizabeth
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Moore, daughter of Fred Moore, Sr.
Index to Deeds, Wythe County, Virginia
Peter and Elizabeth Darter, B. S., Dec. 12, 1799, 94 acres; 195 acres.

Further, Wythe County Deed Books list land owned by Peter Darter in 1791, 1796, 1798, 1800. It is known from Peter Darter’s application for a pension that he moved to Kentucky in 1806 and this is confirmed by records from that state:

Kentucky Land Warrants, 1816-1873
Tarter, Peter, 13 acres, Book C-2, page 286, year 1828, Pulaski County, White Oak Creek.
Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky, Deed Book, p. 349, Peter Tarter to John Tarter for a certain tract of land in Pulaski County, dated July 21, 1818.

Beyond these established facts, Peter Tarter remains something of a mystery. It is known that he married, that he ultimately settled in Kentucky, that he applied to the U. S. Government for a pension for his Revolutionary War service. It is not known when he died or whether he had children. The research undertaken for this history has unearthed no present-day Darter-Tarters who trace their ancestry to a Peter Tarter.

The situation with respect to Peter Darter is further complicated by the fact that a Peter Darter lived in Pennsylvania contemporaneously with the Wythe County and Kentucky Peter Darter. It could not be the same person because this latter Peter Darter died in 1805. Information concerning this Pennsylvania Peter Darter will be found in a later chapter in this book.

Balzer Tarter

Not too much is known of Balzer Tarter beyond several land transactions and a will. The pattern of Balzer’s life, however, closely approximated that of Nicholas Darter and the available evidence can be pieced together to make a plausible account of his life. Balzer first appears in North Carolina:
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Lincolnton, North Carolina Deed Book #3

p. 321

Philip Null and wife, Margaret, to Balzer Tarter, March 4, 1786 for 200 acres of land on the waters of Michael Creek in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

This records a sale of land in North Carolina and is followed nine years later with mention of a purchase in Wythe County:

Wythe County Deed Book, page 312

Indenture, October 8, 1795, between Balzer Tarter and Magdelina, his wife, of Wythe County, 1 part and George Wamppler of same 2nd part Cons. $30., land in said County, cont. 165 acres, lying on the waters of South Fork of Reed Creek, a branch of New River, etc.

From the following will it can be concluded that Balzer Darter must have been of fairly advanced age by 1800 since the will mentions five children and appears to be the work of a man who has lived a long time and is disposing his affairs.

Wythe County Virginia, Will Book No. 1, Page 149

In the name of God, Amen. This the 16th day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred. I, Balzer Darter, of Wythe County and the State of Virginia, being at present very sick and weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory and understanding, thanks be to God, calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament; that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God, who gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner, and as touching my worldly estate, wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life.

I give and devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

1st. It is my will and I do hereby order, that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid off and satisfied as soon as conveniently may be after my decease.

2nd. It is my will and I do hereby order that my wife,
idence, it appears that Jacob Darter, born some time c. 1748 in Germany came to Philadelphia with his parents the Johann Dörthers and his slightly older brother Nicholas Darter, Sr. As has been seen the family lived for a time in Philadelphia and then migrated to Lincoln County, North Carolina. The sons, Nicholas, Jacob, Balzer and Peter (and possibly Alexander) migrated to Wythe County, Virginia and there established what was to become over the next one hundred and fifty years a kind of "headquarters" for the Darter-Tarter family. From the agreement made between Jacob and his son John in 1808 it can be deduced that Jacob was Jacob, Sr. and he had two sons, Jacob, Jr. and John.

A. Jacob Darter, Jr.

Jacob Darter, Jr. was born some time c. 1780 in Wythe County, Virginia. Since his father was still in service at the time it was probably more likely to have been a few years after 1780 than before. Jacob Darter, Jr. married twice, having three children by his first wife. Jacob Darter, Jr. married Polly Weedle and settled in Pulaski County, Kentucky. Jacob, Jr. and Polly Weedle remained all their lives in Pulaski County, Kentucky and raised a family of four sons and five daughters who all grew to maturity and married. The only records available concerning the children of Jacob, Jr. and Polly Weedle concern Ivy Tarter, born 1838. The History of the State of Oklahoma, Vol. 1, continues with the story of Ivy Tarter:

... On his parents' old farm home in Kentucky, Ivy Tarter grew to manhood and that state was his home for forty three years. On the thirteenth of October, 1861, at the call of Lincoln for three hundred thousand more volunteers, he enlisted in Pulaski County, Kentucky, at Somerset, in Company D, Third Kentucky Infantry, and served under Captain John C. Bolan and Colonel Thomas Bramlett. His services were with the Army of the Cumberland in General Thomas's Command, and he was first under fire at Shiloh, later taking part in the battles of Corinth, Luka, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga,
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(where he served under General Thomas), Kenesaw Mountain, and in many others of the hard fought battles of the war. On the twenty-first of June, 1864, at the battle of Maryette, Georgia, he was wounded above the knee in the right leg, and was in the hospital at Nashville, from that date until the following August. Receiving a thirty days furlough he returned home but in September he joined his regiment at Nashville, Tennessee and was honorably discharged from the service on the fifteenth of June, 1865, with a brave and gallant record as a soldier, and as the second sergeant of his regiment, a non-commissioned officer.

After a residence of forty-three years in his native state of Kentucky, Mr. Tarter moved to Texas, and after ten years in Collin County came to the Chicksaw Nation in the Indian Territory. In 1892 he became a resident of Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, where he owned a well-improved farm of 80 acres located midway between Maud and Asher. Before leaving his native state of Kentucky, when 18 years of age he married Emily Dunbar, who was born in Russell County, Kentucky and was of English descent, a daughter of Siller Brown...eight children, six sons and two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. (Ivy) Tarter: James W., Hugh Mason, Sallie, Henry Harrison, Thomas Franklin, Daniel, and twins: Ruthie Siller and George Wyatt.

This information is about all that could be obtained concerning Jacob Darter, Jr., first son of Jacob Darter, Sr.

B. John Darter

John Darter was the second son of Jacob and Catherine Wininger Darter. He was born in Wythe County, Virginia some time c. 1783-84. He married Mary Pridemore some time around 1804-5 and settled in Scott County, Virginia. He acquired extensive land holdings in the state of Indiana and may have lived there for a time, but his later years were spent in Scott County, Va. Much of what is known of John Darter is deduced from his will:

Register of Wills, Gate City, Scott County, Virginia (Book # and p. ?)

Will of John Darter

I, John Darter, of the County of Scott and State of Virginia,
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Wythe County, Virginia, Deed Book, No. 2, p. 334, Feb. 6th, 1805

For $300.00 Christly Darter purchased 90 acres of land from William and Mary Love.

Soon after 1805, Christian Darter must have moved on to Hawkins County, Tennessee and then to Pulaski County, Kentucky, for an early correspondent states that in Pulaski County, Tennessee (?) Christian Darter married an Elizabeth Trimble, and it is known that Christian Darter died in Pulaski County, Kentucky in 1855. Two sons of Christian Darter are known and their descendants have been traced in the appendices. The first of these sons was Enoch who married Lucinda Bernard and they in turn had a son Christian L. Tarter of West Somerset, Kentucky, who was born June 3, 1860. Christian had another son Reader W. Tarter, born in Kentucky, January 18, 1821. Reader Tarter married Martha M. Gadberry and they in turn had a son Samuel Tarter for whom records are available. Samuel Tarter was born in Decatur, Kentucky on March 10, 1861 and engaged in farming. He married Sarah Cravens in Kentucky and they had four children, John F., Ira M., Fannie and Add Tarter. Add Tarter, born September 27, 1887, achieved considerable distinction during his lifetime as the following account shows:


Add Tarter, prominently identified among the scholarly men and efficient educators of Russell County, Kentucky. Prof. Add Tarter, Principal of Russell Springs High School, is one of the most dependable citizens of this region. His work since coming to Russell Springs marks him as a man who has chosen well his life work, and he has won the affection of his pupils and the confidence of their parents.

Professor Tarter is a native of Russell County, having been born in Decatur, Kentucky, September 27, 1887, a son of Samuel Tarter, and a grand-son of Reader M. Tarter . . . (son of Christian) who was the son of Balzer Darter.

Professor Tarter attended the schools of Russell County, the Russell Springs High School, and the Western Kentucky
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State Normal at Bowling Green, Kentucky, from which he was graduated and during this period received the equivalent of a four-year high school course and a two year college course. In the meanwhile in 1908, he had begun to teach school, and was connected with the rural schools of his native County for four years. During 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1916, he served as principal of the graded schools at Oakton, Kentucky, and during 1917 and 1918, was principal of the county high school at Albany, Kentucky.

His work as an educator was interrupted by his response to his country's call, when he enlisted May 27, 1918, in the World War, and was sent to Camp Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky. After six weeks there he was transferred to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, where he remained until August 2nd, 1918, on which date he was sent overseas to France. Before he left this country he had been made sergeant of Company L, One Hundred and Third Infantry. After he reached France he was made supply sergeant, first of the Fifth Depot Division, and later to the Central Recorders Officer and remained at Bourges for the greater part of the time. On August 9, 1919, Professor Tarter sailed from Brest, France, for the United States and was mustered out of the service at Camp Taylor, September 4, 1919.

From the time of his return home until May, 1920, he was a general bookkeeper of the First National Bank at Russell Springs, and in September of that year was made principal of the graded and high schools of this city. He has under his supervision six teachers and 350 pupils, and they as well as he, are making a record for efficiency and scholarship. Like his father he is a democrat. The Baptist Church holds his membership, and he is a faithful worker in its ranks. A Mason, he belongs to Russell Springs Lodge NO. 840 F. and A. M., and Columbia Chapter, R. A. M. Professionally he is a member of the Kentucky Educational Association. Professor Tarter was married to Geneva Stephens of Russell Spring, Ky. in 1926; she is deceased.

Having steadily advanced, earning the money to prosecute his own studies, Professor Tarter is a man who appreciates the value of a thorough educational training. A natural teacher, he not only imparts knowledge in such a manner as to make study interesting, but also stimulates his pupils to renewed effort, and awakens in their expanding minds the desire for broader fields of intellectual development. At
the same time he so regulates his supervision of his assistants as to secure this, as in other ways, secures for the rising generation the best of instruction. Having devoted more than a year of his life to the service of his country, Professor Tarter has proven in a most effective and practical way his interest in it and its institutions, and may be depended upon to imbue those under his charge with the highest kind of patriotism, and to give his home community a cheerful and valuable support whenever it is necessary.

This completes the known history that the author has been able to assemble of the Darter-Tarters who are descended from Johann Dörther who came over to the colonies from Germany in 1749. This branch of the family is now well established in Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Arkansas, Texas, California, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, etc. As the history of the family shows, the Darters are made of stern stuff, having been among the first to settle in many areas of the expanding western frontier. Darters participated in the gold rush, the opening of the Oregon Territory, the settlement of West Texas and even the driving of the golden spike in the Union Pacific Railroad. This branch of the family has produced farmers, ministers, soldiers, civic leaders, educators, engineers, physicians and almost every other profession known to man. In the next chapter a brief outline of the history of the English Darters will be presented.
Magdelena, and my three youngest sons, Fredericks, Christian, and Daniel shall live together on my land on the waters of Cripple Creek, until my youngest son, Daniel, be of age, and then it is my will that the said land shall be equally divided into three parts, one third part thereof with the mansion house shall be for the possession of my wife: the other two moities or thirds shall be equally divided amongst my three aforementioned sons, and in case that one of them being able to purchase the share of the others, it is:

3rd. My will and I do ordain, that my three above named sons shall elect and choose three fit and honest freeholders of, who shall appraise and value the said land, and according to the valuation he shall pay to the other brothers.

4th. It is my will and I do order, that a third part of the land which my wife shall be in possession during her life, shall after he decease also go in equal division to my aforementioned three sons, and according to the appraisement and valuation of three men the one who shall purchase the others part shall pay to the other brothers.

5th. It is my will and I do order out of the money upon hand and due to me from others, first and foremost my brother, Nicholas, shall pay the fees due to the Loyal Company.

6th. It is my will and I do order that all my personal estate be and remain in the hands of my wife and three sons aforementioned without making sale after my decease, to be equally divided in three parts as soon as the youngest is of age, one third to go to my wife and the two other thirds in equal shares to my three first mentioned sons.

7th. It is my will and I order that after my decease, all the increase of my livestock until the time my youngest son come of age shall be equally divided between my wife and my youngest son, Daniel: and then the remainder of the old stock to be divided as mentioned afore.

8th. It is my will and I order, that my three sons above mentioned shall as soon as the youngest is of age, and the division of the personal estate taketh place, from their shares, pay to my daughter, Margaret, five pounds together, and to my daughter, Catherine, the like sum together or jointly.

9th. And lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint my beloved wife, Magdalene and my friend, Stanger to be Executor of this my last Will and Testament: hereby revoking, disannuallying and making void all former Wills heretofore by me
made, ratifying this and no other to be my last Will and Testament: In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

his
Balzer X Darter (Seal)
mark

Pronounced and delivered by the said testator as his last
Will and Testament in the presence of
Peter Spangler,
Peter Wisely,
Samuel Repass.
Recorded Feb. 11, 1800. Teste: R. Crockett.

From the land transactions and from the will, a picture of Balzer Darter may be constructed. From other records, it is known that Christian Darter, presumably Balzer’s son, mentioned in the will above, was born in 1771 in North Carolina. This would mean that Balzer would have to have been born c. 1750 since Christian was the second son. Balzer’s wife, Magdelina, and Balzer must have sold their North Carolina land after the rest of the brothers had moved on to Wythe County, because their North Carolina sale was not until 1785. The will is of especial interest, however, because it clearly establishes that Balzer and Nicholas were brothers, and the fact that Nicholas named his fifth child, born in 1778, Magdelina, serves only to confirm the close relationship. Balzer’s descendants and those of his brothers will be discussed in the next chapter.

*Jacob Darter*

There is considerable evidence that Jacob Darter was a fourth Darter-brother since his life follows a pattern similar to the three brothers already discussed. Jacob served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war and the available evidence indicates that he may have been the first of the Darter-Tarter brothers to live in Virginia. If this was the case he was probably older than Peter but younger than Nicholas.
and drink for and sufficient for the said Jacob, also good warm clothing, good - - - - ? - - - - ? - - - - and all other necessities, washing and mending for and convenient for his father Jacob Darter, and the said Jacob is to give his son John one mare now in his possession, collar and hames, traces, together with all toglings about the house fit for housekeeping and the said John Darter is to give to his father Jacob Darter the said mare if he should want to ride and - - - - ? - - - - elsewhere.

And for the true performance of the above engagement the above mentioned parties do bind themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents in the penal sum of four hundred dollars.

In witness whereof the above mentioned parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written, sealed, delivered in the presence of

Jacob Darter (X mark) (Seal)
John Darter (Seal)

Solomon Repass,
John I. Henderson,
John Harkerader, Sr.

Several conclusions may be drawn from this document. First, it seems to have been a tradition for the Darter men to pass on their property management and even ownership to a son as old age approached, Cf. Nicholas Darter's agreement with his son, Nicholas, Jr., and to do this with considerable legal formality. Second, since Jacob Darter calls himself Jacob Darter, Sr., the existence of another son, Jacob Darter, Jr. is implied. This helps to reveal more about Jacob, Sr., when the following source is considered:

*History of the State of Oklahoma*, Vol. 1

Ivy Tarter, one of the well-known citizen soldiers of Moore Township, was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky in 1838, a son of Jacob and Polly Weedle Tarter. His paternal grandfather was born in Germany, and coming to this country, served for seven years in the Revolutionary War. The father (Jacob) was born in Virginia and the mother in Pulaski County, Kentucky, of Scotch-Irish and English ancestry.

A John Milton Weedle was born in Wythe County,
Virginia on September 3, 1776. There is a marriage record of a Polly Weedle in Pulaski County, Kentucky marrying a Jacob Tarter in 1819. This seems to prove record of a Polly Weedle in Pulaski County, Kentucky marrying a Jacob Tarter in 1819, which would seem to prove conclusively that the Jacob Tarter, who was born in Virginia and married Polly Weedle is the Jacob Tarter, Jr. implied by Jacob Darter, Sr., in his agreement with John Darter. If this is the same Jacob Darter who has been discussed in the preceding pages, and there is every reason to believe it is, then the Oklahoma history lists him as having been born in Germany. If Jacob was born in Germany, then he would have to have been born between 1747 and 1749, if he is also the brother of Nicholas.

Alexander Darter

Practically nothing is known of Alexander Darter. Since all the other known references of Darter-Tarters in colonial and revolutionary North Carolina and Virginia can be plausibly and in many cases absolutely related to the hypothesis that Nicholas, Peter, Balzer and Jacob were brothers, sons of Johann Dörther (Derter), who came to Philadelphia in 1749 and migrated to North Carolina in 1765, it is reasonable to assume that Alexander, too, was a member of the same family. He appears on only one legal document of the period:

Washington County, Virginia, Brief of Deeds,
No. 1, p. 91, March 31, 1795.
Wm. Livingston to John Wood of the County of Russell. 70 pounds. 700 acres in Russell County on both sides of Mockason Creek and granted to said Livingston by patent dated December 19, 1787.

Witness: Samuel Rhea
Alexander Darter
George Williams
James Owens, Sr.

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Nehemiah Darter to Julia Ann Wininger, March 2, 1843.
E. Darter to Harriet Porter, July 21, 1881.
George B. Darter to Anna E. McClellan, March 23, 1876. Son of Michael and Rebecca.
Henry Darter to Mary L. Hickman, May 28, 1876.
Isaac Darter to Miriah L. Hart, April 19, 1877.

From Scott County, Virginia Court Records.
Andrew France to Elizabeth Darter, March 14, 1826, daughter of Nicholas Darter, Sr.
William Jones to Nancy Darter, June 11, 1826.
George Paterson to Sarah Darter, March 29, 1835.
Asberry Speer to Catherine Darter, January 6, 1829.
Stephen E. H. Vaughan to Martha W. Browder, November 7, 1866.
Stephen Wininger to Rody Robinett, October 1, 1827.
Benjamin Taylor to Belinda Speer, December 17, 1844.
John Darter to Hannah Broadwater, February 20, 1840.
Azariah Darter married Sarah Akard, February, 1843.
Nehemiah Darter married Julia Ann Wininger, March 2, 1843.
Ira Darter to Mary J. Duvault, December 23, 1845.
Michael Darter to Rebecca Bevins, October 31, 1839.
E. Darter to Harriett Porter, July 21, 1881.
George B. Darter to Anna E. McClellan, March 23, 1876.
He was a son of Michael and Rebecca Darter.
Henry Darter to Mary L. Hickman, May 28, 1876.
Isaac Darter to Miriah L. Hart, April 19, 1877.

Pulaski County, Kentucky Records

Book 1, Page 55, November 23, 1817. Christley Tarter and Betsey Trimble;

Page 84, November, 1819. Jacob Tarter and Polly Weedle:
Page 69, April 16, 1823. Peter Tarter & Polly Sullivan.
Page 70, February 3, 1824. Michael Tarter & Joicey Lawrence.
Page 70, September 28, 1824. Frederick Tarter & Christiona Whiteley (Frederick's Marriage).
Page 81, October 10, 1826. John Tarter and Nancy Lawrence.
Page 269, August 31, 1853. Peter Tarter and Elizabeth Halcomb.
EXTRACTS FROM RECORDS

Page 369, November, 1853. John D. Tarter (26 years) & Margaret Jane Hendricks (18 years).

Hawkins County, Marriage Record, Book E, page 77:
Hiram Darter to Luticia Haynes, Feb. 17, 1870, performed by Rev. Stephen Darter;
Robert Tarter to Minerva Robinett, page 149, Jan. 24th, 1873. No minister given;

BIRTH RECORDS

Index of Register of Births, Scott County, Gate City, Virginia, 1853 to 1870:
The Darter-Tarter Family

St. Johns Records, Archives, Wythe County, Virginia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Children</th>
<th>Name of Parents</th>
<th>Baptized</th>
<th>Sponsors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Jacob Tarter, Jr. and his wife,</td>
<td>May 31, 1807</td>
<td>Jacob Tarter and his wife, Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 7, 1807</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>Jacob Tarter, Jr. and his wife,</td>
<td>Sept. 10, 1809</td>
<td>Jacob Tarter and his wife, Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23, 1809</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>John Tarter and his wife, Catherine</td>
<td>May 13, 1810</td>
<td>John Tarter and his wife, Catherine (Sulfronia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2, 1809</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny</td>
<td>Jacob Tarter and his wife, Catherine</td>
<td>Dec. 29, 1811</td>
<td>Jacob Tarter and his wife, Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8, 1811</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine,</td>
<td>John Tarter and his wife, Christine</td>
<td>May 24, 1818</td>
<td>Christina Tarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sulfronia),</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Mar. 9, 1818</td>
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St. Paul's Church, Wythe County Register, 1776 to 1881:

Page 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Children</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Sponsors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>Nov. 21, 1794</td>
<td>John Darter, Baptized and Catherine</td>
<td>Frederich Mahr, and His Wife</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. John's Church, Wytheville, Virginia: Record of the Darters and Tarters of St. John's Church:

John Tarter, wife Christina, Children:

Isaac, Born March 2, 1810,
Catherine, Born March 9, 1818.

Jacob Tarter, Jr., Wife Catherine: Children:

Joseph, Born Feb. 7, 1807,
David, Born July 23, 1809,
Jenny, Born July 18, 1811.

Census Data

Marriages according to the 1810 Census:
Daniel Darter, Jan. 5, 1805, to Susan Newman.

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