



# THE TEETERVILLE FIRE

One question that is asked quite often at the Teeterville Pioneer Museum is how big did Teeterville use to be? It's surprising to find out that at the turn of the last century Teeterville rivalled Delhi in size.

In 1859 Mr. George Teeter laid out the village on lots 13 & 14 in what was then Windham Township. This land located on Big Creek was bought by Mr. Teeter in 1855. The village grew rapidly and according to the book Historical Sketches of Teeterville:

*"By 1870 there were two churches, Baptist and Methodist; a school; town hall; confectionery store; two general stores, Tom Edgeworth's and William Robertson's; two millinery shops; two shoe shops, Sullivans operating one of them; Joe Scott's tin shop; two harness shops, one operated by George Taylor and the other by William Goold; three carriage shops, one being Heal's; Snow's wagon works; three blacksmiths, Henry Watts,*

*Tom Rice and George Laurence; Obe Manuel's Foundry and Cider Mill; Pollard's Tailor Shop; Bill Hesson's Bakery; a butcher; Schundehinde's cabinet shop; Kitchen's cooper shop; two carpenter and joiner shops; a drug store; two doctors, Dr. Sparrow and Dr. Snider; a sash and door factory."*

There were also two hotels in Teeterville, the Teeter House and the Red Lion Saloon. A third one was located a half a mile south of the village. Both the telegraph and post offices were located in other stores already mentioned above. The main industry in Teeterville at the time was the Teeter's Mills. There were 25 men employed at the mills that included a saw, planing, shingle and grist mill.

Disaster struck in 1897 when fire broke out in the home of Jack Denby. Not unlike the weather we have seen this summer, it was very dry and hot. The fire began to spread quickly on

both sides of the house. The alarm was raised from the bells on top of the blacksmith shop and many local citizens formed a bucket brigade. A valiant effort was made to extinguish the fire but very quickly all the wells in the village were drained and 14 buildings burned to the ground. Unfortunately Teeterville never returned to its former glory.

If you would like to find out more about Teeterville you can purchase Historical Sketches of Teeterville for \$2 at both museums. This book was compiled by the historical research convenor of the Teeterville Women's Institute in 1959 as part of Teeterville's Centennial.