

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 15

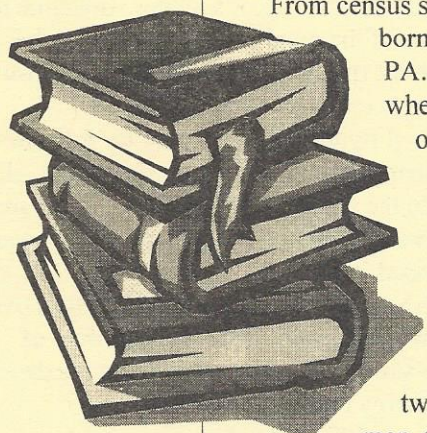
Winter/Spring 2001

Branch 4

A Novel Way to Get a Middle Name

By Sharon Mountford

Polly Reed Ford she was usually called. She was my gg-grandmother, but I knew virtually nothing about her. The little booklet *American Descendants of James Latta* compiled by Emmit Girdell Latta (her grandson) gave the date of her marriage to Isaac Schultz Latta as Nov. 7, 1821 in Geneva, Ontario County, NY. Emmit provided no other information about her – but then, genealogy at the turn of the last century was primarily concerned with the descent of the Y chromosome: the family name.



From census searches I knew that she was born about 1797 in either MA or PA. What I could not know is whether I was searching for Mary or Polly Reed, the widow of some Mr. Ford; or someone born as Mary (or Polly) Reed Ford. Many hours were spent trying to identify possible children. Of course the most obvious path was to check out all of the marriages between Reed women and Ford men, thinking that her middle name might well be her mother's maiden name. Another path was to look for all the Ford men who disappeared from their home area in MA and PA between 1800 and 1820 and showed up in Ontario County, NY, thinking that her family probably moved and she with it. There were dozens of prospects, none of them right in every respect.

Polly had a son whom she named Josiah Reed Latta, so I was also on the look-out for Josiah Reeds, figuring that there probably was someone of that name in her ancestry. That proved to be another very common name.

A solitary lead appeared in an index of the *Geneva Gazette*, which carried a notice of the marriage of Mary Ford and Isaac Latta in the November 15 issue in 1820 (not 1821). My mission

became to find that particular issue of the *Gazette*. The index was prepared by a man who was on the faculty or staff at the William Smith and Hobart Colleges in Geneva. Letters to him and to the university had failed to get a response. Interlibrary loan of the microfilmed newspaper brought a roll of film which nominally covered the year 1820, but did not include the issue in question.

I reasoned that if the author knew to include the article in a recently prepared index, he must have seen a copy of the paper. I determined that the only way to see the actual newspaper was to go to Geneva. Last summer, on a genealogy expedition through NY, I visited Polly's grave in Friendship, NY, and found that her exact birthdate was given on the tombstone. (If only it would prove to be correct!) Now I would be looking for a Polly or Mary, Reed or Ford born on 8 Nov. 1797.

At the Geneva Historical Society I discovered that the paper for which I was searching was probably in their vaults, but the papers are very fragile and they were not available to the everyday genealogist. At the Geneva Public Library I looked at the filmed *Geneva Gazette* and discovered that it too was missing the issue

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Editorial**Milestones**

This issue marks the completion of five years of continuous publication for The Latta Genealogy Newsletter. There's been no price increase and we still get by on voluntary contributions—no one has ever received a renewal notice.

Our founder, publisher, genealogist and chief cook and bottle washer, George P. Latta, has decided to announce his retirement from the position of Top Latta Banana.

George got the whole ball rolling years ago by acquiring (at his own expense) photocopies of the entire Robert H. Latta collection from the Library of Congress, and then having all the data typed into his computer. Back in those days everything fit on one little three-and-a-half inch disk.

With the launching of the newsletter in 1996 and the web site shortly after, the cause of Latta genealogical research took a giant step forward.

Underneath everything is a "phantom" or-

ganization, The Latta Family Association. It's never had officers or meetings or by-laws. Nevertheless, we have managed to draw together nearly everyone on the planet who is researching an ancestor named Latta—or Latto, or Latty, or Lattea, etc.

Without a lot of candied hoopla, suffice it to say that none of this would have happened without the impetus, energy and enthusiasm of George P. Latta. His contribution to our family represents thousands of hours, thousands of letters, thousands of dollars, and a very big heart.

Thank you, George. From all of us.

Best laid plans

No, the postal service is not to blame. This issue of the newsletter is much later than usual. Your editor has been "busy," and has started laying out Issue Fifteen countless times, always to be sidetracked by something pressing.

Current plans call for the summer issue to be out before the end of summer—imagine that! And then if the good Lord's willin' and the crick don't rise, we will be back on what we laughingly call a schedule.

We'll figure out a new plan for folks to send their gedcoms and group sheets, etc., directly to the Branch Captains. There still are many branches without a captain, so volunteers are needed.

Also, your editor will eventually turn over the reins of the web site to a consortium of techno-savvy folks, and concentrate his dwindling energy on the newsletter.

Or something like that.

Correction

Issue 13 contained an incorrect date for the death of Madeline Ann Latta. The correct date is 14 January 2000. Our apologies for the error.

Coming next issue

Our own Alex Latta, Branch 16, of Edmonton, Alberta, has composed a poem titled *An Irish Tragic Opera*, which premiered recently on the LATTA-L mail list

We are pleased to give this opus its print premier in Issue 16 of *The Latta Genealogy Newsletter*.

Stay tuned and watch us give PRI a run for its money.

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter
Published approximately thrice annually

Dedicated to research among the fifty-one branches of the Latta family in America, and of our family's origins in the Old World.

Funded by contributions from its readers. Suggested contribution: seven to ten dollars per year (US and Canada) international US \$10 to \$13

Please send your family group sheets, pedigree charts, photos, documents and/or gedcom files (through June 30) to:

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Boiling Springs SC 29312-0010

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Send your subscription contributions, address changes, newsletter articles, queries, comments, etc. to:

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We're on the World Wide Web! Visit our web site at

<http://www.latta.org>

From the mailbag

Name these Lattas

Alan L. Latta of Veteran, WY, sent this photo and asks if anyone can identify the subjects. See Alan's information on Page 7 about the Fort Laramie School Reunion



Larters in the larder?

While surfing the net I came across your web page about 'Latta' newsletters. I too have set up a web page for the LARTER Family History Society. It's only a pre-launch introduction to the society, but in the New Year a full web page will be set up. My reason for writing is to mention that while researching LARTER here in East Anglia, England; I have come across the spellings Latta, which are variants of my own surname of Larter. It would be interesting to know if you have come across any variants of your surname LATTA that were found spelt as Larter. It would also be interesting to learn if you have traced the origin of LATTA. I have spent a good two years tracing the origin of my surname and have found it to be an East Anglian variant of an earlier form LAUGHTER & LAWTER. This older form appears to come from the Scandinavian LATTRE.

As a society, I would like to keep in contact with you to share findings with the view that we may have a possible link through variant spellings of a much older form of spelling, and even possibly exchange copies of our databases.

I would be interested to hear of your response.

Ron

LarterFHS@btinternet.com

Wm. M. Latta letter, asked and answered. Br. 35 and 9?

I am excited to hear from you. I have tried to search my Latta heritage for many years. I have discovered that I am of the SC Lattas instead of the NC Lattas.

I remembered that when I was a teenager (and certainly not interested in genealogy), my father received a letter from a William M Latta of Nashville, Tn.

I searched through my mother's things and found that letter. It was dated in 1952. He said he had in his possession, the Family Bible of John Latta Jr. and Margaret Neely. He gave the information contained in that Bible.

Accordingly to him, John Latta Sr. came to America when he was eleven years old in 1738 from Northern Ireland. They settled in Cecil Co., MD, near the present town of Elkton, MD.

When John Latta Sr. became of age, he emigrated to Union Co., SC and secured a grant of 200 acres of land on Fair Forest Creek. The grant is dated Feb. 13, 1756. Later he secured more land in Chester Co., SC located on Fishing Creek near the present town of Richburg, SC. He was one of the first Elders of both Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church and Waxhaw Presbyterian over in Lancaster Co., SC. His wife was Sarah Ramsey Dunlap. Their children were John Latta Jr., Thomas Latta and Elizabeth Latta.

John Latta Jr. married Margaret Neely Jan 1, 1782 and Thomas Latta married Martha Neely about 1788.

John Latta Jr. and Margaret Neely emigrated to Maury Co., TN 1817 and settled on Snow Creek about eleven miles N.W. of Columbia, TN. He and Margaret had five children: Samuel (a bachelor), William (my gggrandfather), Sarah, Alexander and Jane.

If you would like, I can send a copy of this letter. The main thing would be to find out who has possession that Bible at the present time. I have much more information from the century review of Maury Co. It all seems to come together.

Janie Quarles [see query on page 8—ed.]

janieq@ipa.net

Virginia Curulla writes:

David Latta, of Cane Hill, Arkansas, called me last night, after seeing the copy of William Malcolm's letter in the Latta Genealogy newsletter. I have never met David, but my daughter visited his family some years ago. I have met some others of branch 9 descendants in Arkansas, including David's mother, Goldine, when we visited there in 1995.

David had just called William's son, Bill, on the phone,

(Continued on page 11)

From the archives of The Latta Family Newsletter

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Latta Family Newsletter

1960 GENESIS - UNITED STATES

PERSONAL DATA	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIVITY	CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION	RESIDENCE	NAME
Relationship to Family or to Mother	Birth Date	Place of Birth Town, State or Country	Immigrated to U.S.	Occupation or Service	Residence Address	
INDIANA, TOWARD COUNTY, Taylor, Tenn.						
1. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
2. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
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130. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
131. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
132. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
133. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
134. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
135. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
136. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
137. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
138. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
139. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
140. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
141. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
142. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
143. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
144. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
145. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
146. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
147. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
148. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
149. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
150. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
151. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
152. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
153. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
154. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
155. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
156. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
157. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, William
158. Latta, Mary C.	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22	Farmer	0	Latta, Mary C.
159. Latta, William	1870	Ind. Ind.	Vol. 13, E.D. 2, Sheet 22			

The articles on this page are reprinted exactly as they appeared in The Latta Family Newsletter (1978-80)
Our thanks to Danny R. Latta and the late John W. Latta, Jr.

Branch 17**An Ice Cream Supper**

by Betty J. Kitchen

The following newspaper social column details the 21st birthday party of Mary Latta of in 1895. The article was probably published in the *Monroe Gazette* (Woodsfield, Monroe County, Ohio) or in the *Spirit of Democracy*, which was purchased at auction around 1845 from Leesburg VA by Hon. James R. Morris and moved to Woodsfield.

FOXHOLLOW

One of the most pleasant social events of the season was the surprise birthday party given by about one hundred of the young people to Miss Mary Latta on May 25th. The surprise was complete. The beginning of the evening was spent in social chat, interspersed with instrumental music by J. T. Latta and sister and brother, after which came the ice cream supper (with cake and lemonade to prevent taking cold). During supper J. T. Latta gave us some fine comic songs with banjo accompaniment. The following are some of the presents: Mr. And Mrs. J. C. [John Copeland] Latta, black serge dress pattern; F. F. Haren, silkline apron; Albert Yunkus, fancy hair pin and silk mitts; V. T. Sluser, silk mitts; Miss Clara Kremer, fancy hair-pin; C. E. Peters, bottle of cologne; Miss Laura Vincent, pair of hose; Miss Anna Latta, cracker dish; Miss Sallie Christman, sugar bowl; Mrs. Alice Carpenter, fruit dish; Miss Belle Morris, individual salt dish; Davy Latta, fancy hair-pin; Miss Mollie Ruble, fruit dish; Miss Lydia Morris, butter dish; Miss Julia Hardesty, two handkerchiefs; Greg. Haren, pair of towels; J. T. Latta, silk handkerchief; Clem. Standt, side combs and silk handkerchief; Mr. And Mrs. T. L. Latta, water pitcher; Miss Anna Claus, handkerchief; John Christman, 50 cents; Wm. Wall, 25 cents; Miss Lois Latta, lamp; Miss Katie Christman, silk handkerchief; Miss Rosa Burkhart, apron; H. J. Landfeld, 25 cents; George Christman, 25 cents; Misses Tillie and Louisa Claus, apron; Gus. Standt, 50 cents; Miss Emma Steel, 25 cents; J. W. Ruble, fruit dish; Lewis Landfeld, 25 cents; Geo. Christman, silk handkerchief; Miss Ida Haren, apron; Miss Lou Keller, apron; Adam

Weiscent, pair gloves; Miss Sadie Burris, white shirt waist; Clem Weiscent, red blouse pattern; Mr. And Mrs. D. W. Latta, tea set and silk handkerchief; Fred Christman, bottle of perfume in casket; Ray Murray, silk scarf; Ben. A., Haren, fancy chair tidy. Several other presents were received without names. After supper was over, a few enjoyable games were played, after which we all went home, wishing Miss Mary "many happy returns of the day," or rather evening.

Miss Etta Brownfield is at Quaker City. Miss Mary Latta has been visiting friends at Atlas.

Messrs. T. L. and J. T. [John Tilden] Latta made a business trip to Barnesville, Monday.

Messrs. Abraham, Walter and Lewis Landefeld have just finished a new barn for Mr. H. H. Claus.

Tobacco plants are scarce, but peaches and cherries are scarcer. Corn and potatoes have been badly nipped.

Misses Lou and Mary Latta were in Barnesville last week.

Messrs. Ben. And Greg. Haren were at Woodsfield, Saturday.

Misses Rosa and Julia Burkhart visited friends and relatives at Fulday.

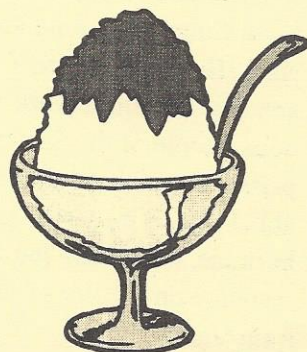
A few of the young people attended a ball near Monroeville, Saturday evening.

Albert Yunkus thinks some of the Foxhollow girls know how to bake cake.

Miss Mary Brownfeld is visiting friends and relatives at Malaga.

Well, boys, do you know what you'll do if you come down to Foxhollow? We do. You'll get stuck on

—A PRETTY GIRL



'Lost village' found near Los Banos

By Rose Certini
Sun-Star Staff Writer

LOS BANOS — In the 1920s, elderly Yokut Indians told oral historian Frank Latta stories of how they grew up and saw a large, thriving Indian village located somewhere near today's town of Los Banos.

Intrigued, Latta set out to find it, but he never succeeded. The city stumbled on it in the late 1970s near the wastewater treatment plant two miles northeast of Los Banos. The village made the news and Latta heard about it from his retirement home on the coast.

"You found my lost village!" Latta exclaimed in a call to Robert Edminster of Los Banos, a member of the city's Cultural Heritage Committee, which oversaw excavations of this rural site surrounded by the bogs and tules of Mud Slough. Edminster is a Merced College botany and geography instructor, as well.

Indeed they had. By some accounts, this village, uninhabited for 170 years, was the largest Indian habitation in the Central Valley with approximately 100 homes constructed of tule reeds. These days, there's nothing left but depressions in the

ground where the huts had been, a few artifacts and a graveyard. The village has rested, unmolested, since the last archaeological dig by college students 20 years ago.

It's a place far off the beaten path amid marshes and grassy vernal pools and far from any road — so it's no wonder Latta couldn't find it.

"A day will come when a group will come and the village could be restored and made into a cultural heritage center," Edminster said.

Latta authored several Central Valley history books, including "Handbook of Yokut Indians," published in 1949, which even today is considered the definitive study of Yokut culture and history. His books are available today by Internet from Coyote Press of Salinas.

Latta conducted most of his research and interviews of old timers in the 1920s and '30s in conjunction with his job as a high school teacher in Tulare. He was retired, living in Santa Cruz, when the village was discovered in approximately 1977. Bad health kept the elderly Latta from traveling and he died in 1983 at age 90, never having seen the village he'd dreamed of finding so long ago.

The Indians Latta interviewed never told him a name for the place. So, Cultural Heritage Committee member Dick Johnson, of Fresno, talked with Native American experts and suggested "Milan" (pronounced my-lan), an Indian term for "the lost place."

Milan has been vacant at least since the 1830s, and possibly as early as the 1820s, after Spanish soldiers descended upon villages and forced natives to live at Franciscan missions in San Juan Bautista and San Jose. Some Indians eluded capture by running south to remote Tule Indian villages or going east to the Sierra Nevada.

"There were no Indians on the Westside — they



Sports

Suns avoid elimination with broad Lakers defeat
— page D1

State

Moms march throughout the country against guns
— page A2



MERCED SUN-STAR

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000

Artifacts: Indian goods found in 'lost village' near Los Banos

From page A1

were all picked up by the missions," Edminster said, quoting information Latta gleaned in 55 years of interviewing 200 Yokut elders.

"There is no record of any habitation in that village (Milan) after 1830 and there certainly wasn't any after the American presence in California started in the 1840s."

Edminster steps through a rich carpet of foxtails and other weeds and stands in the middle of the largest ring to demonstrate its size. Time took its toll on the village, filled in some house circles and covered artifacts with dirt.

Among the 58 "house circles" that make up Milan is a huge ceremonial building, "... a city hall if you wish," Edminster said. The large hole representing the living quarters was 6 feet deep and 20 meters wide, although originally it was 36 meters across before cave-ins drew in the perimeter. Indian huts were partially sunk into the ground to take advantage of the soil's insulating quality. The natives would dig a round hole, moving dirt to the rim, and plant wood poles around the edge to form a frame. Tules reeds, harvested from Mud Slough, were used as roofs, walls and insulation.

The ceremonial building is surrounded by smaller "house circles" of varying size. The burial mounds are at some distance from the village, camouflaged by the surrounding



Marci Steinberg/Sun-Star

These are two of several Indian artifacts discovered and protected at the wastewater treatment plant near Los Banos.

bumpy terrain.

The size and number of house rings indicated to researchers that Milan had been there a long time and occupied year-round. Perched atop, on high ground, Milan was near lots of food and received a stiff wind off Pacheco Pass that kept pesky mosquitoes at bay.

The villagers were hunters and gatherers who did not till the land or use metal. By definition they were a stone-aged people with tools similar to what the Mediterranean people used 4,000 years ago before the bronze and iron ages.

"They were as intelligent as we are, but with no technology as we know it," Edminster added. "But they knew of a technology of a different kind, they

knew how to live off the land."

A skeleton unearthed in the cemetery was of a man 6 feet tall, dispelling the myth that these Indians were short and malnourished.

"We can't imagine the bounty of food. There was elk, antelope, deer and fish year-round. There would be rabbit in summer and duck and geese in winter and spring. They'd hike 10 miles to nearby canyons to harvest valley oak acorns in fall. They would have undoubtedly taken trips to the coast to trade for clams, Edminster said.

The city of Los Banos took steps to protect the newly found village by putting in a protective fence and expanding sewer farm operations in the opposite direction. Water and sewer lines were extended to a shop and restrooms built to serve the visiting archaeology students. But concerns cropped up that supervising professors weren't turning in proper reports, so work was halted. A spearhead, chipping tools, a basalt mortar and a hammer stone are among the artifacts recovered from Milan that now sit in file drawers at the wastewater treatment plant office, awaiting proper display in a museum setting. Edminster said he and other committee members aren't interested in inviting any more colleges or universities to dig.

"The city won't work with anyone but native Americans now," Edminster added.

Branch 9

F. F. Latta, cultural explorer

This article, from the *Merced (CA) Sun-Star* was sent in by reader Ila Chastain.

The late Frank F. Latta was director of the Kern County Museum and a noted early oral historian. His books on the Yokuts are still regarded as some of the finest work pertaining to the indigenous people of the San Joaquin Valley. Latta's expertise in gaining information from the Yokuts enabled him to preserve, in writing, some of their heritage. California Indian Folklore is a valuable resource on the life of the Yokuts of the San Joaquin Valley.

Living

Ozark News Papers • Thursday, June 29, 2000, Page 3B

52nd Annual Latta Reunion attended

On June 11, 2000, many of the descendants of Hugh Thomas Latta and his wife, Mary Dorcas (Reed) Latta, met for their 52nd annual reunion at the Latta Barn in the Battlefield State Park, Prairie Grove.

Uncle Tom and Aunt Dollie Latta, as they were commonly known, made their home in the Morrow community after their marriage on January 31, 1889. They were the parents of nine children. Their youngest daughter, Lillian Loftin, of Lincoln, survives.

There was a display of pictures on the wall which was very interesting. There were pictures of members of the Latta family who were early day settlers in Northwest Arkansas and some of their descendants. There were also,

pictures of Latta homes, and a number of pictures of gravestones with the names and dates, of some of those who lived and died in this area. These gravestones are to be found in various cemeteries in this area.

Neal Reed called the assembly to order and made announcements concerning activities for the day. He also extended a welcome to all who were present, some of whom were there for the first time.

Harley Pennel offered a prayer of thanks for all who were present and for the abundance of food which filled the serving tables. It was a wonderful meal prepared by family members.

There was a short business session in the afternoon. John Freeman was elected to be in

charge of the reunion next year on the second Sunday in June and Ruby Baker will be in charge of supplies.

The record shows that those present came from California, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The oldest man present was Clyde Loftin, of Lincoln; the oldest woman was Grace Baugh, of Broomfield, Co.; the youngest child was Lauren Janelle Wofford, the five-month-old daughter of Vince and Alicia Wofford of Siloam Springs.

Ernest Latta served as master of ceremonies in the afternoon. The singing began with a congregational song led by Ernest.

Those who sang solos were Twila Russel; Dewayne Crutchfield

and John Latta, who played the piano as well. Duets were sung by Ailene Greene and Ernest Latta and by Erma Nunamaker and Wilma Capley. The Spilman Trio sang two songs, and the Freeman quartet sang two songs. David Latta's family sang two songs, and Ernest Latta's quartet sang. The Leland Latta family sang two songs. The congregation sang two songs. The singing is always a highlight of the reunion.

Lillian Loftin spoke a few words before the meeting was dismissed. Delmer Latta pronounced the benediction.

David L. Latta of Branch 9, writes:

I'm collecting names, addresses and information on Branch 9, John and Jane Latta's descendants. John and Jane settled in what became Vineyard, AR, in 1834. The original house and barn from the homestead are relocated at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, Prairie Grove, AR.

My objective is to be of assistance in getting members of this family in touch with each other. And having a reunion as well as updating the history book, *The Lord's Vineyard*, originally written by F. F. Latta, grandson of John and Jane.

I have contacted about twenty heads-of-households of this family so far.

David Leland Latta
18901 N Skylight Mt
Cane Hill AR 72717
(501) 848-3510
Email: dllatta@hotmail.com

Branch 3 reunion in Fort Laramie, Wyoming

I am Alan LeRoy Latta, son of William Alexander Latta, grandson of William Ray Latta, great grandson of Robert Ray Latta and gg-grandson of John Latta.

I am mailing considerable information to Paul Calhoun regarding the Fort Laramie School Reunion on 16 June 2001.

I would like to have a Latta family union in connection with this reunion.

There were many Latta's that traveled through southeast Wyoming and of course some moved on through to Colorado chasing gold.

My grandfather, William Ray Latta, was born near Rock Bluff, NE, and he and his six sons returned to the Fort Laramie area and homestead.

If you will provide me your postal mailing address, I will send you a copy of the stuff that I am mailing to Paul.

My mailing address is:

Alan LeRoy Latta,
Rte. 1, Box 52
Veteran, WY 82243

I get e-mail under Love2Polka@aol.com and under my name allata@aol.com

My phone number is (307) 837-2100

I would like as many of the Branch 3's as can to plan a vacation to Wyoming (Like no other Place on earth) and also called "the Cowboy State" in June 2001 and join in on our William Ray Latta family reunion.

Please e-mail me back with your mailing address.

Queries

Send your queries to the editor, Paul H. Calhoun, 736 Grant St, Port Clinton OH 43452-2149 (paul@latta.org)

EMPSON LAWTIE STARKEY WRIGHT	(1) Peter WRIGHT, b. 1570 in East Riding, Yorkshire, England, d. Dec 1617 in Yorkshire, England; m., 7 Jun 1594 in England, to Ann ____; they resided in Thorpe, Howden and Knedlington, East Riding, Yorkshire, England; Their child: i. Robert, b. 1604, d. Jul 1651, m. Alice LAWTIE. (2) Robert WRIGHT, b. 1604 in Howden, East Riding, Yorkshire, England, d. Jul 1651 in Yorkshire, England; m., 1 Aug 1629 in England, to Alice LAWTIE (b. unknown); they resided in Howden, East Riding, Yorkshire, England; their children: i. Joshua [Sr.], b. 1633, d. 10 Aug 1695, m. Elizabeth EMPSON; ii. Samuel, b. about 1643, d. before Mar 1690, m. Mary STARKEY; iii. Thomas, b. 1630, d. 21 Jan 1706, m. 1st Mary ____, m. 2nd Ann ____; iv. Elizabeth, b. about 1632, d. Jul 1633; v. Alice, b. 1635, d. Apr 1661. —Mitchell Owens, 790 Riverside Drive 7A, NYC, NY 10032-7446, mowens35@aol.com
LATTA VENABLE	Seeking info on Jeff LATTA (could be Jeffery or Jefferson) middle name not known, b. unknown d. 1885 married Elizabeth Virginia VENABLE on 01/13/1870. She was b.02/06/1850 in Arkansas, d.03/15/1939 in Chandler, OK. Children were: John Latta, Marvin Latta, Baby girl Latta, Albert Latta, Henry Luther Latta b.04/07/1870, Annie Rosie Latta b. 1871 and William Ervin Latta b. 07/27/1873 Any and all info on these Lattas would be greatly appreciated. —William J. Romer, 3249 Towser St., San Diego CA 92123, wromer1@san.rr.com
LATTA NEELY	I have decided that I belong to Branch 35. Can anyone out there help me? My grandmother was Sarah Jane LATTA, daughter of William LATTA. She married Towns CHRISTOPHER in Maury Co. in 1844. I had originally thought that Sarah Jane's folks came from NC, but now believe that they came from Chester Co., SC. Does anyone know where the Bible of John LATTA and Margaret NEELY is today? This Bible was in the personal possession of a William M. Latta who lived on Morton Ave., Nashville, TN in 1952. Any information would help. —Janie G. Quarles, P.O. Box 624, McCrory AR 72101, janieq@ipa.net
CONNER LATTA LATTY TYNER WHITTINGTON	My grandfather was Andrew Jackson "Doc" LATTA/LATTY—his father was John LATTA and his mother was Fannie (Frances) CONNER. I understand that he was in a lot of trouble in his youth and was not a very nice person. He was born 23 Aug 1861 in Pike county AR. I have a lot of information about him—but I am unable to find out where his father and mother comes in and where they were born or who they may be related to. I know they came from Tennessee into to Arkansas and then into the Indian Territory. We are also related to the TYNER and WHITTINGTON. —Kathleen (Latta) Carson, lattagen0202@yahoo.com
ELLIOTT LATTA	Seeking information about Mary "Polly" LATTA, b. 27 Nov 1796, unknown where. Died 7 Jun 1837, Israel Twp, Preble Co, OH, buried Hopewell cemetery there. She married John ELLIOTT 15 Sep 1825 Butler Co, OH or Butler, Richland Co, OH. He was b 3 Nov 1803; d 13 Jan 1875. They are my ggg grandparents. They had Joseph Latta ELLIOTT b 8 May 1827; Esther Jane ELLIOTT b 9 Feb 1829; Ebenezer N. ELLIOTT b 6 Jun 1831. —Connie Leaman, 4227 S.W. 315 St., Federal Way WA 98023, Roncon3@msn.com
ELLIS LATTA RODGER(S)	Looking for information on thr family of John LATTA and Margaret RODGER(S) from Castlethrid, Donegal, Ireland. Their son Andrew LATTA b ca 1837 came to Victoria Australia ca 1860 and m. Anne Louise ELLIS in 1867 and died in 1909. Andrew had a brother John and a sister Jane, both bapt. 14 Jul 1833 at Castlethrid (twins?). I am prepared to chack any Lattas that came to Australia. —Margaret Ritchie, 11 Verona Street, Vermont South 3133, Victoria AUSTRALIA, fiona.ritchie@bankofamerica.com

Branch 28 LATTY POOLE	Branch#28. Father Mark Edward LATTY, grandfather Benjamin Oliver LATTY, great grandfather Harvey Oliver LATTY, gg-grandfather Caleb Oliver LATTY, ggg-grandfather John LATTY, 4g-grandfather was David LATTY. Have found numerous cousins through uncle bloodlines. Will happily share info and pictures that I have Still trying to find info in Ireland on David to get history on his mother or father. No luck at this time in Hall Co GA. Harvey Oliver started the Latty Schoolhouse prior to 1876. The building still stands today and is used a few times a year for boy scout meetings and the annual POOLE family reunion. We have pictures of Latty Schoolhouse, Benjamin Oliver LATTY, Caleb LATTY that we would love to share with anyone interested in this family history. One of our cousins, John W. Latty, has submitted articles to a book that will be published next summer of families in Hall County GA before 1820. Included are war histories of this 28th branch. Several family members are buried at Diamond Hill Cemetery in Jackson Co GA, and Timber Ridge Baptist Cemetery in Lula GA, and Calvary Baptist Church in Gainesville GA. Would love to share info and to hear from you. —Stanley Ben Latty, 552 Baldwin Falls Rd, Baldwin GA 30511, heart2@alltel.net
LATTA	Hello! My name is Jessica LATTA. I am nineteen years old and I don't know much about my family except that my family name is Latta. I was just wondering if you could explain it's origin and if possible how we ended up in the western hemisphere or even our migration to Ontario Canada. Please help!!!! —Jessica Lynn Latta, 316 Elsfield Cr., Sarnia ON N7T 6C8, Canada, jessica@rivernet.net
LATTA	Have you got any information on where and when the name LATTA first appeared in Glasgow/Scotland? Does the word latta mean anything other than a second name? —Craig Latta, 69 Whitlawburn Avenue, Glasgow G728HX, Scotland, craig.latta@ntlworld.com
ANDERSON LATTA McMORRIS	My husband's g-grandmother was Elizabeth LATTA (b 1840, Buctouche, New Brunswick d. 1920 in Sifton, Saskatchewan). She was married to Thomas Edward ANDERSON (1831-1917). They are to be found in Branch No. 50. With one exception, this seems to be an entirely Canadian branch going back to Joseph LATTA (1797-1874) who was the first of the branch to come to Canada (when??) and his wife Elizabeth McMORRIS, who were both born in Ireland (although they evidently lived for a time in Scotland). I am interested in exchanging information with members of this branch, many of whom seem to have lived at River Herbert, Nova Scotia, and with other Canadian Lattas. —Leah Joys, 518 Ross Glen Dr. S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta T1B 3A7, Canada, buffy1@telusplanet.net
BAKER LATTA MERRITS WEAVER	I am looking for the ancestral line of William Herman LATTA. William was born 2 Aug 1895 in Petersburg, Pa. He was the son of William LATTA and Minnie MERRITS. William died on Jan. 31, 1961 in Marion, Ohio. William had one known sister Verna BAKER. He married Ethel Gertrude WEAVER (from Altoona, Pa.) in 1916-1918 at Camp Lee, Va. William had the following children (all born in PA): Donald, Marion Kenneth, Lillian and Mildred. The family then moved to Marion, Ohio approx. 1930. Most of this information comes from 2 obituaries, William's death certificate and the newspaper article about William being hit by a train. —Rebecca Heinz, St.Rt. 51 Box 129-A, Kearneysville WV 25430, r_heinz@intrepid.net
Branch 45 LATTA	Any information on the name LOWMAN LATTA, Branch 45. I would like to know where the name Lowman came from. —Carol Latta Milner, P.O.Box 7967, Seminole FL 33775, cmhello@yahoo.com
LATTA	We have a painting titled <i>Ivory Duck</i>, by Frank LATTA, and the attached tag says delivered to museum by April 14, 1956....Sitka, Alaska. The other does not have tag on the back and the title is unknown. We are trying to find some information about the two paintings. —Tammy K. Davis, P.O. Box 5008, Rapid City SD 57709
CHRYSTLER LATTA Branch 1	Seeking information on the children of Hannah LATTA and William CHRYSTLER [Branch 1, family 192—ed.] Robert J. Chrystler, bobnjoanna@earthlink.net

Our Financial Contributors since the last issue

You make the world go 'round!

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From the mailbag**Wm. M. Latta letter—Branch 35/9 tie?***(Continued from page 3)*

and wanted to let me know what he said. Evidently Bill has a "pile" of cartons that hold his father's research, and probably won't get through them until he retires -- which might be in the not too distant future. However, Bill observed that his father was not very good about keeping source notes, so he doesn't hold out much hope of documenting the information that William shared in his letter. Bill does have the family Bible available, and has made copies of the pages that are pertinent to family history. Given that, I might try to follow up with asking him about the Alexander Latta that his father mentioned.

An English cousin checks in

I am Robert Latta, I live in England. My family came from Scotland, in the town of Troon. I now live in the southeast of England.

From what I know our ancestors were sheep rustlers and murderers. There is a section of Scotland that was once known as the Lands of Lathis. This is where we believe the name came from and the Lathis clan came across from Norway and that area in the time of the Vikings or earlier.

I just wanted to let you know that there are Latta's on this side of the Atlantic.

Thank you

Robert Latta

rob@willowdene2.freemove.co.uk

Muybridge article kudos

Researcher Marta Braun sent us this note regarding the lead story in Issue 13 about Thomas Love Latta playing a role in the invention of the motion picture:

Just returned from Italy to be greeted by your wonderful newsletter. Thank you so much for the Muybridge story, it really looked terrific. Made me feel sad that I wasn't a member of this interesting family!!

Financial report**from 1 Sept through 31 Dec 2000**

PREVIOUS BALANCE		\$678.84
Receipts		
Subscription contributions	\$830.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$830.00
Expenditures		
Postage	336.71	
Printing	342.00	
Processing Fees	7.98	
Supplies	169.54	
Web Services	79.80	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$936.03
BALANCE ON HAND		\$572.81
<i>Estimated cost to print and mail issue 15: \$730.00</i>		

TRAIL (Irish Research) Project

Beginning Balance	\$744.50
Contributions	50.00
Balance on hand	794.50

Reprints

Reprints are available for issues 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. The cost is \$2.50 per copy plus \$1 per order for postage.

Please make checks or money orders payable in US funds to **The Latta Genealogy Newsletter** and mail to Paul H. Calhoun, Editor, 736 Grant Street, Port Clinton, OH 43452-2149.

A novel way to get a middle name

(Continued from page 1)

of interest. At the William Smith and Hobart Colleges library the same was true. All three were copies of the same filming.

At the University the archivist was helpful and interested in the search. We looked at the filing cards which had been prepared in order to compile the index. The card for the Latta/Ford marriage contained no new information. As a parting comment when we were leaving, she asked whether we had been to the Reed Cemetery in town. We had not. It was nearby and became our next stop.

The "cemetery" is now actually about a six-foot square of land, enclosed by a wrought iron chain, containing the remnants of the gravestones which were extant when the cemetery was "consolidated" to make room for other uses. It is very near to an Assembly of God Church and the pastor's home is adjacent. As we were looking at the stones, the pastor emerged to inquire about our interest in the Reeds. I had to admit that at this point I didn't know for whom I was looking, but the name Josiah Reed was of interest to me. He brought out a paper which contained all of the information legible on the stones when they had been moved. On the list was "Sibel," wife of Josiah Reed. Within the enclosure was a very tall foot stone, 3 to 4 feet high of the purest white marble, engraved with the initials SR. Sybil was the only person on the list with the initials SR, and I "adopted" the stone as being hers.

I left Geneva feeling as if I had failed. I still didn't know anything about Polly Reed Ford.

The next week we were in Berkshire County, MA where my husband was participating in the Berkshire Choral Festival. One morning I drove into Great Barrington hoping to pick up my e-mail at the local library. In spite of information to the contrary, the library was not on the Internet. I had a couple of hours until lunch, so I asked about their local history section, which turned out to be quite extensive. They had dozens of volumes of the vital records of Massachusetts before 1850 – a set which contains one town per volume. Since one of the choices for Polly's birth was MA, I began reading. I looked at all of the towns from which I had other ancestors, but found nothing. The most convenient volumes to reach started with the M's, so I began there.

It was nearly time for lunch and I was only in the P's. The next volume was pretty small and bore the interesting name of Peru, so I checked one more book. There she was! Mary Ford, born 8 Nov., 1797 to Elisha Ford and his wife Sibbel. My reaction was incredulity and an upset stomach! After looking for so long, I somehow found it hard to accept that she had been sitting there in print in a book which I have probably passed in other libraries without opening. It seemed at that moment to be too easy, too clean. There

was no indication that her middle name was Reed. The Elisha part made sense, as she named her first son Samuel Elisha Latta, one name from each grandfather.

Peru was formerly Partridgefield and is in Berkshire County, just "up the road" from Great Barrington. After returning to tell my husband what I had found, I was off for Peru to see the lay of the land. The fog and drizzle hid most of the territory from view and I will have to return again. The next day it was a hasty trip to the county clerk's office for a look at land and probate records. There I found a gold mine. Elisha died in 1799, leaving a will naming his wife Sibbel and only child Polly. It also named his three brothers Charles, John and Roswell and a sister Polly Lamphear, wife of Oliver. Elisha had died on a trip to Bozrah, CT, but the will was filed in MA. Many other documents were filed with the will and they included proof that before 1806 Sybil had married Josiah Reed!

After returning home I read the church records of Bozrah, CT, which gave baptisms for Elisha and his siblings (but no parents were listed in any baptisms of that period.) Elisha Ford and Sybil Hammond were married in Bozrah on 7 Jan. 1797. Other sources named Joseph Ford as the father of Charles, John and Roswell. A 9-volume set on the Ford family by Hannibal C. Ford cites the will of Joseph referring to his sons Charles, John and Roswell, Polly the daughter of his deceased son Elisha, and a daughter Mary Lamphear. In the Ford book Joseph is shown as the gg-grandson of William Ford, with the intimation that William came to Plymouth on the Fortune in 1623, son of "Widow Ford." Whether that proves true or not, William was there very early and his son Michael married Abigail Snow, the granddaughter of Richard Warren who was indeed on the Mayflower. Once you get back to that period, you find you are related to just about everyone in the colony.

So now I had a picture of my great great grandmother. Born in the lovely Berkshires where her father and Uncle Charles had gone to settle the frontier, left fatherless at 2, she and her mother remained in Partridgefield at least until after the 1800 census. Charles remained and is noted in histories of the town. I do not yet know how or where Sybil met Josiah Reed, but I take it from censuses that he was a widower with young children, and Sybil married into a number of siblings for Polly and added more children with Josiah. Polly was an "only child" growing up in a large family. As an adult Polly probably did not remember her days in the Berkshires, for the Josiah Reed family lived in Ontario County, NY. Polly evidently had a good relationship with her stepfather, as she always used his name as her middle name and she named a son after him. It leads me to wonder why we have no Sybil's in later generations – perhaps because no one could agree on how to spell it! ✕