

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 16

Winter 2002

LATTA

by Alex. Latta, Branch 16
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This interpretation of the origins of the name: LATTA, is only partly original, and is not intended to disparage the work of others, but rather to complement them, and give us another viewpoint to consider. There are many spellings of the name which can be attributed to local pronunciation, and to the fact that many persons in earlier times could not read or write. Some of the variations are: Lattie, Latto, Lahtty, Lawtta, Lata, Latty, Lautta, Lawty, and a recently discovered legal document about a disagreement between neighbours regarding public access to adjacent lands: revealed a narrow piece of land known as LAATTA'S Tongue. This land is still owned by John Riddles (Branch 12), a descendent of Robert Latta, who died in North Carolina, in 1780. I believe that I have found six different spellings in Branch 12 alone.

It had intrigued me, years ago, that the name had an Italian meaning which was a "tin, cover, or lid". It finally dawned on me that it could also mean a metal worker, such as a blacksmith, or smithy. A letter from Flossie Latta, (Br. #5), quotes from her ancestral records, the event where a certain John Gilchrist, Marquis of Latta, had fled from England or Scotland in 1745, being threatened with death for taking up arms in the Stuart cause. John Gilchrist was a descendent of Giovanni Dagli Christo, Marquis of Latta, who was an Italian nobleman. To further support this idea, I searched the directories for Italy to find out if there were any Lattas there. This turned up a surprising number of Lattas, scattered throughout Northern Italy. (See population map at <http://gens.labo.net/it/cognomi>). I wrote to several of these Lattas, but received only one reply, which was from Dr. Umberto Latta, who wrote as follows: "I think your theory is right, and I now wish to tell you what my father and I think of

the topic. Recent news has come from some historical documents found in a little country [area], of Massafiscaglia, near the town of Ferrara. Near Ferrara, which was established in the 7th or 8th centuries, a settlement of ancient Roman soldiers was recently uncovered, which may help to confirm your theory."

He wrote further: "Since about 1200 AD, before the Estensi Dukedom, the local authority sent about 40 middle class families of Ferrara to colonize a swampy country, which became Massafiscaglia. One of them was a family named Latta, (or, in other documents, Allatta). He further states: "In Italian, Latta means a box of thin iron, like a cookie tin, or a can of gasoline. We say, 'una scatoly di latta, or una latta di benzina'. The story of my family begins in Ferrara in 1200 AD." Considering these Italian uses for the word latta, it might easily have been ascribable to a blacksmith, tinsmith, or one adept at metal-working in the early Roman Empire, similar to the origin of the name Smith in the English speaking countries. These skills would be needed by a conquering or occupying army - necessary in the manufacture and repair of personal armoury, and the making of pots, pans, and other utensils. Today, Latta families can be found throughout the Balkan States, in Russia, Finland, Western Europe, and as far afield as Scotland and Ireland, and from thence,

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Editorials and Replies

Reply to Shipwreck Article by Doc Huer

by Larry and Jean Sullivan, Branch 1

I'm as eager as "Doc" in going one generation or more further back than the genealogy left us by Robert H. Latta, but I cannot see how the James Latta in this citation could possibly match the 1 James M. Latta the head of Branch # 1. To begin with, as "Doc" points out, the "shipwreck Lattas" are believed to have arrived in the 1750's. This book says that James and Jane Allison Latta arrived with at least one child in tow about 1740. Moreover, I found no reference in the text to James having brought "his brothers and their families with him also," as Mr. Mueller states.

Secondly, all of the elders who communicated with

Robert H. Latta seemed to agree that 2 William (2) Latta was the first of his line to reach America, and that he had fled an irate father in Northern Ireland. In 1740, when James and Jane Allison Latta reached these shores, William would have been about 4 years old! A bit young to be arguing with his father over whom he should marry. As I have already communicated to Mr. Mueller, I find it hard to believe that the first members of Branch #1 could have arrived by shipwreck one of the descendants mentioning it in communications with Robert H. Latta. Their various letters were full of detail — much of it contradictory and thus some of it clearly nonsense — with not one hint of a shipwreck. But, Lord knows, I could be wrong. I often am. Your arguments please.

A BOARD IN OUR FUTURE?

by Virginia Latta Curulla

Those of us attempting to fill the giant shoes left partially empty by Paul Calhoun need support. We have talked about adding a board to our (informal) organization. Perhaps the branch captains would be willing to serve on a board? Perhaps there are other individuals who have some ideas about where this organization could go, and would like to participate?

Members of a board could serve several purposes, possibly including:

- 1) generating ideas about the future of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter and our loose coalition of those interested in Latta research;
- 2) monitoring our financial condition and expenditures;
- 3) providing support in any endeavors of the group;
- 4) other ideas?

Please send your comments to the editor.

REPRINTS of issues 1-15 are available for \$3.50 US per copy. Please make checks payable to the Latta Genealogy Newsletter and mail your request to the editor, Ken Mueller.

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Published approximately twice 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 to:

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We're on the World Wide Web! Visit our web site at
<http://www.latta.org>

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
by Virginia Latta Curulla, Branch 22

Paul Calhoun asked if I would take over as treasurer, handling contributions for the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. I have been receiving donations for the Northern Ireland Research Project, and forwarding the monies to Paul. Paul has been paying all bills. As of now, I am receiving funds for research and donations for the newsletter, and paying our expenses.

Ken Mueller, who has graciously accepted responsibility for editing the newsletter, will help monitor our financial status, along with Beryl Redfield, who has agreed to be "backup" treasurer.

You know that the newsletter has been funded only through your voluntary contributions, with no subscription required. We all are volunteers -- as Paul has been -- so please do remember to regularly send your contributions to cover the printing and postage for the newsletter.

As of now, contributions for the newsletter and for the Northern Ireland Research Project should be both sent to me, Virginia Latta Curulla, 9050 Meridian Pl. No., Seattle WA 98103-4153, (206) 524 0830. Please specify the purpose of your donation, either the newsletter or the research project.

New editor of Newsletter

Because of Paul Calhoun's illness, I have agreed to become the new editor of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. I would like to ask for volunteers to be on the editorial board, and for authors to send me their Latta articles. I am especially asking for stories of how your Latta ancestors lived back then; how and why they moved to a new land, any of their adventures, original Latta recipes, and of course their Latta genealogy should be included.

Please send me a regular e-mail message, or snail mail at: Ken Mueller, 337 Gertrude Street, Elgin, Illinois 60123. I look forward to hearing from many of you.

Your friend,
Ken Mueller
Doc Huer@aol.com

Doubting the Branch 8 Shipwreck Story
By Larry Sullivan, Branch #1

I too have sought in vain for evidence of a shipwreck in Chesapeake Bay. posted to SHIPSLIST at Rootsweb for several months have yielded not a single nibble.

As for RHL's statement that James LATTA's second wife was Mary ALISON, sister of Rev. Francis ALISON, I found the following pertinent entries in two books from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore (please forgive me if these items have been posted previously.) From "The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania," p. 223 (1985):

"A different type of school from those described above was that founded by the Presbyterians in the Scotch-Irish settlement at New London in Chester County. This school, known as the New London Academy, was under ecclesiastical control and grew out of the academy founded by Dr. Francis Alison in 1744. Dr. Allison, a native of County Donegal, Ireland, was educated at the University of Glasgow. Around 1735 he emigrated to Pennsylvania at the age of thirty and became a tutor at the home of Samuel Dickinson, the father of John Dickinson, where he taught the future author of the 'Farmer's Letters.' along with several other boys. In 1737 he became pastor of the Presbyterian church at New London, where he bought a farm and started a school, which was at first a purely private enterprise. Among its alumni were John Ewing, James Latta, and Matthew Wilson, ministers ..."

From "Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania," p. 1203 (1978):

"Rev. James Latta, D.D., great-grandfather of Jane Sutton (Latta) Pinkerton, was born in the North of Ireland in 1732, and came to America with his parents, James and Mary (Allison) Latta, who settled near Elkton, Cecil county, Maryland, about 1740. ..."

On casual glance, it would appear that "Rev. James Latta, D.D." in the preceding paragraph was the James Latta who attended Dr. Allison's school at New London, which he operated until 1752, and that he was Dr. Allison's nephew.

Interesting that the latter entry, which actually was for the PINKERTON family, also places James and Mary (Allison) Latta near Elkton in Cecil County.

NORTHERN IRELAND RESEARCH PROJECT

By Virginia Latta Curulla, Branch 22
vcurulla@earthlink.net

The summary of the Latta data pertinent to our ancestors in Northern Ireland was completed just before Christmas and mailed to Sherry Irvine. All of us are particularly indebted to Alex Latta of Edmonton, Alberta, for his discovery of a great deal of this information.

Others, particularly those on the mail list, have found Internet data, which was incorporated into the summary of information sent to Ms. Irvine. Volunteer researchers, who read microfilms, internet sites, and books to send the results back to me, included Sue Lattea Cox, Ken Erdle, Tom Kintigh, Bill Latta, Harriet Latta, Kathy Latta, and Beryl Redfield.

Our group is very fortunate that Sherry Irvine has agreed to formulate our research plan for Northern Ireland. Ms. Irvine is highly regarded as a professional genealogist, and recently was elected to the office of president of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), an international organization, <http://www.apgen.org>. Ms. Irvine has had several books published on family history research in the British Isles and leads research tours to those countries.

We Lattas have the information about various branches that was collected by Robert Latta. Around 1890, Mr. Latta began writing letters to everyone he could find with the Latta surname, and continued his correspondence through the 1930s. Robert Latta's collection is in the Rare Books room of the Library of Congress.

Alex Latta, of Edmonton, obtained copies of the Robert Latta branch information from the Library of Congress some years ago. Alex is very willing to share information if you contact him at al-latta@gambit.ab.ca, or through regular mail at 6104 94A Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 0Y8.

Several years ago, George Latta, of South Carolina keyed in all the branches from the Robert Latta collection. You can find these now at

<http://www.Latta.org>. This Latta website includes updates that have been submitted by various branches.

Family tradition, as reflected in Robert Latta's collection, is the primary source of what we currently know about our Latta ancestors in Northern Ireland. Tradition is a useful place to begin for research, but current standards in family history research require that tradition be supported by documentation.

Our Northern Ireland Research project, like the work that Alex has done, will look at documentation available in Northern Ireland, some of it contemporary with our ancestors there. The muster rolls in 1630 and 1631 are examples of this type of research.

While writing this update, I received Ms. Irvine's plan for additional Latta research. Given the large database that we have collected, Ms. Irvine recommends that we concentrate our Latta research in the Donegal area, and in following what we have discovered about branches 1, 3, 16 and 32. Ms. Irvine noted "There are several reasons for this [her recommendation] summed up as the evidence of the maps, the presence of some not so common first names through two or three generations (Moses, Samuel, Ephraim), and the time periods involved."

Ms. Irvine has developed a plan and has identified additional sources that Latta volunteers can research in their home countries, before we turn the project over to a professional in Northern Ireland. THEREIN LIES A DILEMMA...

I am willing to continue to maintain the database that summarizes and organizes our research results, and to communicate the results to Ms. Irvine. But, because of plans that my husband and I made some time ago, I cannot continue to coordinate the work of the volunteer researchers. Coordinating this volunteer research can be done through email and "snail" mail.

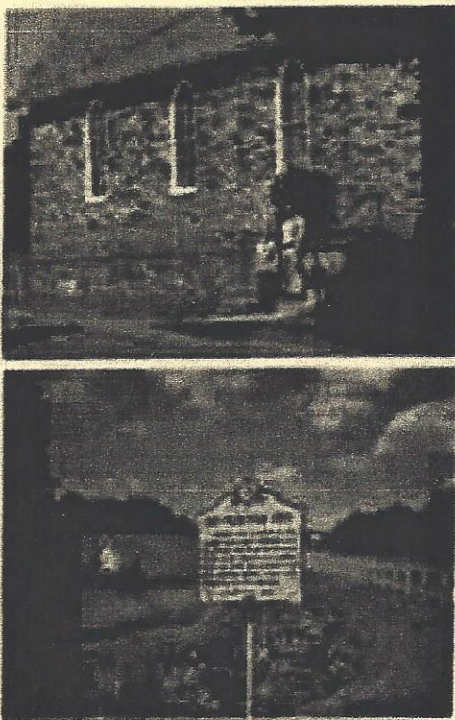
The benefit that the coordinator of volunteers
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Northern Ireland Research Project

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doing the research will receive is a substantial increase in personal knowledge and expertise in family history research. WILL SOMEONE AMONG YOU NOMINATE THEMSELVES TO COORDINATE THE VOLUNTEERS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RESEARCH? If so, please contact me at the address below, or by email.

Donations to support our Northern Ireland Research project can still be sent to Virginia Latta Curulla, 9050 Meridian Pl. No., Seattle WA 98103-4153, (206) 524 0830.



Top picture shows from left to right: Jane Latta, Virginia Latta Curulla, and A. Duie Latta.

Bottom picture shows the Rock Presbyterian Church. The caption on the sign reads:

Founded 1720 in North Milford Hundred, Cecil County, Maryland. First called New Erection on the Branches of the Elk River, then Elk River Church, Great Elk, Upper Elk and since 1793, Rock. Present church erected 1761. Remodeled in 1844 and 1900. Maryland Historical Society.

LATTA IMMIGRANTS TO MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA

By Virginia Latta Curulla, Branch 22

Family tradition says that a number of early Latta Branches first immigrated to the area that is southwest of Philadelphia. Members of Latta Branches 8, 19, 22, 27/47, and 32 are said to have first settled to the southeast of Philadelphia, in Cecil County, Maryland, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and nearby. Many other branches, including Branch 1, 7, 15, 17, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 36, 41, 42, 43, and 45 are first identified when located farther west in Pennsylvania.

Lattas living near the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland might have been uncertain whether they resided in one colony or the other. Some of these Lattas could have left the area before the Mason-Dixon survey (1763-1767) that established that previously disputed boundary.

Consequently, when Lattas said they were born in Maryland, they could actually have been located in present day Pennsylvania. Or, these settlers might have thought they were living in Pennsylvania, but were living within the borders of present day Maryland. Lattas in this situation might have included the family of James Latta, Branch 8, who is said to have arrived near Elkton, MD with his sons in 1738.

Matthew Latta (probably branch 8) is listed as a freeman in East Nottingham township, according to the tax list of 1749 in Chester County PA. James Latta, possibly the James of branch 8, paid taxes in the same area in 1749. In 1750, Matthew's estate was settled in Chester County PA.

John Latta witnessed the will of William McKnight, very probably written in Chester County PA in 1759. William's probate in Rowan County, North Carolina, showed that he owned property in Chester County at the time of his death in Rowan County around 1790. All these Lattas lived about

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20 to 30 miles southeast of Philadelphia before the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania had been settled.

Many Lattas must have arrived in the port of Philadelphia, a popular landing place for the Scots-Irish in the 1700s and 1800s. We have documented the arrival of a few of these Lattas in the early or mid-1800s. Unfortunately, few ships' passenger lists from Northern Ireland survive from the 1700s.

The Latta families known to have been in Western Pennsylvania in the 1700s or early 1800s might have been a generation removed from those who settled nearer the east coast. Some could have come in a different group than branch eight, which is said to have arrived off the coast of Maryland in 1738.

Some of the Scots-Irish immigrants that first landed at Philadelphia soon went on to the southern colonies, where land also was available. The John Latta, mentioned above, could have been one of these. Our Northern Ireland Research Project could tell us more about the lives and possible connections of these Latta emigrants from Ireland.

Trevor Parkhill (1997) made a study of letters that were sent back home to Ulster from the Philadelphia area, or sent from family in Ulster to those in America. Letters cited by Parkhill show that emigration from Ulster was encouraged both by pressures in Northern Ireland and by the vastly superior opportunities to be found in North America.

Correspondents in Ireland talked about "poor harvests, agrarian unrest and, ... nothing but disturbance, confusion and in many places rebellion...". Such unsettling conditions were in addition to landlords' dividing leased land into plots too small to sustain a family, raising rents to the highest possible limits, and the restriction of civil rights for dissenters such as our Presbyterian ancestors.

Our ancestors probably had sentiments very similar to those of John Dunlap, who was born in Strabane, County Tyrone, in 1746. John wrote

back home that "People with a family advanced in life find great difficulties in emigration but the young men of Ireland who wish to be free and happy should leave it and come here as quickly as possible. There is no place in the world where a man meets so rich a reward for good conduct and industry as in America".

Under the circumstances, it is no wonder that many Scots-Irish emigrated from Ulster. The Chester County area of Pennsylvania was one of the stops that my husband, Joe, and I made during our trip across the country last spring. Before leaving Seattle, I had arranged to meet A. Duie Latta, in West Chester. Duie is a descendant of the well-known Reverend James Latta, Branch 8. His family has lived in the area since 1738.

We spent several beautiful June days with Duie and his aunt, Jane Latta, when they kindly took us to nearby areas of Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania that are connected with Latta history. On Thursday, June 7th, we visited New Castle, Delaware. John Ewing Latta, the son of the Reverend James Latta (Branch 8), was pastor at the Presbyterian churches of New Castle, Delaware and Christiana, Pennsylvania.

The present brick meeting house in New Castle, built in 1707, has a large marble tablet in the floor of the church. It reads "This Marble Commemorates the pious Zeal exemplary Virtues And Faithful Labours of The Rev'd JOHN EWING LATTA, who for upwards of Twenty four years Was Pastor of the United Churches of Newcastle and Christiana. And who Departed this life September 26, 1824 In the Fifty third year of his age. Respected Beloved and Lamented. "He tried each art, re-proved each dull delay, March'd to brighter Worlds and led the way."

In New Castle, we also visited the old Courthouse and the Arsenal (now a restaurant). I felt a connection with earlier Lattas, walking in the places where they probably trod about 250 years ago.

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Duie and Jane took us to the Old Rock Presbyterian Church, now in Cecil County, Maryland. The present church was built in 1761, with the giant rocks clearly evident at the present location.

We also visited the Old Rock Cemetery, where Latta immigrants are said to have been laid to rest sometime in the 1740s. The cemetery is near present day Lewiston, Pennsylvania, a few miles north of the Old Rock Church. Unfortunately, the cemetery is in great disrepair, being located in a clump of trees that are seen from the road. Upon closer inspection, a few stones can be discerned, but none with the Latta name. Probably many markers are buried beneath the soil that has accumulated over the years.

On the same day, the Upper Octarara Church and cemetery were visited because of their association with the Latta family. There, the cemetery is well-tended and markers for the Latta and associated families can clearly be seen.

Those of us whose Latta families have been great "movers" (perhaps not "shakers"), can enjoy seeing the countryside and towns where many Lattas first settled when coming from Northern Ireland so long ago. My husband and I are much indebted to Duie and his aunt for sharing with us these places so well known to their family throughout the last 250 years.

References:

1. Latta, Robert H., 1940, Robert H. Latta Collection, Rare Book Room, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.
2. Parkhill, Trevor, 1997, "Philadelphia Here I Come: A Study of the Letters of Ulster Immigrants in Pennsylvania, 1750-1875". In Blethen, H. T. and C. W. Wood (editors), Ulster and North America: Transatlantic Perspectives on the Scotch-Irish. The University of Alabama Press, Birmingham.

Sarah J. Latta 1852-1939, Branch 1

by Ken Mueller, Doc Huer@aol.com

For years I have researched my wife Karen's ancestor, Sarah Josephine Latta. She is of Branch One, the daughter of Robert Seegar Latta (1826-1900) and his wife Mary Tumbleson (1828-1907). Sarah was married three times. The first marriage of Sarah was 15 Feb. 1874 at Albion, Noble County, Indiana to Hiram Turner Davis (1850-1907), my wife's direct line. Next Sarah married 27 May 1886 at Council Bluffs, Iowa to Saul Marsters (1831-1903). Later Sarah married 9 Jan. 1907 at Leavenworth County, Kansas to John L. Evinger (1840-1917).

Sarah and Hiram Davis were from Noble and Elkhart counties in Indiana. But prior to 1885, Saul Marsters and Robert S. Latta moved to Loup County, Nebraska. After John Evinger died in Polk County, Arkansas, Sarah lived with any relative who would take her in all over the country.

The part that I have intensively researched is the fact that Saul Marsters was in the 22nd Indiana Regiment in the Civil War. After a year of trying, I managed to obtain his complete pension file. Saul Marsters received a pension until his death. Then Sarah received the pension from 1903-1907. Then Sarah and Saul's minor daughter Josephine (born 1894) received the pension from 1907-1910. Then from 1917 until her death Sarah again received the pension. The resulting pension file is a gold mine of information these families. It cost me \$37, but it details many affidavits from almost every relative and friend Sarah ever had, death records, changes of addresses, marriage records, Bible records, lists of children and their birth dates, divorce records, applications, medical records, etc. There are over a 100 pages.

If anyone is researching a family who lived during the Civil War (1861-1865) in America, you simply must try and find a record of their military service. That way you can look for the real gold, the pension file.

On the Internet, check Cyndi's List, <http://www.Cyndislist.com>. Helpful books at your library

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Queries

Send your queries to the editor, Ken Mueller, 337 Gertrude Street, Elgin, Illinois 60123, Doc Huer@aol.com

For future Queries, the editor suggests that the contributor include both e-mail and snail mail addresses, as not all researchers have Internet access.

1. My Great-Grandfather Alex Shannon was brother-in-law to John Stewart Latta. Does anyone have anything on this part of the family? I have one letter from John Stewart Latta to my Great Great-Grandfather Granville Shannon. I would really like to develop this side of the family, and would especially like to find photos and material on Unity Williams Shannon. I understand she was a formidable person. I would like to hear from anyone who could help me in this matter, and thank you all for your consideration of this matter. Kind Regards,

Michael Shannon, 1507 Marshall, Houston, TX, 77006-4119, pdd101940@aol.com

2. I see there is a Joy Weicht who made an inquiry into the Latta Family Tree. I am researching my family tree and have a couple of Latta's and many Weicht's in it as well. I was wondering if any one had information on the Latta's from Northern Indiana, who married into the Krontz family, or the Weicht's, marrying into the Krontz family. On the Weicht's side I have William, Margaretta (Krontz) (b.22Sep1846), Catharine(b.24Mar1846), Anna (b.7JUN1867), Abigail, Ezra, George, John, William II, and Rebecca (b.7 May1869)Weicht. On the Latta's side I have Ora Lee (male, b.1884), Clara Mae (Krontz) b.1887, Clara, George (b.7DEC1919), Mary, and Ora Mae (female,b.30OCT1917). Any information would be Greatly appreciated! Thank you,

Krysti Boughton, 408 Mechanic, Sturgis, MI, 49091, krysiboughton@hotmail.com

3. Were the Lattas associated with any of the Scottish clans? Many small families affiliated with a larger clan(s) for protection. Are we the septs of a Scottish (or Irish) clan? PS: I'd like to wear a family tartan at my wedding, so I need to find out which one(s) best represent the Latta family. I know there is an Ayrshire tartan, and a Caledonia tartan (supposed to be a town in Scotland the Lattas are affiliated with). I didn't know if any others might be more relevant

DiAnna Latta, 1909 South Ave, Rochester NY 14620, annamm@rochester.rr.com

4. From: Blanche Manos,
manosmeadows@intellex.com

Paul, I got your address from Kathleen Carson whom I met at the Levi Latty reunion Saturday. I am glad you are doing Latta research. My mother's maiden name was Latty. Her father was Levi Latty and his father was Matthew Latty. Levi's grandmother was Granny Tyner(Susie Tyner). We know very little of the Lattys. We

feel there is a connection with the Latta family in Prairie Grove but all is just speculation. If you have any information which would relate to my branch, I'd appreciate it. It is good to know we have so many relatives! Blanche Manos

5. From: "don kitchen", kitchen2@adelphia.net

I am Betty (Latta) Kitchen, searching for and willing to help out others, in Line 17 of the Latta family. I have the will of John Latta II, father of Julia A. (Latta) Poole, Alcindra (Latta) Mercer, George Madison Lattea, Abel or James Abel, Samuel Seymore, Catharine (Latta)Morris, John Copeland Latta, Sarah Jane (Latta) Nalley. I know that his father John I had another son named Abraham who had at least two daughters, Harriet S. and Allice. If you know anything about any of these people or are interested, I certainly would like to share.

6. From: MHPDECO@aol.com

Looking for ANY information on connection between Lattas and Downings. Interested in these Surnames: Downing, Boyd, Lewis, Linn, Latta, Gaston, Simpson, Remer or others connected with Downings. Please respond - I'm desperate! Chester Co. SC Old Deed Book - 1817 lists heirs of Robert Boyd as John Boyd, James Boyd, Leander Downing, Rachel (Boyd) Downing, Samuel Latta, Elizabeth Latta and Margaret Boyd.

7. From: Martha Latto, marthalatto@juno.com

After spending about 10 years looking for Latto's I've realized some might have been spelled Latta. Brothers William and Alexander came to Philadelphia in 1822 from Donegal. They lived in Pennsylvania for 12 years and then moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio. I found the date and place of arrival in Filby's and the rest is oral. Almost all have moved from Tuscarawas County by now. I have very little information about Alexander. Both brothers married Sproul sisters, Margaret and Elizabeth Sproul (Sprull). Does someone have information about Alexander or other connections.

Martha Latto, 915 E. Via Escuela, Palm Springs, CA, 92262.

8. I am asking for help connecting to a branch. John James Latta b. Feb 2, 1823 m. Mary Rhodes children were James John Latta b 6/24/1855 Ann Judson, Sophrina. I can go from this John Latta to me but I cannot go any farther back. A great Aunt told me his

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We really appreciate your support!

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(Continued on page 10)

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(Continued on page 11)

LATTA

(Continued from page one)

around the world. North America has been blessed with immigrants from all of the above mentioned countries. It is my contention that Lattas followed the Roman army to Scotland about the year 200 BCE. The distribution of the name covers the area of Europe that was occupied by the Roman Empire at that time, and I doubt that the name would be so prevalent in Italy today, had it not started there.

Advertisement

Alex's Theory of the name LATTA, as published here, is available in a colorful chart, 11" x 17". The chart also depicts the several Crests, Motto, and Shield design attributed to early LATTAs. The price is \$15.00 US, postage paid to destinations in the USA or Canada. Extra copies can be had @ \$12.00 each, if ordered at the same time and same destination. Suitable for framing.

Orders and payments can be made to Virginia Curulla, 9050 Meridian Pl. N., Seattle, WA, 98103. Proceeds will benefit the Latta Family Newsletter, and its research department. Please give your full address with order.

Letter from Arthur Gilchrist Brodeur to Emmet O'Neil, Cambridge, 26 Feb. 1907

By Flossie Latta, Branch 5

"...I have always known that on my mother's mother's side of the house I could claim descent from kings of France, Scotland and Ireland; I had yet to discover, however, that I could claim noble blood on my mother's father side. His name was John Gilchrist Latta, and in reading the "Graphic" (the leading English political magazine) I came across a line of descent, published apropos of a startling civil and probate case at law before the House of Lords. It seems that a certain John Gilchrist, Marquis of Latta, had fled from England, or rather,

Scotland, in 1745, being threatened with death for taking up arms in the Stuart cause. The line of descent published in the "Graphic" traced this man's ancestry to Giovanni degli christo, Marquis of Latta, who was a Italian nobleman and had taken up arms under Alexander III of Scotland as a leader of Italian mercenaries against the English. For this service Alexander III made him Marquis of Latta. He married Mary, daughter of the Earl of Douglas, and one of his descendants was this John Gilchrist, last Marquis of Latta, who fled from England to America in 1745. The descent down from him given in the "Graphic" led to one John Gilchrist Latta, born 1824, in Georgia. Beyond him all trace was lost. Now it seems that when the last Marquis fled, the English government forgot him, and forgot to declare his lands forfeited. This was strange, since his lands were large and rich. However, George III found out about them after the death of George II, and, since he could not get a claim to them any other way, his ministers procured a forged deed of escheatage which declared these lands forfeit to the Crown. Two months ago it was discovered that this deed was fraudulent, and the "Graphic" instituted a search for the rightful heir, with the above results. Now, this John Gilchrist Latta, who was born in 1824, in Georgia, was my mother's father, and I am the heir to the title and the lands. But as soon as the "Graphic" brought out this table of descent (although it pocessed no further information) the House of Lords hurriedly met, and, instead of instituting a search for the heir, as they were bound to by law, they declared that there was no heir, and that the lands and title passed back to the Crown."

Sarah J. Latta, 1852-1939

(Continued from page 7)

include :

Groene, Betram H.

1996 Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors.

Schweitzer, George K.

1984 Civil War Genealogy.

The LDS Family History Centers are also an excellent place to research your Civil War ancestors.

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(Continued from page 10)

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William C. Wilson, Sr., 7, PO Box 549, Newell NC 28126-0549, wcwilson@pobox.com

The editor suggests that researchers contact contributors of the same branch and share information.

Financial report

from 1 January through 3 February 2002

PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$1200.00
Receipts	
Subscription contributions	\$71.50
Reprint Requests	\$38.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$110.00
Expenditures	
Northern Ireland Research Project	\$76.50
Postage	\$0
Printing	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Web Services	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$76.50
BALANCE ON HAND	\$1233.50

Research Queries

(Continued from page 8)

parents were Samuel and Jean Neeley. John and Margaret had two children John James and Martha born 1835 in Jackson County, GA. Branch 9 has a Margaret Neeley with parents of Samuel Neeley and Sarah Ferguson. And the dates are different. Can anyone help me!

Linda A. Latta Carr, 229 Yacht Club Drive, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
lcarr17@home.com

9. I have only just discovered your very interesting site. My own family has for many years tried to discover the origins of the Latta family. I was born in Ayrshire in Scotland; my ancestors lived in Scotland and Ireland. One of them was a famous doctor, James Latta, who was the company doctor for the Guinness Brewery in Dublin! I myself am an expert in Russia and the former Soviet Union. I was in Moscow recently and discovered a Russian lady called

Tatyana Vasilievna Latta. She informed that there are many Lattas in present day Belarus and southern Baltic States, part of the former Soviet Union. In fact, she said, there is a small town in Belarus called Latta. So far, I have not been able to find it on a map. I am trying to find out what movements of people occurred around 15 - 17th centuries westwards from there to Scotland and Ireland or elsewhere. But somehow, I think that this is a very likely explanation.

William Tobias Latta, 63 Vespan Road, London W129QG, United Kingdom,
mustob@4dek.freemove.co.uk

10. I am looking for information on my great grandfather, William Edison Latta Jr. Born 1886 and died in 1978. He married Minnie Maude Ashworth (1896-1976) and they had Donnabelle, Leona, Laverne, William Woodrow and Barbara.

Michelle Atkisson Heap, 5894 Garces Avenue, San Jose CA 95123, garyh1020@aol.com

11. Looking for ancestors Whittington from England....Counties of Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. Time span 1550-1900. My grandparents arrived directly from England to Canada in 1912. Will share information. Cheers. Keith.

R.Keith Whittington, N5C 1E3, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada, kwhitting@rogers.com

12. I have come across two pieces of Latta information and I am curious as to which branch or branches is/are involved. The first is a church record from the 1st Dutch Reformed Church in Albany, Albany County, New York relating the marriage of a David Latta to an Anne Stewart on Sept. 12, 1818. The second is a newspaper notice from a Barrie, Ontario, Canada newspaper giving notice of the marriage of a David Latta of Niagara to a W. Robinson of Innisfil, Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada on January 7, 1878.

Craig J. Bowen, 414 Johnson Road RR8, Brantford Ontario, N3T-5M1, Canada, craig.bowen@sympatico.ca

13. I am researching my family tree, and I am looking for any information on Joseph Lattie (family name later changed to Latta), married to Olive Olivia, their parents, or descendants. They were from the Malagash, Nova Scotia area.

Jean McKenzie (Latta), RR#1, Malagash NS B0K 1E0, Canada, mackensj@student.ednet.ns.ca

14. Branch 1, Looking for information on Robert Robertson Latta born April 20, 1809 in Kentucky. Also would like information on any of his children. His daughter Elizabeth Latta was my great grandmother.

William H. Spray, 15508 Fitzgerald, Livonia Michigan 48154. wspray@twmi.rr.com

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Research Queries

(Continued from page 12)

15. Branch 17 The will of John **Latta**, born PA, who died in Monroe County, Ohio, probated Jan. 31, 1866, in addition to mentioning his wife Anna (**Hockenbury**) and his children (in order of mention): John Copeland **Latta**, Catharine **Morris**, Sarah Jane **Nally**, Samuel **Latta**, Julia A. **Pool**, Lucinda **Mercer**, George M. **Latta**--then goes on to mention Hearriett S. **Latta** and Allice **Latta**, heirs of Abraham **Latta**. Does anyone have information on this Hearriett S. and Allice? Can anyone link Abraham as a brother to the John who wrote the will? Can anyone link them as children of an earlier John **Latta** and what is the mother's name? Could it be Mary **Daugherty**? Any help would be much appreciated.

Betty Jane (**Latta**) **Kitchen**, 3505 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg OH 44087, kitchen2@adelphia.net

16. Looking for descendants of Franklin **Latta** and Julia **Cagle**, they were my great great grandparents. Mary Frances **Latta** married William J. **Watkins** in Missouri. They had seven children, Martha Ellen **Watkins** was my grandmother. This is Branch # 28. I saw a posting from: dlpowell@iamerica.net dated sometime 1998. Have sent several e-mails but all are returned as undeliverable. Would love to hear from family. Patricia.

Patricia Ann **Bundy**, 2350 Stearns Way, Medford Oregon 97501, alaskanut1@aol.com

17. I am looking for info about Mary Jane **Latta** (**Lattie**) born @ 1798 in Orange County, NC who married Samuel **Graham**. He died @ 1839. Their children were Francis A., James L. and Mary. Samuel's first wife was Susannah **Twitty**. I am especially interested in knowing where Mary Jane and Samuel were buried and who Samuel's parents were.

Kerry L. **Brandoff**, 322 Cumberland Rd., Lolo MT 59847, USA, brandoff@montana.com

18. Our Branch No. is 7. Our great grandmother's name was Alice Blanche **Latta Burchett**. My sister and I are wondering if anyone would have any information on her or our great grandfather Paul David **Burchett**. We cannot find any information on him. We would appreciate any help you could render.

Sherri **Maddrey**, 104 Verbov Ave., Colonial Heights Virginia 23834, Sherbe0612@aol.com

19. The information supplied by Robert H. **Latta**, Denver, CO, Where does he fit in the Branches. I have his files but do not want to go through them all to find this information. I just want to know which branch he is from.

Rollin R. **Latta**, 924 E. Glade Ave., Mesa AZ 85204, USA, lattogo@juno.com

20. Trying to locate Alice **Latta** (**Pomeroy**). Her father is Bernard **Latta** whose last known residence is in Oakville,

Ontario. Believe Alice **Latta** lives in Ontario, she graduated from the University of Toronto in mid 1960's. She later married James **Pomeroy**.

Gerald M. **Doherty**, 1509 Ashburton Rd., Raleigh NC 27606, gmdoherty44@hotmail.com

21. I saw in Issue 10 there was the name **Koonse**. I have a part of 4 generations and would like to contact whoever placed the name there. Thanks Lois.

Lois **Koonse**, 13826 Casa Linda Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375, HOLO0217@aol.com

22. Paul: I had submitted a query in your Issue 5 Autumn 1997 Latta Genealogy Newsletter. I have never received any response to that query, but feel that so many more researchers and new subscribers to your newsletter are out there, perhaps with some info that may help me that it is worth another query. The gist of the query is unchanged, with the only difference is that I now have an e-mail address; dwapre@yahoo.com, and my snail mail address has changed. It is now: Dwayne L. **Pretzer**, 2600 Barracks Road, Apt. 444, Charlottesville, VA 22901-2196.

From Issue 5:

Catherine **Latta** was born in Huntington County, PA circa 1777, died 1864 in Dresden, IA, and is buried in Old Dresden Cemetery, Poweshiek County, IA. She married Isaac **Burns** before 1800 in Shirleysburg area of Huntington County, PA. Is she the daughter of John **Latta** who appears in the 1784 and 1790 census of Shirley Township, Huntington County, PA? I have extensive information on four of her nine children; two daughters who married **Cornelius** brothers, a daughter who married Isaac **Grush**, and her son John **Burns**, who migrated to IA with his mother, his wife Eliza and seven children.

23. I believe I have asked this before, but it has been sometime, and I lost my notes. I have a question regarding **Latta** to which clan we belong. I'm getting married next summer, and we are considering a Scottish wedding where I would be wearing a tartan. When I did a search online, I came up with **Stewart**. But I think someone told me once that **Latta** is a sept of **Cunningham**. Both clans have ties to Ayrshire so both are possibilities. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Jackson **Latta**, 41063 Cannon Rd., Apt 2204, Gonzales LA 70737, sjwraith@yahoo.com

24. I desperately need some help in locating information on the parents of my Great Grandmother Verna Belle **Latta** from Southwest PA area. I have very little to go on. Verna was born on April 16, 1890, supposedly in the Broad Top, PA area. Her mothers name supposedly is Minnie **Merrits** (not sure of the spelling) who died 1914(?) in Tyrone, PA. It is believed that Minnie remarried after her husband was killed in a train accident to Ed **Hamptom**. Verna's fathers name is a mystery. Some say his name was William and others say it was Joseph **Guisippi Latta**. Sources say that she had two brothers, John and Herman. One of whom was also to have

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Research Queries

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been killed in a train accident at around the age of 20. Verna was placed in an orphanage at about age 12. Sources also say that Verna's father died around 1899 in Petersburg, PA. So far I have not been able to find any information that would support what we have, or any one related to this Latta line. If anyone could help, it would greatly be appreciated..

Joy A. Weicht, 412 Poplar Street, Roaring Spring PA 16673, jweicht821@msn.com

25. Paul, I am looking for Lattie: I don't know where to post. I don't see surname of Lattie, but Latta. Could you help me know where to post or look? Here is what I have: Joseph F. Buckelew was born 1876 (1877) in Alabama, and died 1918 in Mena, Arkansas, between Hope and Hot Springs. He married Mary Viola Lattie. Her parents were Mary Jane Chrisman and J.B. Lattie. Mary Viola was born June 11, 1879 in Alabama, and died December 26, 1930 in Pilot Point, Texas, near Denton. (She remarried a Mr. Gray and after 3 months left him.) Children were: Owen 1900-1918, Curtis Owen 1901-1918, Floyd (Joseph Floyd) Buckelew August 7, 1903-1968. Chesley Dee (went by Dee) Buckelew March 12, 1905-1953, I have his birth certificate and it is listed Chesley Dee Buckelew 3/12/1905 and father's name J F Buckelew, a farmer born in Alabama and living at Commerce Texas at this birth. The mother listed is Mary Viola Lattie, housewife, born in state of Alabama. Jessie Jay (went by Jay) Buckelew 1907-1961 and May Buckelew 1907-? Twins; May died about 17 yrs. Della Buckelew 3/12/1909-7/5/1970. Ella Buckelew (twin to Della) 3/12/1909-? (died at age 9), Jewell Pearl 2/2/1915-?1977. Joseph (the father), Owen (never married) and Curtis (never married) all died in 1918 during a flu epidemic. Notes for Joseph F. Buckelew and Mary Viola Lattie: Joseph's occupation was a farmer. I also have that he was a road commissioner or railroad commissioner. Mary Viola was a housewife. Thanks in advance for any help you can give! Marilyn Buckelew.

Marilyn K. Buckelew, Programmer Analyst, IT, Systems and Programming, Health Net of Arizona, Inc., Work: (520-258-6545), Fax: (520-258-5560), E-mail: Marilyn.K.Buckelew@AZ.HEALTH.NET

26. My father was stationed at Chaters Towers Australia during WW2. Master Sargent cook in the American Army Airforce. I was born in 1943. He returned to USA about the same year. I believe his home was in Dallas Texas where he returned after the war. I would like to know if he is still alive, or when he died.

Mr. James Ronald Latta Jr., Unit 18 / 35 Bruce Street, Wagga Wagga New South Wales 2650 Australia, Corkey@smileyface.com

27. Just discovered my great great grandmother's name was Helen Latta - married Peter Ogilvie 3/19/1830 in Barony, Lanark, Scotland. Is there information about her? Birth date? Parents? Ms. Elizabeth W. Anthony, P.O. Box 13177, Burton WA 98013, libbie541@msn.com

28. I am the grandson of Historian and author Frank F. Latta. I never was able to know my grandfather. I was put up for adoption at birth. Not only did I lose my grandfather but I lost a mother to. I have recently found out that my mother has past away, his daughter Donna Latta Girard. I want to try to find out who they were, who I am and maybe find out a few things about myself. Any information and help would be greatly appreciated. Harry Tarica.

Harry Tarica, 29317 13th Ave. South, Federal Way WA 98003, USA, ashtarica@yahoo.com

29. From: GPLatta@aol.com:

Information from Branch Number 12. 52 Robert James (5) Latta. Single. He was educated at King's Mountain Military Academy. Served in the Confederate Army. Worked as an Engineer for the railroad. He surveyed the area that became the town of Latta, SC. The Town of Latta, SC was named after him.

30. Subject: Robert Latta. I am the resource manager for the Dillon County Historical Society. One of my projects is the Dillon County Museum located in Latta SC. Robert Latta, Confederate veteran who was employed by Florence Railroad in 1888 surveyed the present town of Latta, SC. Thus the town is named after him. The only information that we have on him is that he was from York County SC and attended military school there. We have a picture of him in his military school uniform. Jim Latta of Wyoming gave me your e-mail address and suggested I contact you for more information. If you can help in any way I would appreciate any information you may have. Don Barclay, 329 Lee Circle, Dillon SC 29536, Donbar2889@aol.com

31. I am the daughter Paul Richard Latta of Peru, Indiana. His father was Charles Latta also of Peru, Indiana. Paul Latta died in 1973, I know very little about his namesake or his family. Any information would be appreciated.

Lea A Latta Cook, 1121 Compass Creek Dr., Rocky Mount, NC, 27804. LCook234@aol.com

32. My ggg-grandmother was Laura Lucretia Latta (m. John Hall), d of William Latta (s of John William Latta m. Susannah Pitman) m. Lucretia Brintnell.

Ms. Karen Petersen, 52 Balma Lane, Petaluma CA 94952.

33. We are searching for a ancestor of my wife. We know that Thomas Latta had at least two kids Alvis Latta b. Nov 23, 1890 d. Oct 16 1949 Kern County CA, Mary Francis Latta b. Jan. 10, 1894 she married Richard Starr b. Dec 30, 1890. R. Starr and Mary are listed in the 1890 Canadian County Indian Territory census as married. Alvis and Mary were seperated as kids and were raised (per lore) by seperate families in Oklahoma. We are searching for proof that Mary is sister to Alvis Latta. Hope you don't mind a Latta question? Thanks, Happy searching, Larry.
Larry_Park@yahoo.com

Please complete the form below, and enclose it with your contribution
(suggested: US and Canada \$10-13 US for 2 issues; Overseas \$13-16 US funds please)
If you prefer, use your credit card at www.latta.org/plastic/ Thank you.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.	First Name	M.I.	Last Name	Jr., Sr., III, etc.	e-mail address
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Postal Address	City	State/Prov	ZIP+4 Postal Code *	Nation
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If you prefer your postal address **NOT** be published, check here: ☐

If you know the number of the branch(es) of the Latta family to which you belong, indicate here:

Your 9-digit Zip Code (US residents) can be found on your utility bills (telephone, electric, etc.)

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter, c/o Kenneth A. Mueller, Editor
337 Gertrude Street, Elgin, Illinois 60123-7401
Doc Huer@aol.com, Or, Branch1@Latta.org

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Mail your contribution to Ken Mueller, Editor, Latta Genealogy Newsletter,
337 Gertrude Street, Elgin, Illinois 60123.