

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 2

Autumn 1996

Undiscovered History of Branch Number 4

By George P. Latta

Emmit Girdell Latta was born May 28, 1849 in the town of Friendship, New York.

Emmit's life first makes its mark in history when, at the tender age of thirteen, he enlisted as a drummer boy, becoming the youngest veteran of the American Civil War. In his military career he was first enlisted in Battery A, 1st US Artillery and re-enlisted in Company I, 9th New York Cavalry.

After the war Emmit seemed to follow his father's footsteps into business. Among the many titles he held some of the more notable were inventor, author and banker.

He held the office of vice president with the Citizens National Bank of Friendship, NY, vice president of the J. L. Brown Banking Company, vice president of the Reliance Shoe Company, vice president of the Paul Lumber Company of Canada, member of the real estate firm Brown-Latta-Condon, the first president of the board of trustees of Friendship, New York, and president of the board of education for over 10 years. The list goes on and on, and is well documented.

With his brother Adrian, Emmit established The Latta Brothers Bicycle Manufacturers, and they began importing bicycles (velocipedes) of the only type then in existence, the "high wheel" variety. Later the Latta Brothers began manufacturing their own bicycle in Friendship, New York. At that time The Latta Brothers were one of only two bicycle manufacturers in the United States.

In the early 1900's Emmit moved his family from Friendship to Syracuse, New York. Not yet ready to "retire," Emmit began planning and organizing the production of "The Latta Typewriter." Before production began, the enterprise was purchased by the Remington Company and at least one of Emmit's patents was used (the ball bearing type arm).

Recently I have unearthed yet another inter-

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Origins of the Latta name

What's in a Name?

That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet; So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd—Shakespeare

The origin of the name "Latta" has been discussed and debated for many years. It's generally conceded that our ancestors lived in Scotland, with some later settling in Northern Ireland before coming to America and other countries. But, beyond that, there is no general agreement upon the origin of the name "Latta."

One Theory

From a document titled *Genealogy of the Latta Family* written in 1964 by Beatrice Latta Lewis of Terrace, California, and sent to the editor by Mrs. Vivian Setterberg:

The origin of the name Latta is lost. It is a very old name and according to information furnished me by Frank F. Latta, can be traced back through history in Ireland, Scotland, England, Belgium, France, Spain, Arabia, Austria and Italy. In spite of its wide distribution it has never been a common name. Much of my information comes from Frank Latta of Pescadero, California, who has done extensive research on family history and has published a book on his branch of the family.

The word "latta" in Arabic means a cover or lid. As nearly all names were taken from a man's trade or objects he made, this may have been the

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Robert H. Latta,
compiler of the 49
branches of the Latta
family in America

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Editorial**You like it!**

The votes are in, and the outcome is: The Latta Genealogy Newsletter is a big hit. Here are some of your comments:

- Congratulations are in order!
- The newsletter gave me the address of my father's cousin whom I have not seen in years!
- I loved all thirteen pages!
- So professional, informative and friendly!
- I was delighted...I wish to claim the privilege of being the first of my branch to send a contribution!

Of course you had suggestions for us to improve, and we'll do our best not to disappoint you in that regard.

We'll experiment with the format for queries to make them more readable.

You asked what research is being done in the U.K. Geoffrey W. Latta reports this issue on his work in his homeland.

The cause of Latta research owes much to Danny R. Latta and the late John Latta, Jr., who published the Latta Family Newsletter in the 1970's. In this and subsequent issues we'll reprint

(Continued on page 12)

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The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Published approximately thrice annually

Dedicated to research among the forty-nine 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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www.infinet.com/~pcalhoun/latta.html

Op-ed**The Outlaw In-law**

Editor's note: the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the staff and management of this newsletter ☺

By Theresa Ann (Routier) Latta

All right, if your surname is Latta or you're a descendant of one, you can stop reading this article right now. You won't find your John, William, Samuel or Robert in this article. Please hand this paper over to the un-Latta of your family ... wife/husband, loved one, or significant other. (Make sure their hands are clean, and they know the rules about handling The Latta Newsletter: "Do not fold, bend or tear," as my husband has stated.)

Now to all those unfortunates out there who were born as Routier, Kilburn, Knight, etc., etc., and somehow found themselves "blessed" with an association with a Latta descendant, I would like to offer a few survival tactics (don't tell them I said that!). But I know of what I speak, for I AM AN IN-LAW! I am now known as Theresa Routier wife of George Latta Branch 13&38. Yes I believe that is my whole name now! Funny, I don't remember having numbers in my name before. Oh well, onto the survival tactics.

Tactic #1

Now that your Latta descendant has received his/her newsletter, you are no doubt going to be asked to join the search for missing relations. DON'T PANIC! For the most part the relations will probably be dead ones, so don't worry about adding them to your Christmas list or receiving fruitcakes from them! Just be prepared for a lot of walking through grave yards (always raining!) and hunting through books and records (always smelly!). Remember this is very important to your Latta descendant, so smile, be brave, and offer support! (It may be worth that new pair of earrings or golf clubs you've been looking at!) In any case you will gain knowledge of new places and people, Latter-day Saints, libraries, librarians, clerks, etc., etc.

Tactic #2

Always travel with a pen, paper, camera and local map, yes, even if you're just going to the store. You never know when a dead Latta may show up (they're strange that way!) I have traveled the same route for two years to a favorite gas station (cheap gas), passed the same graveyard, and never noticed until a few months ago a

(Continued on page 12)

Branch 1**Pioneer Polly**

by Barbara R. Smith

Mary A. "Polly" Latta, third daughter of Robert and Isabella Johnston Latta [Branch 1, family 7], was born March 21, 1805 near Bellefontaine, Ohio. Her family moved to Champaign County, Ohio, when she was nine years old and here she grew to young womanhood.

At eighteen years of age, Polly was a well-built girl, with dark hair and eyes, intellectually bright and having a lovely disposition, as an admirer remembered fifty years later. Today those attributes alone would have been enough for most any young man looking for a life partner. However, in 1823, a man's desires were shaped by more practical considerations, such as an ability to flip a pancake and land it in the pan unbroken, mend a man's buckskin hunting overgarments, knit and darn woolen stockings, and most importantly of all, to be a good spinner.

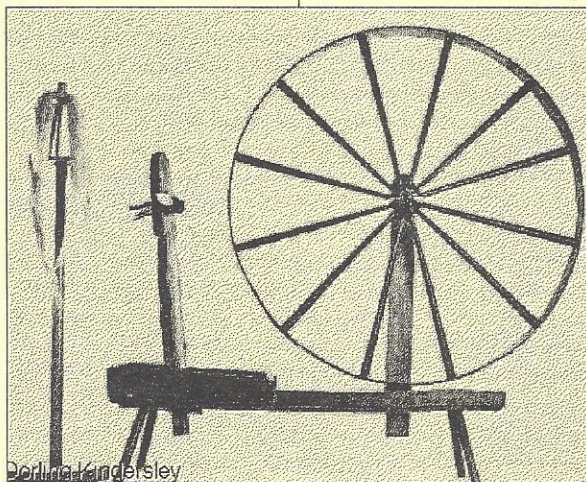
In the early days of the settlement of this country every home had a weaver's loom and a small spinning wheel for each woman or girl in the family. These "little wheels" were used for spinning flax and tow and cotton which was carded with hand cards after the seeds were removed by the younger children. Each family also had at least one "big wheel" on which they spun the wool into yarn. The yarn was wound onto reels which were about three feet in diameter. On the front of the reel was a wooden instrument which operated much like the minute hand of a clock. The hand went around once each time the reel completed one hundred and twenty turns, and upon completing a full revolution it made a loud *crack* which indicated that a "cut" had been made, or one hundred and twenty threads were on the reel. A dozen cuts a day was considered a woman's task. The common

wages paid to a good spinner were fifty cents a week. If the woman spun more than a dozen cuts she was entitled to additional pay, but if she spun less than twelve cuts she was "docked" in proportion to the number she was short.

Since being a good spinner was so highly regarded, young women strove to excel in that endeavor and spinning parties became very popular. At a flax-pulling frolic or a housewarming, Polly Latta had few equals. Human nature being what it is, there soon evolved an air of contention over how many cuts Polly could or could not spin in a day's time. Soon a time and place were chosen and Polly set herself the task of doing the greatest amount of spinning in one day that had ever been done by one person.

On the appointed day, Polly, her mother Isabella, and a large number of neighbors

assembled at a log barn belonging to Col. Kelley, where all was in readiness. The first whirr of the spinning-wheel was heard the moment the sun made its appearance on the eastern horizon, and it ceased not for a minute until the sun had disappeared behind the distant hills of the beautiful Mad River Valley. Isabella



and another lady provided food and drink so that Polly would not have to pause in her spinning. Mrs. Archibald Hopkins reeled the thread as the spools were filled.

Noon arrived and Polly had not finished half of the promised work. Her attendants now hung quilts and blankets over ropes to form a more private area where she would not be hindered by the crowd of onlookers. As evening approached, Polly and her mother feared that she might not accomplish her goal. Polly now put forth all her energy and the wheel hummed and whirled faster than ever before. As the last rays of the setting sun shone on the round logs of that now extinct barn, the last "crack" of the reel was heard to announce the completion of the forty-eighth

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In 1823, a man's desires were shaped by more practical considerations

LATTA FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 SUMMER 1978 NO. 2

A VISIT TO THE LORD'S VINEYARD

by Connie McD. Latta

"This 2-story log house and out-buildings were erected by John Latta about 1834 on Evansville Creek, 12 miles southwest of this spot. The Latta settlement was called Vineyard from 'The Lord's Vineyard.' Vineyard was the first postoffice in Washington County (1829). John Latta was postmaster from 1835 to 1838 and conducted the office in this house. It was also a stop on the early stage route from Fayetteville and Cane Hill to Van Buren. This house figured in many of the stirring events of pioneer days on the Indian border. The buildings were given to Washington County Historical Society by F.F. Latta, grandson of the pioneer builder, and were removed to this site in 1958."

The above is taken from a State historical marker which stands in the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park located on the eastern outskirts of Prairie Grove on U.S. 62 about 13 miles southwest of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Along with the Latta home is a barn, well house, and slave house. The barn serves as the community center for the park's activities.

John Latta was born in York District, South Carolina, on 23 Feb. 1790, the son of Thomas Latta (b. 4 Nov. 1763 - d. 14 Nov. 1807) and Martha (Neely) Latta (b. 23 Nov. 1765 - d. 18 Feb. 1847). He was the grandson of John Latta (1727-1795) who settled in York District about 1763. (See land memorials of John Latta, page 4.)

Raised in York District, John Latta married Jane Starr on 24 Jan. 1815 and they had the following children from whom have descended many members of the Latta family:

Baby son (not named)	(b. 03 Dec. 1815 - d. 03 Dec. 1815)
Thomas Starr Latta	(b. 06 Dec. 1816 - d. 05 Apr. 1842)
Margaret Ann Latta	(b. 19 Feb. 1818 - d. 02 Jan. 1883)
Samuel Neely Latta	(b. 20 Dec. 1819 - d. unknown)
John Stewart Latta	(b. 04 Nov. 1821 - d. 17 Oct. 1898)
William Ramsey Latta	(b. 25 May 1823 - d. 23 Jul. 1906)
Robert Hall Latta	(b. 28 Feb. 1825 - d. 1888)
James Eudorus Latta	(b. 09 Jan. 1827 - d. 06 Dec. 1895)
Andrew Jackson Latta	(b. 07 May. 1829 - d. 15 Jan. 1905)
Eliz Chambers Latta	(b. 08 Apr. 1831 - d. 30 May 1909)
Martha Jane Latta	(b. 10 Aug. 1833 - d. 08 Aug. 1915)
Francois Marion Latta	(b. 10 Mar. 1836 - d. unknown)
Sarah Elizabeth Latta	(b. 06 Jan. 1839 - d. 01 Dec. 1920)

John Latta was a large man, over six feet tall and weighed more than 200 pounds. He had black hair and grey eyes. (A picture of him is hanging on the living room wall of his log house.) He was a skilled wheelwright, blacksmith, and farmer. He was a strict Presbyterian, and had a better than average education for that time. He brought with him to Arkansas a library that would exceed that found in many homes today. There was no fiction in this library, only books on travel, history, and devotion.

John Latta lived in York District until 1831. Seeking more and better land and a place where he could raise his growing family in an environment of his choosing, John Latta left South Carolina in 1831 to homestead in Arkansas. He made at least three trips to Arkansas between 1829 and 1833, preparing the land and homestead where he would bring his family. Some of his family stayed in Maury County, Tennessee, with his brother, Samuel, during the move.

The "Lord's Vineyard," as the new homestead was to be known, was envisioned as a "Utopia." It was intended to be as near self-sufficient as necessary to insulate and isolate it from the outside world. An industrial establishment was planned which included a blacksmith, cabinet, carpenter, and wheelwright shops, a cobbler, a saddle and harness shop, and a weaving and tailor shop. A grist mill, a school, and a church were to be established.

The outside forces, however, were against John from the start. One son died and four sons left the homestead to follow the Gold Rush. Jane died in 1854. Furthermore, the territory where he settled had outlaws and badmen of every description. The Civil War began and John's dream of Utopia was shattered.

John lost his home before his death. He had countersigned a note for \$2,000 and the person for whom he signed could not pay. So John had to sell everything to make good on the note. He went to live with his son, James Eudorus, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, where he died 2 Oct. 1861.

James's wife, Hattie, along with Andrew Jackson Latta and two Negroes took the body, which was packed in ice, and carried it by wagon over the Boston Mountains to the cemetery near Evansville, a distance of fifty miles. Hattie had sent word to Margaret Latta to have the grave by the side of his wife, Jane, ready for burial. Hattie was determined that John should rest by the side of his mate who had helped him settle their home and raise their family. It was past midnight when they arrived at the cemetery. They placed tallow dips beside the grave and buried John at two a.m. One can imagine the sadness and loneliness of this trip and the strain of the night funeral.

This writer visited Academy Cemetery in Evansville, Arkansas, in June 1978 and located the grave of Jane (Starr) Latta. The inscription on the stone reads as follows:

To the Memory of
Mrs. Jane Latta
Wife of John Latta
Born Sept 17th 1793
Died July 20th 1854
Aged 61 years 10 months and 3 days

To the left of Jane's headstone is an area with an unmarked stone protruding slightly from the ground. It is assumed that this is the grave of John Latta. Nearby is a tombstone marking the grave of their son, Thomas Starr Latta, who died at the age of 26 on 5 April 1842.

John Latta's log home stands today, 117 years after his death as a reminder of his pioneer spirit. Each year on the second Sunday in June, Lattas from around the United States gather for a family reunion in the Latta barn.

Editor's Note: This article was adapted, in part, from a book, THE LORD'S VINEYARD, by F. F. Latta, first published in Shafter, California, in 1940 by the Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701. Two later editions have been published.

MILITARY RECORDS OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

National Archives, Washington, D.C.
(abstracted by John W. Latta, Jr.)

Name	Rank	Unit
Latta, J. W.	Pvt.	Co. C, (State not given)
Latta, M. J.	Sgt.	Co. A, (State not given)
Latta, J. T.	Pvt.	Co. K, 7th Arkansas Infantry
Latta, A. T.	Pvt.	Co. A, 9th Bat. Georgia Infantry
Latta, Alexander	Pvt.	Co. G, 39th Georgia Infantry
Latta, J. P.	Pvt.	Co. A, 53rd Georgia Infantry
Latta, John P.	Pvt.	Co. C, 13th Georgia Infantry
Latta, Meredith J.	Sgt.	Co. D, 37th Georgia Infantry
Latta, W. T.	Pvt.	Co. A, 53rd Georgia Infantry
Latta, W. Y.	Pvt.	Co. A, 53rd Georgia Infantry
Latta, E. M.	Pvt.	Co. I, 7th Kentucky Cavalry
Latta, E. M.	Pvt.	Co. A, 7th Kentucky Cavalry
Latta, F. M.	Sgt.	Co. A, 7th Kentucky Cavalry
Latta, T. B.	Pvt.	Co. A, 7th Kentucky Cavalry
Latta, N. T.	Pvt.	Co. H, 10th Mississippi Cavalry
Latta, Charles T.	Pvt.	Co. G, 47th Tennessee Cavalry
Latta, James W.	Pvt.	Co. D, 19th & 20th Tenn. Cavalry
Latta, J. M.	Pvt.	Co. D, 19th & 20th Tenn. Cavalry
Latta, John	Pvt.	Co. E, 6th (Wheeler's) Tenn. Cavalry
Latta, J. W.	Cpl.	Co. B, 27th Tennessee Infantry
Latta, M. T.	Sgt.	Co. C, 19th & 20th Tenn. Cavalry
Latta, S.	Pvt.	Co. K, 15th Tennessee Cavalry
Latta, Samuel R.	Capt.	Co. K, 13th Tennessee Infantry
Latta, Simms	Pvt.	Co. E, 6th Tennessee Cavalry
Latta, W. F.	Sgt.	Co. A, 18th (Newsom's) Tenn. Cavalry
Latta, W. D.	Sgt.	Co. B, 27th Tennessee Infantry
Latta, William	Pvt.	Co. G, 3rd (Clack's) Tennessee Inf.
Latta, William A.	Pvt.	1st Tennessee Cavalry
Latta, William S.	Capt.	Co. F, (Longwood's) Tennessee Cavalry
Latta, William W.	Pvt.	Capt. Sparkman's Co. Tenn. L.Art'y
Latta, William J.	Pvt.	Co. B, Holman's Bat. Partisan Rangers. Tenn.
Latta, W. J.	Pvt.	Co. G, 11th (Holman's) Tenn. Cavalry
Latta, W. P.	Pvt.	Capt. Kain's Co. Tenn. Light Art'y
Latta, W. S.	Pvt.	Co. F, 16th (Longwood's) Tenn. Cav.
Latta, W. W.	Pvt.	Co. G, 9th Bat. Tennessee Cavalry
Latta, W. W.	Pvt.	Capt. Sparkman's Co. Tenn. L.Art'y
Latta, George N.	Pvt.	Capt. C. F. Johnston's Va. Art'y.

MILITARY RECORDS OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

National Archives, Washington, D.C.
(abstracted by John W. Latta, Jr.)

Name	Rank	Unit
Latta, J. A.	Cpl.	Co. B, 12th Alabama Cavalry
Latta, J. B.	Pvt.	Co. B, 12th Alabama Cavalry
Latta, J. J.	Pvt.	Co. G, 10th Alabama Infantry
Latta, John I.	Pvt.	Co. G, 10th Alabama Infantry
Latta, M. T.	Pvt.	Alabama Cavalry
Latta, Robert A.	Cpl.	Co. C, 28th Alabama Infantry
Latta, Robert T.	Cpl.	Co. C, 28th Alabama Infantry
Latta, Frank M.	Chaplin	Co. A, 16th Arkansas Infantry
Latta, Franklin	Pvt.	Co. H, 4th Arkansas Infantry
Latta, F. T.	Sgt.	Co. K, (Monroe's) Arkansas Cavalry
Latta, J. T.	Sgt.	Co. C, 8th Arkansas Cavalry
Latta, Allen	Pvt.	Co. C, Cherokee Mounted Volunteers
Latta, Allen	Pvt.	Co. J, Cherokee Mounted Volunteers
Latta, Allen	Pvt.	Co. D, 2nd Cherokee Mounted Volunteers
Latta, James	Pvt.	Co. H, 7th Florida Infantry
Latta, J. F. M.	Pvt.	Co. G, 4th Florida Infantry

WILL OF STEPHEN SCARLETT

(abstracted by John W. Latta, Jr.)

Orange County, N.C. Will Book D, Page 510. Will dated 6 July 1817; proved August Court 1817. Names wife Sally, Daus Rachel and Cynthia, unmarried. Sons James (youngest), John (eldest). 7 daus: Elizabeth Cain, Mary Latta [see p. 38], Sally Latta [see p. 38], Jane Latta [see p. 45], Susannah Cole, Rachel Scarlett and Cynthia Scarlett. Executors: wife Sally and son James. Witnesses: William Lewis, Henry Bunch, Abraham (x) Crabtree.

QUERY

Mr. Ed Dougherty, 5101 A Whitaker Dr., Nashville, Tn. 37211 needs information on John Latta, born in Ireland and moved to Western Pa. just after the Revolutionary War. His son, John Latta II, born ca. 1783-7, married Anne Hockenbury and moved to (W) Va. ca. 1844 and to Monroe Co., Ohio before 1850. Trying to locate county in Pa. John Latta II and Anne came from. Any information appreciated.

The census records on pages 47-52 were abstracted by Danny R. and Connie McD. Latta

The articles on this page are reprinted exactly as they appeared in The Latta Family Newsletter.

Our thanks to Danny R. Latta and the late John W. Latta, Jr.

The Latta Name: The British Connection

By Geoffrey W. Latta

While most researchers into Latta genealogy have concentrated in the US, my own interest is rather different. I was born in Gillingham, Kent, about 40 miles south-east of London and only came to Philadelphia to live in the late 1970s. I am the first member of my direct family to come to the US. I had already started genealogical research in England and Scotland before coming here, but my curiosity was further enhanced shortly after arrival in Philadelphia by meeting one of the descendants of the "shipwreck" Lattas.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to trace my Latta ancestors back beyond my great-great grandfather, Thomas Latta, who was born around 1810, married Catherine McBlane (McBlain) in Larbert, Stirlingshire, Scotland in 1833 and died in Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland in 1870. My so far unsuccessful efforts to trace his place and year of birth led me to compile a variety of unrelated information about the Latta name. While initially designed as a means of helping me find clues to my own family, this process became an end in itself as I became interested in the geographic distribution of Latta family members and the evolution of the spelling of the name. In addition, in the hope that family members might have come to the US, I also decided to research the 1850 US Census (aided by having to go to Washington frequently on business!).

The result is that I have:

- A listing of all Latta birth, marriage and death registrations in England and Wales from the introduction of national registration in 1837 up to 1993. This consists of 247 male birth records, 233 female birth records, 161 male death records, 138 female death records, 196 male marriage records and 184 female marriage records.

- A listing of all Latta birth registrations in Scotland between 1855, when national registration began and 1947 (345 male and 367 female records), deaths from 1855 to 1942 (221 male and 371 female records; the imbalance in numbers resulting from the fact that Scottish records list female deaths of married women under both their married names and their maiden names); and marriage records from 1855 to 1885 (59 male and 70 female). In time, I hope to bring

these records up to the present.

- A listing of all English IGI records pre-1837 (13 records only) and pre-1855 in Scotland (394 male births, 325 female births, 185 male marriages and 63 female marriages - the latter is still in progress). For the early records, this covers all related spellings but I arbitrarily ceased this from 1800 whereafter the records are only for Latta. The earliest IGI records are from 1585. The IGI lists, as you will know, are alphabetic by first name. I have also resorted the lists chronologically. The English records probably understate the existence of the Latta name prior to 1837 but it was still clearly far less common than in Scotland.

- A listing of the full family details for 118 (plus partial listings for 14 more) of the Latta entries in the 1850 US Census.

The bad news is that although this constitutes quite a bit of information, it is not easily interrogated as I collected the information when I had more time than I have now so I have not computerized many of the records. (For the younger researchers, believe it or not there weren't PCs twenty years ago).

As many of you will recognize, records in Ireland are a disaster due to the destruction of most records in 1922. The single IGI page lists 23 records that meet the criteria for spelling and date listed above.

Geography

Clearly the lack of Lattas in England prior to the middle of the 19th century confirms that the name is Scottish (or Irish) by origin. There are 74 IGI entries for names prior to 1700. Of these, 60 are from Fifeshire, 6 from Ayrshire, 4 from Renfrew, 2 from Dumbarton and one from Aberdeenshire. The earliest entry is the birth of Janet Lata (or Glas) in June 1585 in Dunfermline, Fifeshire. Her parents were listed as John Lata and Margaret Glas. The second entry for May 1586 is the marriage of John Lata and Margaret Glass in Dunfermline! The relatively casual attitude towards the sequencing of marriage and childbirth is a recurrent theme in the records I collected.

The preponderance of Fife births has caused me to question the usual geographic explanation for the origin of the name. Black's *Surnames of Scotland* indicates that the name is a variant of Lawtie and is derived from the lands of Laithis in Ayrshire. It is possible that many of those with the name later went to Fife but the lack of names in

*my curiosity
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(Continued on page 6)

**The earliest
use of
"Latta" was
in March
1644**

The Latta Name: The British Connection

(Continued from page 5)

Ayrshire is suspicious. While a partial explanation could be the better preservation and retrieval of Fife records, the existence of quite a number of earlier Ayr records for other names makes this a dubious thesis. The earliest Ayrshire reference is the birth of William Lata in Beith in June 1677. This is only the second non-Fife reference; the earliest is the marriage of William Lata in Aberdeen in May 1670.

After 1700, the name spreads across central Scotland with Fife remaining dominant followed by Ayr, Renfrew and Dumbarton. In the 19th century, entries for Glasgow and Edinburgh become more common. The name spreads into England in the 19th century, at first almost entirely to London and to a lesser degree the industrial and port areas of Lancashire (Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, etc.). The England and Wales registry has 97 entries between 1837-67; of these 69 are from London, 15 from Salford/Manchester, 9 from Liverpool and only four from anywhere else (2 from Sheffield, one from Leeds and one from Falmouth in Cornwall). The last of these was a death entry and one might guess that it could have been a seaman from somewhere else. This highly urban pattern of residence would certainly be consistent with immigrants from Scotland and Ireland. My own great-grandfather moved from Scotland to London at some time around 1860-65.

A perspective on the incidence of the name in Scotland is to recall the total population of the country. In the 1801 census, the population of Scotland was 1.61 million; at that time the population of England and Wales was 8.89 million. Scotland's population increased in the 19th century to 4.47 million at the 1901 census, while England and Wales increased even faster to a level of 32.53 million. By contrast, the population of Ireland fell. The area that is now Northern Ireland had a population in 1801 of 1.44 million, and by 1901 had fallen to 1.24 million.

Any views or research that can shed further light on the geographic origin or origins of the name would be most welcome.

Spelling

Prior to 1700, I tracked names that were grouped together in the IGI. In order, the most common spellings were Lata (29), Lataw (8),

Latto (8), Lattow (6), Lato (6), Latae (4), Latay (3), Latta (2), Latoe (2), Lattay (2), Laty (1), Latty (1), Lattou (1) and Latow (1). Spelling was as casual as one might expect in a society with limited literacy and two different spellings in the same family were not uncommon. The earliest use of Latta was in March 1644 when Walter Latta married Katharin Davidstone in Dysart, Fifeshire.

It is only in the mid-18th century that spelling begins to gravitate around certain patterns. In the 1750s, of 66 entries, 23 use Lata, 20 Latta and 8 Latto. By the 1790s, of 70 entries, 35 use Latta and a further 22 use Latto. The name Latto takes on a life of its own and seems to form a separate branch lasting down to the present day in Scotland. Geographically, the name is found mainly in Fife. Occasionally, the names still are mixed. James Latto, son of John Latto is born in Dumbarton in 1787; his brother, John Latta is born in 1789. The transition from Lata to Latta is more common as the latter spelling gains ascendancy.

Today, there are effectively only the two spellings of Latta and Latto that have survived. Casual review of telephone directories in the UK would suggest that the other variants have almost entirely disappeared.

First Names

Until the end of the 19th century, the selection of first names remained quite traditional. Prior to 1700, only 12 male first names appear in the listing of births; the most common were James (6), John (6), Thomas (5), Alexander (3), David (3), Robert (2), George (2), Patrick (2), William (2), Walter (2), Colin (1) and Charles (1). Among marriage listings and parents names, the name Andrew also appears several times although it had no birth listings and the name Hugh appears once. These 14 names dominate in the 18th century as well; the only names that are added during the whole century were Peter, Michael, Joseph, Matthew, Arthur, Henry, Durham and Graham, and in general these are isolated references. There are 12 female names prior to 1700; Janet (5), Margaret (5), Grissell (4), Christian (3), Agnes (2), Elisabeth (2), Eupham (2), Mary (2), and one each for Sophia, Alison, Katharine and Effie. Female names showed greater variety of spellings as well as including names that later fell into disuse like Grissell. The 18th century saw additional names for Ann/Anna, Jean and Helen. In contrast to the situation among the males all these three additional names were quite frequent. There were also additional references for Barbara, Lillias, Isabel, Ursula, Rachel, Bathia, Nelly, Marion, Susan, and Elspeth but these were much rarer.

(Continued on page 7)

The Latta Name: The British Connection

(Continued from page 6)

Immigration to the US

The families that I researched from the US Census of 1850 were predominantly born in the US. Of the 132 families, 14 had heads of household who were born in Ireland, 2 in Scotland and one in England. Of the remaining 115, the majority had heads of household born in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, South Carolina or North Carolina.

These figures emphasize the Irish connection. As with the "shipwreck Lattas," Ireland was clearly a source of emigration. However, given the fact that the emigrants were mainly Presbyterian, they were Scotch-Irish, who presumably had moved to Ireland as part of the settlement that began early in the 17th century.

Accessibility of my Research

As I indicated, my records are only partially computerized. I am happy to try to answer specific queries if other researchers have British connections that you wish to explore. My address is given below.

Conclusion

As with all genealogical research, the odyssey through the existing records can be never-ending. I have had far more success in tracing back some of the other lines of my family than I have had with my Latta origins. However, even lack of success

What's in a Name

(Continued from page 1)
origin of the name.

Micheal Latta, a Frenchman, was one of the leaders who captured the Bastille in 1789. He later came to America. Micheal Latta, an Austrian, a convert of Mohammedanism, was Generalissimo of the Turkish forces in the Crimean War. Two Spanish sailors of Austrian descent were on the Armada which invaded England in the time of Queen Elizabeth [I]. One was wrecked on the coast of Scotland and the other on the coast of Ireland. They were named Latta, and they settled there. Their descendants came to America.

William H. Latta of Pullman, Washington, did some research and offers the following:

In the old Duchy of Brabant, now a portion of Belgium, the name Latta means lath or lath splinter. A common Flemish form is "Latteur"—a Croatian form is "Lattas." The word "lath" in the older forms of a number of languages in that portion of Europe is given as "Latte," "Latta," and "Lata."

Next Theory

Merle W. Allen of Westminster CO writes:

Another interesting tidbit I picked up in a telephone conversation with Mr. Latta (here in Denver) was the origin of the name "Latta." The name "Latta" is Arabic in origin, meaning "Tribe of Benjamin." When this tribe was overrun by the Romans, the men were transported as mercenary soldiers to Ireland and England. Some intermarried and settled. In those areas the name "Latta" was used to mean "mercenary soldier."

Yet Another

Eileen Hook (eileenhook@aol.com) says that her grandmother's theory was that the name is French, and had been L'Atta, but had been shortened over time and the family's residence in Ireland.

More Yet

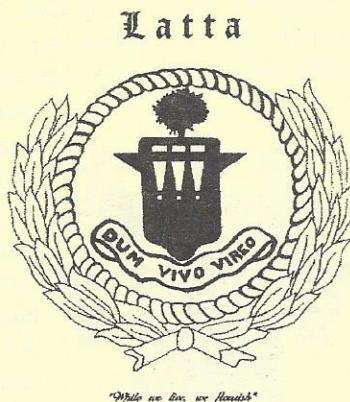
William Malcolm Latta of Nashville TN, writing in 1961, stated:

The name Latta is a very ancient one and comes from the Latin. The name as a family name originated during the time of the Roman Empire—possibly as far back as 300 BC. The Roman Empire is where the Lattas lived until after the coming of Christ.

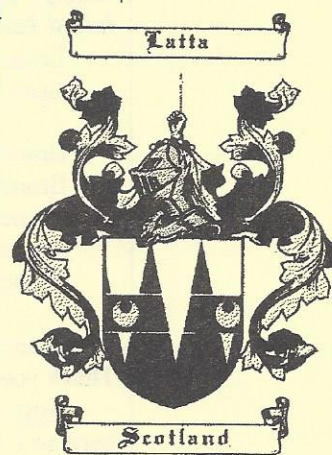
Next we find evidence of the Lattas in Gaul—that part of Europe now known as France. Later they were in Normandy and Brabant—provinces of northern France. From France the Lattas fanned out over Europe and in 1066 when William the Conqueror invaded and captured England and Scotland there were Lattas with him.

The Latta family was given two coats-of-arms. One was given to the Brabant branch about 600 AD and the other was given in 1191 AD to a William Latta who lived in Scotland. This William Latta was made a baron of Scotland by

(Continued on page 8)



**Micheal
Latta, a
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the leaders
who captured
the Bastille in
1789.**



when William the Conqueror invaded and captured England and Scotland there were Lattas with him.

What's in a Name

(Continued from page 7)

King Richard I (the Lionhearted) who led the Third Crusade to the Holy Land in 1190, and William Latta was one of his warriors.

It is thought that all the Lattas in America are descendants of this William Latta, baron of Scotland. The Lattas lived in Scotland from about 1066 AD on. Even to this day there are many living there, mostly on the west coast in Ayrshire.

About the year 1620 AD several families by the name of Latta left Scotland and established homes in the northern counties of Ireland, where some still live today.

[For a recent analysis of information from historical records, see the article in this issue titled *The Latta Name: The British Connection* by Geoffrey W. Latta.]

Coat of Arms

The baronical coat of arms referred to above is described in heraldic terms as: Sable, three piles argent, over all on a fesse gules three crescents of the second.

Crest: an oak tree proper. Motto: Dum Vivo Vireo (while I live I flourish). Three different interpretations of these arms accompany this article.

—PHC



Undiscovered History of Branch 4

(Continued from page 1)

esting fact about this remarkable man, something that has remained hidden for the past one hundred and sixteen years. Emmitt, along with his father Samuel, mother Orpha and brother Adrian, were founders of the town called Lily Dale, New York. This line of the Latta Family built some of the first houses there in the late 1800's.

Lily Dale was no ordinary town in its day. The town was built on a new way of religious thinking from its very beginning. The founders called themselves "Free-Thinkers", a religious belief which helped form what is known as spiritualism today.

I have visited Lily Dale, and was shown the spot where Emmitt's house once stood. I was also able to see the houses that belonged to Samuel and A.C. (Emmitt's father and brother), which are still standing today.

The town historian has been working on the old records of the town and she assured me that she will look for any old photos, records, deeds, etc., of the Latta family, and will pass the information on to me. I, in turn, will be happy to share this information with others working the same branch in future issues.

Update on the Update

A number of readers are working with George to tie together the various branches of the family. Each issue we hope to report to you on the progress of this work. Here is George's latest summary:

Branches 2 and 29 have been connected. (Tie made by Robert H Latta)

Branches 13 and 38 have been connected.

Branches 12 and 19 are almost connected, with a little more work to be done.

Branches 1, 8 and 9 are possibly connected, with much work to be done.

Branches 1 and 30 are possibly connected, with much work to be done.

Branches 41 and 45 are being considered for a connection.

Branches 4 and 13 are being considered for a connection.

Branch No. 39 has been largely updated from the records of Victoria J Dandie of West Australia. Thank you for all your help and time.

Note: I have most of my file cabinets full of updates sent to me by so many of you. You have all been so kind in your willingness to help set the record right. Thank you. It will take me some time to enter all this information into the branches—and still have a little time for my family. But please know that all the updates I now have, and hope to receive, are kept safe and will over time be entered into the branches and mentioned in future issues of this newsletter.

Please look for details in future issues under "Update on the Update".

Queries

Send your queries to the editor, Paul H. Calhoun, 129 Lincoln Dr, Port Clinton OH 43452-1248 (pcalhoun@infinet.com)

LATTA	Would like to locate relatives of Ora LATTA, originally from Walen, MO; son John was born at Charleston, IA. He later moved to Burlington, IA, and had two sons, Paul and Marvin. —Mrs. Vivian A. Setterberg, 423 Harrison, Burlington, IA 52601-6427
LATTA	Could Andrew LATTA be the father (or uncle) of John T. LATTA [Branch 30, family 2]? John T. LATTA was b 1793 in PA or KY, res Adams Co OH, and d in OH. —Wilma Latta Chambers, 3006 S Chrysler Ave, Independence MO 64052-3237
CLUM LATTA WOOD	John Henry LATTA [Branch 1, family 41—ed.] (1865-1930) and wife Mary Blanche CLUM adopted nine-year-old Wallace WOOD from the Kansas Orphan Asylum 12 Mar 1894. Henry LATTA made the land run into the Cherokee Strip and it is remembered that Wallace was living there with them. What happened to Wallace WOOD LATTA? —Paula Gruginski, 8229 NE 47th St, Vancouver WA 98661 (75334.621@compuserve.com) Phone (370) 750-1525
CUNNINGHAM LATTA	William LATTA [Branch 1, family 20—ed.], b 24 Mar 1825, Fayette Co PA, son of Samuel. Mar Mary Elizabeth CUNNINGHAM 6 Jun 1858 LaGrange IN; d 25 Jan 1898 according to family, no proof found. Seek par of Mary Elizabeth and proof of William's d.o.d. —Paula Gruginski, 8229 NE 47th St, Vancouver WA 98661 (75334.621@compuserve.com) Phone (370) 750-1525
HOWE GLUNT LATTA	Seek info on William L. LATTA (Branch 45, family 11); b Roscoe PA 1844; d 1887; mar Philena A. HOWE; b Coal Creek Center PA 1846; d 1923. Also seek info on Margaret Jane LATTA, b 1873; mar David H. GLUNT, b 1870 Charleroi PA. Their ch: Mary, William and David Jr., Charleroi PA. —Carol Ann Latta Milner, PO Box 7967, Seminole FL 33775-8901
HANNAH LATTA PITMAN	John LATTA [Branch 13, family 2—ed.] mar Susannah PITMAN. Their dau Harriet mar Gordon HANNAH. Would like any info about parents, siblings, etc. —Theresa Hannah, 257 Westcott St, Peterborough ONT CANADA K9J 2G9
CHISHOLM LATTA NEELY	John Stuart NEELY, probate judge, b 1796 York SC m Jane LATTA b 1797 York SC; res Huntington, Carroll Co TN in 1828; res Pontotoc Co MS by 1843. Both prob d aft 1870. Child: John Leroy NEELY b 6 Aug 1815 Columbia, Maury Co TN; blacksmith; Co A, 2nd Btn; Co E, 11 MS Cav; mar/2 Martha Jane CHISHOLM 1 Jan 1856, Pontotoc Co MS; d 17 Oct 1874 Pontotoc Co, MS; poss son from 1st mar: Wm. Henry NEELY, b 1849 in MS. Any info appreciated. —Loree S. LaChance, 400 Patton Ave, Biloxi MS 39531-2596 (iflyhurons@aol.com)
LATTA LOTTY YOUNG	Matthew LOTTY was admr of will of Robert YOUNG in Chester Co PA (E. Nottingham?) ca 1750. No further trace found in Chester Co after this. Was there also a Matthew LATTA/LOTTY who lived in NC shortly after this time? Might this be the Mr. LATTA who was killed by Indians 31 Oct on his way to Limestone KY, as reported in the KY Gazette 8 Nov 1788? —Virginia Latta Curulla, 9050 Meridian Pl No, Seattle WA 98103-4153. (206) 524-0830 (vcurulla@cks.ssd.k12.wa.us)
LATTA TRUEBLOOD	Seek any info on Albert LATTA (Branch unknown) b 14 Sep 1850 either IA or MO. Wife Lavina TRUEBLOOD, b 3 Feb 1853. Children (all b IN) Edward, Orestus, Ross, Tressie, Ferman, Emma, Charles. —George P. Latta, PO Box 352, Holley NY 14470. (Latta34@aol.com) phone (716) 638-7933

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Our hats're off to you! Many, many thanks!

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(Continued on page 11)

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Financial report**from 1 April through 31 August 1996**

PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$ 0.00
Receipts	
Subscription contributions	\$786.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$786.00
Expenditures	
Advertising	\$ 15.40
Postage	\$226.76
Printing	\$159.00
Supplies	\$144.90
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$546.06
BALANCE ON HAND	\$239.94

*Estimated costs to publish and mail Issue 2: \$313.50***Library Project**

The following additional libraries and organizations will receive copies of *The Latta Genealogy Newsletter*, thanks to your generous contributions:

Mid-Continent Public Library
North Independence Branch
15616 E 24 Hwy
Independence MO 64050-2098

Kansas City Public Library
311 E 12th St
Kansas City MO 64106-2454

Jackson Co Genealogical Society
420 S Main St, PO Box 1133
Independence MO 64051-0633

State Historical Society of Missouri
1020 Lowry St
Columbia MO 65201-7298

Jackson County Historical Society
Rm 103, Independence Sq Court House
Independence MO 64050

Ross County Genealogical Society
270 S Paint St, PO Box 6352
Chillicothe OH 45601-6352

Necrology

We were saddened to learn that Mr. Leigh C. Latta, 1075 Willow Avenue, Glendale, OH, passed away in March.

He was a diligent researcher and a good friend-by-correspondence to many. Our condolences to his widow Ginny and his family and friends.

The minute he turns for the paper work, that's when I sneak a yawn or two or three.

The Outlaw In-law

(Continued from page 2)

huge Latta gravestone in the middle of the front row! (Really observant, huh? Hey, I'm only married into the family, remember?) Of course I stopped, took some pictures, wrote down the information and took it all home to my Latta who was thrilled (cute, aren't they?), and proceeded to enjoy the glory of finding and bagging my first Latta. Yes, if you look at it like a sport it can almost be fun!

Tactic #3

Never—I mean never—yawn when hearing about the family, even though it's been fourteen hours of "Now where did that William go?" I know this one can be tough, but it can be done! If you feel a yawn coming on, try switching positions, getting up and walking around—pinching yourself is even permissible—just never let them see you yawn!

One of my favorite ways to sneak a yawn is to ask my Latta a question. "You know that William?" I'll ask. "Which William?" he'll reply. "You know, that William married to what's-her-name, Mary I think." The minute he turns for the paper work, that's when I sneak a yawn or two or three. Heck, while he's looking, I can get a cup of coffee and a snack.....

"Hey I found him, William married to Mary. What did you want to know?" he'll holler from the living room. "Oh, never mind, I think I was thinking of someone else." (Drives him crazy when I do that, but it keeps the peace!)

I hope that you will find these few tactics helpful when dealing with your Latta descendant and assisting them in their search for their roots. Remember, generations-to-come will be researching our Latta descendants, and of course, finding out about us un-Lattas, too! So keep smiling, be supportive, patient, and above all else, keep your sense of humor. The reward will be a place in this great family's history! Now, if you will excuse me, I think I just might go pick up that pair of earrings.....

Pioneer Polly

(Continued from page 3)

"cut" and the fourth dozen. The pioneer girl was victorious, and that triumph helped shape her future.

News spread quickly and an account of the great feat was published in a newspaper, giving the name and residence of the spinner. William Darnall, who was a schoolmaster, read the

account and determined to meet the best spinner of the time. Although Polly had many admirers, she eventually did choose William and they were married April 15, 1826. They had been happily married for forty-three years when Polly died November 30, 1869 in Hancock County, Illinois. According to her husband, she was a prominent member of society in their community, a good partner, a kind mother, and benevolent sister. She was the mother of nine children and had sixteen grandchildren.

The foregoing article is a composite of three stories about Polly from the following source: 977.14H2a, 1872 History of Champaign & Logan Co's of Ohio.

Editorial

You like it!

(Continued from page 2)

some of the material that appeared in their newsletter.

Thanks to the generosity of many readers who sent more money than we asked for, we're able to send the second issue to everyone on our mailing list. However, if you haven't yet contributed but wish to continue receiving *The Latta Genealogy Newsletter*, please write and ask us to keep on sending it. We don't *require* a contribution, but we certainly hope you'll put something in the kitty.

Don't overlook the idea of gift subscriptions for other members of your family, or for your favorite library or genealogical society.

Finally, be sure to visit our new website at <http://www.infinet.com/~pcalhoun/latta.html>

William Story Latta Bible Record

Sent in by Barbara R. Smith from a microfilm at the Family History Library in SLC (#908992, Item 10):

*Mr. Story Latta born May 3, 1826
Sarah Anne Eikenberry born Aug 21, 1841
Mr. S. & Sarah Anne Latta were
married May 8, 1861
Samuel E. Latta born May 11, 1862
Crawford Latta born Nov 25, 1864
Crawford Latta died Oct 17, 1865
Minnie Belle Latta born Nov 12, 1866
Mary Olive Latta born Jan 28, 1870*

William Story Latta and his wife are Family #56 of Branch #3. If you'd like a copy of the above Bible record, write to Barbara at 3333 West 4630 So., West Valley City, UT 84119-5920.