

The Latta Newsletter

Issue 20

Summer 2003

Pennsylvania Latta Research

By: Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17,
Latteacox@aol.com

I had a wonderful discovery this past week when my sister Charlene and I went to Pennsylvania to do some research. As Branch Captain of Branch 17, I have been corresponding with Sharon Crouser in California and Betty Kitchen in Ohio. We had pooled our information together about John Latta, the beginning of our branch, who lived in Huntingdon County, PA. We had come to the conclusion that between the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820 and 1830 Huntingdon County Census, that John and his wife had 5 sons and 7 daughters. John died sometime around 1831 at the home of his son, Abraham who was living in Henderson Township during the 1830 census. Abraham died in 1831 and his estate was started and dropped in Huntingdon County because his wife, Martha had moved to Ohio after stating that "she never would pay the heirs of said dec'd one cent of the money coming to them from said estate and that they never should have one cent of it." Unable to find Martha, the court dropped the proceedings. Nothing else is recorded about who got what, if anything. We determined that John's other sons were William who first showed up with a wife and one son and one daughter both under the age of 10 in the 1800 census, and another son "M" who showed up with a wife and three young sons under 10 and 4 daughters under 10 in the 1810 census. We knew that John also had another son named John, because Betty and I are descendents of him. That left us with one son unaccounted for. Sharon is a descendent of a daughter, Rachel Latta who married David Cornelius. Another daughter, Catherine married Isaac Burns and moved to Iowa. After deciding what information we already had and what information we needed, I made a list of what we wanted to look for and asked Betty and Sharon for

their input. Sharon had found on the internet where a James Dailey had sold 300 acres in Dublin Twp on the waters of Aughwick Creek to John Latta. The deed was dated 1774 and recorded in Bedford County, PA in Deed Book A, page 84. Huntingdon became a county in 1787 from a part of Bedford.

With this information in hand, my sister and I started out early on Wednesday morning from Morgantown, West Virginia and drove two hours to Bedford, Pennsylvania. Bedford is a quaint, quiet little town with a beautiful little courthouse. Many of their records are on microfilm and a courthouse secretary was giving a tour to a group of people about genealogy. Listening in on the tour, we discovered that the computers on the tables held a lot of information. If we typed in our "Latta" the computer would list all of the records in the courthouse with that name. The only old listing that we found for Latta was the deed that we had gotten a copy of and an estate for William Latta that Paul Calhoun had already talked about with us and who was not related to our branch that we knew of.

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Editorial

When you look at the research that the authors in this issue did on their Latta family, it is awe inspiring. In fact, I hope that you, the reader, are inspired to also learn about your Latta Family. Whether they lived in Pennsylvania and Nebraska, as Sue's family, or in Wisconsin, as did Anne's, or captained a ship, as did Robert G. Latta, we should try to discover their story. It is easier nowadays in the computer age, as you can read in Ellen's article, but it still requires some effort. I encourage you to visit local libraries, cemeteries, churches, courthouses, etc., and look for your family.

When you do find something interesting on your Latta family, consider writing it up and sending it to me. Through our newsletter we can all enjoy your family saga. Also, the editor mails copies of your newsletter to several libraries to preserve this important Latta information. I look forward to reading about your Latta family. Bring it on!

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

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Dedicated to research among the fifty-two branches of the Latta family

in America, and of our family's origins in the Old World.

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Please send your subscription contributions to:

Virginia Curulla
9050 Meridian Pl N
Seattle WA 98103-4153
e-mail: Latta4gen@earthlink.net

Please send your address changes,
newsletter articles, queries, comments, etc. to:

Kenneth A. Mueller
Editor

337 Gertrude St
Elgin IL 60123-7401

e-mail: DocHuer@aol.com (no attachments, please)

Please send family group sheets, pedigrees, and ged-com files to your branch captain.

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

Revised List of Branch Captains

Another goal of our Latta Family is to find a branch captain for every branch of the Latta Family. Unfortunately, we do not have a Captain for every Branch. We could use some more volunteers. If interested, please contact Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17, Coordinator of Branch Captains. The duties of a branch captain were spelled out in issue 17, Summer 2002. Here is a revised list of our branch captains, with names, addresses and e-mail addresses:

Branch 1: Ken Mueller, 337 Gertrude St., Elgin IL 60123-7401, DocHuer@aol.com. I also am your editor.

Branch 3: B. Mitchell Latta, P.O. Box 44195, Boise ID 83711-0195, mlatta@interplus.net.

Branch 4: Randy Phillips, 3303 Ferguson Corners Rd., Penn Yan NY 14527-9344, Phillipsf2@aol.com.

Branch 6: Robert G. Nunn, 12 Dunbarton Court, Highlands Ranch CO 80126, rgnunn@qwest.net.

Branch 7: Joshua Armstrong, 2045 Morgan Hill Dr., Hollywood CA 90068, jj.armstrong@sbcglobal.net.

Branch 9: Lisa Barnes, 209 NW 6th St. #3, Lawton OK 73507, StwrtLis@aol.com.

Branches 10 and 15, Cindy Stiene, 102 Sugar Leaf Ct., Madison AL 35758-7925, cstiene@hiwaay.net.

Branch 13, Gary Pokoradi, 11 Glenayr St., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L9C 7C1, pokerman@sympatico.ca.

Branch 16: Alex Latta, 6830 42nd St., NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6B 3C9, allatta@gambit.ab.ca.

Branch 17: Sue Lattea Cox, 6 Woodhill Ave., Salem WV 26426, latteacox@aol.com.

Branch 18: Mrs. Sue D. Martine, 3906 E. Simpson Rd., Gilbert AZ, 85297-9402, suesea@qwest.net.

Branches 19 & 27/47: Ellen Rowan Taylor, 2200 Las Brisas Way, Sierra Vista AZ 85635, ellenrowantaylor@aol.com

Branch 22: Virginia Latta Curulla, 9050 Meridian Pl. No., Seattle WA 98103-4153, vcurulla@earthlink.net. Virginia is also your Treasurer.

Branch 29: Marsha L. Frey, PO Box 306, McComb OH 45858-0306, MFrey2step@aol.com.

Branch 35: Janie Quarles, P.O. Box 624, McCrory AR 72101-0624, janieq@ipa.net.

Branch 45: Beryl Redfield, 4281 Winfield Rd., Taylorsville UT 84123-2344, Bredf331@cs.com.

Branch 51: Ken Erdle, 7890 Wexford Ct., Bloomington IN 47408, k.erdle@att.net.

Branch 52: Connie G. Latta, 11931 Lambert Ave., El Monte CA 91732-2031, Mudpie3133@aol.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT - LATTa GENEALOGY GROUP

TREASURER

Virginia Latta Curulla
9050 Meridian Pl. No.
Seattle WA 98103-415:
(206) 524 0830
latta4gen@earthlink.net

BACK-UP TREASURER

Beryl Redfield
4281 Winfield Rd.
Taylorsville UT 84123
(801) 281-8020
Bredf331@aol.com

REPORT PERIOD FROM 3/1/03 through 6/30/03:

COMBINED FUNDS BALANCE as of 3/1/03:

N. IRELAND RESEARCH FUND BALANCE 3/1/03 \$ 825.00
GENERAL FUND BALANCE 3/1/03 \$ 1933.73

\$3424.18

Income 3/1/03 through 6/30/03:

N. IRELAND RESEARCH FUND - I donor \$ 30.00
GENERAL FUND-32 donors \$ 652.54

\$ 1197.54

Expenses 3/1/03 through 6/30/03 (except as noted)

Newsletter editor-reimburse expenses \$ 801.09*
Internet Valueweb- Latta.org website connection fee \$ 79.80
Treasurer's expenses-(1 1/1/02 through 6/30/03) \$ 81.08

(\$ 961.97)

COMBINED FUNDS ON HAND 6/30/03:

N. IRELAND RESEARCH FUND BALANCE \$ 855.00
GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$ 2462.21**

\$ 3144.75

* This is generally the cost for each issue of the newsletter and reprints. Expenses were less for issue #19 because a subscriber donated the copying costs.

**The cost of copying and mailing issue #20 (the one you are reading) has not been deducted from this amount.

Issue # 20 will cost about \$850 to duplicate and mail.

Thank you again for your generous donations. Together with the work of many volunteers, your donations make this newsletter possible.

Please read the update on plans to become a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

NOTES REGARDING DONATIONS -

- Your donations not only support the publication and mailing of the newsletter, but also cover related expenses. These include the \$100 registration fee for the Latta.org website domain name (renewable every two years), the monthly website connection fee of \$19.95 per month, and potential expenses related to becoming a nonprofit organization.
- Currently, we are unable to accept credit card donations. If you would like that convenience to be available please contact the treasurer above.
- Please send any corrections, questions or comments about donations or financial matters to the treasurer, Virginia Curulla, address above. Suggestions welcomed.
- Donations received after 6/30/03 will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Pennsylvania Latta Research

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We left Bedford and traveled on to Huntingdon to the courthouse. Although Huntingdon became a county in 1787, they did not start recording a lot of their information, such as marriages, until 1885. Thus, there were only two books in the whole courthouse that we had access to with records as far back as we wanted. Old records were stored in the basement, but the index was upstairs. Since we had all the information in the Courthouse from my last visit, we decided to wade through some of the old books in the basement to see what they had. Drifting out of the basement dusty and dirty an hour later, we headed over to the Historical Society located behind the library just down the street. The Historical Society is only open on Tuesday and Wednesday and we, luckily, were there on a Wednesday. I had visited the Historical Society about four years ago, but was unaware that they had the county tax assessments on microfilm there. Arriving at 3:00 p.m., we learned that they were only open until 4:00 p.m. So after paying our \$3.00 search fee each, Charlene and I set out on our research. Charlene wanted to look through the books and since there was only one microfilm recorder working half-way decent, I started on the microfilm. The two elderly women attending the society that day were a great help. However, looking for the "Shirley Township" records proved interesting. Looking through the microfilm drawer, the first lady decided that Shirley records must be included in "Dublin" since she could find no box labeled "Shirley." After searching for about 20 minutes in Dublin township and finding nothing, I turned and opened the microfilm drawer myself to double check the boxes. I knew that our notes had stated that John Latta was assessed with 200 acres, two horses and two cows in 1795, but I could not find him in the 1795 listing for Dublin Township. Seeing me open the drawer, the second woman came over and informed me that I was not allowed in the drawer and that she would have to assist me. I told her what I was looking for and she looked through the microfilm again. Turning over a box that was upside down, we discovered "Shirley". I then had about 1/2 hour to continue my search. Since John

had bought the land in 1774, I immediately started finding him taxed. In 1788, John was taxed for 200 acres, one horse, one horned cow. In 1789, he was taxed for 150 acres, one horse. In 1791, he was taxed for 200 acres, two horned cattle, and one horse. I began to get confused over the 150 acre assessment one year, then 200 the next, back to 150 the next. I never did figure out why the assessment changed. However, in 1791, I found his son William Latta assessed as a "single free man" for the first time. I rewound the tape to make sure of the year. Rewinding the tape and forwarding the tape proved to be interesting, since the crank was not working and I was winding by hand. Then came the discovery. In 1795 under single free men, I found the name "George Latta." I looked at it and said "George"? Where did "George" come from? The first George that I had a record of was George Madison Latta, son of John Latta II. This George must be the 5th son that we didn't have a name for. This was very exciting. I sat looking at the name in front of me, and then I heard "we are closing now, you will have to rewind that tape." At that moment, I wanted time to stand still. I still had records to look up through 1876, and I knew that if I only had another hour that I could find out what "M"'s real name was. The women informed us that we could come back on a Saturday by calling a certain woman and paying her \$10 an hour to open for research. I think I will go back on another Wednesday.

Leaving the Historical Society, we headed to the Beeghly Library on the campus of Juniata College, about five blocks away to look at microfilm of the Huntingdon Gazette from 1806 through 1835. Having decided that our Abraham died in 1831, we thought we would look for his obituary or death. Perhaps we would be lucky and find a death for John Latta, who was listed as being between 70-80 years old in the 1830 census. But alas, after an hour and a half of reading the fine print, we found that the records for 1823-1833 were missing, and the only other area information for Huntingdon County between 1806 to 1810 was militia meeting announcements and notices of an occasional horse that had wandered onto someone property who they were trying to find an owner for. Other

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Pennsylvania Latta Research

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news included national information and stories. A few deaths and marriages were listed, but were very rare.

After leaving the college about 6:30, we decided to head over to the town of Shirley and see just where our ancestors lived. We had no idea which plot of land was his, but we found a quiet little valley with a stretch of houses up both sides of the road and nothing but meadows behind them to the mountains. We looked through the Old Baptist Cemetery, of which the Presbyterian cemetery had merged, but found nothing. We left the area and I arrived home about 11:00 p.m. I still could not get to sleep for about an hour because I was going over all that we had found that day in my head.

My resolution about hunting genealogy is that even if you have been to a courthouse or county doing research once, go again. I would never had discovered the roll of microfilm, but now I know where to look when I go back in a few weeks.

I also went to the Internet and started looking at www.google.com. I searched for Ft. Shirley, Huntingdon County and found a lot of interesting information on the Cluggage family of the area. They lived there at the same time that John Latta did. Robert Cluggage witnessed John's deed. I found a lot of interesting information about the area and people where my ancestors lived.

With a description off the deed, I looked at a topographical map that Sharon had sent me. John's land was bordered on the south by Sugar Run and on the east by a "scrubby ridge." Could it be "Sandy Ridge", a mountain chain that runs east of Shirley bordered on the south by Sugar Run? Going to the Internet, I found a map of Shirley in 1873. I have narrowed the land that John could have owned down to two areas. Taking the names off of the map of the owners in 1873, I am going to backtrack their property at the courthouse on my next visit and see if they bought it from John Latta. Perhaps his name was spelled wrong in the indexes.

Now I have another list of things to look for on my next trip to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Summary of Research Findings

By: Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17 Captain,
Latteacox@aol.com

Here are my findings from my trip to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania:

In a Book labeled "Tax Lists - Cumberland Co., PA 1768, 1769, 1770"

AIR Rates:

1768 - William Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows, 50 acres unwarranted, 10 cleared

1769 - William Latta, 2 horses, 2 cows, 50L (Landlord); 10 cleared

1770 - William Latta, 2 horses, 2 cows, 50L; 10

C

Peters:

1768 - Moses Latta, single freeman

John Latta, single freeman

1769 - Moses Latta, single freeman

John Latta, single freeman

1770 - Moses Latta, single freeman

John Latta, single freeman

Ayr Township:

1767 - William Latta, 100 acres, 20 cleared, 2 horses, 3 cows, warranted

1768 - William Latta, 50 acres, 10 cleared, 2 horses, 2 cows, unwarranted

On microfilmed tax rolls for Shirley Twp. and Union Twp, I found the following. It is all Shirley, unless otherwise designated.

1788 - John Latta, 200 acres, 1 horse, 1 cow

1789 - John Latta, 150 acres, 1 horse

1790, John Latta, 150 acres, 1 horse

1791- John Latta, 150 acres, 2 horned cattle, 1 horse, 3 _ of horses

1792 - John Latta, 200 acres, 1 cow, 1 horse

William Latta, single freeman

1793 - John Latta, 150 acres, 2 cows, 2 horses

William Laty, single freeman, 1 horse

1794 - John Latta, 200 ac, 2 cows, 2 horses

1795 - John Latta, 200 ac, 2 cows, 2 horses

George Latta, single freeman

1796 - John Latta, 200 ac, 2 cows, 2 horses

George Latta, single freeman

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Summary of Research Findings

(Continued from Page 5)

1797 - John Latta, D-306, C-66, Dollars 1, Cents 16
 William Latta - D-36, C-0, Dollars 0, Cents 12
 George Latta - indentured lands, married, Dollars 1
 1797 (second record)
 John Latta, D-336, C-66, Dollars 1, Cents 31
 William Latta, D-36, C-0, Dollars 0, Cents 12
 George Latta, single freeman, Dollars 1
 1798 - John Latta, 334, 66, 0, 94
 William Latta, 36, 0, 0, 10
 George Latta, 8, 0, 0, 3
 1799 - John Latta, 200 ac, 1 horse, 2 cows
 William Latta - 2 horses, 1 cow
 George Latta, 1 cow
 1800 - John Latta, 200 acres, 2 horses, 2 cows
 William Latta, 2 horses, 1 cow
 George Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
 1801 - John Latta, 200 acres, 1 horse, 1 cow
 William Latta, 2 horses, 1 cow
 George Latta, "removed", 1 horse, 1 cow
 1801 (second set)
 William Latta - line drawn through it
 1802 - John Latta, 200 acres/landlord, 2 cows, 1 occupation
 1802 (second set)
 John Latta, 3 horses, 1 cow
 1803 - John Latta, 3 horses, 1 cow
 1804 - John Latta, 300/landlord, 3 horses, 1 cow
 (only nonresident landowner with 300 acres was James Hartley)
 1805 - John Latta, 275/landlord, 3 horses, 2 cows
 1806 - John Latta, 275/landlord, 2 horses, 2 cows
 1807 - John Latta, 275/LL, 1 horse, 2 cows
 1808 - John Latta, 275/LL, 1 horse, 2 cows
 Union Township (where Latta Grove is situated)
 William Latta, 300/LL, 1 cow
 1809 - John Latta, 275/LL, 1 horse, 2 cows
 John Latta, single freeman

Union Township - William Latta, 100/LL, 2 horses, 2 cows
 1810 - John Latta, 275/LL, 2 horses, 2 cows
 John Latta, single freeman
 Union Township - William Latta, 100/LL, 1 horse, 1 cow
 1811 - John Latta, 275/LL, 1 horse, 1 cow
 John Latta, single freeman
 Union Township - William Lattey, 100 acres
 1812 - John Latta, 275/LL, 1 horse, 1 cow
 John Latta, single freeman
 Union Township - William Lattey, 100 acres
 1813 - John Latta, 415/LL, 1 horse, 1 cow
 William Latta, 100/LL, 1 cow
 John Latta, single freeman, 1 occupation
 Abraham, single freeman, 1 horse
 Union Township - William Lattey, 100 acres
 1814 - John Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
 William Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
 Abraham Latta, 1 horse
 John Latta, single freeman
 1815 - John Latta and Logan Cornelius 308/LL, 1 horse, 1 cow
 William Latta, 100/LL, 1 horse, 1 cow
 Abraham Latta, 1 horse
 John Latta, single freeman
 1816 - John Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
 William Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
 Abraham Latta, 1 horse
 John Latta, single freeman
 1817 - John Latta, 1 occupation
 William Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
 Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
 Rebecca Latta, 1 horse
 John, Jr., 1 occupation
 1818 - John Latta, Sr. - 1 occupation
 Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
 Rebecca Latta, 1 horse
 John Latta, Jr., 1 occupation
 1820 - John Latta, 1 horse
 Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
 1821 - John Latta, Sr. - 1 horse
 Abraham Latta, 2 horses, 2 cows
 John Latta, Jr., 1 horse, 1 cow
 1822 - John Latta, Sr. - 1 horse, 125/LL with Logan Cornelius

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Summary of Research Findings

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Abraham Latta, 2 horses, 2 cows
John Latta, Jr., 125/LL for Cromwell, 1 horse, 1 cow
1823 - John Latta, 2 horses, 1 cow
1824, Abraham Latta, 2 horses, 2 cows
John Latta, 2 horses, 1 cow
1825 - Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
John (removed) 2 horses, 1 cow
1826 - Abraham Latta (name only)
1827 - Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
John Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
1828 - Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
John Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
1829 - Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow, 206/LL
John Latta, 1 horse
1830 - Abraham Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow, 200/LL
John Latta, Jr., 1 horse, 1 cow, 143/LL for Cromwell
John Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
1831 - Abraham Latta, 2 horses, 2 cows
John Latta, 1 horse, 2 cows
1832 - Martha Latta, widow, 200/LL (name scratched out)
John Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
1833 - John Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow
1834 - John Latta, 1 horse, 1 cow

Lockhart Edwin Latta

By: Alex. Latta, Branch 16 Captain, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, allatta@gambit.ab.ca

I would like to report on my search for Lockhart Erwin Latta, Branch 16. A few years ago I started this search, after meeting my second cousin, Harold Milligan, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He informed me of another cousin, Merrill Latta who had died in a Hobo camp in Stockton, California. Merrill's wife had already left him and returned to Minnesota with their two children. After searching and making long distance phone calls, writing to people in Minnesota, etc. I gave up. But I did leave a message on the Ancestry Query board, asking about a

Lockhart Latta who was being sought by his daughter in Oklahoma. This person turned out to be a long distant truck driver, and didn't check e-mail too often.

Then, a couple of months ago I received an e-mail from someone answering my query, who said I was on the right track. This person turned out to be a half sister of the one in Oklahoma. The relationship has been established, and we have exchanged considerable information, both having information the other lacked. I have received great photos, and will post them on my web page, www.myriadweb.ca/latta, as possible.

Church Inscriptions in Ireland

By: Alex. Latta, Branch 16 Captain, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, allatta@gambit.ab.ca

Following is the inscription on the stele of John Latta and Mary Steen located in the Church of Ireland in Churchtown, Taughboyne Parish, County Donegal:

John Latta, of Bready
Who Died on November 28th, 1725
Aged 68 years.
Also his Wife Mary Latta, Alias Steen,
Who Died on August 24, 1758, Age 89.
Also Jane Latta, Wife of William Latta,
Of Bready,
Who Died July 9, 1852, Aged 57 Years.

In 1860 Bready was still owned by Alexander Latta, Branch 16. I have some recent pictures of some of the old farm buildings here. Also of the Church of Ireland in Churchtown, which was likely built circa 1590, and renovated in 1628.

A note from your editor: I am always looking for good articles on the Latta family. You do not have to be a Pulitzer Prize winning author to be in our newsletter. Just please send me your stuff at: Ken Mueller, 337 Gertrude St., Elgin, Illinois 60123, U.S.A.

George W. Latta, Branch 4

Transcribed by Anne Taylor-Czaplewski

Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Wisconsin Counties of Waupaca, Portage, Wood, Marathon, Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas, Langlade, and Shawano. J. H. Beers & Co. [Chicago] 1895 - pp 262 - 263.

George W. Latta, attorney at law in Antigo, Langlade County, has the distinction of having been the first lawyer in that county, and prominent place in the public and social life of the thriving little town. The father of our subject, Benjamin Latta, was born in Erie County, N. Y., in 1816, and but little is known of his ancestors, except that they came from Ireland. His father visited Wisconsin at one time and died of cholera on the boat on his way home. The mother had died sometime previous to this, leaving ten children, of whom five sons and two daughters were Benjamin's own brothers and sisters, and two were step-brothers. Benjamin Latta was married in New York, in 1841, to Deborah C. Stevens, who was born in 1817 in Clarence Hollow, that State. Her father, whose ancestors came from Germany, was a farmer and hotel-keeper, and had a family of ten children. Mr. Latta came west in 1845, and located on government land in Rock County, the same property on which he now resides. Two years later his wife and family, consisting at that time of three children, joined him, coming by boat from Buffalo to Chicago and thence to their future home. It was then a wilderness, but time and hard labor have wrought great changes, and Mr. Latta has not only made of it a valuable property, but has increased the acreage until the farm now comprises about 300 acres, all highly cultivated. As an incident of those early days it may be mentioned that the material used in the house then built, and in which the family still reside, was brought by team all the way from Milwaukee. To this pioneer couple ten children were born, as follows:

Susan, who became the wife of William Stewart, a farmer in Rock county; William, also farming in that county; Benjamin Frank, an attorney in St. Paul; Almettie E., deceased; Albert W.; George W., our subject; Darius K., who lives on the

old homestead; Josephine, who is now Mrs. Coles; Ida, who is Mrs. Liddle and Ulysses G., who is a physician in Chicago. Sickness came and the wife and mother was taken from them in 1887. Mr. Latta is a quiet, unassuming man in the locality in which he has lived, and commands the respect and esteem of all who know him.

George W. Latta, the subject of this sketch, was born in the town of Bradford, Rock Co., Wis., July 29, 1851. He was graduated from Albion Academy, in Dane county, Wis., at the age of twenty-one years, after completing a four-years' course. He then went to the State University, at Madison, entering the Law Department, from which he was graduated in 1874. In October of the same year he took up his residence in Shawano, Wis., and began the practice of law. He remained there until the spring of 1881, when he removed to Antigo, Langlade County, where he has since made his home. He has an extensive practice, and commands the respect and confidence of the entire community. In politics Mr. Latta is a Republican, and has always been prominent in his party, having held many minor offices and been a frequent delegate to State conventions. He was the first district attorney of Langlade County, and after holding the office four years declined to accept it again. Although his district was considered as strongly Democratic, he was elected to the Assembly in 1894 by a majority of 330 votes. He is a member of the Masonic Order, belonging to the Blue Lodge at Antigo, and Concatenated Order of Hoo-hoo.

Mr. Latta was married, October 1, 1878, to Rachel Lawton, who was born in Dane county, Wis., daughter of Alancen B. and Abigail (Potter) Lawton. The father was a farmer, mill owner and merchant, and now resides with his daughter Rachel, the mother having died in 1886. There was but one other child in this family, Sarah also deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Latta three children have been born: Maud A., Grace D., and Georgiana W.

Mr. Latta occupies one of the finest homes in Antigo, a beautiful house surrounded by large and well-improved grounds, and he and his estimable wife dispense a generous hospitality which makes them very popular hosts.

Latta Family Branch 3 in Nebraska

By: Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17 Captain,
Latteacox@aol.com

It was on April 17, 1854, that the Indians relinquished their rights to the lands west of the Missouri River and May 30, 1854, an act created the Territory of Nebraska. A proclamation of President Pierce on June 24, 1854, threw open the Territory of Nebraska for settlement and land seekers hurriedly crossed the Missouri to stake their claims.

In a Biographical Album of Otoe and Cass Counties Nebraska, the biography of William E. Latta, states that the Latta family is of Scotch ancestry, and formed one of the colony of those who were driven from their native soil to the North of Ireland on account of religious persecution. William Latta, the paternal grandfather of William E. Latta, when a mere boy emigrated with his parents to the United States, where they located in Crawford County, PA. William E. Latta's parents, Robert and Letitia Latta, sojourned in the Queen City (Cincinnati, Ohio) until about 1858, when they started for the west, and crossing the Mississippi went down into the southwestern corner of Iowa, and settled in Page County. From there they moved to Mills County, Iowa, and thence in 1861 to the Territory of Nebraska, locating not long afterward on 160 acres of new land on Section 27 in Rock Bluff Precinct.

Robert and Letitia Latta were not the only Latta family to settle in Cass County. Robert's brothers, William Story Latta, John Allison Latta, and Samuel Glenn Latta, and his sister, Elizabeth Latta Royal and her family, also settled in Cass County. Robert's uncle, his father's brother, John Latta and his family, including his son Robert Ray Latta and wife, Mary Latta came to Cass County to live also. A death for Jane Latta in December of 1870 of colic, age 70, widow, born in Pennsylvania, can be found in Cass County. Was this the mother of Robert? Did she go with her children to Cass County after the death of her husband William in Cincinnati?

The sixth Territorial Legislature in 1860 asked Congress for a grant of 20,000 acres of land

in the Platte Valley to John A. Latta of Plattsmouth on condition that he run a serviceable steamboat from the mouth of the Platte up to Fort Kearney, do his own dredging and have the same completed by October 1, 1861. This project did not materialize.

During the Civil War, Samuel G. Latta, age 24, and William S. Latta, age 36, both residents of Rock Bluff, served as volunteers with Co. H of the 2nd Regiment of the Nebraska Calvary. They were both mustered into service as privates on December 13, 1862. Samuel G. was promoted to hospital steward on April 24, 1863, and William S. was promoted to assistant surgeon. William was discharged from the regiment to accept his commission on February 5, 1863.

The Plattsmouth Herald, in the May 20, 1869 issue, states: "Messrs W. S. Latta and J. A. Latta (brothers William Story Latta and John Allison Latta?) have now gotten their mill on Rock Creek in running order, and turning out some of the best flour in the state. They have a new mill house, new machinery and everything in order for making the best flour in the state-and they make it-we have tried it and know. Get "Rock Creek Mills XXX Family Flour," and you are sure of a good article. They grind for toll or give thirty pounds of flour and bran for a bushel of wheat." The upright section of the steel flume and a small part of the foundation of this old mill was still visible west of the Dr. Latta Stone House near Rock Bluffs in 1936 when the history of Cass County was written.

Robert R. Latta, the Denver attorney, noted that "John A. has been on the wing, like myself, for the most of his life. He crossed the plains in 1859. Spent several years in Colorado. Returned, made several trips across the plains. Find John A. where you will, you will find one of the best hearted men in the world."

The Lattas became involved in their little community quickly, as we can see from the records of the Presbyterian Church at Rock Bluffs. On August 18, 1860, the minutes read: "By arrangement with those who requested preaching, August 18th was designated as the time for organizing a church. And on the day appointed, after sermon from Matthew 11:29, the following persons were admitted in

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Latta Family Branch 3 in Nebraska

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full communion by assenting to the principles of the church, to-wit" Robt' M. Latta, Letitia Latta,... Mary Latta (this was possibly Mary, wife of Robert Ray Latta). Also Robert M. Latta and W. L. Thompson were, by ballot, chosen ruling elders and the organization named "The United Presbyterian Congregation of Rock Bluffs."

On January 4, 1861, John Latta, William H. Royal, David Storey, Robert M. Latta and William L. Thompson and their associates and successors, were elected to the political body of the United Presbyterian Church of Rock Bluffs City, Cass County, to manage and dispose of any property and to elect such trustees and other officers and make such rules and bylaws as they deemed proper.

At first, divine services were held every alternate Sabbath in the village school house. An acre of timber on the east side of the Missouri River was purchased to furnish the lumber for the church building which was erected. The timber was worked up, brought across the river and the building was soon started. Practically all of the labor was done by the members of the church and on February 16, 1862, the new church building was opened for public worship, furnished and entirely free from debt.

Ordination and installation of the first elders was held Friday afternoon, February 21, 1862. R. M. Latta (Robert M.?) was clerk of the session. The first children baptized were ...James Thompson Latta, William Allison Royal, and John Glen Royal, among others. The Sabbath School was organized on March 9, 1862. Teachers were H. M. Latta, Letitia Latta and others.

In 1861, Robert Ray Latta and his wife Mary elected to leave Nebraska and go to Iowa. In 1878, after some discussion, it was decided to tear down the Rock Bluff U.P. building and remove it to some central point on the prairie. Mr. James A. Walker offered to donate one-half acre of land he had adjoining the land he had previously donated to the school district. On April 17, 1878, the congregation accepted Mr. Walker's liberal offer and began plans for a church building. Members of the

building committee included S. G. Latta. The site of the new church was constructed near the school at the "cross roads", which from that date became "Fairview" by name.

In 1890 the name of the town of Fairview and the name of the church were changed to Murray, in honor of Rev. George R. Murray.

On February 17, 1870, Robert McConaha Latta's wife Letitia died, in childbirth for their son Elbert Johnston Latta. In the year 1871, Robert rented his farm, and afterward proceeded to Chicago and engaged at his trade of carpenter, which he had learned during his early manhood. He only lived a short time afterward, dying on March 25, 1872. Were the children split up and cared for by relatives in Cass County after the death of their mother? I believe so. The history of Cass County states that Samuel F. Latta was born at Rock Bluffs, living there until the death of his mother five years later. He then lived with relatives until, age the age of 16, he was sent to Valparaiso, Ind., to school. Elbert, known as "Bert" became a doctor. Could these boys have been raised by their uncle, William Story Latta? William Story Latta was a physician and army surgeon during the Civil War, President of the Medical Faculty at Cotner University in Lincoln, Nebraska, and editor of the Nebraska Medical Journal in 1891.

The main part of the town of Murray was a land grant to Abridg King, the widow of William King, a teamster of the War of 1812, and a warrant from President Buchanan assigned this tract, December 6, 1860, to James Allison, a well known pioneer in Cass County. From James Allison, it passed to Band Cole, W. L. Hobbs, George A. and Emmet Seybolt, who in turn deed the south half to Emily Latta, wife of Samuel G. Latta, on December 6, 1883.

A fence of osage hedge grew along the south and west lines of the Latta farm and through an opening cut in this hedge fence at the south side near the west line, lumber was hauled from Plattsmouth into the field and a small dwelling erected into which the Latta family moved in the spring of 1884.

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Latta Family Branch 3 in Nebraska

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The Missouri Pacific Railroad Company made a survey from Union to Omaha in 1890, and the construction of the railroad soon followed and was completed in September, 1891. James A. Walker and Samuel G. Latta, seeing a possible future for Murray, employed D. M. Lewis, a civil engineer, who surveyed and platted the town, which plat was attested to July 18, 1890, by H. W. Swearingen, notary public, and a resident of Murray. The blocks and lots were numbered and the streets named. One street was named Latta, in honor of Samuel G. Latta.

The church records fail to give the exact information regarding parsonages, but for many years the building on Lot No. 1, Block 13, was used for this purpose. October 24, 1917, Samuel G. Latta gave the church a quick-claim deed to this property. In 1923, a larger parsonage was needed and this property was traded in as part payment on the W. H. Puls property, Lots 4, 5, 6 and 7, Block 17, in Latta's Second Addition to the village of Murray.

Years passed, bringing many changes to the congregation. The bell used at Rock Bluffs was not used in the new church. The new one was about twice the size as the Rock Bluff bell. Uncle Sam Latta donated his own organ to the church in 1914 and it was still used occasionally in 1934.

Since early in the 19th century most post offices established have been the result of petitions. The Murray, Nebraska post office was established in 1884 and petitioned by S. G. Latta, Anderson Root, William Morrow, James Walker, Lee Oldham and others.

In the summer of 1884, Samuel Latta and his uncle, Samuel G. Latta, erected a store building at the southwest corner of the Latta farm and here conducted an enterprising mercantile business. All goods were conveyed from Plattsmouth to their store by wagons over winding roads. (Could they have been in business together because Samuel Foster Latta, was raised by Samuel G. Latta after the death of his parents?)

When the post office was established, the village of Murray consisted of the school house,

the United Presbyterian Church, the Lee Oldham and S. G. Latta homes, and the blacksmith shop. Mr. Loughridge served as the first postmaster until January of 1886 when he moved the office to the S. G. Latta store. As Mr. Loughridge moved the office without proper notification to the Post Office Department, he was fined the sum of \$40.00. Samuel G. Latta was appointed postmaster January 29, 1886.

April 26, 1887, Samuel F. Latta, a nephew of "Uncle Sam," was appointed postmaster. As these two men were in business together the office remained in the corner of the store building. The store was sold to William E. Latta, another son of Robert and Letitia Latta, in 1888, who in turn sold it to John Edmunds on February 1, 1889. William's son, James Oscar Latta, also became one of the first Murray residents to follow the medical profession as his life's work.

Dr. Benjamin F. Brendel, the next postmaster moved the post office to his office, one block east on the south side of the street on Lot 13. He was appointed postmaster on May 15, 1888.

John W. Edmunds was appointed postmaster December 16, 1889, and as he had purchased the Latta store, the office was again moved to the corner store building.

William E. Latta, son of Robert and Letitia Latta, was known throughout Rock Bluff Precinct and vicinity as one of its pioneers. He was engaged in general merchandising and had the monopoly of trade, being the sole merchant of the village of Murray. He was known as a man remarkably upright in his transactions, and as a natural result enjoyed the esteem and confidence of the community. William had married Sarah A. Eikenbury at Lincoln, Cass County, Nebraska on May 9, 1861.

S. G. Latta, after quitting the store at the corner, engaged in the pump and windmill business. Many of the Whizz and tailless rooster windmills he erected were still seen spinning in the breeze in 1936 when the history of Cass County was published.

As the constructions of buildings in Murray progressed, it was apparent that brick was a very essential part in all buildings and S. G. Latta with

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Latta Family Branch 3 in Nebraska

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others conceived the idea of starting a brick yard. A building in which the brick was to be molded was erected west of the elevators and Byron Scott and James Kinnamon were employed to do the molding and burning of brick. They were not successful in producing satisfactory brick and Loss Graves was employed. He also failed and it was decided that the clay in the area was not suited for brick making. The building was sold and remodeled into a dwelling.

The growing village of Murray was inviting to the newspaper business and the Murray Banner brought out its first issue on April 1, 1891, with J. A. Bascome, publisher and news furnished by local talent. On March 30, 1895, the paper assumed the name of the Murray Mirror, and in June of that year, S. G. Latta assumed the duty as its editor. The Murray Mirror was again renamed The Murray Banner on September 14, 1895, with S. G. Latta as editor.

Prof. J. R. Buchannon of Tarkio, Missouri, came to Murray in the summer of 1895 and discussed with the citizens of Murray and the community the advisability of starting an academy in Murray. This enterprise met with hearty approval and the Murray Academy was established. The Board of Trustees in 1896 was comprised of S. G. Latta, among others. The course of study in the Murray Academy began in September, 1895 in the United Presbyterian Church with a good enrollment and a very successful year. Four blocks at the eastern part of the S. G. Latta farm were selected for the permanent location of the Murray Academy. A brick building at the estimated cost of \$5000, walks, drives and planting of trees to beautify the grounds was planned. The necessary funds to materialize this enchanting dream could not be procured and the enterprise was dropped.

Today, Murray, Nebraska has a population of approximately 418. There are approximately 166 families residing in Murray.

Captain Robert G. Latta, Branch 44

By: Don Kitchen, kitchen2@adelphia.net

I was going through my grandparents' papers and found a newspaper clipping with a picture of Capt. Latta and the following obit.

EX-MASTER SURVIVES EMPRESS ONLY WEEK

Heswell, Chesire, England, Nov. 6, 1940-(CP)-

Capt. R. G. Latta, first commander of the Empress of Britain, died at his home here last night. He was 68 years old. Capt. Latta thus survived by only a few days the sinking of the pride of the Canadian Pacific line which was sunk by enemy action on Oct. 26. When Capt. Latta retired in 1938, after 34 years' service, he was commodore of the line and had been skipper on more world cruises than any other captain of the line.

Biography of Capt. Robert G. Latta

By: Tom Kintigh, Branch 3, tqkintigh@worldnet.att.net

Branch 44, 5 Robert G. (3) Latta, John (2) William (1) born in Scotland in 1894; m. _____. In 1934. Commanding C.P.R. Liner, "Empress of Britain". Newspaper item: (Jack) Latta commands "Empress" on world cruise. A tall, sinewy Scot, who rounded the Horn in windjammers, commands the Canadian Pacific flagship "Empress of Britain" in 1933 on her annual world cruise. He is Capt. R.G. (Jack) Latta. Born in Scotland in 1884, Jack Latta remained on shore until 21, then he went to see as apprentice on windjammers. Won certificates in sail and steam. Rounded the Horn under canvass, and learned all about navigation in sailing vessels. Joined the Canadian Pacific Line in 1904 and within the last 17 years he has held 15 commands. His more recent being the "Empress of Scotland" and the "Empress of Australia". He was appointed first Commodore of the Canadian Pacific fleet in 1932.

The Empress of Britain

By: Tom Kintigh, Branch 3,
tkkintigh@worldnet.att.net

Information on the Empress of Britain can be found at this URL: <http://www.greatoceanliners.net/empressofbritain2.html>.

In March 1940, the Empress was sent to Australia and New Zealand to transport troops to Europe. On May 12th she left Freemantle in a troop convoy together with the Empress of Canada, Queen Mary, Aquitania, Mauretania and Royal Mail's Andes. In the autumn of 1940, the Empress of Britain was on trooping mission between England and Suez via the Cape. On her way back, she called at Cape Town. Leaving with 643 people on board, no one knew that this was to be her last voyage. On October 26th, when the Empress of Britain was off the West Coast of Ireland, she was suddenly attacked by a German long-range Focke-Wulf Condor aircraft. The ship was set on fire in the attack, and it did not take long before the crew had lost control of the raging blaze. The Captain ordered abandon ship, but a skeleton crew remained in an effort to save the ship. The Polish destroyer Burza and the two tugs Marauder and Thames managed to take the burning vessel in tow, and headed for safe waters. But the German aircraft had reported the ship's position via radio, and soon the German U-boat U-32 was on the Empress' tails. The U-boat stalked its prey for almost 24 hours before, on October 28th, she was able to fire three torpedoes against the Empress of Britain. One of the torpedoes detonated prematurely, but the other two found its target, and mortally wounded her. The Empress of Britain went down, the casualties being counted to 49, most of whom had been killed in the air attack. Two days later, the U-32 was sunk by the destroyer Harvester.

Five years later, when the bloody conflict of World War II came to an end, no larger liner than the Empress of Britain had been sunk. She was the greatest loss for the Allied forces during the entire war.

Research Volunteers Needed

By: Tom Kintigh, Branch #3, Ireland Research
Coordinator, tkkintigh@worldnet.att.net

I am looking for volunteers to research the material on this list. We are looking for the Latta name in any apparent spelling variation. Record the name and how and why it appears. Source documentation is critical; so it is important to report any source information cited in the material. Since there is a cost involved and cranking through a roll of microfilm is tedious, you can choose do just one or all of those in a series. All the microfilms are available through LDS Family History Centers.

1. Book: "Fighters of Derry", by William Robert Young; publisher Eyre and Spottiswoods, 1932, London; Library of Congress classification DA945 .Y6, control number 33008815. This book is supposed to contain the name of Lattas that were part of the 1689 siege of Londonderry. We want their names and activities and the author's sources of information. The Library of Congress has one copy, beyond that I do not know where it is available.

2. Microfilm: "Grossle Genealogical Abstracts and Miscellaneous Military Records", 4 rolls, FHL British Film 0597099, 0597100, 0597101, and 0597102.

3. Microfilm: "Genealogical Collection Of Muster Rolls, Households, Wills, Deeds, Parish Registers" by Tenison Groves. The collection has 54 rolls in total but we are only interest in the following:

Armagh and Donegal Extracts, FHL British Film 258501. Donegal, Down and Dublin Extracts, FHL British Film 258502. This film is supposed to contain the 1669 Subsidy Roll covering the Barony of Raphoe and Taughboyne Parish, County Donegal. Tyrone Extracts, FHL British Film 2558509. Tyrone and Londonderry Extracts FHL British Film 258510.

4. Microfilm: "A List of freeholders in Ireland: 1760-1788". Item 1 includes Poll of electors of County Donegal with list of Freeholders 1760-1775. Item 2 includes County Armagh poll book 1753. FHL British Film 100181.

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Research Volunteers Needed

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5. Microfilm: "Religious Census 1699; County Tyrone" FHL British Film 100173. There are a number of other items on this film that might provide information, so the entire film should be checked.

Computer Genealogy

By: Ellen Rowan Taylor, Captain, Branches 19 & 27,

Latta List and Message Board Administrator,
ellenrowantaylor@aol.com

When I started doing computer genealogy, 20 some years ago, everything was different. For one thing, there was no World Wide Web. We had computers, with no memory to speak of and 14K modems were considered pretty fast. We did not have scanners and inkjet printers. Rootsweb was a very large searchable surname list. The Latter Day Saints were not on line, and no one had thought of putting libraries on line. No one had a personal web page. It is amazing how far we have come in such a short time, and very easy to be confused about what is all out there.

Rootsweb provides the space and manages the computer part for the Latta Mailing list and the Latta Message board. They do an excellent job of maintaining the computer system. Rarely is there a time when the system is down. Rootsweb monitors the lists for scam, viruses and anything else that could cause problems. The Rootsweb mailing lists are very safe. I have never known an inappropriate message to get through to the list. There is no danger of getting a virus through the Rootsweb mailing lists.

MAILING LISTS

A mailing list is a way of communicating

through e-mail with a specific group of people with a common interest. In order to access the list, you must subscribe. It is moderated by a person who is identified as the list administrator. She has some control over who is subscribed, and can, in some cases, control what is on the list. Only e-mail messages can be posted to the e-mail list. It does not accept attachments of any kind.

The mailing list messages are sent in two ways. You can subscribe to receive individual messages, which are sent to all the subscribers immediately after they are posted. You can also subscribe to receive messages in digest form, which gathers all the messages posted every 12 or 18 hours, and then sends them in one message.

Once the messages are sent, they are archived on the Rootsweb computer. They are accessible by going to <http://www.rootsweb.com/>, scrolling down to mailing lists and then click on interactive search. Enter LATTA (be sure that it's in Caps), and then you can search all the Latta mailing lists from 1998 until yesterday.

To subscribe to the mailing list, send an e-mail to: LATTA-L-request@rootsweb.com or LATTA-D-request@rootsweb.com. Just type the word "subscribe" in the body of the message, or in the title area of your message. (To unsubscribe, you send a message to the same addresses, and change the word to Unsubscribe) I highly recommend subscribing to the Latta mailing list. It is a great list with very helpful people.

MESSAGE BOARDS

The Rootsweb message boards were developed for communication with other people searching in the same area or for the same surnames. You do not have to subscribe, and the messages are all left in place, so that you can search them as you are visiting the board. About two years ago, the message boards were changed to allow attachments. You can now post pictures, and gedcoms, which I think is a wonderful feature. I have posted pictures and wills on the Latta message board. I asked to administer the Latta board, because I wanted it to be gatewayed to the mailing list. That means that all the

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Computer Genealogy

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text messages posted on the message board appear on the mailing list, but not vice-versa. Obviously, the attachments do not appear on the mailing list, but all of us subscribed to the mailing list know when something like a will or a photo is posted to the message board. The best way to get a message out to the most people is to post it to the message board.

To access the message board: Go to <http://www.rootsweb.com/>, click on Message Boards, enter Latta in the "Find a Message Board" box, and the Latta board link will appear. There is a search feature, so that you do not have to read all 297 messages to find what you want.

I hope I have been able to clear up some confusion, explain the unexplainable, and encourage all of you to use the tools that we have at our fingertips. If not please feel free to write or e-mail me with questions.

Latta Web Site

By: Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17 Captain,
Latteacox@aol.com

I finally got the new web site to publish. Anyone checking the www.latta.org website will find loads of new information on the website. With the new Microsoft FrontPage software, we have been able to download the old website onto our computer and add additional information. One large drawback so far as been learning the system and changing FTG pages to the FrontPage format. Considering that all of the Branch information and the branch notes were in FTG format, there were several pages to convert. Articles from recent newsletters are being added to the website, along with recent "Research Queries." Hyperlinks had to be added and double checked to make sure that pages were linked together properly. Hopefully, researchers will find even more information available to them from the website soon.

Reply to Research Query

By: Dr. William B. McColly,
wmbmcc@earthlink.net

Dear Mr. Mueller:

I hope that you will be able to publish this query in the next Latta Genealogy Newsletter. I want to say that you are doing a good job as Paul Calhoun's successor. There is no difference that I can see in the quality of the Newsletter.

Paul and I never met. After we discovered mutual ancestors, however, we had quite a bit of e-mail correspondence that was of considerable help to both of us.

Recently at a hotel desk in Omaha I heard a guest give the clerk the name Latta. I told the guest that I have distant relatives descended from Lattas who were in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania in the early 1800s. Were any of his Latta ancestors in Westmoreland in the old days I asked him. He then asked me, "weren't everybody's?" and turned and walked away. In spite of this veiled suggestion that I mind my own business, I want to comment on Mr. Thomas Kintigh's two queries (19 & 20) in Issue 19 (Spring 2003) of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. Mr. Kintigh's and the late Paul Calhoun's ggggrandparents Matthew and Frances Belford Johnston were, by the way, my gggrandparents, and thus Mr. Kintigh is, and Paul was, my 3rd cousin once removed.

First, about the size and shape of Westmoreland County, which Mr. Kintigh says "is not big, approximately 40 miles by 40 miles." That would mean 1600 square miles, which is 56% more than the actual 1028 (8th biggest in the Commonwealth). If Westmoreland were square, each side would be 32.06 miles, and each hypotenuse 45.25. But the four points of the County are quite elongated, with the lines from NW to SE and from SW to NE each being 60 some statute miles. Further, I like to view Westmoreland in relation to American county sizes in general. Mr. Kintigh's home county of Pima, in Arizona, is over 9,000 square miles. San Bernardino, in California, is over 20,000. But in Texas, almost three-fourths of the 254 counties

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Reply to Research Query

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fall short of 1,000. Many states in fact have no counties over 999, and four of these (Iowa, Georgia, North Carolina, and Mississippi) are bigger than Pennsylvania.

Second, I wonder just how close many of the Westmoreland Lattas of 150-200 years ago were as we understand proximity today. Even though all Lattas I think lived west of the Chestnut Ridge, none the less travel for them must have been hard and annoying. Westmoreland is a hilly County, and even today few of its roads are straight and level for very long. Until the mid-1930s, when Governor Gifford Pinchot realized his campaign pledge to "get the farmers out of the mud," the County's roads were often a daunting challenge. Mr. Kintigh mentions the many Lattas who lived in "Mt. Pleasant, E. & S. Huntingdon Twps . . . a compact area." Today this area (maybe 25 by 15 or so miles) may seem compact, but, since size is often relative, in the old days of muddy (and fewer) roads, of streams to be forded, of horses and wagons or, for the more affluent, buggies, of labor-intensive occupations, and of less easy communication (parts of Westmoreland were not electrified until just before WWII), the area was relatively bigger.

Last, two minor points. Mr. Kintigh writes that John Latta died in New Alexandria in 1802. New Alex (as many Westmorelanders call it), was not incorporated until 1834, and in the first part of the century the settlement was known as Dennistown. Further, Mr. Kintigh writes that "Bullskin Twp, Fayette County is just across Jacobs Creek (the county line) from Mt. Pleasant Twp, Westmoreland County." Jacobs Creek in fact is the Fayette-Westmoreland County line only part way - from the Youghiogheny River to Laurelville (about four miles east of Mt. Pleasant Borough), where the Creek goes almost due north for two miles to its headwaters, and the County line goes southeast to where the Fayette, Westmoreland, and Somerset County lines meet. A Bullskin Twp. tributary of Jacobs Creek, by the way, is Latta Run.

Old Latta Pictures Wanted

By: Alex. Latta, Branch 16 Captain,
allatta@gambit.ab.ca

I would love to post any Latta pictures you have on my web-site. The older the better. If you take current pictures I would like close-ups, showing facial features. The address is as follows: <http://www.myriadweb.ca/latta>. You can also mail pictures of Latta family members to me at: Alex. Latta, Branch 16 Captain, 6830 42 Street, NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 0Y8, allatta@gambit.ab.ca.



Robert Seegar Latta (1826-1900)
Mary Tumbleson Latta (1828-1907)

Here is an old photograph given to the editor by Lawrence Sullivan. It is a picture of Robert Seegar Latta, 1826-1900, Branch 1, and his wife Mary Tumbleson Latta, 1828-1907. They were married 21 Dec. 1848 in LaGrange County, Indiana. Later they lived in Noble County, Indiana, and then moved to Loup County, Nebraska.

Research 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. I was just looking at the **Latta** Emigrant Database on the **Latta** website. I noticed a Samuel **Latta** listed for Br. 3 with the following notation: "son of Samuel **Latta**. came to US. Lived near Genesee (now Rochester NY) m. ? had 4 sons born Donegal, Ireland." Can anyone from Br. 3 add details to this? The date he lived there? I ask because 5 Samuel (3) of Br. 4 was one of the first settlers at the mouth of the Genesee River (Rochester NY) between 1796-7 and was the first Collector of the Port of the Genesee (1805). Is there a possible connection between these two Samuels? There were very few settlers in that area at the end of the 1700's, in fact 5 Samuel (3) of Br. 4 was the local agent for the **Pulteney** Estate which held the land that was being sold to settlers. Randy **Phillips**, Phillipsf2@aol.com, Br. 4 Captain, 3303 Ferguson Corners Rd., Penn Yan, NY 14527.

2. I am interested in and have much info on the Orange County NC **Lattas**. David K. **Latta**, branch 7, 118 Ross Mill Ridge, Hedgesville WV 25427-4969.

3. Do you have any information on Sarah Ann **Fuller**? She may have been an ancestor. I am searching for information on her and on Matthew **Latty** of Indian Territory, Tahlequah, OK, who may have served in the Civil War under Stand **Watie**. Thanks! Blanche **Manos**, manosmeadows@intellex.com.

4. Looking for information on Ruth **Latta**, born 1928 in Spokane Co., WA., daughter of Henry and Lena **Latta**. She was (or is) married to Joseph **Peterson**. They have about 8 children. Last known address was Portland, OR. Any information on this family would be greatly appreciated. Shelly Chance **Galloway**, Gr8p4spades@aol.com.

5. I am looking for a line that includes Dale **Latta** who died in 1940 in an industrial accident. He worked for Gates Tire and Rubber Company, and was killed at work when a large tractor tire fell on him. My mother thinks it happened in Indiana, and the family lived in Omaha at the time. Dale **Latta's** second (?) wife was one of my maternal grandmothers. Her name was Helen May (AKA Honey) **Darter** (the name of her first

husband) or **Brotts** (her maiden name). Dale **Latta** had two children from a previous marriage: Elizabeth (Betty) **Joyce** and Thomas (Tom). I knew Betty **Joyce**, and know that she died in Los Angeles in the early 1970's. I never met Tom **Latta**. Honey came to her marriage with Dale **Latta** with two children: Arthur Winfred **Darter** (who took the **Latta** name) and my mother Lorraine Eva **Darter** (who took her mother's maiden name, **Brotts**.) Betty **Joyce**, Tom, Arthur and Lorraine were all reportedly around the same age, which means they would all be in their early eighties now. Honey was born in MO in 1904 and died in Los Angeles in 1976. Arthur also died in Los Angeles in 1975. Arthur had four children: Judith Frances, Arthur Wilbur, Alice Louise and Diana Marie. Their birth certificates all give the name of **Latta**. I would appreciate any hint about this **Latta** line. Paul A. **Smith**, Ph.D., 6105 Glenhurst Way, Citrus Heights CA 95621, smith.p.a@attbi.com.

6. I may have posted this once before, if so please excuse me. I have in my notes a John **Latta** d. July 10, 1883 age 64 years 11 months, and a Nellie E. **Latta**, wife of Frank M. b. Aug. 6, 1853 d. Jan. 2, 1903, they are buried in Gahanna Cemetery, Franklin Co. Ohio. Can someone tell me who these **Latta's** could possibly be, are they related to the James **Latta** also buried there. Thanks. Katy, dklwill@ipa.net.

7. I'm trying to prove my ggg-grandmother, Jane **Latta** married Gideon **Cornell**, was a daughter of James and Nancy **Latta**. William **Latta** was a brother. Sisters were Hester **Latta Hickerson**, Elizabeth **Latta Hoyt**, Mary **Latta Moffet**, Nancy **Latta McDaniel**, Margaret **Latta Chandler**, Lucinda **Latta Hull**. All are listed in Putnam Co OH chancery record when property owned by James and Nancy was sold, after his death. Any help would be appreciated. I would love to hear from anyone from this branch 24 family 5. Thanks. Ms. Patricia A **Bradford**, 15137 Mermill Rd> Rudolph OH 43462, pbradfod@wcnet.org.

8. Sadie **Burris** went to Mary Belle **Latta's** birthday party in Monroe County in 1895. Mary Adelia **Burris** married Mary Belle's brother Thomas Leroy **Latta**. Both she and Thomas were school teachers. There

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Our Financial Contributors since the last issue. We really appreciate your support!
 If there is a number before the name, it is that person's branch number. The editor suggests that the reader contact researchers of the same branch and share information.

3. Mrs. Barbara Benish, 1302 Highland St., Helena MT 59601-5241. bbenish@onewest.net.

3. Clyde Latta Boice, 1221 Vine St., Fulton MO 65251.

9. Ms. Jackay Burnside, 598 Sycamore Dr., Conroe TX 77302-1093.

28. Mrs. Michell W. Cook, 1805 Chestnut Lane, Longview TX 75604-4312.

Acquisitions Dept., Family History Library, 35 North West, Salt Lake City UT 84150-3400.

11. Mrs. Lucy L. Hilton, 7613 Wilson St., Haraha LA 70123-3828. lucyhilt@cox.net.

13/4. Mrs. Helen J. Kelley, 3094 Canvasback, West Sacramento CA 95691-4460. ekelley@peoplepc.com.

1. Joy L. Kirby, 1897 S. Hibee, Idaho Falls ID 83404. jvkirb@ida.net

Mr. Curtis Lantz, P.O. Box 7678, Bend OR 97708-7678. clantz@bendcable.com

1. Ms. Virginia Latta Latchford, 134 Morning-side, Paramus NJ 07652.

9. Mr. David L. Latta, 18901 N. Skylight Mt., Cane Hill AR 72717.

29. Mr. Douglas R. Latta, 289 SE Vista Dr., Newport OR 97365-4210. dobar@earthlink.net.

13. Mrs. Garry Latta, 1524 Vancouver St., Nelson, BC, Canada, V1L 1E6. fgarry@telus.net.

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Colleen Latta, 990 Geauga Portage, Cortland OH 44410.

6. Mr. James W. Latta, 12558 Broadmoor St., Overland Park KS 66209-2555.

52. Mr. & Mrs. James & Constance Latta, 11931 Lambert, El Monte CA 91732-2031. somesup@aol.com.

48. Mr. Kenneth A. Latta, 4239 Queens Way, Minnetonka MN 55345-3035.

18. Mr. & Mrs. Leroy & Pearl Latta, 965 E. Armstead St., Azusa CA 91702-4732.

1. Mr. Perry D. Latta, 6389 Alp Ct., Dayton OH 45424. hhdon@aol.com.

23. Mr. Robert A. Latta, 10 Sanders Place, Pompton Plains NJ 07444-1236. rlatta6374@aol.com.

30. Mr. Robert E. Latta, 11632 Kosine Lane, Loveland OH 45140-1912. r.latta@worldnet.att.net.

18. Mr. William S. Latta, 28 La Cumbre Circle, Santa Barbara CA 93105-4473.

Mr. Alex Latto, 3 Ochilview, Alva, Clacks, Scotland FK12 5EU. ecklawtie@aol.com.uk.

Mrs. Connie M. Leaman, 4427 SW 315th, Federal Way WA 98023. r.leaman@attbi.com

13. Mrs. Marilyn Macneall, 2020 Coral Crescent, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7P 3K5. marilyn-macneall@cogeco.ca.

3. Mr. William B. McColly, 55 Plymouth Circle, Hershey PA 17033-1846. wmbmcc@earthlink.net.

1. Mrs. Lenore R. Miner, 7912 Rocklyn Dr., Urbandale IA 50322. miner7912@aol.com.

16. Mrs. Izola Latta Mottershead, 3532 103 Ave., NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5W 0A7. izola@shaw.com.

3. Mrs. Jewell Rader, 4701 Date Ave., Apt. 410, LaMesa CA 91941. jrader15@cox.net.

13. Mr. Theodore Rinness, 556 Tulane, Saginaw MI 48604-2249. tarhino@yahoo.com.

Ms. Norma Sutherland, 10601 Nall Ave., Shawnee Mission KS 66207-3878. garden1231@aol.com.

Ora Swink, 711 Madison, Chula Vista CA 91910-5124.

Research Queries

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was also a J.L. **Burris** who was on the school board in 1899. Our **Latta** branch is #17. Does anyone know anything about his family? I have several pictures of them to share. Betty **Kitchen**, kitchen2@adelphia.net.

9. I heard a number of years ago that two **Latta** brothers came Pennsylvania, and finding that there was a **Latta** there of ill repute, they changed their name to **Latto**, to avoid being tarred with the same brush. There was a **William Latta** that arrived in Philadelphia from Londonderry, in 1807, aboard the "Hanna". In 1822, **Eleanor Latta**, age 21, arrived in Philadelphia from St. John, Ireland. (This could be St. Johnstown.)

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Research Queries

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Here is an interesting one: This appears to be an entire family, arriving in Philadelphia from London-derry, aboard the barque St. James, in 1847.

David **Latta**, age 59

Ester **Latta**, age 45

Moses **Latta**, age 23

Isabella **Latta**, age 16

Samuel **Latta**, age 10

Alexander **Latta**, age 8

This may be branch #3. Could Isabella be named after her aunt, Isabella **Boyd**? Right age. Both spellings, (**Latta-Latto**), are very common in Italy today. They're probably both correct. Alex. **Latta**, Br. #16, 6830 42nd St., NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 3C9, allatta.gambit.ab.ca.

10. I am looking for information on a Sarah **Sparks** who was born in Bedford County, PA on Dec. 16, 1786. She died in Bedford County in 1860. She married a Mr. **Latta** and her children were William **Latta**, born in 1816, and Indiana **Latta**, born in 1817. Indiana married a **Hayes**. William had a son named William born in 1841 and a daughter named Jane born in 1843. Does anyone have any other information on this family? Sue **Lattea Cox**, Br. 17, 6 Woodhill Ave., Salem WV 26426, Latteacox@aol.com.

11. I have been researching Alice U. **Latta** married in Sayre, Oklahoma to Earl O. **Hix**. Had a couple of her children there. Parents are David **Latta** and Bertha I. **Brown**. My information is limited but I have David Willis **Latta** married to Bertha I. **Brown**. I only have one daughter at this time, Alice Urana **Latta**. BD 25 May 1898. Born in New Boston, Lee, Iowa. Alice was married to Earl Olin **Hix** in Sayre, Beckham, Oklahoma on 1 Nov. 1914. DD is 14 Jan. 1988. Enimclaw, Washington. They had two sons that I am aware of: Richard Earl **Hix** and Ralph Carroll **Hix**. Any information on the **Latta** and **Hix** lines would be greatly appreciated. lv4au2@yahoo.com.

12. I have some more information on our family: my great grandfather's name was Jan **Latta** (or **Lata**) and he was born around 1870, we don't exactly know where. He lived in Groß-Pramsen, Silesia, Germany, and he had 3 sons: my grandfather Valentin (born around 1900 in Groß-Pramsen) and his brothers Vincent

and ?. My grandfather was taken to a Russian camp during World War II and is missing since then. My nana has died 3 years ago. My great grandparent had 5 children, I have 12 cousins and some of them have children as well. We all live in Germany.

I have attached a photo showing my grandfather (far right), his wife Maria (next to him), his brother Vincent and his sister in law Mia. We would be very happy if you could post our message in your mailing list and/or in your newsletter and connect us to anybody who might know something more or be even related to us. I'm really glad I got in touch with you guys! Thanks a lot for your support!. Isa **Latta**, Mettmanner Str. 41, D-40233 Duesseldorf, Germany, isa.latta@web.de.

13. I have just begun searching my **Latta** family. My great grandmother was Alice **Latta**, daughter of Robert Ray **Latta** in Colorado where she married John **James**. Their son was William Raleigh **James** who married my grandmother, Gertrude **Gammon**. Their son, Charles Reginald **James** was my father. The history I have is mostly in Colorado, KS & Iowa for Lattas. Looking for connections & info about Robert Ray **Latta** & Alice **Latta**, his daughter. Now I just discovered my new daughter-in-law's mother is a **Latta** from North Carolina. Mary J. **Mead**, 1233 Plum Tree Ct., Unit 81, Schaumburg IL 60193, USA, JAMES@SQADCO.com.

14. Can anyone connect Matthew Warren **Latta** or **Latty** to one of the established branches of the **Latta** family? He was born about 1795 in Maryland/Kentucky. His birthplace varies with the census records, although Maryland seems the most consistent place. He doesn't appear in census records until 1840 & then in Des Moines County, Iowa where he homesteaded. His wife was Sarah born in Kentucky & their children were John, James H. and Joseph Warren, Mary and Sarah all born near **Latta's Station**, Iowa. cjazz@comcast.net.

15. It's been way too long since I posted last! In fact, I originally posted sometime last year and received some really wonderful welcomes, and offers of help, and then got sidetracked by a hectic life and some illness and kind of fell off the planet, genealogically speaking. Anyway, I'm now trying to become active again and would like to extend my sincere thanks, as well as apologies, to those folks who so graciously welcomed me, and to whom I owed replies!

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Non Profit Latta Association

By: Cindy Stiene, Branch 10 & 15 Captain,
cstiene@hiwaay.net

Here is the 1st draft of the By-Laws & Constitution for the Latta Association. I have taken it verbatim (with some tweaks) from an example I was provided, just to get everyone's thought processes rolling. Please forward this draft to all interested members who will be crafting our fledgling group. All comments, suggestions, etc. are welcome. Let the debates begin!

Constitution and By-Laws

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Latta Genealogical Society, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

The purpose of the Latta Genealogical Society is to archive, connect, memorialize and publish information and documentation that will assure honor & respect for the various families named Latta, Lattie, Latto, Latty, Lattea, etc. in a genealogical, historical and an etymological orientation.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Any person who subscribes to the constitution and the by-laws of the Latta Genealogical Society, Inc., may become a member upon payment of board established fees in keeping with the type of membership desired and for which an application as been received and approved by the director of operations.

ARTICLE IV - Administration

Sect. 1. The administrative affairs of this society shall be vested in the Executive Committee (Board).

(List of Duties for the offices?????)

Sect. 2. The Executive Committee will use a director of operations to carry out its responsibilities for day-to-day operations and/or administration.

Sect. 3. The Executive Committee (Board) shall be composed of the president, director of operations, Captains of the various Branches as established, the secretary, treasurer and a number of board members at large, as may be established by the Executive Committee (Board).

Sect. 4. As specified by the by-laws of the society, the society shall select officers enumerated in section 3 above.

ARTICLE V- Executive

Executive power of this society shall be vested in the director of operations.

ARTICLE VI - Auxiliary Societies

The society may affiliate with and grant honorary membership to persons or societies whose purposes parallel and support the purposes of this society.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

Constitutional amendments may be made at society special meetings, or by ground mailed or electronically mailed ballots, by two thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of those members of the Executive Committee voting, subject to the approval of not less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the total membership and effective only after date of approval provided the amendment is read at two (2) meetings or all members were notified by mail.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 - Organization

Sect. 1. Governing Body of this Society shall be the Executive Committee (Board) in session, except as provided in the constitution.

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Non Profit Latta Association

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Sect. 2. Records of the proceedings of the Society and Executive Committee (Board) shall be kept and open for the inspection of any member in good standing, upon request.

ARTICLE II - Charter

All charters issued by governments of Federal, State, County or other governments, shall be conspicuously displayed in the locale of the president's seat at all regular or special meetings.

ARTICLE III - Executive Committee (Board)

Sect. 1. An executive committee shall be constituted as provided for in article IV, section 1.

Sect. 2. Meetings of the executive committee shall be called by the president, or at the request of a majority of its members, made in writing to the president.

Sect. 3. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum at any duly convened meeting of the society, approving action requires a majority (51%) of those voting.

Sect. 4. The executive committee may act for the society in emergencies and will recommend course of action to the society in session or by mail.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

Sect. 1. The society shall have a president, director of operations, branch captains, a secretary, a treasurer and board members at large and others as may be established under the society's authority.

Sect. 2. The director of operations will recommend to the society, establishment of volunteer or appointed positions and personnel to fill positions and will direct their activities.

ARTICLE V - Qualifications

Any member of the society in good standing is eligible to be considered for any elective, appointive or employed position within the society.

ARTICLE VI - Selection of Officers

Sect. 1. Selection of officers shall be conducted as necessary to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the society.

Sect. 2. Officers shall be selected the director of operations with concurrence of the executive committee.

ARTICLE VII - Tenure

Sect. 1. Selected officers will serve at the pleasure of the executive committee.

Sect. 2. If the presidency is vacated for any reason, the most senior branch captain will take the position until such time as a new president can be selected by the membership. HELP!!!! Need your input here!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ARTICLE VIII - Membership

Members only are eligible to participate in society activities and business.

ARTICLE IX - Finances

Sect. 1. The treasurer shall deposit all monies in the name of the society in a federally chartered or insured financial institution and shall be cosigner with the president or one other officer on all checks issued by the society.

Sect. 2. The treasurer shall keep an accurate records of all monies received and disbursed and shall deposit all monies received as soon as practicable. He/she shall make a report on finances from time to time and make records of his office open to any member when a written request is made for such showing.

Sect. 3. An audit of the treasurer's records shall be made at the direction of the director of operations as he deems necessary, annually and/or upon change of the treasurer.

Sect. 4. Annual dues for this society shall be established as the executive committee may direct.

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Non Profit Latta Association

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Sect. 5. In the event of the society's dissolution, after all just debts are paid, cash assets shall be donated to another non-profit organization of the executive committee's choosing for genealogical purposes.

ARTICLE X - Meetings

Sect. 1. Any meeting of the society will be called by the executive committee.

Sect. 2. Meetings will be advertised for no less than two (2) consecutive months prior to the month of the meeting.

Sect. 3. Society members will be eligible to attend meetings and will have one (1) vote each on all voting matters brought before the membership.

ARTICLE XI - Committees

Sect. 1. Committees may be established by the executive committee and the chairmen of such committees will set time and place of meetings unless requested to do otherwise, by the director of operations.

Sect. 2. The director of operations is ex-officio member of the each committee.

ARTICLE XII - Miscellaneous

Sect. 1. All amendments of these by-laws shall be in conformance with Article VII - Constitution of this society.

Sect. 2. If the constitution and by-laws are inconsistent with the provisions of any laws, of any lawful mandates, now in force, or hereafter amended or adopted, these instruments shall be deemed amended so as to conform, thereto.

ARTICLE XIII - Adoption

This Constitution, page 1 of 4, and by-laws, pages 2-4 are adopted this _____ Day of _____, 2003.

Attested:

Secretary: _____

President_____
Approval Date

Research Queries

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My line goes like this:

1. James Latta
 2. Thomas Latta
 3. Solomon Latta b. 1793 Orange Co., NC + Elizabeth Wilson b. 1791 Orange Co., NC
 4. Asahel Moore Latta b. 1823 Orange Co., NC + Emeline Holsenbach b. Abt 1827
 5. Henry Clay Latta b. 1850 Person Co., NC + 1) Mary Monk b. Abt 1827 NC
 6. Roscoe Dallas Latta b. 1876 Hillsboro, NC + Lualda Whitener b. 1878 Hickory, NC
 7. James Clay Latta, Sr. b. 1903 Hickory, NC + Mary Magdalene Glenn b. 1904 Greensboro, NC
 8. Daniel Weidner Latta b. 1928 Kinston, NC + Joan Marie Aikenhead b. 1932 Cleveland, OH
- Looking forward to getting to know you all. Best warm regards, Lorraine Latta, Branch 7, Los Angeles, LorraineLatta@aol.com.

16. Even though this query is a repeat, Fred still needs to gather more information about Professor William Carroll Latta, Branch 1, 1850-1935. He was at Purdue University in Indiana. Especially need to contact direct descendants on what they know about him and if possible get photographs from family members. Thanks in advance. Fred Whitford, whitford@bttny.purdue.edu, 915 W. State St., Purdue University, West Lafayette IN 47907.

Please note that the editor has already send Mr. Whitford some limited information, and hopes that other researchers can respond with even more information.
