

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 23

Summer 2004

↳ Lattas in the 1881 British Census

By Geoffrey W. Latta, Philadelphia, PA,
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As many researchers may know, the LDS Church has made the 1881 British census available on a set of 24 CDs. The CDs provide an index, which can then be used to access the details of individual census entries. As with much else that the Church has done for genealogists, one can only be grateful for the work that has gone into endeavors of this kind.

Coming from Britain myself, I have had a particular interest in researching Latta families in Britain and Ireland. Some of the work that I have done was outlined in an article published in the Newsletter in 1996 (Issue 2). In furtherance of this interest, I have examined all the entries in the 1881 census for Latta families, and I have cross-matched the entries with the records of births, marriages and deaths for Britain which I have collected. This article will outline some of the results of this work.

1881 Census

Like the United States, Britain conducts decennial censuses. The first was in 1801, but the census results only become valuable to genealogists from 1841 when individual names were recorded. The 1881 census provides the address, names of family members, marital status, age, gender, birthplace, occupation and relationship to the head of the household. The census records cover England, Wales and Scotland but not Ireland, which had a separate record that was destroyed by fire in 1922.

Latta Families and Individuals

In total the census lists 380 individuals with the name Latta living in 115 households. Of these

households, 71 consisted of a "family", defined as more than one person with the name Latta living together (X34 individuals). Five consisted of a one-person household. There were five households where a Latta was the head of household but none of the other people in the household were Lattas. There were 30 situations where one Latta lived in a household, as a domestic servant (6), lodger/boarder (8), visitor (2) or a relative (14). The remaining 6 individuals were Lattas living in institutions (hospitals or schools), including three children in one school together.

The incidence of the name should be seen in relation to the total population of England, Scotland and Wales, which was 29.7 million in 1881. The name clearly was relatively uncommon.

Accuracy

Unfortunately, once one has looked at the raw figures, the next task is to assess how accurate they are. In isolation, there would be no way to do this,

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Editorial

The reader will note the international flavor of this issue. There are Latta families in Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, Carpathian Mountains, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, and many countries all over the world. Perhaps with the use of DNA technology, as suggested by Bob Hawkins and Dr. Sharp, we can connect some of these families. In the meantime, keep up the research in the British Census, US Census, state census, courthouses, libraries, etc. We may find more connections. And share your fun with us. Write up what you have learned, send it to me, and you can see your name here.

Please carefully read through the draft bylaws starting on page 16. The formation of our Latta non profit organization is of vital importance. You can help by sending your comments to the committee as soon as possible.

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

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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 and addresses.

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

Branch 3: B. Mitchel Latta, 4703 NE 112th St., Vancouver WA 98686-4437, mlatta@interplususa.net.

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Branch 14: Ian Latta, Ryedale House, Old Carlisle Rd., Moffat DG10 9QJ Scotland, willilatta@tiscali.co.uk.

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

Branches 17 & 43 & 46: Sue Lattea Cox, 6 Woodhill Ave., Salem WV 26426, latteacox@aol.com.

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FINANCIAL REPORT - LATTA GENEALOGY GROUP

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REPORT PERIOD FROM 4/1/04 through 8/28/04:

COMBINED FUNDS BALANCE as of 4/1/04: **\$ 4,280.49**

N. IRELAND RESEARCH FUND BALANCE	\$ 905.00
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$3,375.49

Income 4/1/04 through 8/28/04: **\$ 1,117.02**

N. IRELAND RESEARCH FUND – no donors	\$ 00.00
GENERAL FUND –43 donors	\$1,117.02

Expenses 4/1/04 through 8/28/04 (\$ 1,048.40)

Newsletter editor- reimburse exp. issue #22 & nsltr copies	\$ 906.59 ¹
Internet Valueweb– Latta.org website connection fee	\$ 81.80
Reimburse treasurer –paper, postage, toner	\$ 45.01
Listing in Everton's Directory of Family Periodicals	\$ 15.00

COMBINED FUNDS ON HAND 8/28/04: **\$ 4,349.11**

N. IRELAND RESEARCH FUND BALANCE	\$ 905.00
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 3,444.11 ²

Thank you for your generosity. Together with the work of many volunteers, your donations make the Latta Family Association and Newsletter possible.

NOTES REGARDING DONATIONS -

- Your donations not only support the publication and mailing of the newsletter, but also cover related expenses. These include the registration fee for the Latta.org website domain name (renewable every year), the monthly website connection fee of \$21.95 per month (increased from \$19.95 as of 7/29/04), and potential expenses related to the very important project of 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.
- **Donations received after 8/28/04 will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.**
- **Please send any corrections, questions or comments about donations or financial matters to the treasurer, Virginia Curulla, address above. Suggestions welcomed.**

¹ Expenses for issue #23 (you are reading it) have not been deducted.

² General fund balance will be approximately \$2,550. after deducting expenses for issue #23.

Lattas in the 1881 British Census

(Continued from page 1)

but with parallel records of all births, marriages and deaths, one can begin to make some judgments. The problems that emerged could arise from two sources. First, there may have been inaccuracies in the original census. These could be names entered incorrectly or families that were completely missed by the census. Even the census process today has a problem with undercounting. There is no reason to think that in poor cities like Glasgow, the same problem did not arise in 1881. Second, there could be problems in the transcription by the LDS researchers if they could not decipher correctly the names entered in the census or if they omitted entries. Anyone who has used the original handwritten census entries will have some sympathy with them in this regard. Apart from the problem of handwriting, there is also the problem of entries that have faded.

The problems arise in two directions. The first is that some families are entered as Lattas who probably were not. The second is that there are Lattas who were alive who do not appear. While one cannot be sure that all of these were resident in Britain at the time of the census, one can draw some conclusions about this group.

Of those listed as Lattas, I can reasonably verify that 339 were Lattas, but for 41 I have no matching births, marriages and deaths or cannot verify from the fact that they were part of families that were clearly Lattas. This does not mean that they were definitely not Lattas, but 21 of the 41 are located in Fifeshire and Forfarshire (the modern day county of Angus). In these counties, the name Latta is much more common than Latta and I would guess that some Lattos were incorrectly transcribed as Latta. One family of six were all born in Ireland (hence there are no matching birth records) and one could speculate that they returned there.

On the other side of the coin, there are clearly Lattas that were incorrectly entered under another name. My own great-grandfather and his family were entered as Latte. One family was entered as Satta (again an understandable error on the part of the LDS as an S and L looked rather similar). In

total, there are 56 male Lattas who were living in 1881 who did not appear in the census records under Latta. Of these, I can reasonably identify 14 entered under the names Latte, Satta and Latta. Even so, a shortfall of 42 is quite large.

It is less easy to estimate the shortfall for females. This is because Scotland adopted the helpful practice of recording female deaths under both maiden and married names. The census on the other hand only records the current name. Thus a female Latta born in 1840 and dying in 1900, whom I cannot trace in the census, could easily be a married woman entered under her married name. I would estimate that the number of females missing is similar to that of the number of males.

As mentioned above, names missing from the census could be the result of original failure to record them or of transcription error. It is also possible that some could have been out of the country, although given that Lattas were not generally wealthy, this is unlikely to be a major factor. Navy personnel were recorded but not Army and I can identify one soldier who does not appear in the census. Members of the merchant navy might also have been missed if absent. However, there is only one entry with a married head of household who was a woman and this was for the soldier mentioned above.

Related Names

As part of the crosschecking process, I also searched on names similar to Latta. This yields the following counts: Latta 354, Latty 106, Latey 35, Lattey 27, Latte 23. Latt 7. Latty 7 and Lata 0.

The interesting name here is clearly Latta. This name was heavily concentrated in two counties, Fifeshire and Forfarshire (Angus today), which yielded 244 Lattos. Other research that I have done shows that in the 18th century, the spelling of the names was mixed in Fife as elsewhere. It would appear that as spelling became more standardized, these two counties opted to spell the name with an "o" while other areas like Ayrshire opted for an "a". The other names were concentrated in England and occur rarely in Scotland, which would indicate that they are separate in origin.

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Lattas in the 1881 British Census

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Geographic distribution

Of the 380 Latta entries, 306 were in Scotland and 74 in England. This is to be expected given the Scottish origin of the name. The concentration is in the central part of Scotland in a band from Ayrshire in the west to Fifeshire in the east. The largest number were in Lanarkshire, where Glasgow is located (104). In England, the majority of the 74 were in the London area (32) or Lancashire (34), which covered the industrial areas of Manchester, Salford and Liverpool.

Occupations

The Lattas were not a rich group. There were 99 males, who had an occupation listed. The youngest of these was 12 years old, with two who were 13. Of these, I would estimate that 65 had blue-collar jobs. The most common listings were coalminer (6), ship carpenter (5), labourer (5), and agricultural labourer (5).

The 34 who did not appear to have blue-collar jobs were divided into five broad groups. First there were 6 farmers (plus 3 farmer's sons) who appeared to own land and employ farm labor. Second there were 6 clerks of various kinds plus two customs' officers. Third, there were two solicitors (lawyers). Fourth, there were a few merchants or manufacturers (6). Finally there were two commercial travelers (salesmen). The other seven were spread across such occupations as grocers or bakers, which might have been blue-collar jobs or could have been shop owners.

Not surprisingly, there were fewer women with occupations listed. The total was 52 and they were concentrated in several occupations. There were 14 domestic servants, 11 dressmakers, 10 weavers (cotton, linen or jute) and 8 who were listed as farmer's wives or daughters. The other nine were spread across a variety of occupations.

Geographic Mobility

Since one can match current residence with place of birth, it is possible to draw some conclusions about the pattern of mobility in Britain in the nineteenth century. As one might expect, the mobility was generally from more rural counties to more urban locations. Thus of the 63 Lattas in Ayrshire, 58 were born there (92%). On the other hand of the 104 in Lanarkshire, which includes Glasgow, only 51 were born there (49%). Unfortunately for the London area residents, many were lacking the information on place of birth, but the figure looks as if it would be similar to Lanarkshire. Lancashire looks even lower, but once again a number of the entries lacked the information on place of birth.

Conclusion

The reliability of the Census overall seems rather lower than I would have hoped. This is probably a good warning to researchers to treat all sources with some care. This can be both good and bad news. At times, it may seem one has drawn a blank when it is actually the source that is incorrect; on the other hand, having the parallel sources to work out when something like the census is inaccurate is a rare luxury.

Chicken Latta

Submitted by Sue Lattea Cox,
Latteacox@aol.com

This and That from the Internet

From the Alleghany County Reporter, Wells-ville, New York, Thurs, Feb. 11, 1892:

A Chicken Case

Police Justice Torrey on Monday decided his famous chicken suit in favor of G. C. Latta, of

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Chicken Latta

(Continued from Page 5)

Hornellsville. It seems from the facts sworn to that sometime ago, Latta let Otto Beever have a couple of Heathwood game hens to keep for him. Latta was to have two settings of eggs. The eggs were not forthcoming, neither were the hens when he wanted them, so he complained to Justice Torrey and the official gave Officer Sweeney a search warrant. The birds were found in Wm. Beever's barn and were given into the tender care of the officer till the case could be decided. His Honor, after hearing the testimony gave the fighters to Mr. Latta and that individual is now happy.

G. C. Latta would be #162 George Clinton Latta of Branch 4. He would have been 29 years of age at this time. Our records show that he died in 1904 at the age of 42.

✓ Letter From William M. Latta

Submitted By Alex Latta, Jr.,
Branch 16 Captain, Edmonton, Alberta,
allatta@gambit.ab.ca.

Page 1

252 E. Morton Ave.,
Nashville, 11, Tenn., USA
May 26, 1962

Dear Mr. Irvine,

I received your kind letter of May 17th telling of the death of your grandfather Robert Latta of St. Johnston, County Donegal, Eire. We are indeed sorry to hear of Robert's death and although it has been some time now, let me extend our sympathy to you and your family for the loss of a loved one.

I note by your letter that your mother was a daughter of Robert Latta! Is your mother still living and what is her age. I would be interested in hearing from you again with more information on Robert's family and if there were any sons to carry on the "Latta" name.

I suppose you have talked with Thomas Latta, your cousins, of 11 Glenbank Rd. Londonderry, since I began writing him several years ago!

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He is the one who gave me your grandfather's address and I have sent him a Christmas card nearly each year since then. I though he might enjoy hearing from one of his American Cousins. Your grandfather once sent me a picture of himself and one of his sons-in-law.

Several years ago I became interested in tracing my father's ancestry and it took many years to trace it back to Northern Ireland, but after a lot of research and a lot of help doing it, I finally found out that my Lattas here in America nearly all came from County Donegal and possibly lived in or around St. Johnston where your grandfather lived except that they left there to come to America about 1738. There were five Latta brothers who came over at the same time: James; John; Thomas; Robert & Matthew. I am a

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descendant of James underscored above, who had three sons by his first wife - Samuel, William and John! And one son James by his second wife. His second wife's name was Mary Allison from Lec, N. Ireland. His first wife's name we do not know.

I am descended from the John above who was a son by the unknown first wife. James, Sr., one of the five brothers, that I am a descendant of, settled in Chester Co., Pennsylvania near the Maryland line. Here he and his wife died about 1745. They were all of Scotch and Irish blood and all Presbyterians by faith.

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Letter From William M. Latta

(Continued from Page 6)

John Latta, son of one of the five brothers were born in County Donegal, N. Ireland (or Eire now) in 1727 and died in Lancaster Co., South

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Carolina Jan. 9, 1795. He is buried in the old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church graveyard about eight miles north west of Lancaster S.C. Most of the five brothers settled in Pennsylvania and their descendants moved south and west as the states became open to the white man! In 1817 a grandson of John Latta, Sr. (1727 to 1795) came to Maury County, Tennessee and settled. I am a descendant of this William Latta.

The name "Latta" is a very ancient name and a very ancient family - dating back to the times before Christ - It is a Latin name - (Roman) meaning lid or cover in old Latin and later generations moved up into Gaul (later France) and Normandy.

Page 5

The first Lattas in England came over as invading Normans with "William the Conqueror" in 1066 A.D. They first settled in Northern Scotland around Aberdeen and later branches settled in Ayr Shire on the south west coast.

Branches of these Ayr Lattas moved over into Northern Ireland about 1620 because of English Persecution etc. - where some of them (like yourself) still reside!

Did you ever hear of old William Latta of Scotland who was made a Baron by Richard I (The Lion Hearted) of England in 1191 A.D. for his services during the 3rd Crusade to the Holy Lands? You and I are probably descendants of his. He was a descendant of the first Latta to come to the British Isles from the Continent - therefore of Norman descent!

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Do you know of any other Lattas in Ireland besides Thomas of Londonderry? If so I would like

to have their addresses. Also in your travels as a Merchant Seaman I would like to know if you have run across any more by the name? Anything you can tell me about your mother's people (the Lattas) will be greatly appreciated. Do you or any other of the family have enough history to trace the Latta's back to Ayr Shire Scotland or not?

So sorry to hear of your grandfather's death but glad to hear from you and get the clipping of it. Many thanks!

Hoping to hear from you again - telling me more about yourself and family!

Sincerely yours,

William M. Latta

Last page

Letter sent Sept 21, 1978 to George Irvine, 18 Prehen Road, Riverside Londonderry. Mrs. Sarah Irvine is sister of Robt. Latta, Churchtown.

Branch 12 in Australia

By Belinda Peterson, Melbourne, Australia,
Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

I found the missing link to my family in Branch 12. I will add this all when I verify the details such as birth and deaths and get the resources together to do the database justice.

This is how I think the link goes please feel free to email me any comments:

1. Robert Latta b: approx 1750. Killenny, Donaghedy, County Tyrone, Ireland, Branch 12.
2. Samuel Latta, youngest son of Robert born approximately 1770, inherited the land in Ireland when Robert died and lived in Ireland having returned from America.
3. John Latta, son of Samuel, born approximately 1813 in Ireland, immigrated to Australia.
4. William, son of Samuel, born 1836 in Australia, the Ballarat district in Victoria.
5. John, son of William and Sarah, born 1856 in Australia married Grace Parker and had 12 children.

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Branch 12 in Australia

(Continued From Page 7)

1. John (Jack)
 2. Alice
 3. Catherine (Nancy)
 5. Grace
 6. Robert (Bob)
 7. Shaw
 8. Gladys
 9. Alice, born 1904, died 1922.
 10. Thomas Charles Black (Charlie my Grandpa), born 1904, died 1977.
 11. Lucy
 12. Helen (Tupp)....Celebrated her 90th birthday in 2001 in Warrnambool where the family always lived and Mum and I were lucky enough to attend the party.
6. Charlie Latta, born November 1904, died 1977; married 1936 to May Arnott, who died 1996.
7. Marie Latta and Jill Latta, still living.
8. Belinda Peterson, that's me!

~ Slovak Latta Families

By Anna Latta Owens,
College Park, Maryland, alo17@wdn.com

Introduction
The Ruthenian (Rusyn) Lattas

I have accepted Doc Huer's invitation to submit for publication in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter information on the Ruthenian (Rusyn) Lattas. Prior to 1918 the name was spelled Lata.

The Ruthenian language belongs to the Slavic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. In the United States, Ruthenians are also called Rusyns, Carpatho-Rusyn, Rusnak and Rusin. All refer to people whose ancestral home is in the Carpathian Mountain Region.

I refer to myself as a pedigree Latta because my mother's maiden name was Latta and so was my maternal grandmother's. Their homeland was a village in Austro-Hungary. In Hungarian the village name is Mehesfalva. In Ruthenian the village name Pcalyny.

In 1918 part of Austro-Hungary became Czechoslovakia. In 1993 Czechoslovakia split into two nations, the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Mehesfalva or Pcalyny is in Eastern Slovakia, about five miles from the Polish border and about 15 miles from the Ukrainian border. The Slovak name for the village is Pcoline.

My first visit as an adult to Pcoline was in 1977. I went to the village cemetery to find the unmarked grave of my brother. I was surprised by the dominance of the surname Latta on the markers in the cemetery. I imagine the same would apply to the unmarked graves. I was told that the name Latta was as common in the Pcoline area as the name Smith is in America. Further, it seemed to be common knowledge that the name was of Italian Origin.

My horizons on the surname Latta broadened when I was introduced to the Latta Genealogy Newsletter with its expansive Scotch-Irish population. The paper's editor has received a few inquiries from researchers of Slavic Lattas. I have kept record of them for future genealogical branching. I was excited to learn from Alex Latta (Branch 16) about his work contacting Italian Lattas. The Italian origin continues to be pursued.

The EllisIsland.org website offers clues of origin. I checked Lata and I checked Latta. I also viewed entries from countries of origin. I will put the analysis together in a future newsletter. To those using the EllisIsland.org website to check out the village of Pcoline be prepared to find the following spellings. For the village:

CZALINA, PCOSLINA, RESOLINA, PSOLINA, PESOLINA, PESOLINA, CSALINA, PASOLINA, PCSOLINA, PESDINA, PEOLINA, CALINA, TESOLINA, PESVLINA, PESOLUIA, PESITUBA, CZOLINE, PRZOLINA, POSLINI, PSALIN, PCOLINA.

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Slovak Latta Families

(Continued From Page 8)

MEHASFALNO, MATASFALVA, MATESFALVA,
HEJASFALVA, METESFALVA, MEHESFALVA,
MEGESZFALN, MEHESFALVA, MEKEFALVA, ME-
HASFALNA.

Happy hunting.

Latta Descendent Turns 100

By Cynthia Walker, Double Niece,
cwalker2412@yahoo.com

On August 3, 2004, a Latta descendant of branches 7 and 15, William Clyde Walker, Sr., will be 100! Uncle Clyde is in good health and excellent mind. His tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, etc. are delicious, as well as his preparation of them!

Clyde was born in St. Mary's Community, Orange County, North Carolina, the son of David Samuel and Iva Ann Latta Walker. He is descended from Lattas through both his father and mother. His father was the son of George Washington Walker, Jr., who was the son of G.W. Walker, Sr. Robert Walker and Eleanor Latta Walker were the parents of G. W. Walker, Sr. According to the branch information, this Eleanor Latta (br. 15) was the daughter of John Latta who is buried in St. Mary's cemetery (d July 13, 1824).

Iva Latta Walker (br. 7), Clyde's mother, was the daughter of Henry Thomas Latta, who was the son of William Latta. He was the son of Thomas Latta, Jr. and 2nd wife, Nancy Caine. (Thomas Latta, Jr. first married Jane Scarlett; their daughter Cynthia Francis married William Crabtree; their daughter married George W. Walker, Jr.)

Clyde is proud of his Latta heritage and has a framed copy of the family tree (David K. Latta's research?) in his home. His children and extended family plan a celebration of the 100 years on July 31. I will be delighted to print any email messages for him. Thanks!

Latta Wallet

By Keith Latta, Branch 13, Victoria, British Columbia, klatta@shaw.ca.

My daughter, Allyson, lives in Toronto and last week received a phone call from a Diane Latta (they had never met) who stated that she had lost her wallet but she was not listed in the Toronto telephone directory. Diane is a retired high school math teacher. As Allyson was listed as A. D. Latta, Diane wondered whether Allyson would call her if she received a phone call from a person who may later find the wallet. It was obviously a long shot in a metropolitan area of six million people.

A few days later, Allyson received a phone call from a person who had, indeed, found the wallet and it was returned to Diane with everything intact - money, credit cards, etc. Moral of this story: never underestimate the ingenuity of a Latta, and the honesty of a Torontonians.

As a result of this contact between Allyson and Diane, they have found they are related in Branch 13 and both trace their roots back to Latta's Mill, Ontario. They are now exploring their common roots.

Note to Branch 13 members: Diane's father was Thomas W. Latta.

✓ Milton Nimmon Latta, Branch One

By Larry Sullivan, Glasgow, Kentucky,
Sullivan@scrtc.com.

Here are a few facts to correct and round out the entry in the family tree for an uncle of my mother, as shown below:

65 MILTON NIMMON (6) LATTA

Robert s (5) James (4) Robert (3) William (2) James M (1) Born in Perry Tp., Noble Co., Ind. 1854. Married twice. (1) Unknown. (2) Etta Masters, at Taylor, Neb. October 4, 1885. Invented the Latta Wheel Machine, and other inventions. In 1907 lived at Oasis, Neb. Died 1928 Valentine, Neb.

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Milton Nimmon Latta, Branch One

(Continued From Page 9)

Child by his first wife:

330 Nona (7) Died young.

Children by his 2nd wife:

87 Niles (7) b. April 16, 1887.

332 Vera (7) Born: March 21, 1890. Married:

Mr. Klingaman.

333 Guy (7) Born: October 10, 1892. Killed.

334 Mary Wanda (7) Born: March 17, 1903.

Died: March 18, 1905.

335 Auno (7) Born: July 15, 1905.

Milton Nimmon Latta was born not in 1854, as shown in the tree, but on 18 July 1853. He died 16 May 1929 at Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska.

His first wife's name (shown as "unknown" in the tree entry) was Martha McThena. They were married in Perry Township, Noble County, IN, on 5 Dec. 1875. By the way, I am beginning to doubt the spelling of Milton Latta's first wife's maiden name. It came from an Ancestry.Com data base entitled Indiana Marriages, 1845-1920, which reads as follows:

Martha McThena Milton Latta 05 Dec 1875
Noble [Book] 3 [Page] 381

I could find no hit on the name McThena, and suspect it may have been instead Mathena, which appears to be a variant of Matheny and found most frequently, according to Ancestry.Com, in Indiana, Virginia and West Virginia.

The closest I could come in the 1870 census was a 16-year-old girl whose name Ancestry.Com indexes as Martha McChena. The ink in the last name is smeared and the name could be read as McThena. She is a servant girl in the home of an apparently unrelated marble dealer named William M. Voris.

The second wife of Milton Latta was not Etta Masters, as shown in the tree, but Willetta Masters. They were wed at Taylor, Loup County, Nebraska, on 4 Oct 1885.

To my knowledge, the rest of the information in the tree entry is correct.

Death Crashes New Year's Party

By Lawrence Sullivan, Glasgow, Kentucky,
Sullivan@scrtc.com

The violent death of Guy Belmont Latta reads like the plot of a B grade Western, the kind you might catch on Saturday afternoon television if you're not careful.

After a back-alley brawl that ended a New Year's Eve celebration filled with too much booze, the 28-year-old Latta was gunned down by the county sheriff – a man he considered his best friend in the world.

The fight began, some said, when Latta accused several Indians of rustling cattle at his ranch six miles east of the county seat town of Martin, South Dakota. Others insisted the argument stemmed from hard feelings over a "ringer" expert horseman, a friend of Latta, who'd come to the Bennett County Fair the previous fall and humiliated the local Sioux boys in various riding and roping competitions.

Most folks agreed with the weekly *Martin Messenger's* view that the events were basically "trouble brewed out of too much liquor."

It was a story family historian Robert H. Latta may have considered too tacky to touch. The spot assigned to the ill-fated young man in the Branch #1 Latta Family Tree reads tersely: 333 Guy (7) Born: Oct. 10, 1892. Killed.

The date of the tragic incident was Dec. 31, 1920, and the place, as described in one contemporary newspaper account, "a wide-open frontier town in a country controlled by Indians and mixed bloods." Bennett County, in fact, had been part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation until it was opened to homesteading only 10 years earlier.

The Messenger said the day began promisingly enough. The Town Hall was full of celebrants drawn by a Leap Year dance planned by the ladies of Martin. But an ensuing quarrel was taken outside to an alley behind the town's lone pool hall and garage and ended with a "scrimmage" – as the paper put it – between Latta and a 32-year-old Sioux farmer named Bat Dubray.

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Death Crashes New Year's Eve Party

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Dubray got the worst of it and was taken to the local hotel for treatment of several knife wounds. Sheriff Seth Austin, himself a mixed-blood Sioux, proceeded to the fight scene with a group of followers to place Latta under arrest. According to testimony at a coroner's jury, Latta still had the knife in his hand and ignored several orders to drop it.

"When he came within a few feet Austin shot, he said, [intending] to hit him in the shoulder or arm," according to a newspaper account. "But the bullet struck Latta in the abdomen and lodged in his spine."

Latta was carried to a room in a nearby bank for medical attention and then to the hotel, where he died two hours later. Someone noted the time of death as midnight exactly.

A coroner's jury was impaneled the next day and three days later brought charges of felonious killing against the sheriff. He was immediately relieved of his duties and confined in his own jail pending trial. At a preliminary hearing the following Saturday, however, the magistrate ruled the killing self-defense and ordered Austin released. His badge, gun and job were all returned to him.

Oddly, neither Latta's widow, Grace, nor his father, Milton N. Latta of nearby Valentine, NE, blamed Austin for the shooting. Grace had been at the family ranch with the couple's small daughter, Neva, their only living child, when Guy was shot and didn't reach town until after he had died. She told a Valentine newspaper, *The Democrat*, that her husband "considered the sheriff the best friend he had in the world outside the family."

Milton Latta, when notified by telegraph of the shooting while his son was still alive, sent a return wire urging the young man "to seek the mercy of your Creator ... [and] forgive the man that shot you." Guy died before the message could be delivered.

Before his own death seven years later, Milton Latta told his younger brother, James, that he regarded the loss of both his sons (an older boy, Niles, had drowned 13 years earlier) as divine retribution for his own sins. He particularly lamented

the killing, many years earlier at a farm he owned in the Nebraska Sand Hills, of a young Indian -- just a boy, really -- struck by a stray bullet as Milton and farm hands chased down a pack of cattle rustlers. Milton Latta, the proverbial preacher's son -- his father, grandfather and one uncle had all been notable circuit riding Methodist ministers -- never forgave himself.

"A Tie Between Us That Time Cannot Sever": The Latta Family Letters, 1855-1872

Edited By: Frances Mitchell Ross. Reprinted from the Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 40, No. 1, Spring 1981 with the permission of Michael Pierce, Assistant Editor, Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Department of History, Old Main 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

Letter 15 (this is a letter from Frank Latta to his brother Eli)

Clarksville, Ark., April 14, 1870

Rev. E. C. Latta, Stockton Calif

Dear Brot

Yours of Feb. 4, to hand in due time, and it became me to have answered it long since, but - so it is, I did not.

And even now, I must write, much as you said you did, "mechanically," not having that, of interest to communicate, which gives one's pen liberty.

Those little things to which you allude, which make up the great aggregates of life; are matters of no light importance to me; they are the elements of happiness, too often disregarded by the high minded, and the would-be, dignified.

Well, for us, we know nothing else than little affairs, Small operations. - Brot. Jack and I, farm on a small scale, - poverty has compelled me to preach much less than I like; I am now out of

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**"A Tie Between Us That
Time Cannot Sever"**

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debt, and am comfortably Situated, and am under orders of Presbytery, as "book agent," to Circulate through out our bounds. Your Sis Bettie is a little scrip of 90 lbs weight, and delicate constitution; Maggie is not large enough to help her Ma much, - 7 years old 27 - inst. Very large of her age - reads well, - and we think very energetical and Sprightly. Our boy, "Guy" is 18 months old, large and healthy, walks, and talks very plainly. We have but two children, here, one in Heaven, died, or rather was killed, last summer; he was 4 years old, was a sweet boy; he fell from the footboard, of a beadstead, receivin a severe blow on his little head, wich he only survived a few hours. Our cup, here, is a mixed one, at best. But, I have as happy a home as any body. We dont aspire to any great things, - we wish to be useful only. I have generally good health, my children have also good health, Bettie, as I said is very feeble, wish you could be with us a while.

You have our Sympathy, Brot - am sorry you have been so hindred in your preparation for the great work. I am able to appreciate your feelings, having felt something of the same, and can only comfort you with the assurance that, through them all thus far, the Lord has upheld me.

Since receiving yours, I had another letter from Brot. Will; first his wife wrot to me as she did to you, stating the same facts; Since that, he has returned, and addressed me a letter saying nothing about his absence; but a News paper account, states that he went from home to St. Louis, thence to New Orleans, and Galveston, back to N.O.; to St. Louis again, and starated for Califernia, when he came upon a protracted meeting and turned in there, working in his zealous way, which betrayed his derangement and while there came to himself and then returned, home. He is deranged, no doubt of that, his wife is said to be a most excellent woman.

Well, this leaves us in health, Brot Jack is in the blues, is very unhappy, seems to have abandoned his former profession; I can't get anything out of him about matters of religion. Brot. wish

you would address a letter of inquiry to him - dont intimate this suggestion. Write a large full hand so that he can read it At what does your 'Pacific Observer' come at,? You promised to send me a copy - wish you would - I could get you, some additional ones perhaps - if I had a copy.

I intend taking the Observer, for Brot. Jack's benefit as much as my own - he can read it, and it would be of so much interest to him.

Well, all are asleep but me, must close
Pray for us, "that our faith fail not"

Your Brot
F. M. Latta

Sue Lattea Cox, Latteacox@aol.com, purchased this quarterly from E-Bay last year. She informs us that this Arkansas Latta family is Branch 9.

Latta DNA Project

By Bob Hawkins, Branch 22 Captain,
BobHawk507@sbcglobal.net

There are currently 53 branches of the Latta family. We have poured over record after record in search of links. We have not met with much success. DNA testing is an avenue that we could use to link the branches. I have discussed this with FamilyTreeDNA. They are the leader in the field of DNA testing for Y chromosome testing (male to male relationships). Male members with the surname of Latta or one of the variations are eligible to participate in the study. The test is the Y-DNA12-12 Marker Test. This is the world standard test to verify the Y chromosome. A 25 and 37 marker test is also available. The test will also determine your ethnic and geographic origins both recent and far distant. The cost of the kit for our surname project is \$99 and samples are held 25 years in case you would like further testing. If we

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Latta DNA Project

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had eligible males from each branch to participate, we might be able to prove or disprove connections between the branches. You can e-mail me, or write me at 620 Hickory Knoll Ct., Baldwin MO 63021.

DNA, A New Weapon In the Arsenal Of The Genealogist

By Dr. Harry Issac Sharp, 4348 W. Summit
Ave., Lakewood, NY, 14750,

Within just the past few months, a few family group members have turned to the science of DNA as a means of identifying blood relationships between various family lines researching a specific surname. Based on the same research that is utilized by crime laboratories when they are trying to link a homicide to a suspect, highly respected research laboratories are accepting genealogy based DNA samples for evaluation and comparison.

The process is simple for the contributor of the DNA. First, however, researchers must understand what works and what does not work. In order for the sample to be useful, the contributor must be male and must carry the surname he is researching. The reason that the project can only include men and just men researching their surnames is that the laboratory testing will evaluate just the person's Y chromosome. Scientists state that just the men in a family can carry the Y chromosome. Scientists also indicate that the Y chromosome goes from father to son with very few deviations. In fact this same Y chromosome has followed a specific surname line from father to son, one generation after another, for as many generations as can be counted.

As an example, this researcher submitted his DNA sample to the Sharp DNA Project Group. With this submission, the Group Leader was able to match this DNA against other DNA submissions. The process on the part of the submitter is simple. You order a kit from the laboratory. When it

arrives, you pick a particularly good time to take your DNA sample. This researcher selected the early morning hours prior to breakfast and before using any kind of mouthwash, etc. The process requires two separate samples. The submitter removes a tooth brush type of instrument from a package, scrubs the inside of each cheek, removes the instrument and inserts the brush portion into a tube of liquid. This process is repeated the next day. Once the two samples have been inserted successfully into the two separate tubes, the submitter mails the samples to the laboratory. Upon receiving the samples, the laboratory assigns a number to the sample. Within a month, the results are posted on the surname's project site via the Internet. From this site the researcher can review his test results on a graph along with the results of the other surnames researchers' results.

It must be stated that for many people this project may prove to be too expensive for such an undertaking. What some people have done is to form a group from those in a specific line who know from research that they are definitely related by the surname. They pick a male member who has the surname, and cooperatively pay for the testing. This is also a way for the women and those men who do not carry the surname to become involved in the project. At this point, it must be noted that the test costs approximately \$160.

Finally, you may ask just what this researcher has learned from his test results. The truth is that this Sharp line was already established back to Joseph Sharp, born 1780, in old Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The results of approximately 11 researches have established that none of the other submissions are related to this line's surname group. It has, however, established that the research trying to link this Sharp line to another Sharp line was not correct, and there is no connection to that line.

What will be the future involvement of DNA in the study of family histories? There appears to be substantial evidence establishing it as one of the future's major players in the study of family histories. The true test will, however, depend on the number of people carrying a specific surname who

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DNA, A New Weapon In The Arsenal of the Genealogist

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choose to become involved in the testing. The more that DNA testing becomes involved in family history studies, the more credibility can be given to the original research completed in libraries, court houses and historical societies across the country.

Northern Ireland Research Project

For the past several years, Tom Kintigh has been the coordinator of our Northern Ireland Research Project. We all thank Tom, and really appreciate his efforts. He has decided that the time has come to pass the torch to a new volunteer. Cathi Vannice will be our new Coordinator for Northern Ireland Research. You can reach her at: cjazz@comcast.net, or 4223 S. 144th Street, Tukwila, Washington 98168-4129.

"Don't Forget The State Census Enumerations!"

By Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS,
PSWResearch@comcast.net

From "Ancestry Daily News," 10 August 2004

I was faced with a dilemma: My great-great-grandfather, Arsene Daoust, had eluded me on the 1880 U.S. census and on the 1881 Canadian census. I assumed he (and his family) had not arrived in Superior, Wisconsin, by the official U.S. 1880 census date of June 1, 1880, and left the province of Quebec, Canada, before the 1881 census was taken there as of April 4, 1881.

The surviving fragments of the 1890 U.S. census do not include him. As some of you may remember, Arsene further complicates my life by the anglicization of his name to Samuel Dow. I had clues that he was in the Superior area in the early 1880s, but I needed proof.

Thankfully, Wisconsin is one of the states that conducted state census enumerations. The 1885 Wisconsin state census has Samuel Dow listed. The names of the children are not given, but the numbers of household members in male and female categories help. It appears that his wife, Georgina Margaretta, is not listed as the females are not of an age to be the wife and mother. This matches with another family story that says she died when her children were quite young.

There are state censuses to help get around the mostly destroyed 1890 federal census, and some give personal data not always found elsewhere. Some state censuses provide details earlier than the federal census asked for them; a prime example is Michigan in 1894. This is an every name census, but others in Michigan and other states list only the name of the head of household.

Some state censuses are available for research beyond the most recently released 1930 U.S. federal census. For example, Florida has a 1945 enumeration as does South Dakota. Rhode Island has a 1935 state census. The vast majority of the state census enumerations are taken in years that end with "5" such as 1895, unlike the federal censuses that are taken in the years ending in "0."

Let's look at a few examples of what you may find on a state census. Remember that you can't take all these details as absolute proof on your ancestors' lives!

--- 1852 California state census

Did you hear about a relative who went west to seek a fortune in California's gold fields? In 1852, California took its only state census. Many sparsely populated localities are included as well as some out-of-the-way places. All individuals are listed by name and with age, birthplace, and occupation. Relationships to the head of household are not listed, but the census has been indexed.

--- 1865 New York state census

This census lists every member of a household (including anyone away in army or navy service). Other details include each family member's age, sex, and color; relation to head of family; place of birth (county if in New York state, otherwise the state or foreign country); number of children for

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"Don't Forget The State Census Enumerations"

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each parent, number of times married and marital status; trade or occupation; and usual place of employment. Also included are facts about native and naturalized voters; aliens; owners of land; those over 21 who cannot read and write; individuals who were deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; the material of which the household's dwelling is built and the dwelling's value. The census denotes those who had previous military service in the U.S.

--- 1945 South Dakota state census

To whet your appetite and to make sure you continue research to find some family member who lived in South Dakota, just look at details you may find: each person's name; age; occupation; ownership of farm or home; birthplace; ancestry [country]; birthplace of mother and father [some specific]; extent of education; military service, including which war and from which state, with company, regiment, and division; maiden name of wife; year married; church affiliation; sex; color; marital status; read/write; blind/deaf; idiot/insane; years in U.S. and S.D.; and naturalization. Whew! These are in card form at the state archives in Pierre, South Dakota. Each person is listed on a separate card. (Note: keep watching the Family History Library catalog to see when these are available on microfilm. It is not a quick process to film and catalog all the records that the library is continually adding, so be patient.) South Dakota had its own gold rush in the mid-1870s, and gold drew people to western South Dakota for many years.

To learn more about what state census records and indexes exist, check out these websites and publications:

--- "Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources," edited by Alice Eicholz. This lists the state censuses for each state.

--- Also published by Ancestry: "The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy," edited by Lorretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. State census records have good coverage in this.

--- Ann Lainhart's "State Census Records" (Genealogical Publishing Company). Lists state census records for the states where they were taken.

Ancestry.com

<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/census.htm>

Some state censuses are indexed at this site with continuing emphasis on those taken in 1885 and 1895 that serve as part of the ongoing "1890 Census Substitute" database at Ancestry.com.

FamilySearch.org

<http://www.familysearch.org>

The Family History Library has many state census records. Most of them can be borrowed via a local Family History Center.

US Genweb.com

<http://www.usgenweb.org>

This site indexes some individual county and town sections of state

The state archives, state library, or state historical society may have copies of its state's censuses. It may sell the microform of a state census or provide interlibrary loan service. Some larger libraries with genealogy collections have state censuses for other states on microfilm. Check for online catalogs.

The indexing of these state census enumerations is not even close to being as comprehensive as the federal censuses. However, many do exist; some are town or county indexes only. Check the FHL catalog and catalogs for major repositories in the state to find indexes.

County historical societies and public libraries may have indexes not found elsewhere. Some of the early state censuses are indexed by the major census indexers and appear in online or CD-ROM format.

Alternative Sources

Where state enumerations were not taken or have not survived, there may be alternate sources such as personal property and real estate tax lists; militia enumerations; voter lists; Indian censuses and annuity rolls; school censuses, and other records. States such as Indiana and Ohio lack state censuses, but you may find one of the quadrennial enumerations of free white males over the age of twenty-one that still exists for an ancestral locality.

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"Don't Forget The State Census Enumerations"

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Now, it's your task to determine what state censuses exist for your own ancestral localities. I am still trying to find a Florida or South Dakota connection in my own family background so that I can glean details all the way up to 1945.

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Draft Report of Bylaws for the Latta Genealogy Society

By The Bylaws Committee:
Virginia Curulla, Connie Leaman, Bill Latta &
Cathi Vannice

ARTICLE I CORPORATION and REGISTERED AGENT

Section 1. The Corporation shall be known as the Latta Genealogy Society, herein referred to as the Society.

Section 2. The registered office of the Society shall be located in the State of Washington, at such place as may be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors upon filing of such notices as may be required by law. The registered agent shall have a Washington State address. The Registered Agent receives license renewals and other notices and forwards them to the organization. The agent also accepts legal papers served on the business entity. A statement signed by the registered agent indicating consent to serve must be on file with the Secretary of State of Washington.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE and OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The purpose of this Society shall be educational, as provided in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as is consistent with the laws of the State of Washington. It shall be devoted exclusively to furthering the genealogical research, promoting interest in and preserving the records of the surnames Latta, Latty, Lattea, Latto, all other variations of spelling, and related families.

Section 2. The objectives of the Society shall be:

- To seek genealogical & historical knowledge about our families.
- To preserve and perpetuate the records of our ancestors.
- To aid individuals in compiling their family histories.
- To make our research available to others through our publications, both electronic and printed, and our archival data deposited at the Allen County Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana or elsewhere.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person who supports the purpose of this Society may become a member in good standing upon payment of the minimum donation. A donor may specify the membership as individual or dual, if two members of a household are active in the Society. Each member shall be entitled to one vote. Each person of a dual membership shall be entitled to the same voting privileges as an individual member

- The Board may revise the suggested minimum donation as needed to accomplish the purpose of the Society, subject to the approval of a majority of the members voting.

All members of the Society shall receive the Latta Genealogy Newsletter, except a dual membership, which shall receive one copy of the newsletter.

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Bylaws Draft

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Section 2. Newsletter only subscribers

The Newsletter Editor and Treasurer acting jointly may approve for newsletter subscription any interested organizations such as libraries, historical societies, or individuals as will promote the interests of the Society, including those who are unable to make a donation because of limited financial circumstances.

Newsletter only subscribers will be non-voting members of the Society.

**ARTICLE IV
ADMINISTRATION**

Section 1. The administrative affairs of this Society shall be vested in the Executive Board: President, Vice-President, Secretary & Historian, Treasurer, Auditor, Web Master, The Latta Genealogy Newsletter Editor, Rootsweb.com Latta mail list and Ancestry.com Message Boards Administrator, Northern Ireland Research Coordinator, Branch Captains Coordinator, International Outreach Coordinator, New Branch Research & Review Coordinator and Archivist.

Section 2. The Society's elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary/Historian and Treasurer.

The elective officers term of office shall be two years, and they may be re-elected.

All other members of the Executive Board shall be appointed offices.

**ARTICLE V
DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD****Section 1. Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall

- Fill vacancies on the board as necessary.
- Create &/or eliminate positions as the Society matures and the need arises, with approval of a majority of board members voting.
- Direct, monitor, and approve the activities of the Society, subject to provisions of these by-laws.

· Designate a registered agent in Washington State as required in Article I Sec. 2 if the Treasurer is not a resident of the State of Washington

· A quorum for Board meetings shall be a majority of the voting members. No Proxies are permitted.

To take any action, except as otherwise provide herein, a majority vote of those present and eligible to vote is required.

Section 2. President

The President shall

- Provide leadership for the Board and membership.
- Preside at all meetings of the Society.
- Call meetings of the executive board as s/he finds necessary or advisable, or at the written request of a majority of the Society members.
- Initiate communication among the executive board members to address issues identified by President or others.
- Facilitate implementation of Board & membership decisions.

Section 3. Vice President

The Vice President shall

- Perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President to serve.
- Assist the President with administrative duties and perform other duties as directed by the President or the Board.
- Act as Parliamentarian to monitor the effectiveness of the bylaws and make recommendations for changes as needed.

Section 4 Secretary and Historian

The Secretary and Historian shall

- Record all actions of the Board.
- Preserve a record of all activities of the Society.
- Provide a report for each publication of the Newsletter.

· Make available records of the proceedings of the Board and the Society to any member in good standing or local, state, or federal official with a legal right to obtain such records. The individual requesting such records may be asked to pay for copying and mailing costs if these proceedings are available on the Latta.org website.

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Section 5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall

- Establish a checking account in the name of the Society.
- Receive, record and deposit all donations into the Society bank account.
- Receive all expense reports, accompanied by proper documentation.
- Pay or reimburse Society expenses in a timely manner, as directed by the Board.
- Provide a financial report to be published in each Newsletter.
- Register the domain name – Latta.org and keep this registration current.
- Provide the Newsletter Editor with a current donor list for each newsletter.
- Prepare individual donor sheets.
- Provide financial records to the Society Auditor and Secretary/Historian at the time each newsletter is published, including reconciled bank account register and donor lists and amounts.
- File financial reports required by the State of Washington and the Internal Revenue Service.
- Engage in a reciprocal exchange of information with the Newsletter Editor or others as appropriate when information or comments are received that pertain to another's area of responsibility and interest.
- Serve as registered agent in the State of Washington as provided for in Article I Sec. 2. If the Treasurer is not a resident of the State of Washington, the Board shall appoint a registered agent as required in Article I Section 2.

Section 6 Auditor (currently the back-up Treasurer)

The Auditor shall

- Receive and review the Treasurer's financial records at the time each newsletter is published.
- Be prepared to act as Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer.
- Prepare an annual audit report for the Newsletter. Fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

Section 7 Web Master

The Web Master shall

- Maintain and add material contributed by members of the Society to the Latta.org web pages.
- Keep a copy of the request to add material to the website that is contributed by individuals.
- Monitor and ensure that no living individual's personal information is posted at the Latta.org site unless written permission is obtained and kept on file by the webmaster indefinitely or as long as that personal information is posted on the website.

Section 8 The Latta Genealogy Newsletter Editor
The Editor shall

- Publish The Latta Genealogy Newsletter at least three times a year.
- Collect & solicit articles from the membership & other sources for the newsletter.
- Publish the financial report & list of donors received from the Treasurer.
- Compare subscriber list received from Treasurer with the newsletter mailing list, making the necessary changes to the mailing list.
- Engage in reciprocal exchange of information with the Treasurer or other officers as appropriate when comments are received that pertain to another's area of responsibility and interest.
- Finalize, proof, duplicate and staple the Newsletter.
- Print address labels from mailing list and return address labels.
- Mail Newsletters.
- Keep track of all expenses with appropriate receipts. Send the receipts with summary report to Treasurer for reimbursement.
- Make changes to mailing list if Newsletter is returned as undeliverable.
- Store and maintain a collection of back issues 1-13 & 15 as paper copies and issues 14, 16-21 & any future newsletters on computer disc, with appropriate backup for the electronic data.
- Fill requests for back issues, making photocopies if there is only one copy in master file.
- Maintain a correspondence file with libraries and others that are interested in receiving our Newsletter, but are not members of the Society.
- Monitor the nonprofit status of the Society and use bulk mail rate if feasible.

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Draft Bylaws

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- Grant permission for libraries or other societies to reprint articles published in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter as appropriate.

Section 9 Rootsweb.com Latta Mail list and Ancestry.com Latta Message Board Administrator The Administrator shall

- Maintain and monitor the Rootsweb.com Latta surname mail list.

- Subscribe or unsubscribe individuals if they are unable to do so on their own.

- Unsubscribe individuals who are posting inappropriate messages.

- Maintain and monitor the Ancestry.com Latta Message board.

- Delete inappropriate messages and block the senders of such messages.

- Link the Message Board to the mailing list so that all messages posted to the board will appear on the listserv.

Section 10 Northern Ireland Research Coordinator

The Northern Ireland Coordinator shall

- Gather and enter into a database information gathered about the Latta surname and related families from Northern Ireland.

- Follow the research plan prepared by Sherry Irvine &/or other plans as approved by the Board.

- Solicit and support volunteer researchers to implement the research plan.

- Promote and disseminate our knowledge of Latta and related families in Northern Ireland.

Section 11 Branch Captain Coordinator

The Branch Captain Coordinator shall

- Coordinate and facilitate the work of the Branch Captains.

- Appoint and replace Branch Captains as necessary with Board approval

- Represent the Branch Captains as a member of the Board.

- Appoint a Captain of previously identified branches that have no Captain.

- Appoint a coordinator of "Lost Lattas" who

will collect information on Latta individuals or families that do not seem to belong in any of the establish branches.

- Appoint a Captain for any new branches that are assigned a number.

Section 12 New Branch Research & Review Coordinator

The New Branch Research & Review Coordinator shall

- Support new branch research.

- Accept & review documentation for potentially new Latta (and other spelling variations) branches. Determine that the new family is not part of a known branch.

- Determine if documentation submitted meets the Genealogical Proof Standard (GSP).

- Assign new branch number if GPS is met.

- Suggest and support further research to submitter if documentation is not sufficient at the time of submission.

- Write a report for the Latta Genealogy Newsletter.

- Maintain files for potential new branches.

Section 13 International Outreach Coordinator
The International Outreach Coordinator shall

- Promote International participation in the Latta Family Society.

Section 14 Archivist

The Archivist shall

- Receive, review, organize, and forward data and artifacts for deposit in the official Latta Family Archives, at this time, the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

- Obtain a signed acknowledgement from donors indicating that they understand that their submissions will be deposited in one or more archives with other Latta information. The submitters must also specify if they want information about living individuals to be deposited in the archives.

- A copy of the acknowledgement document will be forwarded with the material and a copy will be sent to the Secretary.

Section 15 Branch Captains

Each Branch Captains shall

- Collect, organize & share information for their representative branch.

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- Start a GEDCOM file with the data collected for the branch.
- Enter into the GEDCOM all information with documentation received from other members of the branch
- Coordinate research to provide documentation for all data contained in GEDCOM.
- Share GEDCOM information with other members of the branch.
- When sharing the GEDCOM with other branch members, ensure that the GEDCOM file does not contain any information about living persons to protect their privacy. Information about living persons may be shared ONLY with the written permission of the living individual.
- Submit updates for the website and the Newsletter.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Branch Captain Coordinator.
- Act as an advisor to the board.

ARTICLE VI NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 Only persons who have been Society members in good standing for twelve (12) months prior to nominations are eligible for election to any Society position.

Section 2 The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating committee of five members.

Section 3 The Nominating Committee shall submit the names of at least one qualified candidate for each elective office within 45 days of appointment. Nominations by the membership may be made in writing to the nomination committee. Each Candidate for election must give their consent to have their name placed on the ballot. The slate of officers shall be published in the Newsletter with a mail ballot and two envelopes. The marked ballot shall be placed in the smaller unmarked envelope,

and then placed in the outer envelope, which shall be signed by the voting member. All ballots must be posted marked within 15 days of receipt.
Section 4 An election committee of three members shall be appointed by the Board and supervise the counting of the mailed ballots.

ARTICLE VII COMMUNICATION AND DECISION MAKING

The goal is to use all possible avenues of communication and operate by consensus.
Membership will be notified of significant issues by newsletter and or ground mail as appropriate. Members may respond with their opinions or suggestions, which will be considered by the Executive Board in an effort to reach a consensus.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at least twice a year at an agreed upon time and form of convocation.

Section 2 The Executive Board may call membership meetings in conjunction with the Latta Family Reunions.

ARTICLE IX PUBLICATIONS

Section 1 The Latta Genealogy Society will publish the Latta Genealogy Newsletter at least three times a year.

Section 2 The Society shall maintain the Latta.org website and use the Latta mail list at Rootsweb.com to ensure better communication with the membership.

Section 3 The Latta Genealogy Society is the sole owner of all its publications in any media including print and electronic.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may

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Draft Bylaws

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be made at Society special meetings, or by ground mailed ballots.

Section 2. An amendment must be passed by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members of the Executive Board voting, subject to the approval of not less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the membership voting.

Section 3. In order to maintain our nonprofit status as a 501(c) 3 organization, Articles I Sec. 1 & 2 and Article XI may not be amended or deleted except to conform to new directives of the Internal Revenue Service.

**ARTICLE XI
INDEMNIFICATION**

Section 1. Any officer or member of the Executive Board shall be indemnified by action of the Executive Board against expenses incurred in defense of any action filed against such individual for performing services for the Society, provided that a determination is made by disinterested members of the Executive Board that:

A. Such individual acted in good faith in what that person reasonable believed to be in the best interests of the Society.

B. Such individual had no reasonable cause to believe that his/her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2. Indemnification permitted under this Section is limited to reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceedings and must meet the requirements of the Revised Code of Washington.

Section 3. The Society shall not indemnify any individual, nor be held responsible for, any statements or actions not previously authorized by the Executive Board

**ARTICLE XI
DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of the Society, the Officers who serve as the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities

of the Society, offer the assets of the Society to another non-profit organization having objectives substantially like or similar to those of this organization, under Section 501 (c) 3 of Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE XII
GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

The Articles of Incorporation, these bylaws, the Revised Code of Washington and Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be the governing authorities of the Society.

**ARTICLE XIII
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Section 1 These Bylaws shall constitute the governing rules of this Society.

Section 2 Any matter not covered by these Bylaws shall be controlled, where applicable, by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

**ARTICLE XIV
ADOPTION**

These Bylaws, pages 1-7 are adopted this _____ Day of _____, 2004.

Attested:

Approval
Date _____

Please e-mail your comments to the committee at Latta-L@rootsweb.com, or by mail to 9050 Meridian Place N., Seattle WA 98103.

Research Queries and Replies

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

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

1. My gr grandmother was Mary Lucinda **Latta** (6/16/1851—8/22/1884), daughter of Thomas **Neely Latta** and Emily **Chandler**. I think this is Branch 9. Please advise me. Lisabeth **Davis**, 626 E. Barcelona Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87505.

2. Latta Genealogy Newsletter Issue 22, Spring 2004, Page 26. HH#609, 1850 Census of Hamilton County, Tennessee. William **Latty**, age 23, born in TN, Susan age 24, born in TN. This is my husbands Great-grandparents and I have traced them since 1987 into McDonald, County, Missouri collecting over 900 Descendants by 1996. They had the following children.

1. Mary J, Born 1848 TN
2. Nancy E., Born 1849 TN
3. Amanda E., Born 1851 MO
4. James W., Born 1885 MO
5. James W. Born 1855 MO
6. George L. Born 1860 MO
7. Sarah C. Born 1865 MO (Husband's Grandmother)
8. Marguerite C. Born 1866 MO
9. Frances L. Born 1870 MO

If you are related to this family or have any information this family please contact me at the following addresses. Ila **Chastian**, 2051 Willow Ave., Merced, CA 95340, ilagenes@aol.com.

3. Am looking for information on Catherine **Latta**, my great great grandmother. Information I have from the Town of Arbroath, Scotland where she is buried in the Arbroath Cemetery (Compartment E, #28), shows when she died in 1891 she was 53 years old and born in Canada. This makes her year of birth 1838. She was married to John **Baxter Wighton**, Color Sergeant in 72nd Regiment (Duke of Albany's Regiment) and in 1857 when my great grandfather John Murray **Wighton** was born she lived at 61 Brown Street, Dundee, Scotland. John **Baxter** was serving in India at the time of the birth and Alexander **Lees**, uncle, served as informant on the birth registration. John and Catherine probably had 4 children: Harry (?dob) died young in India; ?daughter named Ann(e) - we don't know anything about her; John Murray **Wighton**; and a daughter Fanny, born in

England in 1865. Fanny married a William **Boath**, butcher, in Arbroath, Scotland, had 2 children William **Wighton** and Alice Vera. Sadly, Fanny died at age 27 in 1892 from influenza. Have not been able to trace William **Boath** or the children. Any help would be appreciated. Margaret **Serzans**, 60 Cedar Street, Con-toocook, NH 03229, daisy@mcttelecom.com.

4. My ggg-grandmother was Elizabeth **Latta**. Her father was William. She was born about 1813 in Ohio and died March 28, 1869 and is buried in the United Brethren Cemetery in Union Township, Polk County, Iowa next to her husband Robert **Hoyt**. Their children were Caroline (b. 1835), Nancy Jane (b. 1837), James (b. 1839), Almira (b. 1844), Mary E. (b. 1846), and Robert C. (b. 1852). Can you nudge me in the right direction to find her in the **Latta** complex? Thank you, Richard C. **White**, richard_c_white2003@yahoo.com.

5. I'm stuck at the parents of John **Latta**, who was married to Fannie **Conner (Connor)** in Oklahoma/Arkansas area. They are the parents of Andrew Jackson **Latta**, who has a history of unkind deeds and spent time in a Federal Prison in Detroit, Michigan in 1881. I am looking for the parents of John **Latta**, born 1824 in Tennessee. His name could be spelled **Latty**. Can anyone document his parents? Thanks for your help. Greatly appreciated. Connie **Latta**, Br. #52 Captain\ So. Calif., Researching Arkansas, Oklahoma, Georgia and Tennessee for this family.

6. Can anyone identify these **Lattas** in Linn Co., MO in 1900? 1900 Linn Co., MO Census, Grantsville Twp., E.D. #75, **Latta**, Thomas Head White Male Dec 1867 32 Married 5 YRS. Can Can Can No Occupation Listed. Cora E. Wife White Female Aug 1871 28 Married 5 Yrs. Had 2 Children & 2 Children Still Living In 1900 MO MO MO. George H. Son White Male June 1896 3 Single MO Can MO. John D. Son White Male Dec 1898 1 Single MO Can MO
Living Next Door:
Latta, Sylvester Head White Male June 1837 62 Married 3 Yrs Can Can Can Farmer
Sarah Wife White Female April 1842 58 Married 3 Yrs Had 3 Children, 3 Children Still Living In 1900 Can Can Ire. jomorgan@swbell.net.

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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.

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Research Queries

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7. In answer to the query about the **Lattas** buried in Gahanna Cemetery in Franklin County, Ohio, those folks were members of Branch 20. John **Latta** was born 10 Aug. 1818 in Franklin County, Ohio, a son of James. John married Phebe T. **Paull** on 12 May 1842. They had at least three children: Sarah Melissa; Elizabeth Ann; and Francis Marion. Francis, a.k.a. Frank and Nellie B. **Chrysler** were married 16 Oct. 1875. Their daughters were Grace Adelle and Ruth Morea.

James **Latta**, the father of John, was born about 1174 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He was probably a son of Rev. William **Latta**, who is 5 William (4) in Branch 3. His wife Sarah paid chattel taxes in Franklin County in 1810. James was married to Elizabeth **Smith**, daughter of William **Smith**, and they had three sons and five daughters.

Barbara **Smith**, 333 W. 4630 South, West Valley City, UT 84119.

8. I am looking for the family of David **Wier Latta** b. August 5, 1867; d. August 19, 1930; m. Rachel P. **Snodgrass** at Rinard's Mills, Ohio. I have information to share on the other Latta's of this area. Betty **Kitchen**, branch 17, kitchen2@adelphia.net.

9. Hi! I am interested in the marriage information for Schuyler Anson **Davis** (1884-1955), the son of Sarah Josephine **Latta** (1852-1939) and Hiram Turner **Davis** (1850-1907). Schuyler was born 12 Nov. 1884 at Odell, Gage County, Nebraska. Schuyler was married the first time to Eva Elizabeth **Seidel** (1890-1955) at Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona on 11 Nov. 1907, and they had four children. Schuyler also married at Prescott, AZ to Helen **Kuhns** on 7 June 1930. Schuyler **Davis** lived for many years in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California, where he owned some property. His will was also probated there. However, Schuyler died 16 July 1955 in Prescott, AZ. According to family tradition, Schuyler was married several times. Does anyone have further marriage information for Schuyler **Davis**? Where there any

children from these marriages? I would be glad to exchange information. Thank you, Ken **Mueller**, Doc Huer@aol.com, editor.

10. The information I have on my father is as follows: James Ronald **Latta**, Sr. D.O.B - 27th Sept 1914? Place - Arkansas, Soc No - 429-09-4254? Died - March 1957, Residence at death - Winona, E Texas. Military Service - 3rd Bomber Group, 5th Air Force based at Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia in 1942 -43, arrived in Charters Towers 10th March 1942, moved to New Guinea 1943? He left USA from Savannah, GA. He is listed on the menu as a PFC Cook, Xmas 1942. I have been unable to verify most of this information, most supplied by his buddies in the Air Force. James Ronald **Latta** Jr., corkey1313@yahoo.com, Mobile Phone 042 888 9104.

11. Branch 7. Thomas **Latta** was born February 23, 1851, died March 28, 1885. Annie **Dyer Latta** was born February 23 1859 (Judith Ann **Dyer**). Lucy **Latta** was born September 13, 1882, died September 17, 1882. I am looking for the cause of death of Thomas **Latta** and his daughter Lucy **Latta**, and of course, any additional information. Judith Ann is listed as Juliann **Dyer** on the 1850 Henderson Co. KY census. Thomas **Latta** and Marian **Dyer** married 29 Dec 1875, Book 14, page 395 - Wm. E. **Kellan**, Surety. Married at St. Louis Catholic Church. Mariam **Dyer**, the bride's mother gave consent for her daughter Judy Ann **Dyer** to marry. (This statement is attached to the marriage record. To confuse the issue further, the Court Clerk wrote the mother's name in each place where the bride's name should be. The 1870 Henderson Co. Census confirms that Mariam is the mother of Judy Ann.) Groom's father born in Va. Birthplace not give given for groom's mother. Bride's father born in Union Co., her mother born in Estill Co. Groom 24, bride 17. Judith **Brumm**, brumms@texasbrumms.com.

12. There is a family story that Louisa who was born in 1847 in Arkansas was taken to Greene

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Research Queries

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County, Missouri by an Isaac **Woods**, along with her mother. Her mother left the child with Isaac's daughter, the **Sluder** family, for them to care for her while she searched for her husband. She didn't return so the **Sluders** raised Louisa.

When she married John S. **Woods**, she was asked by the minister her birth name. It was Christmas Eve and he later wrote her name as Louisa **Lowdu** (or something similar).

When her husband died, the government asked the widow for proof of her marriage to the Civil War soldier John S. **Woods**. She was told she was married in Greene Co., MO. The clerk answered the government inquiry with her date of marriage, giving her name as Louisa **Lowder**.

Nobody knows what her real name was. I have searched many different names in Arkansas but **Latta** seems to be the most likely. I've looked through the **Latta** Index and was very impressed with it. But I didn't find any Louisa.

Does anyone know of a family story that would help to solve this question as to Louisa's birth name? I would appreciate any clues. Imogene **Woods**, hrb34wds@hotmail.com.

13. My great great grandfather was William Wilson **Latta**, a son of Solomon **Latta**. William served as a first lieutenant in the Confederate Army from Orange County, North Carolina. He resided around Rougemont and Hillsborough near Durham, NC. I am looking for a photo of him. Also, I wonder if there are any group photos of Confederate troops from Orange County that he might be in. Douglas K. **Latta**, P.O. Box 464, Grafton, WV 26354.

Reprints of Issues 1-21 are available for only \$3.50 each. Please send your request to the editor, Ken Mueller, 337 Gertrude Street, Elgin, Illinois 60123. I also am interested in your family stories, research articles, book reviews, and anything that you may have written on your family history. Please contact me so that your name can be one of the authors in the next issue.

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(Continued from Page 23)

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