

# The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 26

Summer 2005

## **Emmit Latta, A Persistent Young Soldier**

By Christopher A. Schnell, Reprinted from the Lincoln Editor by permission of Daniel W. Stowell, Director and Editor, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, #1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois. Copyright, all rights reserved.

During the Civil War, Army regulations required all recruits to be over the age of 18 and under 35. However, this regulation failed to keep young boys ages 13 to 17 from joining the army to serve as musicians, or lying about their age to serve in the Army. So was the case for 15-year old Emmit Girdell Latta of Friendship, New York. Emmit's father, Samuel Latta, had sent his oldest son on a business errand and without his father's knowledge or consent, young Emmit enlisted in Co. F, 1st US Light Artillery on December 5, 1864. While in camp with his company at Fort Morgan, Virginia, Emmit was thrown from a horse and injured his arm on January 5, 1865. A few days later, Emmit's father wrote to President Abraham Lincoln, asking that his young son be discharged from service. That letter read as follows:

Affidavit of Samuel E. Latta - 10 January 1865

Application for release of a Boy 15 years old from service. This is to certify that my son Emmit G. Latta was born on the 28th day of May 1849 in the Town of Wirt Allegany Co New York and that I the undersigned am his Father and that I sent him on other business from home and that without my knowledge or consent he was induced to enlist into co F 1st U.S. Light artillery and is now at Fort Morgan, on Arlington hights and that I wish to have him discharged.

Yours & c - Samuel E. Latta, Friendship, Alleghany Co., NY

To the hon Abraham Lincoln, President, US, Washington DC

P.S. will get this endorsed by two Congressmen if required

[Certification] Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of Jany 1865. Sam Drury, Justice peace

A few days later, President Lincoln ordered the Secretary of War to discharge Emmit from the service. Emmit Latta's pension records indicate that he received a discharge at Fort Morgan, Virginia on April 7, 1865. However, Emmit again enlisted as a private in the Union Army in Company I, 19th NY Cavalry Regiment. 15-year old Emmit entered his age as 17, and his father signed the consent this time, listing him as 16. After the war ended, the Army honorably discharged Emmit on July 19, 1865. A year later, he re-enlisted as a private in

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### Editorial

After years of careful research, I have discovered that the most important things are your family, and that we are all family. Seriously, you can see those common threads in every article. We watch out for each other in war, travel, and our everyday lives. If we do not know about our family, we look for them.

To save your family the effort of looking for you, make it easy. Send me something about your family, as did Marsha Frey and Stanley Latta. This newsletter goes to several large libraries where your future family will be researching. Imagine their pleasure at reading your stories, biographies, research inquiries, lineages, and traditions. Your children and grandchildren will thank you.

Please also remember our Latta Archives program from Issue 24. By using the newsletter and the archives, you can be among the found, not the missing family.

## The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

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

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

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International US \$15-20

Please send your subscription contributions to:

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

**Kenneth A. Mueller**

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**7400 East Mule Circle**

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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, 7400 East Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, Doc Huer@aol.com. I also am your editor.

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

Branch 7: Joshua Armstrong, 5060 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90027, jj.armstrong@sbcglobal.net.

Branches 10 and 15, Cindy Stiene, 158 Intracoastal Dr., Madison AL 35758-7925, cstiene@hiwaay.net.

Branch 12: Belinda J. Peterson, 43 Railway Pde, Murrumbeena, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3163, Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

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

Branch 14: Ian Latta, Ryedale House, Old Carlisle Rd., Moffat DG10 9QJ Scotland.

Branch 16: Alex Latta, 6104 94A Ave., 6830 42nd St., Edmonton, Alberta T6B 0Y8, allatta@gambit.ab.ca.

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

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## Financial Report Latta Genealogy Group

Treasurer:

Virginia Curulla

4511 154th Place SE  
Bellevue WA 98006  
Latta4gen@earthlink.net

and

Back Up Treasurer:

Beryl Redfield

4281 Winfield Rd., Taylorsville UT 84123-2344,  
Bredf331@comcast.net.

Expenses:

5/17/05 through 9/9/05

Ken Mueller, newsletter & postage, Issue 25,  
\$609.52.

Internet Valuedweb, four monthly charges, Web  
Server, \$87.80.

Nonprofit Assistance Center, Legal Fees, Non-  
profit project, \$45.00.

Total Expenses, 5/17/05 - 9/9/05: \$742.32.

Expenses for Issue 26 have not yet been de-  
ducted.

Income:

5/17/05 through 9/9/05

Deposit, 23 donors (incl. 2 cash), \$465.00.

Deposit, 23 donors, \$495.00.

Deposit, 1 donor (\$15 Canadian funds) News-  
letter Donations, \$11.86.

Deposit, 6 donors, \$160.50.

Total Income, 5/17/05 - 9/9/05: \$1,132.36.

Total Inflows: 1,132.36.

Total Outflows: \$742.32.

Net Difference: \$390.04.

Current Bank Balance: \$5368.49.

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Thank you for your generosity. Together with  
the work of many volunteers, your donations make  
the Latta Genealogy Group and Newsletter possi-  
ble.

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, renewable every year, the con-  
nection fee of \$21.95 per month, and expenses re-  
lated to the very important project of becoming a  
nonprofit organization.

Currently we are unable to accept credit card  
donations.

Donations received after September 9, 2005  
will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Please send any corrections, questions or com-  
ments about donations or financial matters to the  
treasurer, Virginia Curulla, address above. Sugges-  
tions are also welcome.

## A Persistent Young Soldier

(Continued from Page 1)

Company A, 4th U.S. Infantry, where he spent his time as an engineer, helping to locate railroad beds in the Rocky Mountains and exploring the Yellowstone region. Emmitt was discharged from service at Fort Fetterman, Wyoming, in 1869. He returned to Friendship, New York, where he married Ms. Lura Merriam Brown of Wilcox, Pa. on August 27, 1879. She was the daughter of Jefferson L. and Helen Amanda Merriam Brown. To this marriage there were born three sons. Emmitt later made a name for himself as an entrepreneur and inventor, eventually patenting scores of improvements for bicycles and typewriters.

Information for this article was found at <http://www.lincolnlegalpapers.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

## More on Emmitt Latta of Branch 4

By John Talvacchio, Ellicott City, MD,  
[john.talvacchio@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:john.talvacchio@stanfordalumni.org)

Some additional information for Emmitt (sometimes Emmett) Latta, born 1849, is given below.

From John S. Minard, Allegany County and Its People. A Centennial Memorial History of Allegany County, New York, (W. A. Fergusson & Co., Alfred, N.Y., 1896) p. 725.

"E. [Emmett] G. Latta, son of S. E. and Orpha (Gorton) Latta, was born in Friendship in 1849. He received a common school education, and in 1864, when but 15, enlisted without his parent's consent. His father went to President Lincoln and obtained a special order for his discharge. After staying at home two months he re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. He then enlisted for a third time, and served a full term in the regular army, finally leaving the N.Y. Dragoons, the third, Co. A, 4th U. S. Infantry. He was with the engineers who located the first Pacific railroad through the Rocky Mountains, and was one of the first organized party of white men who explored the Yellowstone Park,

was in the Black Hills before the discovery of gold there and was twice wounded by Indians in the country. In civil life he has become known to the mechanical world as the inventor of more improvements in bicycles than any two other men. Over 100 patents have been granted on his inventions, 80 of which apply to bicycles, and there is not at present made a bicycle that does not contain some of his inventions. He has been a member of the Board of Education since it was organized in 1887, and president of the board for several years. He has been chief engineer of the fire Department, and is a member of Hatch Post, G. A. R., Allegany Lodge, F. & A. M., and Van Campen Lodge, I. O. O. F. In 1889 he married Lura M. Brown of Wilcox, Pa. Children, Jefferson B., F. Raymond and Hubert I."

\*\*\*\*\*

The editor also wishes to call the reader's attention to the article on Emmitt Latta by George Latta in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter of Autumn 1996, Issue 2.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Historic Note on United Empire Loyalists

By Keith Latta, Branch 13, [klatta@shaw.ca](mailto:klatta@shaw.ca)

I have often been asked whether Branch 13 members are descendants of 'United Empire Loyalists.' John Latta(2) married Susannah Pitman - the Pitmans were UEL and Branch 13 members are designated as UEL through the Pitman connection. UEL membership is like belonging to groups such as the Daughters Of The American Revolution - a quaint reminder of things long past.

Russell Pitman, father of Susannah, served with the Loyalist Rangers regiment which mainly comprised recruits from New York and New Jersey. After the 'Troubles' ended, Russell and over 200 veterans of his battalion received land grants during the 1780s and stayed in Canada. Most settled in the area of the village later known as Latta's

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## United Empire Loyalists

(Continued from Page 4)

Mill, Ontario. Many sons of the Rangers fought successfully in the Canadian militia during the War of 1812, aided and abetted by British army regulars and Indian warriors.

William Latta(1) served with the Patriot army and his son, John, later settled in Ontario about 1798. Thus, in the course of time, the son of a Patriot soldier married the daughter of a Loyalist soldier and, except for the brief championship rematch known as the War of 1812, we all lived happily ever after.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Further to the United Empire Loyalists and John Latta

By Keith Latta, Branch 13

I was recently clearing out a storage room and ran across some old family documents including what appears to be the draft of a movie script. It may have been written by my father as he wrote poetry many years ago. Or it may have been given to him. It is a movie script for an epic movie in the tradition of 'Gone With The Wind.'

Essentially, it is a great love story based on the lives of John Latta(2) and Susannah Pitman. It includes great battle scenes from the War of Independence and the War of 1812 - lots of violence, shooting, explosions, hand-to-hand combat, etc. - kids would love it. Apparently the original title was 'War And Peace' but this has been crossed-out and replaced by the words 'Down By The Old Mill Stream.'

The following are a few sample scenes:

Scene 3: William Latta(1) of Branch 13 has left the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland behind only to find after his arrival in America that there are "Big Troubles" - like a revolution. He reluctantly joins the Patriot army. This scene shows William trudging along with his battalion on a hot, dusty road in

a funny hat. A rider on a horse gallops frantically past:

Rider: The British are coming, the British are coming!

William Latta: Yeah, whatever.

Scene 26: The revolutionary war has ended, and William Latta's teen-aged son, John, is informing his father that he is planning on settling in Canada and hopes to build a mill. William is distraught. This scene takes place in a public park where the two have gone with a friend named Ben who likes to fly kites in the park.

John: I've decided to leave America. I don't see anything but chaos in the future - the country will divide North and South, East and West - nothing can hold it together.

Ben: John, don't be foolish - we're going to build a great constitutional democracy here, a very powerful country, but kind and gentle. We'll be loved and admired by all the countries of the world and bring freedom and democracy to every corner of the globe. The British Empire tried and failed - why go with a loser?

John: I've made up my mind - I won't be talked out of it. John walks slowly away with a heavy heart.

William: (shouts, with tears in his eyes) I hope you realize all they have up there is Injuns and snow - take along some warm clothing!

The next scenes of the movie cover John's lonely months after settling on the Moira River north of Belleville, Ontario where he plans to build his beloved mill. He soon realizes that all of his neighbors served in the Loyal Rangers regiment and are United Empire Loyalists. At times they are nasty to him and some even call him "Rebel." John perseveres and, being a Latta, eventually charms them and wins their friendship.

This is where the great love story begins. John and Susannah Pitman, daughter of Russell Pitman a Loyalist war hero, meet for the first time at a local barn-raising. He is so impressed with her construction skills and work ethic - useful for building a mill - that it is love at first sight. There are many romantic scenes as their love for each other grows -

(Continued on Page 6)

**Further on the UEL and John Latta**

(Continued from page 5)

John and Susannah together in secluded spots on the banks of the Moira. John spends all his time during these tender moments drawing crude plans for his mill, while Susannah enjoys bird-watching. Eventually, Russell Pitman overcomes his prejudice toward a member of a rebel family, and consents to his daughter's marriage to John.

But by 1812, dark clouds are gathering over the small Loyalist settlement on the Moira River - the threat of another war. Across the border, powerful forces have decided it is time to drive all remnants of the British Empire out of North America, with considerable encouragement from France, Britain's mortal enemy. The tranquil life along the Moira is shattered as the sons of the Loyal Rangers are called to arms in the Canadian Militia. The Militia supported by British army regulars and local Indian warriors prepares to take on the invaders from the south.

The next scenes will thrill movie goers - they are of unrelenting carnage. The close-up scenes of the Indian warriors ambushing the surprised invaders, who are massacred in the dense woods, are particularly exciting. Eventually, the invaders lose their enthusiasm for battle and withdraw. The young men from the Moira turn in their weapons and return to their farms and families. The Indian warriors return to their villages and resume their traditional fishing and hunting. The British regulars move on to fight other battles in far away lands. The border will never again be violated on either side.

Scene 67: Near the end of the War of 1812, there is one moving scene that could be considered almost anti-war. Militia soldiers and British army regulars are standing on the bank of the Potomac River. It is late at night and they are watching the White House burn to the ground across the river after a raid on Washington. There are close-ups of their faces, lighted by the distant fire. The militia soldiers look very young, only teen-agers. The Brits are hardened old professional soldiers with bad

teeth. They stand there in silence until a militia soldier finally cries out in anguish:

Militia soldier: Madness! It's all madness!

[credit: Bridge on the River Kwai]

There appears to be something for everyone in this script - and what an emotional ending! Despite all the adversity, John has been able to realize his dream of building his mill and he and Susannah feel there is finally a chance for true happiness. In the final scene, John and Susannah are standing on a hill overlooking the Moira River valley, just above his new mill. John is holding his wife in his arms. The sun is setting behind them - it is a spectacular scene. The camera pans and zooms in on the front of the mill where there is a simple sign "Latta's Mill." The camera then pans to the couple on the hill for a final close-up:

John: I will always believe that we were destined to meet and fall in love in this northern wilderness. We have survived a terrible war and other adversity. I will always love you. But the only thing I fear is that our Branch 13 will never fully be accepted by the other branches south of the border as part of the great Latta family in North America - because I married a United Empire Loyalist.

Susannah: Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn! [credit: Gone With The Wind]

(fade to credits)

**THE END**

Footnote: John Latta and Susannah Pitman were 18 and 17 years of age respectively when they married, and had 12 children.

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If you have a true family story that can top this one, please send it to the editor, Ken Mueller, at the address below. I am always looking for good stuff.

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Reprints of Issues 1-25 are available for only \$3.50 each. Please send your request to the editor, Ken Mueller, 7400 East Mule Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Information and Corrections to Branch 49

By Stanley R. Latta, Branch 49 Captain,  
Reddog@wayfarer1.com.

William Latta was born in 1787 in Ireland died and is buried in Bethel Cemetery, York, South Carolina. He married Catherine Ewing born 1785 she also is buried next to him. Their only child is a son, John Alison, born in 1817 in Ireland. He is also buried in the same cemetery.

John Alison (William 1) was married to Elizabeth Harper, she was born June 10, 1815 in SC. She died January 1, 1875 in Pulaski County, Arkansas and is buried in Bayou Meto Cemetery in Jacksonville, AR. They had the following children:

William born in 1840 in SC

Frances (boy) born 1841 in SC (Note- William and Frances died in Florida)

Jane

Robert L. born April 16, 1842 in SC, died in in Texas

Margaret J. born 1844 in SC

Nancy born 4-1-1847 in SC

Andrew Jackson born 1-19-1851 in SC

Eliza born in 1853 in SC

Robert L. Latta (William 1, John Alison 2) was born 4-16-1842 in York Dist., SC. He died in 1921 He married Maria Alice "Kate" Trotter. She was born 2-4-1853, died 1885. They had the following children:

William Jackson "Jack" born 7-7-1873 died 1944

Kate born 8-2-1876 died 1953

Jennie

James Edward born 10-1882 died 1978.

James Edward Latta (William 1, John Alison 2, Robert 3) married Helen Welch born 2-28-1893 died 1-29-1978. They had the following children:

Bonnie Mae born 2-1-1913 died 10-10-1994

Connie Faye born 9-3-1916

Alice Rose born 7-20-1918

Bud Earl born 4-20-1920 died 2-4-1998

JE born 10-30-1922

Harvey Raymond born 10-18-1924 died 4-14-1998

Helen Ruth born 2-7-1927

Ruby Dell born 10-30-1929

The line so far is: William 1, John Alison 2, Robert L. 3., James Edward 4, Harvey Raymond 5, and me Stanley Ray 6. I will add to this as the information is made available.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Descendants of Charles Frederick Orville Latta, Branch 29

By Marsha Frey, MFrey223@woh.rr.com

Editor's note: Living individuals are not included to protect their privacy.

1 Charles Frederick Orville Latta b: December 13, 1863 d: February 26, 1937 + Flora Ann Blew b: February 07, 1865 d: March 14, 1953 m: December 25, 1880

.... 2 [3] David William Latta b: March 15, 1893 d: August 23, 1961 + Myrtle Oletha Lightfoot b: December 02, 1900 d: August 24, 1921 m: September 22, 1917

..... 3 Marjorie Wilma Latta b: August 18, 1918 d: March 31, 1977 + Franklin Lorenzo Reigle b: July 11, 1917 d: May 09, 1978 m: April 06, 1938

..... 3 Frances Louise Latta b: January 06, 1920 + Donald Ward Ashley b: June 26, 1920 m: August 30, 1942 in Findlay, OH

\*2nd Wife of [3] David William Latta: + Grace Marcella Franks b: April 04, 1900 d: February 06, 1961 m: April 07, 1923

..... 3 Marilyn Ann Latta b: June 30, 1926 d: Bef. 1977 + Carroll Lee McNutt b: June 28, 1929 m: May 30, 1950

.... 2 Ernest Nathan Latta b: July 28, 1895 d: January 20, 1946 + Violet Ruth Rader b: February 23, 1899 d: July 20, 1995 m: October 23, 1915 in Findlay, OH

..... 3 Florence Geraldine Latta b: April 14, 1917 + Howard Taft Jones b: February 28, 1909 d: April 28, 1977 m: November 23, 1933 in McComb, OH

(Continued on Page 8)

**Descendants of C. F. O. Latta, Branch 29**

(Continued from Page 7)

..... 4 Kathleen Elizabeth Jones b: August 01, 1934 d: August 01, 1934  
 ..... 4 Dorothy Mae Jones b: July 06, 1944 d: January 10, 1946  
 ..... 3 Jay Lawayne Latta b: November 05, 1920 d: November 22, 1984 + Carrie Pearl Carmine b: March 02, 1915 d: December 22, 1999 m: June 06, 1938 in Shawtown, OH  
 ..... 4 Melvin Duane Latta b: January 30, 1939 d: January 31, 2002  
 ..... 3 Lucy Marguerite Latta b: December 09, 1921 d: December 12, 1932  
 ..... 3 Walter Allan Latta b: May 13, 1927 d: November 29, 1989  
 .... 2 Lester Leroy 'Pete' Latta b: September 07, 1897 d: December 02, 1957 + Bessie Viola Thompson b: January 31, 1899 d: February 21, 1971 m: September 11, 1916 in McComb, OH  
 ..... 3 Donald Frederick Latta b: August 23, 1917 d: April 02, 1983 + [10] Bernice Marie Went b: February 27, 1923 m: February 03, 1940  
 ..... 3 Delbert Leroy Latta b: March 05, 1920 + Rose Mary Kiene b: September 03, 1923 m: September 17, 1948  
 ..... 3 [9] Lester Leroy Latta b: December 11, 1922 d: December 20, 2001 + Virginia Semler b: July 07, 1921 d: February 13, 1983 m: February 21, 1943  
 ..... \*2nd Wife of [9] Lester Leroy Latta: + [10] Bernice Marie Went b: February 27, 1923 m: January 27, 1985 in McComb, OH (Portage Chapel UM Church)  
 ..... 3 [12] Letha Corrine Latta b: October 24, 1925 + James Chester Stoner b: June 12, 1917 d: November 01, 1975 m: March 05, 1947  
 ..... \*2nd Husband of [12] Letha Corrine Latta: + Robert Walter Harden b: August 12, 1923 d: November 13, 1988 m: August 25, 1978  
 ..... 3 Hilda Viola Latta b: October 03, 1928 + Robert Oscar Smith b: September 26, 1926 d: August 17, 1988 m: September 19, 1948

..... 3 Marcella Rose Latta b: July 26, 1931 + Walter Frederick George b: August 04, 1928 d: June 28, 2000 m: October 08, 1950 in North Baltimore, OH  
 .... 2 Sara Rozina 'Betty' Latta b: June 16, 1900 d: April 13, 1968 + Eber Benjamin Smith b: March 09, 1899 d: February 1978 m: July 26, 1919  
 ..... 3 Robert Fredrick Smith b: May 17, 1920 + Marilyn Engard b: October 13,  
 ..... 3 [16] Dorothy Ellen Smith b: October 23, 1921 + Claude Hile b: February 22,  
 ..... \*2nd Husband of [16] Dorothy Ellen Smith: + Donald Eugene Schrier b: May 17, 1928 m: June 09, 1951  
 ..... 3 Jo Ann Smith b: April 04, 1931 + Benjamin Franklin Gunder b: October 09, 1926

\*\*\*\*\*

**Henry Latta Family**

By Corrine Afton, Branch 1,  
 cafton@southwind.net, Benton, Kansas

I read with great interest "A Box of Old Latta Letters" and related items submitted by Alan Latta because they are my family.

The Henry Latta on page 12 was a brother of my grandfather, John S. Latta. Both Henry Latta and John S. Latta were in Harper County, Kansas before Henry ran in the Oklahoma Strip Land Run in 1893. Henry lived for awhile at Claremore, Oklahoma. They have a baby buried there.

Both of these men along with Martha J. Zehr (not zears) and Sarah A. Gregg were the children of Mary Elizabeth Cunningham who married William (T.?) Latta in LaGrange Co., Indiana on June 6, 1858. We have not proven the burial place of William, their father, but Mary E. Latta is buried in Harper County, KS. Henry and wife, Mary Blanche Crum Latta are buried at Norwich, KS; John S. and Bertha Helme Latta (my grandparents) are buried in the Harper, KS Cemetery.

I have visited Bullskin Twp., Fayette Co., Pennsylvania and have pictures of all the Latta

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**Henry Latta Family**

(Continued from Page 8)

Family in the Middle Presbyterian Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant Twp., Westmoreland Co. PA. The home of Samuel and Rachel Newall Latta (my great-great-grandparents and my DAR Patriot) was still standing in 1985 but the barn was gone. I am also sending you the obituary of Martha Zehr.

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**The Obituary of Mrs. Latta-Zehr**

Contributed by Corrine Afton, Benton, Kansas

Extracted From: The Haven Journal, Haven, Kansas, 27 December 1934, front page, column 2.

Martha Jane Latta was born February 28, 1859, at Clear Creek, Indiana and passed to her crowning at Hutchinson, Kansas, December 18, 1934 at the age of 75 years, 9 months and 18 days.

At the age of 13 she came with her parents to Wheatland, Missouri. At the age of 16 she professed religion and united with the Wheatland Mennonite church.

She was united in marriage with Michael Zehr on February 12, 1872 and to this union were born six sons, W. M. Zehr of Harper, Kansas; Edward L., John W. and David C. all of Burton, Kansas; Claude J. of Hutchinson and Samuel R. who died on March 15, 1929.

Mrs. Zehr was preceded in death by her husband, who passed away June 25, 1895. A short time after his death the family moved to Kansas, arriving at their new home near Garden Plain, on July 4, 1898. The years 1911 to 1913 were spent at Wagoner, Oklahoma and from there they moved to Colwich, Kansas where they lived until 1916 when they moved to their present home.

In 1921 she united with the Pleasant Grove United Brethren Church and held her membership there until her home going.

She leaves to mourn, one brother, John Latta of Harper, Kansas, five sons, five nephews, three nieces and fifteen grandchildren.

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**My Sister Colleen**

By Corrine Latta Afton, Branch 1,  
cafton@southwind.net, Benton, Kansas

On Saturday, June 18, 2005, my two sisters, myself and our spouses attended a Memorial Service for Colleen Latta Miller. She found us in 1996. We did not know she existed until she contacted us. Our Dad did not hang around to help raise us or our half-brother Richard and half sister Colleen. Colleen was my half sister, the daughter of my Dad, Jonathan Ralph Latta, and Hazel Angelo. I do not know anything about her mother. Dad was legally married to my mother, Pearl Dietz, when Colleen was conceived and born. Through my cousin, Edwin Latta of Harper, Kansas, I received word back in 1996 that Colleen was seeking other descendants of my father, Jonathan Ralph Latta. Colleen evidently learned that Dad was from Harper, Kansas. I was also born there. Anyway she looked in the phone book and called Edwin. I contacted her by e-mail and snail mail and thus a friendship began. Shortly thereafter my sisters, Bonnie Latta Black and Ann Latta Friedel, and I met her in Norman at a cafeteria. We ate lunch together, shared pictures and other Latta family information as we talked up a storm. Colleen mentioned her children and grandchildren with pride and love.

The Latta Family Heritage is one to be very proud of even though my father was a disappointment to his children. Great-great-great grandfather William Latta served during the American Revolution as a Ranger on the Frontier in the county of Bedford, Pennsylvania. William Latta's son, Samuel Latta, was married to Rachael Newell. Rachael's father, Thomas Newell, served at the Battle of Brandywine and Battle of Germantown in Pennsylvania during the American Revolution. Both men are buried in the Middle Presbyterian Cemetery near Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

Jonathan Ralph Latta was the son of John S. Latta and Bertha Helme, who were married 12 June 1895 in Wellington, Kansas. John and Bertha also

(Continued on Page 10)

**My Sister Colleen**

(Continued from Page 9)

had three other sons, Frank, Clarence and Robert Latta. A family picture from 7 December 1943 shows Jonathan Ralph Latta in a military uniform with his brothers and parents.

"Colleen Miller was born April 21, 1931, in Topeka, Kansas to Hazel Angelo and Ralph Latta. She often lived with her grandparents and Aunt Maxine Haist in Miltonvale, Kansas as well as traveling extensively during her youth. She moved to Enid in 1949 to attend Enid Business College. In 1950, she married Everett Lee Miller of Hunter. Together, they raised four children. Colleen later attended Phillips University and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in sociology. She subsequently received a master of social work from the University of Oklahoma. After working as a social worker at the University of Oklahoma Hospitals for 12 years, she retired in 1997. In retirement, she remained active in the community and was a parishioner of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Norman where she was especially fond of her Sacred Journey group. Colleen was a talented clarinetist, avid reader, loved to bird watch and was a lifelong learner, continuing to take weekly classes to learn the Spanish language until her death." (Quoted from her Memorial Book.)

She had an artificial heart valve that became infected in 1997, and she was very ill. They finally took out the valve and put in another. She improved very slowly. I kept in touch with her by e-mail, and cards at Christmas and birthdays. She died in her sleep May 18, 2005 at her home in Norman, Oklahoma. Her body was donated to science. The Memorial was held on June 18, 2005. My life has been enriched through knowing Colleen as a sister.

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**More Old Latta Letters**

The editor continues printing the old Latta letters sent by Alan Latta. The letters are published verbatim, with original spellings. The title is how it was addressed.

**Samuel Latta, Fiatte County  
Bullskins Township State of  
Pennsylvania**

[Folded as a packet letter.]

September the 2 1827

Dear unkle I take up my pen to inform you that I am well at present hoping these few Lines to find you and your family enjoying the same health Esquire Fansmam was out with us and he told us that you had a variry backward Spring as well as us I understand that Nathan Right has Departed this Life Likewise I am informed that couisin Joseph Garver has got married and that Silas Walker has left Fayette Township and gon to his Land I would desire you to inform me whether all these things is true I have wrote to Brother but not nowing where he is it is uncertain whether I shall get any answer or not I am pleased with this country as there is evey thing plenty but money and girls Thomas Andrews and Thomas Cithearts Famileys Was all well the Last i heard from them you may expect r me in with you apart this tiye nesct fall and perhaps I will continue with you or in them parts I would wish you to write as soon as convenient and direct your Letter to Cockes post office at hayzes crofs Road Buchland County. send my kind respects to my dear aunts uncles and all I inquiring Friends and all the Girls on the Big run I have nothing more to add at present but Remains your Friend and Neffue unto death [to] Samuel Latta [from] William Latta

\*\*\*\*\*

**Samuel Latta Westmoreland County  
Mount Pleasant Pennsylvania**

[Folded as a packet letter. 25 written by the address]

Adams County Ohio January 3 the 1838

Dear uncal I take up my pen in hand to pay

(Continued on Page 11)

**Letter to Samuel Latta in 1838**

(Continued from Page 10)

you a few lines I hope you will excuse my feelun  
as I hue never saw you but as you are my fathers  
brother you do ant appear en my stranger to me

Iam just a going to giv you sunacount of  
Robert Latta death Robert left ohio aprils last for  
the ilinos he tuck with him a enline to putup a saw  
mil Robert cum to see us ashort timebefore he  
went on his Jurneyand told us he in tend paying  
you a visit as soon as he returnd from the ilanois  
he was very ancious for aunt Robert Son to go  
with him to see you as he in tende going soon in  
the fall while the weathr was plesent but our dear  
fend never returnd home he was actined thean  
longe then he expected he laid out a toun on the  
elanois river whare he bilt his mill he sold thirty  
odd lots at won hundre dollars a peas and had just  
got his mill started was redd to cum home wen he  
was take in with a verry vilent atact of the bilous  
fever he lied four ten days after he was taken but  
had no hopes of recvery for una the first day of his  
sickness his thots of eternity was fearful he la-  
mented his past life he said he alwys feard the  
Lord but he had never sered him he had per vided  
wellfo time but had thot but litl of eternity to  
whitch he was lastring the won thing needful was  
neglect on being addressed by atendent of his to  
not dis par the goodness of god the thot it un rea-  
sonable for to expect para on his death be when  
never sot before he warned all about him to not  
put off repntence to a deathbed has he had dun he  
head too doctors and gooy nurses but all to nopur-  
pose But it peased the Lord to grant him parde and  
he dyed in full hope of a happy reserection he cale  
on pious peple to pray for him the day before he  
died the ast his lan Lady to sing a hymn whitch  
was the ninth hymn of the second book of wates  
whitch is solas and did my saviour blead and did  
my sovren die

he kept sing that hymn clear thorne and re-  
peated the last vrce him selfhe remaind quite  
secible to the last and was perfctily re cined to the  
will of god in his will he left Mr Foste the forth of  
his and left him to settl the rest of his living

Mr fosters hous bean roberts home wile hestaid in  
that cuntary he was the first of October committed  
to the silent grave

I paid his sister a visit in November and found  
her verry poorly she had bean verry sick all sum-  
mer and had got better till she hard of the death of  
brother whitch maid hir mutch worce but she had  
not for got hir brother Joseph death yet and it ap-  
pears if she can nevr for get them

Aunt Robertson send hir Love to youall re-  
specfly yours [to] Samuel Latta [from] Jane Latta  
NB seeas giv me a line in haste

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mr Samuel Latta**  
**Westmoreland County**  
**Mount Pleasant Pennsylvania**

[Folded as a packet letter. 25 written by the ad-  
dress. Condition of letter and ink is very faint.]

Hawpatch April the 20th 1844

Dear Uncle at yor son Thomas Request I ad-  
dress you a line to let you know that we are all well  
with Thomas arrived safe & in good health and is  
now at work for me by the Month on this Land you  
talked of Buying when you was here with seven  
more hands I am here with my family and think of  
remaining here and going into the Sheep & Horse  
raising the weather is remarkably fine & health was  
never Better times are hard Money searse thocrops  
look finePalatics runs high Clays prospects are  
good Religion is low Business deals we hope here  
for the Better Please write and direct your Letter to  
Stones post office Noble County Indiana As to the  
money you was going to send Thomas you had bet-  
ter get a check on the Indiana Branch Bank at Fort  
Wayne or South Bend or get a bank bill the size  
you want to Send out it in two Send one half at one  
time and the other at a nother Father & Mother  
wishes to be remembered they are well. Our old  
folks are getting not so well as when you was here  
the rest are all well no change Since you was here

I remain yours in Haste [to] Mr Samuel Latta  
[from] Johnston Latta

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mr. Robert Latta Esqr**  
**Nobel County good hope post office**  
**Indiana State**

[Postmark says Mount Pleasant May 9. 25 written by the address. Folded as a packet letter.]

May the 8 1844 Dear brothr and Sister I take through the blessing of kind providence we are atwell at present hoping these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing I reseived aleter fre-brother Johns Widow dated aprile the 8 huse and family was all Well and sister katherin Huyeys family was Well My son thuan Thomas left home March the 25 bound for your Contry he allowed to go on steamboat at pittsburg hecalculated going by the ohio riverto the moth of the Wabash river and go by it to the cannel and go by it to Fort Wain and from thence to you and hispriat the hawpatch and he Was to write to us as soon as possible When he Would knom how you Ware all and Would pay a guile on the land and wehave been looking for a letter from him the 13 of aprile and that three tim a Week ever since and has never got anny yet. We are afraid that he never got ther and if he did We Wish him to Write as soon as possible and if he is not thire I Wish you to Write and letus know if you heard any thing of him as We are getting verry uneasy abought him for fear som esident had happened him No' I send my best resepects to all the friends [to] Robert Latta Esqr [from] Samuel Latta

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**Latta Service Medals**

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

My first exposure to E-Bay was in September, 2003. A Purple Heart Medal issued to Alexander H. Latta was put on the market. I did not know if this was my family, but I started to bid. It started off quite slow but soon escalated to about \$325 US. I dropped out at this point. It was purchased by an avid collector of medals. I since found out that this Alexander was Branch #16, being a cousin of my

grandfather. Alexander's daughter was forced to sell it because of financial difficulties arising from health problems. The purchaser has been generous in offering what information came with it.

The next opportunity came when E-Bay put up a Service Medal awarded to Renwick Latta of the Australian Army. I started bidding on this as well, but now being an "expert", and thinking this was going the same direction as before, I dropped out very soon. Was I surprised when I got an e-mail from Belinda Peterson saying she was the successful bidder, and at a very reasonable price.

Not knowing where this Renwick originated, I started checking Canadian sources. I found a Renwick Barry Latta buried right here in Edmonton. Checking further I found that he was descended from Abraham Latta of the Nova Scotia Branch #50. With considerable help from both Belinda Peterson and Shirley Joy, both of Australia, I received the history of Renwick Clyde Latta. There appears to be no connection, but one has to be suspicious with such common names. I am wondering if Abraham Latta that is buried in Churchtown, County Donegal, Ireland, might have had a brother who went to Australia about the same time as he went to Ireland. This could account for two families using the same unusual name which may have been Samuel's mother's name.

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**Family Record of Renwick C. Latta**

By Shirley Joy and Belinda Peterson, Branch  
 12 Captain, Melbourne, Australia.

John James Latta B-18?? Married May Lee  
 Robert Latta B-1868 at Ulladulla, NSW  
 Renwick Clyde Latta Born July 3, 1913.  
 Married Gwennie Ernestiner Bennet, Sept. 29, 1942  
 Renwick's Military information:  
 Australian Army #NX102461 (N52318)  
 Date of Birth, 3 July 1913.  
 Born at Ulladulla, NSW, Australia  
 Date of Enlistment, 17 August 1942.

(Continued on Page 13)

**Renwick Clyde Latta**

(Continued from Page 12)

At Ashfield, NSW

Place of Enlistment, Sidney, NSW.

Next of Kin, Gwennie Latta

Discharged 8 January 1946.

Rank, Sapper.

Posting at discharge, HQ COMD ASC 9

Aust. Div.

WW2 Honours and Gallantry. None for display.

Prisoner of War. No.

\*\*\*\*\*

**William Latta 1854 in Australia**

By Belinda Peterson,

Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

I am having quite a bit of luck with my ancestors in Australia because Victoria is so small. I have found a wonderful book. It is called People and Places, Western Victoria 1854-1865, from the diary of Augustus Bostock. William Latta, c 1818, Donegal. (The man who committed suicide in 1876 at Grasmere near Warrnambool) was Augustus Bostock neighbour and had land next door. Augustus's diary has multiple references to our ancestor, William Latta and strangely enough the family that his son, John married into after his father died. John Latta married my Great Grandmother, Grace. Her family was Parker and her mother's family were Lindseys. They are all referred to quite frequently in the book.

The Diary eg 15/12/1854

Went to see Latta and Doy about building the bridge. (The bridge was required for them all to access parts of the road to Warrnambool.)

17/3/1855

Thrashing machine came to Lattas.

(It seems Latta grew wheat and raised beef etc. and sent some of the food to the miners at the gold-fields. This was a very significant period of gold mining in Australia.)

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**Latta Research in Australia**

By Belinda Peterson,

Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

I just got back from my trip to Grasmere, Winslow, Woolesthorpe and Warrnambool in Victoria, Australia. It was very enlightening and I was able to glean a great deal of information about the Latta family in Victoria.

I found (through the help of a local man in Woolesthorpe) the post office where Sadie Latta worked until the 1930's, early Latta land and even the site of the old unconsecrated graveyard (which was destroyed by bushfire) and where William Latta (arrived 1842) and Sarah Black (his wife) were buried in 1876. I will start to build a website and put all my photos and video footage together with my other research for everyone to enjoy and help solve the puzzles.

When I went to the shipping records last week I found the arrival of John Latter and Catherine Latter in 1841 on the "Intrinsic". They arrived into Port Phillip in the colony of NSW (now part of Melbourne, Victoria) The misspelling was possibly because they could not write for themselves and it was mistranscribed by an official. I think this is the John Latta born in 1813 whose spouse was Catherine Lemon....He may be my William's brother and the parents were John and Mary (maiden name???) Latta from Strabane County Tyrone. Could Margaret Rodgers be this Mary? and I think if this is the case then Andrew Latta may be their younger brother and came to Australia in 1869 after the other two brothers were settled. What do you think? I still have no record for William's arrival however.

(Continued on Page 14)

### **Latta Research in Australia**

(Continued from page 13)

Then a Phillip Latter arrived on the "Laubaun" in 1847 but I am yet to trace his line.

I have also got so much more information about my Grandfather, Charlie Latta's siblings. There was an illegitimate son born in 1916 when John Latta (1890) the older brother was in the first world war. His name was Cyril Latta Shepard and sadly he was never acknowledged by the family. I have letters from his poor mother to the War Department trying to locate John for her to have her son acknowledged in name.

I have photographs of Balmoral, the Latta family home in Warrnambool (1904) and Grace Parker Latta and wife of John Latta with her baby daughter Gladys in 1904. She is my Great-Grandmother.

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### **Latta Family Branch 12 in Australia**

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

My family Branch 12 as suggested by Thomas Kintigh in 2003. There were two brothers who came to Victoria, Australia from Killenny, Donegal in Ireland in 1841. Their names were:

1. John Latta B: 1813, D: 1873 of the sketchy facts I have so far. John married Catherine Lemon in 1843 and they have their first son, another John in 1849 in Queenscliff. (Queenscliff is about 100 kilometres from Melbourne and my family always holiday there, as it is a delightful seaside town). A letter is recorded as being unclaimed for him in Geelong (the next largest town) in 1844. John Latta then comes up in public records as being insolvent in 1851 (this was very common as people tried to establish businesses in the new colony) the next records occur in and around Buninyong, Maryborough and Ballarat the gold mining areas until he died in 1873. John and his family will be part of my next research.

### **2. William Latta B: 1818 D: 1876**

William, my Great- Great Grandfather marries Sarah Black in 1849 at Scots Church in Melbourne. It was the only Presbyterian Church in Melbourne at the time. They seem to be unable to read or write because they only make their mark on their marriage certificate. From Melbourne, Victoria they travel down to Tower Hill about 300 kilometres from Melbourne on the West coast of Victoria. They probably go by coach, as the steamers have not yet been introduced to the area. They have their first child William in 1851 at Towerhill and they then appear to have settled in Grassmere (about 10 kilometres away) on land they leased. They spent the next 20 years establishing their life as farmers. They had a further 3 children. Mary in 1852 and John, (My Great Grandfather) and Sarah in 1856. I have not yet established if John and Sarah were twins but Sarah suddenly died in 1857 leaving William and Sarah with just the three children. Life was extremely challenging in Victoria at that time. They would have of course relied on their neighbours a great deal and daily life involved planting wheat, vegetables and other produce, attending markets to buy cattle and killing and sharing their animals between their neighbours and themselves. They transported food to the Goldfields in Ballarat for the miners by bullock and dray in the 1860s and possibly made a reasonable livelihood. Things start to become more difficult when William and Sarah separate in about 1868. According to the inquest on William's suicide in 1876. William had had a number of severe falls from his horse and a few rather savage fistfights and the family believed this affected his mind. He also drank rather heavily and things came to a head when he threatened to shoot his wife and then later his eldest son. The records show that in 1876 when he committed suicide by the use of a rifle this was his second attempt. He died on his 23rd wedding anniversary in 1876 after expressing remorse for the break down of his marriage. He lay dead for two days and was discovered by his neighbour George Warrell. The inquest was held in William's hut by the local coroner with 12 friends and peers from the area as jurors. One of the men was his

(Continued on Page 15)

## Latta Family Branch 12 in Australia

(Continued from Page 14)

son-in-law, Richard Hammond. Half of the men could not sign their names and made their mark on the inquest documents. The family had a very troubled year that year and the eldest of Sarah and William's grandchildren, Joseph, died at age four. Sarah Latta died in September in that same year of debility. She was aged 53.

The family continued to live in the area and the rest of the story is yet to be researched.

Shirley Joy's family is from two brothers who came to Victoria, Australia from Meenavoy, Donegal in 1869. Their parents were John Latta and Margaret Rodgers.

The names of the brothers were:

1. John Latta B: 1830. He lived in Baynton, Kyneton.
2. Andrew Latta B: 1837. He lived around the same area in Malmesbury and Kyneton.

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## Australian Latta Timeline

By Belinda Peterson, Branch 12 Captain,  
Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

1813 - John Latta born in Strabane/Donegal, County Tyrone, Ireland, to John & Mary ?

1818 - William is born in Donegal (don't know where).

1820 - Catherine Lemon born - to (Catherine Lemon & John Crouchen) unknown

1841 - John and Catherine marry in Dunamagh, Tyrone, Ireland (information on Death register).

1824 - Sarah Jane Black is born in County Derry Is she Sarah Black?

1841 - Sarah Jane Black is 18. She leaves County Derry to travel to Greenoch Scotland with 7 brothers and sisters and parents James and Margaret. They travel as bounty on the "fever" ship the Manilus Reference: 4/4824 pages 240-7. 44

passengers die of Typhoid on the journey over. They arrive in Port Phillip on 16th Feb 1842.

1842 - John and William arrive in Port Phillip (now Melbourne, Victoria)

1841 - John Latter and Catharine Latter (Lemon) arrive in Port Phillip on the Intrinsic in 1841 reference: 4/4814 Page 60. If they were illiterate this may be how it was spelled by the officials.

1842 - William arrives in Port Phillip (now Melbourne, Victoria) could it have been 1842?

1841 - John and Catherine Marry in Dunamagh, Tyrone, Ireland (information on Death register)

1841 - John and Catherine arrive in Port Phillip (NSW colony) on 7th October on the "Intrinsic" (State records NSW-Immigrant Index Port Phillip 1839-51, 2144) (SRC AL, Bounty immigrants 1840-49 Film 2144).

1844 - Isabella Latta born 7th June (my GGG GM)

1844 - Unclaimed letter for John at Geelong Post Office

1846 - Isabella is baptized on Jan 20th by the Presbyterian, Church of Scotland Pyrenees parish, Port Fairy 2 miles from Tower Hill

The family's place of residence is 'Fiery Creek' and occupation 'servant' Fiery Creek (now called Beaufort) Pyrenees or Fiery Creek (since 1854 called Streatham) Ararat Rural City What date? Could it be after John 2nd was born?

1849 Phillip Latter arrives on the Laubaun? Reference: 4816 PAGE 186 Where did the ship come from? Who is he?

1849 - John and Catherine have son John, at Queenscliff (unconfirmed)

1849 - daughter Catherine birth is registered in Geelong (vicBDM)

1849-Jan 5th William Latta marries Sarah Black at Scots Church Collins St. They are both illiterate and cannot sign their name. Put witnesses names here.

1851 - son John is baptized at Geelong (vicBDM) I believe there were two more daughters born - I have yet to locate

1851 - William and Sarah have William at

(Continued on Page 16)

## Australian Latta Timeline

(Continued from Page 15)

Tower Hill. What did people live in at Tower Hill? How did they get there?

1852 - John Latta is registered as insolvent (Victorian insolvency list, John Noble Wilson, 1852) Why?

1852- William and Sarah have Mary Ann at Grasmere. Where is the exact location of the land and whom did they lease it off? (Augustus Bostock's diaries start here) Need to look for deeds and signatures.

1856- William and Sarah have John and Sarah at Grasmere (not sure if they are twins yet).

1857-Baby Sarah dies.

1855-1865? -Making a living, farming, wheat etc. Sending produce to the goldfields in Ballarat by Bullock and dray. William falls on his head a number of times, fighting, drinking etc. The children go to the local Primary school. Still open.

1865? - William and Sarah separate after he threatens to kill her with a rifle. He lives in a hut close by and William (son) stays there each Saturday night. William becomes quite depressed and drinks a great deal. Where was the hut located?

1870? - Mary Ann marries Richard Hammond.

1872-Joseph Hammond their first Grandson is born.

1873-William Hammond, second Grandson is born.

1873 - John Latta died age 60 @ Ballarat Hospital. The Ballarat Courier reported that "he was 60 years old. described himself a wood carter. died from injuries sustained whilst cutting wood.

1876- Jan 5th William suicides after threatening to kill son, William. Found by Joseph Warrell (neighbour). Last person to see him alive is John, his son. Inquest is held. 12 men from the community including son-law Richard Hammond's father are the jury. See transcription.

1876-4 year old Joseph Hammond dies.

1876- Sept 21st Sarah Latta (Black) dies of debility. Both are buried in unconsecrated Woolesthorpe cemetery.

1878-Robert, 3rd Grandson born and Helenah 1st Grand daughter born (twins?).

1879- Henry, 4th Grandson born and daughter Mary Ann Hammond dies childbirth? Richard Hammond remarries transcribe.

1895 - April 18th, Catherine Lemon/Latta died - age 75 (vicBDM). Both are buried in the Presbyterian section of the Ballarat New Cemetery.

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## The Death of William Latta

By Belinda Peterson, Branch 12 Captain,  
Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

The Suicide of John Latta's father, William Latta, born 1818 who came to Australia in 1842 from Donegal.

Transcription 1.

Newspaper titled: The Belfast Gazette  
And Portland and Warrnambool Advertiser

Edition date: Friday January 14 1876

Published: Belfast (aka Port Fairy).

Page 2. Column 4.

The usually quiet township of Winslow was the scene of unwonted excitement on Friday evening last, when it became known that an old resident named William Latta had been found dead in his house. The deceased, who was a farmer, seems to have been subject to violent paroxysms of rage, and at such times to have become quite insane. At the inquest, which was held before Mr. J. H. Craig, on Saturday, it was stated by one of his sons that the deceased through his violent conduct had estranged his family from him, and that he had lived by himself. He had seven or eight years ago attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat, and lately he had threatened to shoot one of his children. The deceased was found lying dead on the floor of his house by a witness named George Warrell. It appeared that Latta had tied the stock of his gun to a plough and had attached a piece of leather to the trigger, and then by pulling the barrel towards him must have succeeded in discharging the whole contents into his stomach. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from a gun shot wound inflicted by himself, while in a fit of temporary insanity.

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## The Thirteen Commandants For Names

From George Horton,  
GeorgeHortonFam@cs.com

A "Tongue-In-Cheek" Viewpoint of a Family Researcher.

(1) Thou shalt name your male children: James, John, Joseph, Josiah, Abel, Richard, Thomas, William.

(2) Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, Virginia, May.

(3) Thou shalt leave No trace of your female children.

(4) Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as: Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey.---making them difficult to trace.

(5) Thou shalt Not use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.

(6) Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hix, Hixe, Hucks, Kicks or Robinson, Robertson, Robison, Roberson, Robuson, Robson, Dobson.

(7) Thou shalt, after no more than 3 generations, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a court house fire, or buried so that No future trace of them can be found.

(8) Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors, and vague innuendo regarding your place of origin:

(A) You may have come from: England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales....or Iran.

(B) You may have American Indian ancestry of the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe.....

(C) You may have descended from one of three brothers that came over from \_\_\_\_\_

(9) Thou shalt leave No cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.

(10) Thou shalt leave No family Bible with records of birth, marriages, or deaths.

(11) Thou shalt Always flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.

(12) Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative.

(13) Thou shalt name at least 5 generations of males and dozens of their cousins with identical names in order to totally confuse researchers.

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## Family of Maria Elizabeth Lotta

By Stella Van Note, Hemet, California

Husband: James Monroe Davis, born 12 May 1842, Springfield, Green County, Missouri, died 24 July 1922, Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma. His parents were Samuel Davis, born in 1812, and Elizabeth (Betsy), born in 1814.

James Monroe Davis married about 1861 to:

Wife: Maria Elizabeth Lotta, born 10 May 1845, Hemlock, Howard County, Indiana, died 30 May 1880. [Researcher needs help finding Maria's parents.]

Children:

1. M. James Samuel Davis, died 5 July 1934.
2. M. William Robert Davis, born 25 Dec. 1866, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, died 25 April 1905, Yucaipa, San Bernardino County, California.
3. F. Alice Davis, died 1900 in Galveston, Texas.
4. F. Kate Davis, born 18 April 1873, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, died 16 Sept. 1947, Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma.
5. F. Minnie Davis, born about 1874, died about 1958-1959, Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma.
6. M. Edward S. Davis, born 17 March 1877, died 29 July 1935, Bakersfield, Kern County, California.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Research Queries, Replies and Notes. Send your queries to the editor, Ken Mueller, 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, 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. Looking for information on Alice **Lota, Latta, Lata**. She married Charles Ewing **Davis** before 1927. They lived in DeQueen, Ark. and Texarkana, TX. Had 2 children, Charles Jr. and Mary Lynn. Who are Alice's folks? She is buried in DeQueen Ark. at Redman Cemetery. Jamboree66@earthlink.net.

2. Can anyone tell me anything about this family? 1860 Federal Census of Monroe County, Woodsfield, Center Township, Joseph **Pool**, 43, m, laborer, born Ohio, Gulia, 42, f, born PA, Richard C., 14, m, born Ohio, student, Ann, 12, f, born Ohio, student, John C., 10, m, born Ohio, student, The Gulia above is Julia **Latta** b ca 1817, d/o John **Latta** and Anna Elizabeth **Hockenberry Latta**. She died 1894. Who are Joseph's parents? Their daughter Eva Ann married Jeffry **Christy** in 1871. Does anyone have anything on that family? I think that their son John C. married Carrie? and had a son Walter. Any information would be appreciated. Betty **Kitchen**, kitchen2@adelphia.net.

3. A book offered on E-Bay was "1966 **Orton-Burns-Latta-Rogers** Family History". It sounds like the book is, "Dr. Myron **Orton** and Mary **Hoit Orton** Family," by R.W.G. **Vail** and Marie **Rogers Vail**. Since I don't have my copy of the book at hand, I cannot check the year of publication. The book has a great deal of information on individuals from Branch 4 in NY and MI -- although much of it is available from other sources, as well, such as R.H. **Latta's** notes. Nine of Myron **Orton** and Mary **Hoit Orton's** 33 grandchildren were born to their daughter, Lois, who married Albert **Latta**, so a significant fraction of the book is devoted to **Latta** descendants. About five years ago, I merged vital information from the book into my on-line database accessible from <http://home.earthlink.net/~talvacchio/>, so perhaps all of the relevant details in the book are already available to Branch 4 researchers. John **Talvacchio**, john.talvacchio@stanfordalumni.org, Ellicott City, MD.

4. I was fascinated by the letters in the new Latta Newsletter; they triggered these thoughts. The name **Pershing** was of great interest because I have been

aware for a long time that relatives of John J. "Black Jack" **Pershing** lived in Mt. Pleasant, PA. I did some more digging on Rootsweb and as best as I can determine, David H. **Pershing** appears to be a first cousin twice removed of the General.

I can't find "Stauffer" on any of my maps or as a place in the USGS database. But, the USGS database has a "Stauffer School" in Bullsken Twp, Fayette County, PA, next to the Mt Salem Church and Cemetery. It is about 5 miles southeast of the borough of Mt Pleasant, PA and two-thirds of the distance on a straight line from the communities of Prittsville to White.

My cousin Paul **Calhoun** and I have thought for a long time that branches 1 & 3 are closely related (brothers?). William **Latta** settled so close and at the same time as our Branch #3 ancestors. In the Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, Vol. 26, page 460 is the record of land Warranted to William **Latta**, 310 acres, Feb 4, 1786; to Moses and John **Latta**, 300 acres, March 3, 1786; to Epharim **Latta**, 300 acres, April 4, 1786. The three parcels are within 10 miles of each other.

William **Latta's** son Robert settled what was called "Haw Patch" in LaGrange County, IN. What is interesting is that there is a town land named "Haw" in Taughboyne Parish, Raphoe Barony, County Donegal, Ireland, right where Alex **Latta** thinks the first **Lattas** settled. Is that where the name "Haw Patch" came from? Tom **Kintigh**, tqkintigh@att.net, Branch #3, Tucson, AZ.

5. Maurice **Latta** came to Perry, Noble County, Okla. in the land opening. He was important in the area and helped build the Presbyterian church. Memory tells me they were from Indiana but I'm not sure. I do know they came here from Kansas and I think the father had died there. I think two or more boys stayed there and at least two came to Okla. I think he married at Perry. He went to D. C., and worked as a secretary for several presidents and was sometimes known as Mr. Washington. His brother went to Guthrie, Logan County, Oklahoma which was the capital. He died there and is buried at Guthrie Cemetery. When the book at the library said his marker was 7 foot tall, I had to see that. Thinking it would be easy to find, I went to look. It was nowhere. Thinking it may have fallen, I walked

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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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row by row and there it was with a cedar tree growing all around it. It was funny. There was a couple of other stones too. I'll try to find my notebook for further information. Mary Latta Fultz, [mjf@provalue.net](mailto:mjf@provalue.net)

6. A James Latta was born in 1856-18 Apr in Port Glasgow-Renfrew to David Latta & Elizabeth Black. There is a family researcher, Dianne Blackwell, who says : he had middle name McFarlane, was after Uncle James Latta who married Elizabeth McFarlane. Emigrated to Australia 1888 with 3 children, and a 4th born there. James Latta is at 106 Eaglesham St, Govan LNK, Occ : Ship sail maker with wife Jemima Fraser and 1 mth old dau. Margaret. At Nr. 25 same street is Robert Latta born Ireland, with wife Mary Rice & 5 chd. - not brothers? Maybe cousins? Regards, Anne, [tsaod@slingshotco.nz](mailto:tsaod@slingshotco.nz).

7. I am looking for anyone related to Commander Frank D. Latta of the USS LAGARTO. The WWII sub that was lost at sea on May 3, 1945. If anyone has any information on CDR Latta or anyone else who may be related to someone who served on the LAGARTO please contact me. I have important news for the family! [kduvalle@wisconsinmaritime.org](mailto:kduvalle@wisconsinmaritime.org).

8. I am getting ready for a trip to Fort Wayne. I looked again at my branches on the web page, and discovered what I think is an error for Branch 27. I think there was no Thomas 1. Thomas 2 was the actual settler in the Manor of the Maske, in Pennsylvania, but probably not in 1740. The recipient of the Penn Patent was someone named Rapho. I find no evidence that Thomas was there before 1765 or 1766. It is very confusing, as both Rapho and Thomas Latta are listed as being there at the same time. I have convinced myself that Thomas Latta of York County is the son of John Latta of Br 19. I could be completely off the track there, as I have recently discovered a Thomas Latta in the Revolutionary war, who was a private in the Lancaster County Militia. Thomas Latta of Branch 17 was a Captain in the militia for York County. Sigh. Is there anyone else out there who has an interest in all this, or am I researching and coming to wrong conclusions all by myself. Ellen Rowan Taylor, Sierra Vista AZ, Branches 19 and 27, [ellenrt@cox.net](mailto:ellenrt@cox.net).

9. There was an obituary in our paper this morning for Maj. Gen. W.B. Latta, who died June 22. He was the son of W.B. Latta and Pansy Loomis Latta of El Paso, Texas. He was in the US Army Signal Corps, which, I suppose is why he was here. Fort Huachuca is Signal Corps, among other things. He was born in 1914. The obit was a full page-made me sorry I didn't know him. Anybody claim him? He had 3 sisters. Ellen Rowan Taylor, Br 19/27.

10. Major General William B. Latta was born in El Paso, Texas, in October 1914. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1938 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps. His first assignment was with the 51st Signal Battalion at Fort Monmouth. He left in September 1939 for duty at Fort Sam Houston but returned to Fort Monmouth in October 1940 to attend the Signal School. After graduation in 1941, he remained for four months as Acting Director of the Officers Candidate School. During World War II, General Latta commanded the 1st Armored Signal Battalion in the landing at Casablanca and participated in the campaigns in Sicily, Normandy, and the Rhineland. In May 1945 he became the Signal Officer of the XXI Corps in Germany. General Latta came to Fort Monmouth from duty as Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications and Electronics, North American Air Defense Command, in Colorado. He became the third Commanding General of ECOM in October 1965. He served until September 1969, leaving Fort Monmouth to become the Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications Command at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. General Latta retired from the US Army in August 1972. Keith Latta, [klatta@shaw.com](mailto:klatta@shaw.com).

11. I wrote a message in one of the boards that I had been trying to track down Ernest A. Latta. To make a long story short, I now have some information about his siblings, maybe you can find out if they are in with the rest of the branch one or find out who they belong to. Ernest was living in Lafayette, IN when he passed away on Feb. 26, 1943. He had 2 brothers, Oscar who lived in Michigan, Merle/Mearl of Wolcott, four sisters, Mrs. Minnie Stark, Mrs. Mary Sigman both of Lafayette, Mrs. Bertha Wampsher of Monticello, and Mrs. Pearl Dye of Delphi. His children were listed also, Rosemary, Wilma and Kenneth of Indianapolis, Richard of Lafayette, and Mrs. Lucille Stockdale. I think that Mearl and Pearl were twins, not sure though as I do remember seeing a set of twins by those names somewhere in the

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## Research Queries

Continued from Page 20)

**Latta tree.** I thought that this may be of use to you and if it can help to find out more about who and where they all belong. Again, thank you for any and all that you have been of help and can possibly help wrap this all up. Thank You, Donna, babe5144@yahoo.com.

12. I am searching for an Ada **Latta** who married a Thomas **Sewell** in England in 1893. Can anyone shed a bit of light on these people please! Thanks regards. Sue, suejan t@inet.net.au.

13. I am just beginning a genealogical search on my (maternal) grandfather's side of the family. Frank Raymond **Latta**, born Friendship New York, May 15, 1888, and died Santa Rita, New Mexico, September 29, 1952. He was the son of Emmit **Latta**, born May 28, 1849 in Friendship New York and Lura Merriam **Brown**. The only other information I have on Emmit was that he was in Co. #1, Nineteenth Regiment, New York Cavalry during the Civil War and served with the Fourth U.S. Calvary for a term following the Civil War; and that he and Lura had two other sons: Dr. Jefferson Brown **Latta**: born July 30, 1880, and Hubert Isaac **Latta**, born March 17, 1893 at Friendship New York. Can you or your readers provide any additional information/direction? Thank you, Jerry **Ravensdale**, expressave@idirect.com, 129 Maple Cres. RR #3, Puslinch, ON Canada N0B 2J0. [Editor's note: Jerry's inquiry inspired some of the articles in this newsletter.]

14. I am doing a family history, and found this **Latta** sight. My maternal grandmother, Helen (Nelly) **Latta** was born in Clyde in approx. 1885. They came to Canada and settled in Toronto, arriving first at Ellis Island for immigration processing. Maybe we are related? Glenna **Walkden**, Algonquin Travel, Kemptville ON, 613-258-0000(tel), 613-258-9643(fax), gwalkden@algonquintravel.com.

15. I am trying to find out who the parents of Addie E. **Lattea** was. She was born about 1907 in Lewis County, WV and died in 1985 in Palmar, Portage County, Ohio. She married Granville William **Ables** born Feb. 26 1907, Gilmer County, WV died Jan 28 1997 in Braxton County, WV. They were married June 7, 1926 in Gilmer County, WV. If you could help me with this it would greatly be appreciated. Barbara, barbsboy@qwickconnect.net

16. Thank you for the information. My family is African/American and we have traced our family back to the **Latta** Family. My great grandmother was a **Latta** and my great grandfather was a **Lindsay**. While searching some land records we found that the **Latter** family sold land to a **Lindsay** family when then arrived here from Scotland. The name of one of my ancestors is Suky and we found her on the a property list in the **Latta** Plantation in North Carolina. Any further information would be welcomed. My other email address is eegayles@comcast.net. Ernest **Gayles**, egayles@baltimorebsa.org.

17. These are the facts about the ones I'm asking about: William **Latta** was born in Michigan in May 1871. Apparently he was in Jackson Co., AL/Marion Co., TN/Hamilton Co., TN (all bordering counties) by 1883. It was somewhere in that tri-county area that my great grandfather, Mason Cotnam **Weatherby** was born in 1883. By 1896 they were both in Nashville TN. In a court document dated Jan. 1896, William states that he is Mason's half brother. If true, then they would have had the same mother. William, being 12 years older than Mason, you'd think he'd know who his parents were. However, on Mason's death certificate in 1929, William states that Mason's parents were unknown. Now that is my source of interest in the **Latta** line, but in the course of trying to find my answers, I ran across another guy in Nashville who was trying to learn who the parents were of his great grandmother, Sarah **Latta**. On a couple of documents, she states that she also was born in Michigan in 1871, February I believe. In about 1886, she married William Marshall **Wilkerson** from Jackson Co., AL and shortly thereafter she and her husband were living in Nashville with William **Latta** and his wife. Now we both think this can't be just coincidental. We think maybe Sarah and William **Latta** were twins and one of them got the birth month mixed up on some document. Other things that seem to connect them is that both Sarah and Mason have mentioned that their mother was half Indian, and the **Wilkersons** and **Weatherbys** always referred to each other as aunts and uncles. All of the old folks are gone, so there's no one left to ask. We've checked the census reports and have found very little. Any clues would be a great help! Thanks again, Mechelle **Weatherby Bass**, bassm@lebanontn.org.

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## Research Queries

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18. Some other facts about this William **Latta**. My great grandfather, William Marshall **Wilkerson** married Sarah **Latta** according to census records about 1884, location unknown. According to the 1900 Tennessee census and their sons 1905 death certificate, Sarah was born in Michigan in February of 1871. My dad and aunt have told me on many occasions that my grandfather use to visit with a uncle Will **Latta** in Bordeaux. Uncle Will also came to their house many times to visit. The 1900, 1910 and 1920 census stated that William **Latta** was born in Michigan. Sarah and her husband William spent two years living on New York Avenue in West Nashville with this William M. **Latta**. We believe that Sarah and William **Latta** were related, but not yet sure how.

The first time that William **Latta** appeared in Nashville was about 1884, about the same year that my William and Sarah were married. William **Latta** married Rhoda **Sweeney** on June 30, 1889 and both were working at the National Mfg. Co., a cotton mill in North Nashville. To this marriage was born three children, William Alonza, James Walter and Georgia Mai **Latta**. In the 1910 Tennessee census, William stated that his father was born in Fran. Canada. Could this have been Frankford, Ontario, Canada?

Our Latta story gets more confusing after 1899. William and Rhoda were granted a divorce on April 14, 1899 in Nashville. Two months later, a William **Latta** married Dovie **Earls** on June 10, 1899 and a few months later, Rhoda remarried to a William **Baldwin**. In 1900 Alabama census, Rhoda and the three children were shown living in Stevenson, Alabama with her parents. Rhoda's husband, William **Baldwin** has not been found. For a short while, Rhoda, the children and her parents were found in Huntsville, Alabama and by 1903 were living in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Rhoda moved back to Nashville in 1907.

Now back to William **Latta** and Dovie **Earls**. They were granted a divorce on February 29, 1908 in Nashville. Less than five days after this divorce, a John William **Latta** married one Rhoda **Sweeney Baldwin**. Was this John William **Latta** and William M. **Latta** the same person? As you can see, it has been confusing!

All three of William and Rhoda **Latta**'s children meet with a tragic death. Their youngest son, Walter was a switchman for the Nashville Railroad and was crushed between two boxcars. William, the oldest son,

was shot six times outside of Bearden's Pool Room on Murfreesboro Road. William was a federal prohibition officer and newspaper accounts said he was taking hush money from a convicted moon shiner. Georgia Mai died in a trailer fire in 1971 in Tampa, Florida. Any help with this family would be deeply appreciated. George **Wilkerson**, Nashville Tennessee, wilkerbee@aol.com.

19. Does anyone relate to this man? According to the 1920 census of Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, Linton **Latta** was 58, his wife Minnie was 56, his daughter Elizabeth was 19 and William Charlton (who is in Who's Who) was 17. My Mary "Polly" **Latta** married John **Elliott** in Butler Co., OH. Her father was Joseph **Latta** of Butler Co. (and other places). Polly died in 1837 (a young woman), so the connection is tenuous at best. Connie, R.leman@comcast.net.

20. I was just reviewing a new release from Ian **Latta**, Branch #14, which shows a connection to **Millers**. It goes like this: William **Latta** married Jean **Jamieson**. They had a daughter Agnes who married John **Miller** at Mid Kelton Farm, near Dumfries. Unfortunately no dates were provided. Just a thin lead for you. Alex. **Latta**, Br. #16, allatta@gambit.ab.ca.

21. The grandparents of James **Latta Miller** were born in Antrim, Ireland and died in Glasgow. James was the second generation born in Glasgow. As there were many **Millers** and **Lattas** in Antrim at the time of his grandparents, it is likely that the original connection of the two families was in Antrim. The earliest record I have been able to find of a **Latta** in Antrim is Thomas **Latta**, born 1684 in Antrim, and died at Orange, North Carolina - no date. Keith **Latta**, klatta@shaw.ca.

22. I am searching for the marriage record of Robert **Latta** (1773-1851) and Isabella **Johnston Waddell**, a widow (1768-1853). They lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, but the marriage most likely would have been in Pennsylvania. Robert **Latta** is Branch 1, and was born 29 Sept. 1773 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He died 28 April 1851 in La Grange County, Indiana. Isabella **Johnston** was born 25 Dec. 1768. She died 2 Feb. 1853 in La Grange County, Indiana. I would also like to locate her parents and place of birth. It may have been either Scotland or Ireland. Thank you, Ken **Mueller**, editor, Doc Huer@aol.com..

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(Continued from Page 19)

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\*\*\*\*\*

**More on DNA Testing**

By Robert M. Hawkins, Branch 22 Captain and DNA Coordinator, 520 Audubon Place Ct., Manchester MO 63021, Bobhawk507@sbcglobal.net.

I guess everyone is wondering how the DNA Project is coming along. Well, it seems that when I submit an article there is a flurry of activity. When the project was started I was in the dark about all of the facts. As the project has progressed it has become apparent that the 12 marker test while good is not sufficient for close matches. There are 85 other participants that are not named Latta that share the same 12 markers. How can this be? Well, the 12 marker test goes back around 40 generations to the time when people did not have a last name. Maybe bothers were separated over time and took on different names or maybe they were adopted. It is an interesting study. I urge all of you to go to the FamilyTreeDNA website and read all of the facts. It is amazing what I have learned in the last year. We have had participants from the following branches: 1, 3, 13, 16, 18, 22, 30, 31, 49, 51. We also have a man named Norbert Latta from Germany that has sent in a sample. He belongs to no branch and it will be interesting to see his results. We have had people from Scotland, Australia and South America express interest. If you do not see your branch above please take the test. In the next issue I will give a breakdown of the markers of each branch tested and the estimated range in common ancestors.

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To help everyone interested in testing their DNA, page 24 of this newsletter will be a form that you can mail to Bob Hawkins. The cost is about \$100. Usually the test is done on males surnamed Latta for comparisons. Donations for those who would like to be tested, but cannot afford it, would be appreciated.

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