

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 37

Spring 2009

John Donald Latta & His Family As told by his wife, Flossie Witt Latta and his children with stories, events & photographs

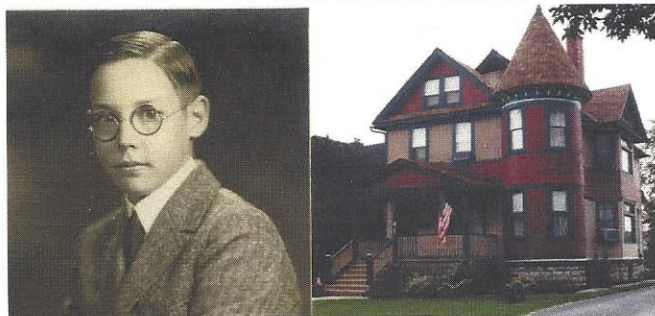
By: Margaret J. Hundertmark, Branch 5 Captain,
mjc-mark@execpc.com

"In 1908 Mary Williams Latta was visiting her parents in Henry, Illinois. I do not know if her husband, Samuel [Wellman Latta], was with her but I believe he was. She or they were returning to LaGrange, Illinois by train. They lived in La-Grange. She was pregnant [with her first child] and her time was almost up. Soon after leaving Henry, Illinois, she began to feel labor pains and they continued to become more severe. As the train stopped at the Union Station in Chicago, the conductor hurried the other passengers off the train and ushered in the train doctor who was extremely dirty including his hands and nails. After delivery, I do not know if they went to the hospital or home." They named the baby Roger Dascomb Latta. From Flossie Witt Latta's Autobiography, 1989.

John Donald Latta, called "Donald" or "Don", was born January 27, 1910. His father was Samuel, and was called "Wellman", his mother was Mary Williams. He is the second son of this family and with black hair and darker skin, looked very much like the Italian side of the Latta ancestry. He was born at Naomi Williams' house, Mary's mother.

The family lived at 619 Stone Avenue, La-Grange, Illinois, from 1911 to about 1918. This is the only house they ever owned, preferring to rent. From 1918 to 1921, they rented the house at 38 S. Kensington Ave, LaGrange.

On May 5, 1922, the family moved to 41 N Madison in LaGrange. They lived there until 1925. Don was living at this address when this 8th grade photo was taken.



From an unknown newspaper source on September 30, 1922: "When helping to erect a radio aerial, Roger [Dascomb] Latta, 14 years old, 41 North Madison Avenue, La Grange, [Illinois], was burned to death. He was erecting the aerial at the home of a chum, Kenneth Elwell Jr., 35 North 5th Avenue. Mrs. Harvey T. Rockwell, a neighbor, who sought to rescue Latta, was burned so badly that physicians fear she may die.

"Electrocution resulted when Latta threw a wire for the aerial over live wires of the public Service company.

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Editorial

While reading the articles by Peter Latta and Margaret Hundertmark on their Latta ancestors, I was impressed by the way that historical events affected their lives. The poverty, famine and oppression in Ireland were a major influence on John Latta. The Great Depression and World War 2 put a definite stamp on the life of John Donald Latta.

With this in mind, our genealogical research on our Latta family should also include historical research into the social and cultural dimensions of that time period. Then we can better understand our Latta family.

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Published approximately thrice annually

Dedicated to research among the fifty-three branches of the Latta family worldwide, and of our family's origins in the Old World. Funded by members of the Latta Genealogy Society, a non profit corporation registered in the State of Washington.

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\$10-15 dollars per year (US and Canada)
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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>

Articles will be edited for grammar, spelling, and clarity. Requests to publish an article will be individually evaluated by the editor.

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 27, Fall 2005, page 32. 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: Alan L. Latta, P.O. Box 508, Inkom, ID 83245, allatta@aol.com.

Branch 4: Randy Phillips, 41 S. Morrell Ave., Geneva NY 14456, parting_glass65@yahoo.com.

Branch 5: Margaret J. Hundertmark, W7489 Honold Rd., Fond du Lac WI 54935, mjc-mark@execpc.com.

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

Branch 7: Lorraine Latta, 3268 1/2 Atwater Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039, Lorraine Latta @aol.com.

Branches 10 and 15: Cindy Stiene, 158 Intracoastal Dr., Madison AL 35758-7925, lmsjfs@knology.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: Kathy J. Latta, 6104 94A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 0Y8, lattakj@telusplanet.net.

Branches 17 & 43 & 46: Sue Lattea Cox, 6 Woodhill Ave., Salem WV 26426, cscx57@verizon.net.

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

Branches 19 & 27/47: Ellen Rowan Taylor, 2763 Glen-garry Way, Sierra Vista AZ 85650, ellenrt@cox.net.

Branch 20: Vicky Latta - McCain, 1216 West Elm Street Kokomo, IN 46901, v.latta-mccain@sbcglobal.net.

Branch 22: Robert M. Hawkins, 520 Audubon Place Ct., Manchester MO 63021, Bobhawk507@sbcglobal.net.

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John Donald Latta

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will repay this loan as soon as he is able to earn funds.

"He is a hard and conscientious student and is somewhat handicapped by reason of the fact that he is working his way through school. I believe he has the ability to make a success if he is able to complete his education and I also believe that he is worthy of any advancement for funds which may be made to him. He has no bad habits, has high ideals and is the type of young man who ought to be given an opportunity. Yours truly, LH"

Don went to the University of Illinois receiving his Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. After graduation, he entered law school until he ran out of money and left the University at mid-semester of 1935. He finished his law degree at Loyola in Chicago.

Flossie says, "I graduated from the University of Illinois in June 1937 receiving my Bachelor's degree in Floriculture. Don was still attending Loyola.

"When Don wanted to marry me, he told his parents of the pending wedding. His parents told him they only had money for one wedding and that went to his brother." On October 16, 1937 John Donald Latta and Flossie Witt were married in Kenwood New Church, in Chicago, a Swedenborgian church. The newspaper's wedding announcement stated:

"Relatives and a few close friends were guests at the wedding of Flossie Witt of Brocton, Ill., and Donald Latta, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Latta of Chicago, until recently of LaGrange, Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock [October 16, 1937]. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Percy Billings at the Kenwood new church, corner of Forty-Sixth and Woodlawn Avenue.

"Miss Agnes Harlan of LaGrange played the wedding marches and the vocal soloist was Mrs. Harold Witt, who sang 'Through the Year' and 'Because.'

"The bride had her sister, Irma Witt, as her only attendant. Dr. Philip Latta, a bridegroom within the past year, served his brother as best man. The ushers were Harold Witt and William Latta.

"Burgundy velvet was worn by the bride. She carried a bouquet of small white chrysanthemums. Her sister was gowned in sapphire blue satin and her flowers were bronze pompons.

"The church was decorated with bouquets of white chrysanthemums and palms. Following the ceremony the reception was held at the apartment of the bride and bridegroom at 1352 East Forty-Seventh place, where Mrs. Philip Latta, the former Ada Weissbrenner of LaGrange, presided as hostess.

"The couple met while attending the University of Illinois. Mrs. Latta was graduated from the University and has had an interesting secretarial position at the office of the publishers of Time. Mr. Latta works at the Western Electric and in the evening attends law [Loyola] school.

The bridal couple has been entertained by LaGrange friends on several occasions."

The wedding photographer never showed up.

Flossie says, "When Don graduated from Loyola, June of 1938, I was 7 months pregnant and couldn't go to his graduation. I felt very bad to miss it. We were staying with Don's mother and father. We didn't have any money. I got pregnant right away after we got married. Don had lost his job with Western Electric and tried selling pots and pans and kitchen items again, door to door like he and Philip did at 15 and 16 years old. He sold only two dishtowels. We stayed with Don's parents until Gwen was three months old."

In June 1938, John Donald Latta received his Degree of Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School.

On August 4, 1938, at Henrotin Hospital, 939 N. LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois, Flossie gave birth to the first of their five children, a girl they named Gwendolyn Alice. Don and Flossie lived at 6121 N. Washtenaw in Chicago.

In June 1938, John Donald Latta received his Degree of Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School.

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John Donald Latta

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"In 1938," Flossie says, "the Country was still in the depression and Don was unable to find a job. He had stayed in the Army Reserves as a 2nd Lt. [received July 18, 1935, after ROTC in college] and he heard that Junior Officers were needed in the CCC's. He was accepted and sent to Tomahawk, Wisconsin and paid the huge salary of \$275 a month."

The Civilian Conservation Corp, CCC, was one of the programs that Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) created to put people back to work during the depression. Many of our state parks, bridges and other structures have signs on them saying they were built by the Civilian Conservation Corp.

Flossie states, "Don became a 1st lieutenant on August 29, 1938 at the CCC camp in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Don had been there several months and I decided to go and join him. Gwen was 3 months old and every body was sure I was going to give her pneumonia or something.

"There was one incident Don had in the CCC's. After Tomahawk, he was transferred to a mixed, 'colored' and white, camp in western Wisconsin where we lived in a boarding house: the only females there. Gwen was just learning to walk and got lots of attention from the men. While there, Don used a slang expression with the word "nyger" in it. One look on the men's faces and he realized what he had said. He was whisked out of camp that night.

"No one knew where Don went and I did not hear from him until he was in Danville, Illinois. So, I took the girls back to Mother and Father Latta's on the train. As we were leaving the train bathroom, the train lurched and the door swung back and hit Gwen right in the face. She had a bright red mark from forehead to chin. She made sure everyone knew she was hurt.

"We moved to Danville from Chicago. We took a bus to Chrisman, Illinois, and from there to Danville. Raymond Witt, my brother, lived with us in Danville."

In 1940, Don was transferred as Administrative Personnel Officer to the CCC camp at Collinsville, Illinois.

Flossie says, "While Don was working at Collinsville, we lived in Edwardsville. I was pregnant when we moved to Edwardsville. "Before the baby came, Mother Latta came to stay with Gwen. My doctor got sick and his office called and said they would have to give me a new doctor. When we called him to say I wasn't feeling well, he said he wanted to examine me. He examined me at 10:00 and Margaret was born at 10:07, I think. The doctor just got downstairs to the waiting room and Don heard me yell. Don said, 'That's Flossie.' The doctor told Don the birth would be about 4:00 and told the nurse to go and get some pills for me. While she was gone, I started yelling because Margaret was coming fast. The nurse laid across me and got me into the delivery room. When I came to, I said, I had a nightmare. The doctor was leaning over me, his tie down on my tummy. He said, 'You had a nightmare; what do you think you did to me?' Margaret's birth certificate originally had unsterile

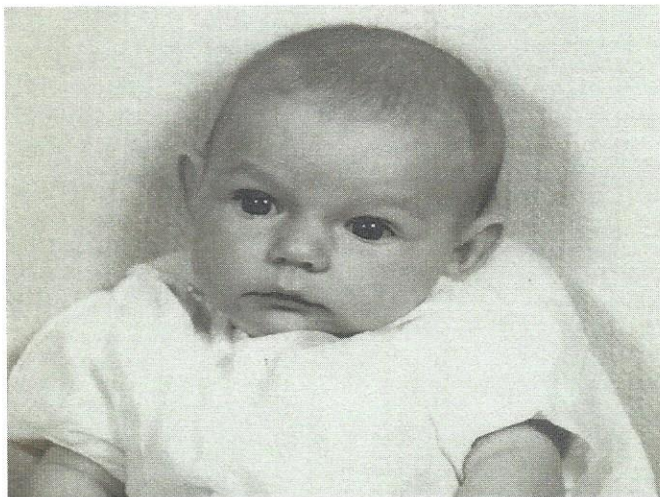
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John Donald Latta

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birth on it. It isn't there any more. The doctor wasn't sterilized and I wasn't either."

On August 12, 1940, at St. Joseph's Hospital, on 5th and Oak, in Alton, Illinois, the second daughter was born to Don and Flossie and named Margaret Joyce. St Joseph's was a Catholic Hospital and religious medals were kept pinned on her while in the hospital. We lived at 721 Randle St, Edwardsville, Illinois.



Flossie was told by the doctor, "Margaret was a menstruating baby. Her little body was trying out all its new parts." Flossie says, "This vaginal bleeding continued for four to five days. When I told grandmother Eliza Witt about it, she declared that Margaret would never have any children, but she had three.

"In Edwardsville, when Gwen was still 2 years old, she followed the grounds keeper of the apartment building around whenever she could." Gwen says, "He was a good surrogate dad." Flossie continues, "They were sitting on the steps of the building when he gave her a sucker. She immediately began to enjoy it. When she had been sucking it for a spell, she took it out of her mouth, looked at it and said, 'This god damned thing is almost gone'." Gwen said, "I'm sure it was a direct grounds keeper quote."

Flossie says, "Don got transferred to Pekin, Illinois. I was in the hospital 5 days with Margaret. When I got out, Dad [Arthur Witt] and a neighbor came up and moved me out. I moved back to Mom and Dad's with what little furniture I had with me, which wasn't much.

"We joined Don in Pekin. Our address was 1318 Henrietta Street. In December, 1940, Don got his notice to report to report to Fort Knox, Kentucky by February 11, 1941 to military service for one year. Don went to Fort Knox and we joined him there. I was never left behind. I always caught up.

Flossie said, "The girls and I moved to Indiana, just north of Ft Knox and from there we moved to Vine Grove, Kentucky, into a duplex. There was an old barn on the property. Gwen loved to play in it. She would come home with all these 'trophies' that kids find."

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

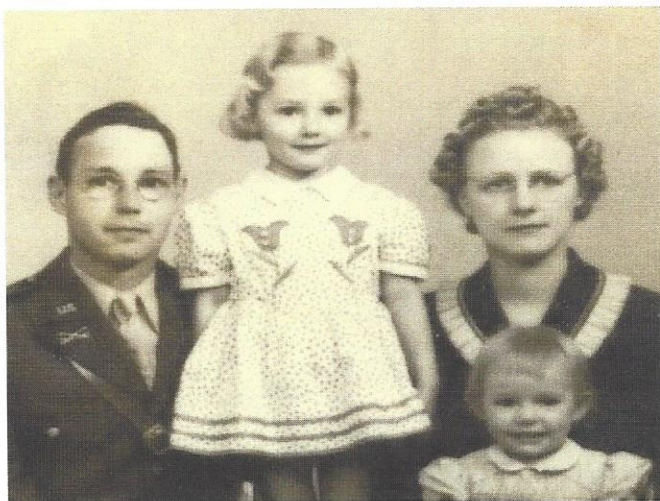
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John Donald Latta

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In August 1942, Don was transferred to Camp Beale in Marysville, California.

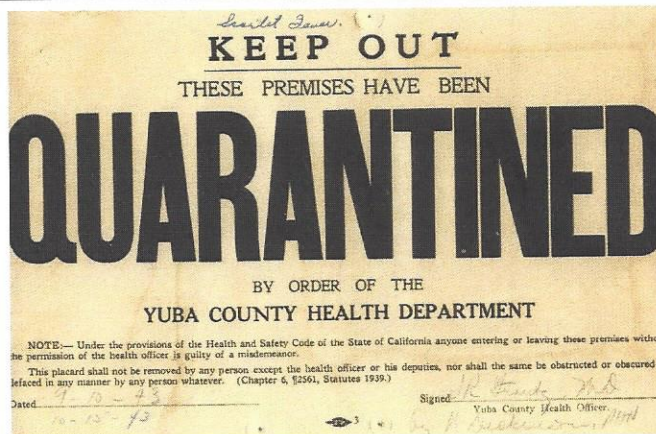
Flossie says, "The girls and I went with him to Marysville/Yuba City and moved into a new house, a little tiny place with 2 bedrooms.



"Gwen was supposed to start kindergarten in Marysville but the girls came down with the only two cases of scarlet fever in the county and on the same day. Gwen and Margaret had been invited to a birthday party by the couple that ran the Salvation Army. They had a maid who had gone to the clinic for a sore throat." Flossie states, "She must have licked the spoons of my girls as nobody else got it."

Margaret says, "Gwen and I did come down with scarlet fever [rheumatic fever but with a rash, both in the strep family]. The house was under quarantine from September 10, 1943, to October 15, 1943. My neck was so swollen that it was larger than my shoulders. I was 3 years old at the time. The only antibiotic available then was Sulfa. I was given more than any adult dose and the doctor was not sure if the scarlet fever or the Sulfa would kill me. Neither did! Gwen and I both have lifetime damage from scarlet fever. I have heart damage, and Gwen has kidney damage. Also, both of us are now very allergic to Sulfa."

Gwen remembers, "Dad would stand outside a closed window talking to Mom and telling us he



loved us as we knelt on the couch close to the window. All our toys had to be burned."

Flossie tells the dog story: "While in California, Don got the kids a little terrier-mix dog. It didn't grow up to be a very nice dog. Gwen started school and had to take a bus to get there. Margaret with the dog would go down to the bus with her when she was picked up. One morning the dog came running back and hit the front door." Flossie said, 'What's the matter with you, you crazy thing.' He had hit the door and fell over. He seemed all right, though. Margaret was playing with him and he bit her on the face. When I took the dog to the vet, he said Margaret would have to have rabies shots. They had to order it for her. It came in at midnight so I called Dorothy Cahn, next door, and told her I was leaving John and Gwen alone to take Margaret to the doctor. Rabies injections came in a series of seven. They were placed around Margaret's tummy button. She got the first series and then the dog proved to not have rabies so they stopped her shots." Margaret remembers being told the dog ran away. "All of us called and called that dog. We were not told what happened to him until we were adults."

On December 12, 1943, Don was sent to Camp Bowie, Texas.

Flossie says, "Don left me behind with 2 little girls. I was very pregnant. Mother Latta came to California to take care of the girls." Gwen remembers, "Children were not allowed on the maternity ward. We stood outside the hospital with

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John Donald Latta

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Grandma Latta and Mom came to the window so we could wave to each other. Margaret and I received Raggedy Ann and Beloved Belinda dolls along with a doll high chair for Christmas. When the Christmas tree lost all its needles, we used the only vacuum cleaner we had, a push-pull. We made a game of trying to clean them up."

On December 25, 1943, 8:37 a.m., at City General Hospital in Yuba City, Sutter County, California, the first son was born to Don and Flossie. They named him John Wellman. We lived at 1429 Sampson Street, Marysville, California.



Flossie says, "The children and I, did not join Don until April, as John was too young to travel. When John was three months old, I put him and the two girls in the car and started out for Texas. The car was a Studebaker with

the gearshift over by the door. If you punched it too hard, it went inside. Dorothy Cahn and her son Bobby went with us in another car. We weren't all alone that way.

"I left a day early as I had written to a relative of Don's, Zella Scott, down near Bakersfield, that I wanted to stop by and see them. I got there with the three little kids but she had gone with her daughter, 'Bunny', to an opera in St. Louis. She had a neighbor woman come in to cook dinner for us. The husband of Zella was out in the fields. When he came in, I was a little shocked because he came to the supper table pretty dirty. I grew up on a farm but my Dad was more meticulous. No arrangements had been made for us. He told me which room we were to use and I got ready for bed. The bed had been slept in before and there were no arrangements made for John. I cleared out a dresser drawer and made a bed for John in that drawer. We didn't see the family until the next morning. When I got up and started to feed John,

his formula had soured. I left immediately and had to drive into Bakersfield, 20 to 30 miles, for more formula.

"We met Dorothy about noon and started out for Texas. We dodged around Los Angeles and from southern California we went to Arizona. On one of the mountains, we came upon a circus or carnival train of semis. We were on a two-lane road and we were on the outside lane. Gwen told me she could look straight down [about 200 feet] just out of her window. I was honking the whole way. Every time there looked like there was going to be a curve or corner, boy, I really laid on that horn to let them know I was there. We went into El Paso. I wanted to go into Mexico but Dorothy Cahn's car wasn't doing well and my girls were not feeling good. When I checked to see about Mexico, I was told I would have to unpack the trunk and the car completely. I told them it was packed so tightly you couldn't get a bobby pin in. So I had to say, no thank you.

"I called Don at the camp in Brownwood to tell him we were coming in the next day. He said, 'Oh, you can't. It's over 500 miles'. I said, we're coming in. We got in and of course at that time trying to find a place to live was impossible. But, we had friends there: Don's boss, Major Hitchcock. They had one little girl, Janet. The five of us moved in with them in one room. They were very good to us.

"I kept checking the newspaper looking for a place for us to go. I phoned this woman and I had given the operator the wrong number. She said, 'Well, I will have a place to rent out by the lake, by the end of the month.' I took it. We stayed with the Hitchcocks for the rest of that month.

"The lake was beautiful. We were on sort of a peninsula and there were bushes and cactus all around us. There were fishermen all over, sleeping under the shrubs, cactus and just everywhere. We were not especially afraid. Gwen had already learned to swim when she was two years old. She swam like she knew where she was going. I use to throw objects off the end of the dock into the water and she had to dive for them. The house was just junk, though. When it rained, we had to keep

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John Donald Latta

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moving furniture because it was coming through the roof all over." Gwen remembers that, "Us children and Mom shared one bed when Dad was not there. When Dad visited, they drew a blanket across the room to give themselves some privacy." Flossie says, "We did finally get a house, another two bedroom. One bedroom had bunk beds in it.

"Don was in tanks. He was ambidextrous. He could shoot left or right-handed and was able to teach the left-handed men how to shoot. He would also be able to teach the men how to drive a tank left-handed."

On April 27, 1940, Don was called to arms in the Army and was to be at Ft. Knox, Kentucky by February 11, 1941. He was 31 year old. Don entered the Army Cavalry, which became the Infantry. He then went into the 13th Armored Division. His service number was 0334797.

Don trained at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and received the rank of Captain on July 6, 1942. September 5, 1942 he was sent to Camp Beale, California in the 13th Armored Division. On May 18, 1943 he earned the rank of Major. He was transferred to Camp Bowie, Texas on December 17, 1943 and then to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas for Command and General Staff School from August 19 to October 21, 1944.

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE:

17 Jun 37-30 Jun 37 Plans and Training Office
2ndLt Cav.

Dec 38-31 Aug 39 Junior Officer-CCC 1stLt
Cav.

2 Jul 40-25 Jul 40 Platoon leader 1stLt CMTC
1 Feb 41-May 41 Student-Instructor train 1stLt
Armd Tng. Ctr., Ft Knox

May 41-Feb 42 Platoon Leader 1stLt Armd Tng.
Ctr.

Feb 42-Sep 42 Co. Commander Capt Armd
Tng. Ctr.

Sept 42-Dec 42 Co. Commander Capt

16th Armd Inf Battalion of 13th Armd Div.

Dec 42-Mar 43 S2 Maj 16th Armd Inf Battalion
of 13th Armd Div.

Mar 43-Apr 44 S3 Maj Armd Inf. Bn.

Apr 44-Jul 45 Ex. Off Maj Armd Inf. Bn.

Jul 45-10 Sept 45 Ex. Off Maj Military Gov't.
Det.

Flossie says, "In August Don was sent to Command and General Staff School in Leavenworth, Kansas for eight weeks. We rented an old, old house on Pottawatomie St. Just a beautiful house, everybody was envious. It was furnished and next door to us was a bakery. They had a little boy who Gwen played with. The family lived above the bakery and the children played on the flat roof. They would go down to the bakery and his parents would give them a cookie.

"One Sunday afternoon, Gwen fell off the roof. She must have fallen 20 feet into the cement basement entry well. We had company and Don felt Gwen was all right. Our company felt she should see a doctor. But she was OK." Gwen says, "Dad saw me fall while watching from the dining room window. There was an old stable at the back of the property of our house and he had to go through that and into the back yard of the bakery to get to me. He gathered me up and rushed me back to the house. I remember feeling safe then. I had to keep my left arm in a sling for several days and acted like, 'poor me'."

Flossie says, "Don had orders to go overseas so he took the kids and me home to Mom and Dad's farm [Arthur and Maude Witt]. We rented a house in Paris, Illinois, but we couldn't vacate the people renting there, housing was so scarce. We did everything including getting a lawyer. We just couldn't get them out of that house so we had to stay at the farm."

From Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, Don was sent back to Camp Bowie, Texas from October, 1944 to January 17, 1945.

Flossie says, "On Thanksgiving, at the farm, I decided to go back to Texas. I stuck the 3 kids back in the car and we took off for Texas. We

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John Donald Latta

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stopped at Gardner Williams' house overnight. He was Mother Latta's brother. They had no children. So, when her husband was coming home, she told the girls and me to go into the bedroom. She sat in the rocking chair holding John. Her husband came home and here was his wife with a baby in her arms. The next morning she wanted to try out a new muffin recipe for breakfast. Then I started out for Texas once again, with some muffins to munch on.

"We got into Texarkana and it was raining like everything. I got a motel. It had an open slot for the car. I went to put the car in there and it hit a puddle of water and slipped. Boy, did I put a dent in the fender. I talked with Don that night. He said, 'Oh, don't worry about the car. That is the least of our worries'. The next day we went on down to Plano, Texas. Then I cut across to Brownwood.

"The house that we had rented before was vacated that day. The man who had been living there had a mistress. He took her to her train and his wife came in on that same train. We happily moved back into the little house.

Margaret says, "While in Texas, Gwen and I were taking turns riding on the back fender of a bicycle that my father was pedaling. I was about three years old and Gwen was five. Gwen went first. On my turn, Dad took a corner very sharply, I became unbalanced, my foot went into the spokes and my heel was badly cut. Dad carried me into the house with blood dripping all over, very upset over what he had done. Mom sat me on the rim of the sink and cleaned it out.

"I also had a painted turtle that I played with quite a bit. One day, it escaped in the house. Mom wouldn't walk around at night afraid she would step on it. We searched high and low. I remember even taking our couch apart as under the cushions there was a storage area. Weeks later, it came crawling out of the heater vent. It had probably crawled into a hiding place to hibernate."

Flossie said, "Don's orders were still to leave for Europe after the first of January. We had John christened and had Christmas. For New Years Eve, we invited the McCullough's and their son Bobby.

We had a good time. Then Mr. McCullough shipped out. He was the first man killed when they got to Europe.

"I think Mr. McCullough was higher ranking than Don, who was a Major. Don outranked his boss, Hitchcock, who was lazy. He didn't push like Don did. I had said something to his wife about it. She said, Oh, no, you are wrong". So I realized Hitchcock had not gotten a promotion and Don did. After New Years, we moved back to Mom and Dad's farm."

Don's departure date for overseas was January 17, 1945. His commanding officer was General Wogan, under General Patton in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns.

Under General Patton, Don and his crew were tank personnel. He told Flossie, "Don't tell me about our enemy. Our men were just as cruel. I saw our men shoot a civilian for no reason at all except to shoot. Don't believe them when they tell how cruel other people are because our men were just as cruel."

3 LATTA SONS**IN U.S. FORCES**

MAJOR J. DONALD LATTA



CAPT. PHILLIP R. LATTA



S/SGT. WILLIAM B. LATTA

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John Donald Latta

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Don and three of his men were in a foxhole that was taking heavy fire. Don told them, "follow me out." They didn't or couldn't and when he went back, all were dead.

Don also remembered: "A German soldier came around a corner. As he approached, I saw immediately that it was a child and told him to drop his gun and run 'rouse'. I couldn't shoot him. I brought that gun back with me and my son, Roger, has it in safe keeping at this time." Don was recognized for his kindness to the German people. The Germans were starving. He purchased a set of sterling silver tableware for eight people from a castle owner who needed the money to feed himself and his family." Gwen says: "For a long time, Mom had the receipt for the silverware just to prove that it was not stolen. That silverware is still in the family."

Flossie says, "I was living in Broadlands in a little old house with no heat and no running water. Dad [Arthur Witt] "came up from the farm and we were in a cesspool because everything was backing up on us. He came up a lot because of his grandchildren. I couldn't buy a stove; you couldn't buy anything. I did buy a little coal burner about so high and when you got that going, it was red hot. I was scared to death because John was walking and he could fall in it. He never did. I then got a kerosene heater. The town people felt sorry for us. We were so cold. So, they brought in an old heater and hooked it up in the living room. The rest of the house was still so cold that John and I moved into the little bedroom with the girls. I slept with one of them and John had his crib. I have never been so cold in my life as I was in that little house."

Margaret says, "Living in Broadlands, was Mom's sister, Erma Wood, her husband Ray and daughter, my cousin, Nancy. Mom wanted to be near her family while Dad was gone. Mom's parent's, Arthur and Maude Witt's, farm was just

about 20 miles to the south near Brocton. Gwendolyn went to second grade in Broadlands. We lived beside a railroad track and our Cocker Spaniel, Penny, would lie between the tracks as the sun heated the stone bed. One day a train went right over her and she got a very bad gash on her head. Mom dissolved aspirin and put it in the wound and she survived. I have an idea Penny never did that again. She still chased cars though and never learned not to even though she had many close calls." Flossie says, "We spent a lot of time at Erma and Ray's. In fact we lived there when Don was traveling home."

WWII in Europe ended May 8, 1945. Don was held overseas to be in the Army of Occupation. He returned to the United States October 9, 1945. He was awarded the EAME ribbon with 2 bronze stars and the American Defense Combat Infantry Badge.

Flossie says, "Don was held for the Army of Occupation. He didn't come home with his group. I didn't know where he was. Dad Latta called me and said they had received a telegram from Don saying that he was held back for the Army of Occupation. 'He's OK', he said. What Don had sent me didn't come through. He wasn't there too long. He did learn quite a bit of German because he was working with them directly now. He was no longer in tanks. He was to keep the peace. When they found out that he had three children, they said he had to go home. So he came home in time for our anniversary on October 16th. He looked wonderful. One trunk never got home with him and that had the gifts that he had for us. Don did bring quite a bit of silver but he had the sales slips for everything. He never stole it."

Gwen remembers, "Our Dad was to be held in Germany to participate in the Army of Occupation and we were to go there to live. Mom had started packing when she heard his orders were changed and he came home, five months after the end of the war."

To be Continued.

More Letters of Edward Latta

Transcribed By: Sue Lattea Cox, Webmaster,
csc Cox57@verizon.net

Letter 21 - Written on stationary from the Post Office, John McKee, P.M., Leavenworth, Kan. on March 13, 1883.

To My Darling Pet Wife & Sons

Pet I just got your letter of the 8th but ten minuts to go an I am glad that I did not get of for I got such a Darling good letter from my Darling Pet. Mama I have not touched a drop of anything since I commenced work and as Mama requests I never will God being my help for Mama & the boys is all I live for & as you say it will soon ____? but Papa & mama & for God sake Pet let us never ____? practice. I know if your hart is as good toward Papa as your letter there is no rume for doubt in papas mind and I ashure you Pet I am living vurtuous and as much of as gentleman as you wish to see & for who (Mama alone) Pet all you have done about the horses is all wright. dont let Thomas get a penny for if we move we will loose on that ame. I will write the first night I arrive in a good place. Pet I must run tn the train. This is on the quickest time I ever wrote. Pet it makes me so nervous when I get in a big hurry, so by by dear & beloved Pet I shall be true to my Darling and live up to keeping from drink. By By love to Mama and boys & all. Papa. E. T. Latta You can pay Brison - but let Stiric wait until I choose. Papa.

Letter 22 - written on stationary from the Post Office, John McKee, P. M., Leavenworth, Kan.
_____ 188__.

Forgot to tell you dont pay Sackwood far lots as I give an order an most. Dont pay any one but Benson as that is all By By Papa. Train pulling in.

Letter 23 - written on stationary from the Office of S. F. Atwood, Real Estate Agent, Conveyancer and Examiner of Titles, Leavenworth, Kas, Nov. 19, 1883

To My Darling Pet Wife & Sons

Mama I didnt get of [off] to day and I am glad of it as I will shurley [surely] get a good long letter from my Pet. but I have been buying hay to day on the market and hunting up some cares of hay that I bought last week so as to get them down to the Shugar [sugar] factory. I donot know now what day I will get away now but not before Wednesday at least and it may be not this week as we are now trying to make contracts by letter and I will not get to see any of them until I hear from them or hear by some other sorce [source].

Pet I have no news I only write to let my Pet know where Papa is and to let Mama know that Papa is still all wright and so Mama can write to me but I know Pet you wont fail to get me a leter 2 or 3 times a week if but a few lines so by by dear Pet from your own good Papa to Mamma & Boys Love to all. E. T. Latta

Letter 24 - written on stationary from the Office of A. J. Angell, Dealer in Lumber, Sash, Doors, Blinds and Paints, Nos. 601 to 615 Cherokee Street, Leavenworth, Kas. Nov. 20, 1883

To My Darling Pet Wife & Sons

Mamma your kind letter of Sunday is at hand & I am sorry that our chickens are ding so I expect you had better take 3 or 4 doz of the Carman chickens to town when you get up so we won't have so much feed to buy I think Harman is not acting wright about the money as he promised me to give you 4 or 5 dollars every week. So Pet send after money at least every once week and if you don't get the money take an order on the store and save your money for if we get away from there we will want our money & if they still owe us it will be hard to get it out of them. Mama you might get Harman to send 1 card of wood up to Mother if she is short. He promises to put 5 cards on our pile but don't get that unless you think our wood wont hold out till we get away. I am glad to hear my Pet say she wished we had nothing there so we would soon be together. I ashure you Pet that makes me feel glad to now Mama wants to be with Papa. I knew you are no moore anctions [anxious] than Papa so Pet I

(Continued on Page 15)

Edward Latta Letters Continued**More Letters of Edward Latta**

(Continued from Page 14)

didnot see in your other letter on the margin that you had acknowledged the receipt of the money. I was afraid you would not open the Deed until you would go to Sacrgo and you might loose it. That was the reason why I asked so often.

Mama, I am sorry that my Pet has to work so hard but you know Pet if Papa can make it go all wright here Papa will take the hardest of the work off of Mama but Pet I canot yet find out how long this will last or how much I am to get but I feel shure that it will n ot be less than 3.00 per day & expenses when away from town. Well Pet due the best you can with the chickins and that is all you can do. Papa could do no moore. Try & get shed of Priss if you have not yet. I am sory the boys donot want to come to Papa but that will be all wright when they get here. Pet Mr. Hass didnot pay me for those shingles I supose you remember the amount I donot now. I think 2 bunches at 65 cents each 1.35 cents is cost something to have them from town but due as you think best. Pet I believe I know nothing more & I am watching several loads of hay so I had better get out and see if I can make a traid {?} as it is now time for them to sell & go home & I want to get all I can as I may go out in the country tomorrow but I canot tell yet what my orders will be. I am glad to here Mama say she will write Tuesday. Pet write often if you know how much good it dose me to get Mama letter Pet you would never fail to get Papa 2 or 3 letter & any good one like the one today every Sunday so say to all by by Dear Pet from your dear & good husband E. T. Latta

Written on the top of Letter 24 upside down was "Business bill is all wright Pet it was 17.24 when I left there by by Pet."

Transcribed by: Beryl Redfield, Treasurer,
Bredf331@comcast.net.

Letter #25

Written on stationery of A.L. Stevens, dealer of baled hay, grain and commission and Polar Ice Company

Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov? 27th, 1883

To My Dear Pet Wife and Sons,

Mama I got your Sundays letter today and I never got your Fridays letter until Monday just before I went to Huron and I got your Thursdays letter Sunday so you see I came out all wright. As I did not know any better until I got the one Monday but that is not your falt Pet, so you write as often as possible every day if you can and I will do the same. I am glad that you got that musician? trip off of your hands. And am glad that Mama has got a cote that suits you once. Well Pet I think I will back out with Galian? And sell the Lot 35 to another man for a little more. I will know this evening so if I send you another Deed get it of as soon as possible. I bought 250 tons at Huran yesterday. I will try and write tomorrow if in town so By By Dear Pet from your own Dear and True Husband Papa. Love to the Boys and All. E.T. Latta

Written on the reverse side:

Mama I think you will find some of those Envelops up stairs on the shelf in a long box or one of those candy boxes. Why I spoke of the large one is Benson always markes due 2 cents on them when he don't on the short ones. A Deed or paper of that kind has to be put in a large one - that cannot be helped but I don't care if you use 25 cents worth every week. Pet you know Papa wants the letter from you. It makes my work lots better every day after I get my letter when away from here I don't expect them but wish for them all the time. I hope you have got rid of Puss by this time. Pet I think you had better sell that little Hefer if you can get \$25.00 for her for we wont get any more after she

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Edward Latta Letters Continued

(Continued from Page 15)

is wintered. Then you wont have so much to look after but due as you wish and think best. Pet that is the way Papa looks after our interest here I know no other way. So By By Dear Pet and Sons. Your True Papa, E.T. Latta.

Written around two sides: Pet – get a quarters worth of stamped envelopes at the PO office and then you will have them. It is the cheapest anyway. I get 12 for 25 cents.

Letter #26

Written on stationery of A.J. Angell, dealer in lumber, sash, doors, blinds and paints.

Leavenworth, Kansas Nov 21st 1883

To my Darling Pet - Wife and Sons,

Mama your letter of the 19th at hand with inclosed Pension Paper. They want that last paper I got acknowledged in Wapello. Look in the top inside pigeon hole in the new desk and you will find it in an envelope, a long one that has been folded in the middle. Take the paper out and send it to me it is not quite all filled out as you will see. Then Pet – look on another Declaration in the same hole and see what kind of sore eyes I state I had to write it on a slip of paper or in your letter so I can fill out the balance of the blank when it comes. Pet – I am glad to hear that the boys are so attentive to their studies. I am sorry that Mama is so tired of waiting and will be glad when I can take that work of off Mama. I hope you will get to town soon as I know you are anxious to get that of off your hands. Pet – I am sorry that you did not get my letter for I mailed both at one time Sunday evening and I cannot see why it did not get to my Pet.

Pet – you will see that I am making my office in Mr. Angell's office at the same time I get to use his telephone to the shugar factory which saves me lots of steps. Although I had to go down this morning and look up some cases and I am nearly wet through as it has been raining all day. I will have to get me an oil coat if I find I will get to stay. There is about 10 loads of hay on the market that I am

keeping one eye on, but it is a little wet so I am trying to buy it about \$2.00 per ton less than yesterday, and at the same time taking a little time to drop my Darling one a few lines. I do not think I will go out on the road this week but I have to do just as they say and when they say so Pet write every time you can if every day a few lines and I will do the same. I will get yours when I come in if I am not here at the time. Well Mama there is no news here that I know of. Of course you get the Doyle Paper and that gives you all the town news. So Pet I will close for this time. This letter I got I did not look for today so now I don't believe I will get one tomorrow but I will go and see, but write as often as possible. Get all of you can out of Harman so as to make your money last as long as possible. So By By Pet from your own Dear old Papa to Mama and Boys. E. T. Latta. Boys be good to Mama and mind her well, By By Papa.

Letter #27

Envelope addressed to Mrs. E. T. Latta, Grand View, Iowa. Return address from E. T. Latta, Leavenworth Kansas, dated Mar 8, year illegible

Small note inside reads:

Pet – at the office to mail this letter. Just from the Court House with my deeds in my pocket. By By

Reverse side reads:

Write so I will get a good long letter Saturday for Sunday I will be here for it.

By By Pet, my kises . Papa

Cover Note

This was the cover note included with the letters purchased through E-Bay by the Latta Genealogy Society.

Western Americana Letters of Edward T. Latta

Leavenworth, Kansas

Captain Edward T. Latta served with the 4th

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Cover Note

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Regiment Indian home guard during the Civil War, one of few Union officers to serve with Native Americans during the conflict. Afterwards he was a land speculator and cattle buyer through the end of the century around the Leavenworth area. A resident of Grand View, Iowa, he sent daily letters to his wife at home while he embarked on cattle deals and land acquisitions. Captain Latta worked for many of the rail yards as a purchasing agent for hay and grain to feed the thousands of beef passing east to market. This group of letters are mostly from the early 1880s.

(Editor's Note: This concludes this series.)

Love and Hardship – the Life and Times of John Latta

By Peter Latta, Moorooka, Queensland,
Australia, saggital@optusnet.com.au.

Following the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland, few concessions were granted by the Protestant Ascendancy to improve the lives of the predominantly Roman Catholic lower classes. The minority loyalist ruling class also incorporated Presbyterians, other Protestant denominations and non-Christians into their exclusionist laws and policies and these groups suffered from the same lack of civil liberties and representation as the Roman Catholics. In the troubled and oppressive times following the rebellion, a young Presbyterian couple John and Mary [MNU] Latta had a son they named John Latta in 1812. John was born in Strabane. In the Presbyterian community of Londonderry, another young couple James Crouchen and Catherine Lemon had a daughter, also called Catherine Lemon in 1820. John and Catherine were raised in a time when the repressed majority had little access to education;

and chances of improved social elevation and living standards were extremely limited.

John and Catherine were married in c. 1840 at Dunamanagh, about 10 kilometers north east of Strabane. Soon after their marriage they left the place of their childhood and the troubles of Ireland behind as they struck out for Liverpool, England. Liverpool was a staging point for new lives and adventures in distant lands and they were going to take advantage of the government's offer of sponsored relocation to Australia. Advertisements like the one shown here had been posted throughout the United Kingdom for a couple of years prior to their marriage as the British Empire strove to establish a colonial beach head in the south east corner of Australia, an area first mapped by Captain James Cook in 1770.

When they arrived in Liverpool, John and Catherine boarded the ship 'Intrinsic' for the voyage to the new country. The 'Intrinsic' was a 500 ton bounty ship and carried 283 assisted emigrant passengers when it sailed on 10th June 1841. The bounty refers to payments made to the ship's owner per passenger delivered alive to the end port. These payments were reliant on the receipt of a satisfactory report from those passengers regarding their care on the trip and the inspection reports from the colony's surgeons. The ship's owner often used part of this bounty to reward the higher ranking members of the crew. Other factors also had a bearing on bounty payment, such as age of the passengers, skill base, single, married or in families and evidence of disease. A close-to-even mix of unmarried eligible breeding stock was also required and to get around the problem of more men emigrating than women. It was usual to count unmarried girls 15 years and over as single women, while counting older sons travelling with their parents as part of a family group.

Only two of the passengers who embarked died on the voyage. However the seven babies born on the trip weren't so lucky, with only one making it to Melbourne¹ alive. This low death count was deemed to be very satisfactory. There are reports of over 40 people dying on similar voyages and other

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Love and Hardship

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"WANTED" - (published at Truro, August 19th, 1839)

"An opportunity now offers itself to all married persons of useful occupations particularly to agricultural labourers, carpenters, builders, stone masons, shepherds and blacksmiths of obtaining a free passage to Port Adelaide in South Australia (SA). A free colony where there are no convicts sent and where every person who immigrates is as free as he is in this country. Besides the classes of persons enumerated above bakers, blacksmiths, braziers and tin men, smiths, shipwrights, boat builders, wheel wrights, sawyers, cabinet makers, coopers, couriers, farriers, mill wrights, harness makers, boot and shoe makers, tailors, tanners, brick makers, lime burners and all persons engaged in the erection of buildings are always in great request. The applicants must be able to obtain a good character reference as honest sober, industrious men. They must be real labourers going out to work in the colony of sound body not less than 15 and nor more than 30 years of age and married. The rule as to age is occasionally departed from in favour of the parents of large families. As a general rule each child is considered as extended the age plus one year. Sisters of married applicants are allowed to go free if of good character.

The province of SA is a delightfully fertile and salubrious country, in every respect well adapted to the constitution of Englishmen and is one of the most flourishing in all our colonies. It is well watered and there have never been any complaints from the colonists of a want of this valuable element. On the contrary, the letters from Cornishmen who have written home are very satisfactory on this point. It should be born in mind that complaints of a scarcity of water do not apply to Adelaide but to other settlements not connected to SA.

Immigrants wishing to obtain a free passage this year must now have that opportunity if they apply immediately to Mr I. Latimer, Truro, who is employed by Her Majesty's colonisation commissioners to engage for that fine first class teak built ship the "Java" of 1200 tonnes.

The ship's accommodations are unusually spacious and lofty and are so arranged as to ensure the comfort of all passengers.

She will carry 2 surgeons and 2 school masters the latter of whom will be regularly employed in teaching the immigrants and their children. The vessel will call at Plymouth to take in Cornish passengers on or about the 16th of October but, in order to ensure a passage, application should be made forthwith." Mr. I. LATIMER, Truro, who is empowered by her Majesty's Colonization Commissioners to engage for that fine first-class teak-built ship the JAVA, of 1200 Tons.

cases of the passengers being so diseased on arrival that all had to be quarantined from the existing population. The owners of the 'Intrinsic' received the bounty amount of 3589 pounds when they delivered the new settlers to Melbourne on 7th October 1841.

John and Catherine's surname was spelt Latter on the ship's register, however all subsequent documentation of them in Australia spells it Latta. As John was recorded on the ships register that he could both read and write it would indicate that they weren't in a position to correct the error when it was entered. Their jobs were recorded as labourer and house maid on the same register and this isn't surprising as part of the conditions of being granted assisted passage was that you possess the skills required to build a new colony.

John and Catherine left Melbourne and journeyed southwest into the newly opened pastoral and grazing country seeking work. Catherine gave birth to their first child, a girl they named Jane, on

the 27th August, 1843. She was christened at the Presbyterian Church in Geelong less than a month after her birth on 22nd September, 1843. John's vocation is recorded as a servant on Jane's christening record. This entry may be an abbreviation for farm servant which was a common term used for general farm workers at the time. It may also mean that he was in fact someone's household servant.

Forty weeks and five days after the birth of Jane and almost three years to the day after their departure from Liverpool, Catherine gave birth to their second child at Fiery Creek, a girl they named Isabella, on 7th June, 1844. Although their sea voyage was well behind them it would seem that the memories of that journey remained clear in Catherine's mind. In a time when it was usual (almost mandatory it seems at times) to name your children after yourself and/or your parents, John and

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Love and Hardship

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Catherine chose to give their second born the same name as one of the babies who had been born on the 'Intrinsic', but had perished before sighting Melbourne. Isabella Burns is recorded in the ships log as having died at sea aged two months.

Holding true to their faith, they wanted to get Isabella christened by a Minister of the Presbyterian Church, but such an opportunity was scarce in the more remote areas of the new colony. They had to wait 18 months until their journey through the Australian bush looking for work found them in Port Fairy, approximately two hundred kilometres west of Melbourne, before they could realise their wish. Isabella was christened on the 20th January 1846 in the Presbyterian Church in Port Fairy.

Unbeknownst to John and Catherine as they travelled from Fiery Creek to Port Fairy with Jane and Isabella, events in Ireland had worked against any plans they might have held for a return to the land of their birth. The Great Potato Famine began in 1845 and many Irish people were either dying or leaving. News of this disaster may have reached Port Fairy by the time they had arrived there. Whenever they did get this news it would have brought two realisations with it. Firstly that if they were to return they too would be victims of the famine and secondly that they had no way of finding out what had happened to the family and friends they had left behind. John and Catherine could only wonder at the location and condition of those they loved as they prepared for Isabella's christening at Port Fairy.

It would appear that the search for long term paid employment wasn't too successful in this region either and Catherine had two more girls, Mary Ann in 1847 and Catherine on 28th August 1848, while they continued to wander. They had completed the full circle back to Geelong when they had Catherine christened in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Geelong in 21st March 1849. There seems to be no record of Mary Ann's birth or christening, however, the certificate of her

marriage to Thomas Merritt on 26th April 1864 lists her age as 17.

I believe that it is almost impossible to fathom how hard John and Catherine's life would have been at this point. They had four girls aged 5 and under and they were travelling through inhospitable terrain on some unknown form of transport with everything they owned. The roads, if there were any, would have been nothing more than tracks and established permanent farming communities would have been few and far between. Knowledge about which of Australia's flora and fauna were poisonous or edible was limited at best and medical assistance was all self administered. The friendliness of the traditional owners of the land was also variable.

Two years later and now living at Queenscliff (approximately 30 kilometres south east of Geelong), Catherine gave birth to their fifth child, John, on 5th Feb. 1851. John had slipped further down the social and economic ladder at this time as his occupation is listed as hawker on John junior's birth certificate. It would seem that John was not too suited to this vocation either as he was registered as insolvent at the Melbourne Registrar Generals Office on 27th June 1851. Future scenarios can't have appeared too promising for John and Catherine. They had struggled to establish a permanent home for themselves and their young family in the seven years they had wandered through the harsh terrain of south east Australia, so far removed from the Old Country they couldn't go back to. Even though he was educated and willing to work hard, John hadn't been able to establish a career or even secure employment that met the household bills.

While the year to date had brought mixed blessings to John and Catherine, 1851 was soon to become a watershed year in their lives. In 1850, Queen Victoria had signed the constitution for the formation of the Colony of Victoria and four days after John had been recorded as a bankrupt, the Colony of Victoria was created through an act passed by the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. The new colonial administration in Melbourne was headed by the Governor and the Legislative Council, which was one third nominated and

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And two thirds elected by limited franchise. This minority rule would have been very familiar to John and Catherine and I can't imagine that either of them would have been too happy to be living under very similar political circumstances to those they had escaped from in Ireland. A few months later gold was discovered in the new colony at Buninyong, near Ballarat, not too far east of where Isabella was born. To a man with no savings, no property, few prospects and little income, the idea of gold lying on the ground just waiting to be picked up must have been very enticing. Very soon after the gold strike announcement, John packed up his family again and, together with a flood of humanity of adventurous and democratic spirit, joined the gold rush.

The population explosion on the gold fields caught the new government ill prepared and they struggled to establish law and order. Their solution was to create the quasi-military Gold Commission, whose gold-braided and aristocratic officials were empowered to administer the burgeoning gold fields in the absence of civic institutions and democratic representation.

By 1854 in Ballarat, the easy surface gold was exhausted and a population of some twenty five thousand, including immigrants from the United Kingdom, Ireland, North America, Europe and China, were engaged in tracing the ancient buried river beds or "deep leads" across the hillsides and gullies east of the Ballarat Flat. This necessitated the slow, expensive and uncertain process of sinking exploratory shafts down through layers of clay and treacherous waterlogged silt and gravels to the bedrock, and with luck, to the elusive "gutter", up to 50 metres below the surface, where the precious metal lay concentrated. In October 1854, the Eureka Lead had been traced from its beginnings in the ranges north east of Ballarat, southwards to a point close to the east of the Government Camp. The Eureka was predominantly an Irish area, though many other nationalities were also

represented there.

As the sinking proceeded, the surrounding hillsides were progressively denuded of trees to provide timber for shoring for the diggings, firewood and building material. The luck of the Irish wasn't with John and after exhausting the meagre pickings of his claim he turned to woodcutting to earn a living. At last John had found a vocation where his willingness for hard work was a quality that allowed him to maintain steady revenue to support his family.

The main mechanism for the collection of Government revenue on the gold fields was the "Miner's Licence", which entitled the holder to work a single 12 foot (3.6 metre) square "claim", and on which a flat monthly fee of 30 shillings was payable, regardless of the amount of gold recovered. The terms of the licence were irksome to the diggers on all the Victorian gold fields, but nowhere more so than Ballarat, where the fortunes of deep lead mining were so uncertain. Irksome too were the inadequate procedures for settlement of the many claim disputes, the inconvenience and indignity of the frequent "licence hunts", the arbitrary and often brutal exercise of police authority during the licence hunts and sly grog raids, and the general atmosphere of privilege, patronage and corruption which permeated the administration of the gold fields.

In September 1854, with his government under budgetary pressure, and concerned at the low level of licence compliance, the Governor Sir Charles Hotham secretly ordered an increase in the frequency of the hated licence hunts to twice weekly. For a time, a violent response seemed imminent at the volatile Bendigo field, but it failed to materialise. Instead, two events occurred in October at Ballarat, hitherto the most peaceful and industrious of fields, which inflamed the situation there even further. The first was the wrongful arrest during a licence hunt, and the subsequent conviction for assaulting a trooper, of a crippled, non-English speaking Armenian servant of the Roman Catholic priest, Father Smyth. The second was the unpopular acquittal of the publican of the Eureka Hotel, James

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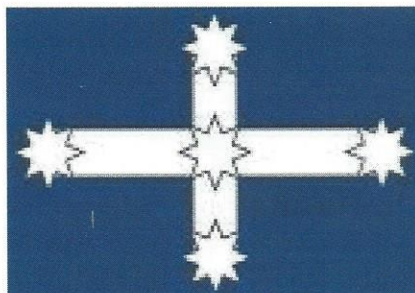
Bentley, who had been charged with the murder of a miner, James Scobie. After an angry mob burned Bentley's Hotel to the ground, Commissioner Rede, resolving to reassert government authority and teach the diggers a lesson, requested troop reinforcements.

On Sunday, October 22, a crowd estimated at upwards of ten thousand miners assembled to discuss their grievances on Bakery Hill, directly across the flat from the Government Camp, on the road to the Eureka. Considerable anti-government sentiment was voiced at the meeting, and the Camp was fortified and guarded against attack for a week afterwards, but no violence eventuated. Following a second mass meeting on Wednesday November 1, the Ballarat Reform League took shape under the moderate leadership of J. B. Humffray. Throughout the next month, the League sought to negotiate with Commissioner Rede and Governor Hotham, both on the specific matters relating to Bentley and the men being tried for the burning of the hotel, and on the broader issues of abolition of the licence, democratic representation of the gold fields, and disbanding of the Gold Commission. These attempts at conciliation were unsuccessful. Instead, Rede's and Hotham's pronouncements and actions throughout November seemed designed to goad the more belligerent elements among the miners into precipitating a crisis.

Tension began to mount again when the military reinforcements arriving from Melbourne by way of the Eureka on Tuesday, November 28, were set upon by a mob, and a number of baggage carts were overturned. In the resulting melee, a number of men were injured, and a drummer boy was said to have been fatally wounded.

At a mass meeting on Bakery Hill on Wednesday, November 29, the blue "Southern Cross" flag flew for the first time behind the speakers. The Reform League's delegates reported their failure to obtain any undertakings from Governor Hotham, other than the promise of a Commission of

Enquiry, which was perhaps seen as a delaying tactic. With the patience of the miners running out, and the mood of moderation beginning to darken, the meeting voted in favour of burning licences and general resistance to the arrest of unlicensed miners.



The Southern Cross, also called the "Eureka Flag".

Rede's provocative response was a license hunt on Thursday, November 30 at the Gravel Pits Lead, the nearest to the Camp and hitherto the most compliant. Eight defaulters were arrested, but the military had to turn out in force to extricate them and their captors from a large and angry crowd.

Following this raid, the most belligerent of the miners converged on Bakery Hill. In the absence of the official League leadership, moderation was set aside in a rising tide of anger, and a more militant leader, Peter Lalor, seized the moment. Licences were burned, the rebel flag was again unfurled, and the miners swore an oath of allegiance to it. A council of war was established, captains were appointed, various divisions and brigades, some nationally based, were formed, and the rebels marched in a long column to Eureka. Pikes were forged, and firearms, provisions and horses were donated or requisitioned. Drilling commenced, and shows of force were made within sight of the Camp.

Tension was high across the field on Thursday night. The Catholic priest, Father Smyth, made two trips from Eureka to the Government Camp in an unsuccessful attempt to mediate. Nevertheless,

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Love and Hardship

(Continued from Page 21)

the widely anticipated attack on the Camp did not eventuate.

The next day, Friday, December 1, Rede learned from his spies that the rebels were constructing a defensive fortification at the Eureka. On a sloping site bordering the Melbourne road, an acre or so of ground was enclosed by a flimsy barricade constructed from shaft support timbers set in the ground on their ends and roped together, along with overturned carts and the like. Proof of John's physical support of the stockaders by supplying materials and standing with them against an unjust regime remains circumstantial at best. However, it is hard to image an Irish man refusing to assist a band of predominately Irish rebels (and customers) when called upon to fortify and man the Eureka Stockade. Within this stockade the Eureka rebels encamped, vowing to defend themselves against further licence arrests or other incursions by the authorities.

But though there was much emotion, enthusiasm and activity, and a number of adventurous excursions from the stockade by small bands of men, overall organisation was loose, and strategy and discipline were lacking. As a result, by Saturday night the purposefulness of the rebels had dissipated, the tension on the field had abated, and a military showdown no longer seemed imminent. No more than a few hundred men remained in the stockade, most having either gone off carousing or drinking in the usual fashion. Also, in this time of strong ingrained religious beliefs and with all streams of society ranked and ruled by sectarian allegiances, it would have been hard for the rebels to believe that the government forces would attack on the Sabbath.

It was not to be so. At 3 am on Sunday, December 3, 1854, a party of 276 police and military personnel and several civilians, under the command of Captain J. W. Thomas, left the Government Camp, and having detoured by way of Black Hill to the north east of the Camp, approached the Eureka

Stockade at dawn from a north westerly direction. Which side opened fire first is uncertain. What is certain is that the resulting engagement was short and one-sided. The stockaders, taken by surprise, probably outnumbered and certainly outgunned, were quickly routed. Lalor later estimated that 22 stockaders were either killed or died soon after, and a further 12 were wounded and survived, though how many others were killed or wounded in the vicinity of the stockade can only be conjectured. Casualties on the Government side were four killed and 12 wounded. Many of the surviving stockaders were taken prisoner, and the rest fled in disarray. A number of tents within and around the stockade were burned. Martial law was declared and all armed resistance collapsed.

This was the closest Australia has come to civil war, and although the rebels were soundly defeated, the injustices they rallied against were quickly dismantled. All charges against the captured rebels were dropped in early 1855. With the creation of the Victorian Legislative Assembly soon after, the miners and residents of the Ballarat area elected Peter Lalor to represent them. John returned to his woodcutting business and the materials used to construct the Eureka Stockade were salvaged for other uses by the nearby residents and miners very soon after the altercation.

John continued to work to supply miners and the growing permanent settlement with wood. This stable income and home environment allowed John and Catherine's children to gain an education. John junior was brought into the business early and would have grown strong cutting the hard Australian timbers. At some point John began farming and this had become his primary occupation by 1867 when John junior, aged 16, married Elizabeth Ann Dean on June 4th. Elizabeth, born in Essex, England in 1850, was only 17 years old herself on the big day. John's occupation is listed as farmer on the wedding certificate and John junior's is listed as wood splitter. Elizabeth's father, George, was recorded as a gardener.

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Love and Hardship

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My immediate reaction when I discovered John junior and Elizabeth's ages when they married was 'shotgun wedding', however, this wasn't the case. It would appear that John junior and Elizabeth were truly in love and managed to convince their parents of this as both sets of parents are recorded as giving their consent to the union on the wedding certificate. Consent wasn't hard to come by as it generally meant that there was one less mouth to feed in the household. Their first child, George, was born on 9th May 1868. John junior's occupation is recorded as wood cutter on George's birth certificate.

The amounts of gold coming out of the leads dwindled to an unprofitable level in 1869 and the gold rush ended. Some of the population moved on to seek their fortunes elsewhere. John stayed on and continued farming to support the now permanent settlement of Ballarat and the smaller towns surrounding it. These townships now possessed some substantial architecture and infrastructure as a legacy of the gold and those who mined it. John and Catherine also benefited from the gold without actually finding their own fortune of the precious metal, and with the rush now over, they could expect their lives to return to a more market based economy. And this was the case for the next few years.

At some point during these years John gravitated back to wood chopping for a living and was probably back working with John junior. Unfortunately the job that had allowed him to provide for his family for many years also proved his downfall. He sustained serious injuries to his foot in a wood cutting accident. The wound became infected, and even though John was taken to Ballarat Hospital, he died from pyaemia on 13th January 1873. John was buried at Ballarat cemetery on 15th January 1873. His job was listed as wood cutter on his death certificate. Catherine died on 17th April 1895 at Ballarat, with exhaustion and old age listed as the causes of death. Mary Ann's husband, Thomas Merritt, is the family witness on Catherine's death

certificate.

It must have taken great courage to leave everyone and everything you know and venture into the unknown; to the furthest point on the globe you can go before you actually start moving closer again. The new land was different in nearly every way; climate, flora and fauna seasons, population density, cultural demographics; and it is unlikely that anyone can prepare for such a change. Only the aristocratic and privilege based system of government transported to all colonies of the British Empire would have been familiar. I can only guess at how this affected the mindset of a young Irish couple fresh off the ships from England. However, they witnessed the demise of this as well during their lifetime.

The only constants John and Catherine Latta had during their life of adventure were the continuous procession of hardships they endured together and the love they shared.

Footnotes:

1. Melbourne was first settled in 1835 by settlers from Tasmania who had formed the Port Phillip Association and purchased 600,000 acres from the aboriginals with the purpose of establishing a grazing settlement. The Government later cancelled this purchase, holding the view that aboriginals were trespassers on crown land, and had to compensate the Port Phillip Association. In 1836 a commissioner reported to Governor Bourke that the settlement consisted of 142 males, 35 females, 26,900 sheep, 57 horses and 100 horned cattle. In 1837, the Governor of the Colony of New South Wales instructed the Assistant Surveyor General to lay out a town. Governor Bourke named this town Melbourne in honour of the Prime Minister of Great Britain. The large sheltered body of water that Melbourne is situated on is called Port Phillip Bay. Queenscliff is situated on the western entrance of Port Phillip Bay.

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Love and Hardship

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References:

Harvey, J.T. 1994. *Eureka Rediscovered: In search of the site of the historic stockade*. University of Ballarat. <http://www.ballarat.com/eurekaaffair.htm>, viewed 9th November, 2008. Used with the written permission of Jack Harvey.

Emigration advertisement, <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/BoundforSouthAustralia.htm> viewed 9th November, 2008.

Ship 'Intrinsic' <http://www.geocities.com/vic1847/ship/int41.html?200813> viewed 13th November, 2008.

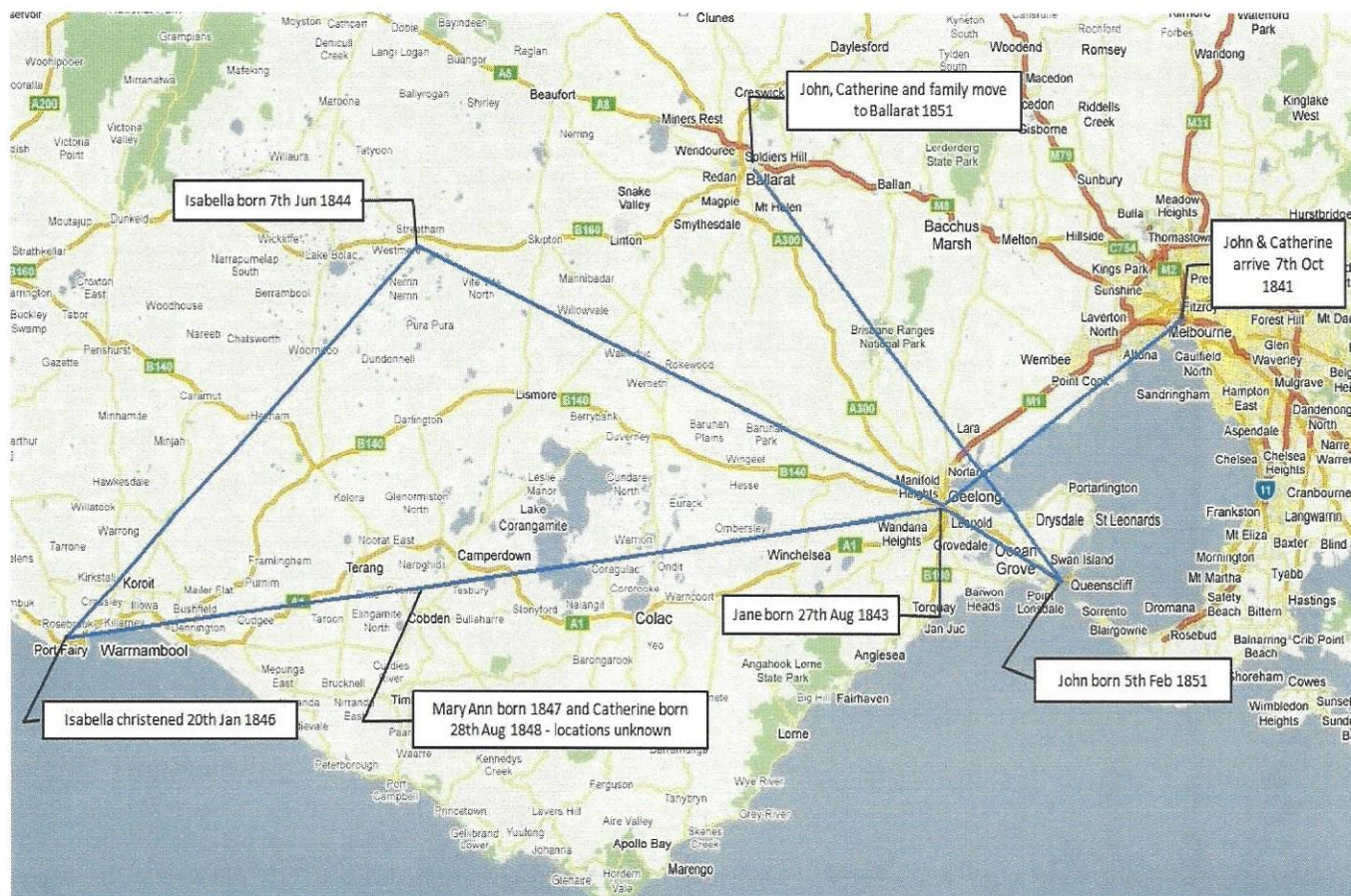
Errol Downing, owner of Elizabeth Ann Dean's Bible in which Elizabeth recorded the birth of all her children. These entries kindly scanned and sent to the author

Author's relationship with the main characters:

John Latta and Catherine Lemon – 3rd Great Grandparents

John Latta and Elizabeth Ann Dean – 2nd Great Grandparents

George Latta and Emily Jane Nichols – Great Grandparents



Tombstone of James Caldwell

By: Sue Lattea Cox, Webmaster,
cscox57@verizon.net

I received two more photographs from Lora McGinlay of Glasgow, Scotland. They were taken at the Cathart Cemetery in Glasgow. Here is a transcription:

James Caldwell, M. P.

In memory of his father Findlay Caldwell Galico Prinzer Wilson of Campsie WFO. Died 7th March 1901 in his 88th Year. His mother Janet Latta Caldwell who died 24th April 1888 in her 70th Year.

His brother William Caldwell who died 3rd December 1864 in his 28th Year. Their son James Caldwell P.C. formerly M.P. who died in London on 25th April 1925 in his 86th Year. Elizabeth Cochrane Caldwell daughter of Findlay Caldwell who died 12th April 1935 in her 76th Year.

List of Branch Captains

(Continued from Page 2)

Branch 28: Carol Rini, P.O. Box 748, East Meadow NY 11554, carri137@gmail.com.

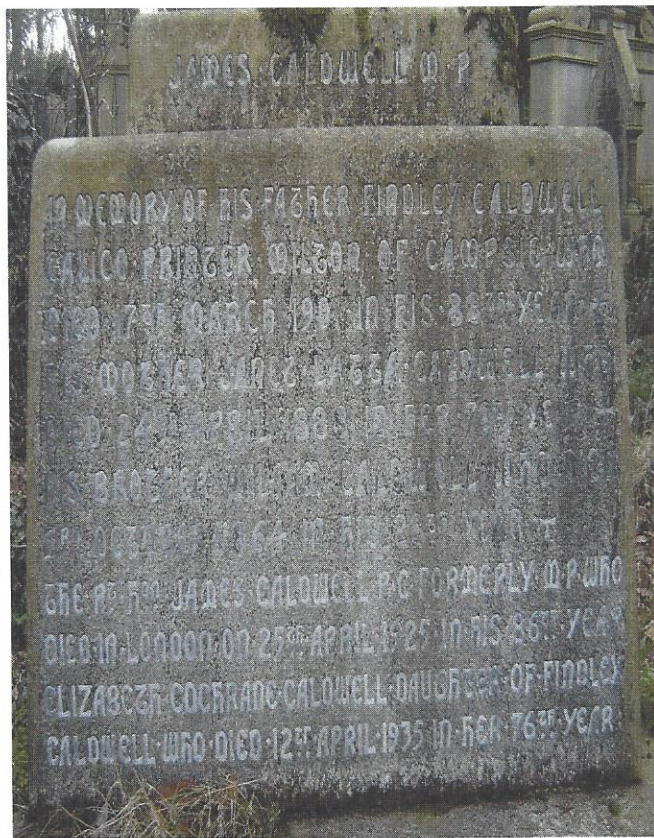
Branch 35: Janie Quarles, P.O. Box 624, McCrory AR 72101-0624, janieq@ipa.net.

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

Branch 49: Stanley R. Latta, P.O. Box 998, Alamogordo, NM 88311, Reddog@wayfarer1.com.

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

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



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. My mother, Margaret **Latta Miller**, is thinking that a Margaret K. **Latta** of Glasgow, Scotland is a distant cousin. Would you put a query on the Board to this event? She was a missionary for the Nazarene Church from the early 1930's to the early 1950's. I have correspondence trouble getting back to the Swaziland, Africa during the early stages of WWII. I have no birth dates or death dates. I have possible parents of a Robert **Latta** with siblings of Tom and George killed in WWI and Lizzie, Helen, Mary and Rina. Rina married Andrew **Robertson** with daughter Marion who married a Mr. **Dougherty**. Any help along this line would be very much appreciated. I'm trying to clear this up before my mother's 90th birthday in March. Kenn **Miller**, Branch 27, 805 Winthron Ct., Nashville TN 37217, Kennbar@comcast.net.

2. I live about 25 minutes from the **Latta** Plantation and about 35 minutes from York, South Carolina where many **Lattas** lived. I offered to help when this area was mentioned as a possible site for a reunion, but no one responded. I think that possibly many people thought that this plantation was like the coastal plantations rather than the back country plantations. The distance was, I am sure, a part of the problem. I don't know how much interest there was in a reunion. I think it would be interesting to meet those we only know by name somewhere centrally located. Patricia B. **Rowe**, 1428 Castlegate St., Gastonia NC 28054, pat5@bellsouth.net.

3. Please add the following inquiry for me:

(a) Does anyone have any information about any **Latta** families living in the Shirleysburg area of Pennsylvania? I am looking for cemetery records, **Latta** women who married in that area, and also any deaths prior to 1835.

(b) Does anyone have any information on a William **Latta** or Peter **Latta** living in Fulton County (Cumberland County) in the mid 1700s? Sue **Lattea Cox**, Webmaster, cscox57@verizon.net.

4. I think I may have figured out which branch we are, branch 43. Although the information in that line seems to come to a screeching halt right after my grandfather. He was Leigh Clark **Latta**, Senior, born Dec. 16, 1897 in Glidden, Iowa. In the branch information they have his name wrong, they have Liegh. I had to ask my sister for this information, as I seem to have mislaid the genealogy my Dad did. Who would I contact to continue the information on that line? Thanks for any and all help. Nancy, NJL6D80@aol.com.

5. Hi Richard, I saw your query in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter regarding Mary J. **Latta**, wife of John S. **Meranda**, and seeking a connection to the **Mewhinney** family through the **Latta** family (whew!). I can't provide a direct hit but perhaps can provide some collateral damage.

In branch 51 of our **Latta** family ancestors we have a William T. **Latta**, b. 30 Oct 1819 in Owen Co., Indiana, married Barbara **Mewhinney** on 26 Dec 1847 in Vigo Co., Indiana. You can find what information I have found listed in the branch 51 area of the **Latta** website at: <http://www.latta.org/Branches/Branch%2051.htm>. William **Latta** is person number 11. You can also find this marriage record (with a slightly different date) on the pre-1850 marriages data base in the Indiana State Library at http://208.119.135.17/db/in_marriages_1850/marriages_search.asp. I also note that there were 8 other **Mewhinney** marriages in Vigo County in the 1830's and 1840's, and 3 in Franklin County. I have recorded that the first child of William and Barbara was "Mary(?) Allie **Latta**" but have not

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Research Queries

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found a birth date for her. However, it doesn't seem plausible that this is the Mary J. **Latta** you are seeking, since she was born in 1833.

During my research I have noticed several **Mewhinneys** in Vigo County. They seemed to be a rather prominent and prolific family with a military service background and acquired several tracts of land in the county. Unfortunately for your interest, I have done no further research on that family. However, I would note to you that the Vigo County records are rather extensive and have been pretty well preserved. Also, the staff in the special collections room of the Vigo County Public Library are quite knowledgeable and helpful to family researchers.

If I can be helpful in any further way, please don't hesitate to contact me. Regards, Ken **Erdle**, Branch 51 Captain, Bloomington, IN.

6. Jan L. **Christensen** wrote when she sent her donation that my mother's maiden name is **Latta**. Her father was John Richard **Latta**, her grandfather was William Edison **Latta**, Jr., and her great grandfather was William Edison **Latta**, Sr. Also note that the genealogy as listed in some places shows John Richard **Latta** as John Robert **Latta**; the middle name of Robert is not correct - his name is John Richard **Latta**.

7. I am looking for information and contact with the family of Minnie **Davis**, the daughter of Sarah Josephine **Latta** (1852-1939) and her first husband, Hiram Turner **Davis** (1850-1907). Minnie was born in Oct. 1875 in Noble County, Indiana. She married Eugene D. **Thurston**. This is Branch 1 of the **Latta** family. Thank you. Janet **Gerdes**, Prescott Valley, AZ. Please contact me in care of the Editor.

8. I am looking for information and contact with the family of Ethel May **Marsters**, the daughter of Sarah Josephine **Latta** (1852-1939) and her second

husband, Saul **Marsters** (1831-1903). Ethyl was born 4 March 1889 in Taylor, Loup County, Nebraska. She married Felix C. **Castro**. This is Branch 1 of the **Latta** family. Thank you. Janet **Gerdes**, Prescott Valley, AZ. Please contact me in care of the Editor.

9. I am looking for information and contact with the family of Josephine **Marsters**, the daughter of Sarah Josephine **Latta** (1852-1939) and her second husband, Saul **Marsters** (1831-1903). Josephine **Marsters** was born 29 Nov. 1894 in Taylor, Loup county, Nebraska. She married Sydney M. **Paige**. This is Branch 1 of the **Latta** family. Thank you. Janet **Gerdes**, Prescott Valley, AZ. Please contact me in care of the Editor.

10. From the files of Janet **Gerdes** is this newspaper clipping:

Latta, Ralph S. Age 80, of Huntington Beach. [California] Passed away September 28, 1979. Survived by wife, Esther; daughters, Vivian L. Ward, Jean L. **Christoperson**, Dorothy J. **Hansbery**, and Ardith J. **Miller**; sisters Idel **Ledger**, and Iris **Dunnagan**; 11 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren. Chapel service and Interment Monday, 10:30 a.m. directed by Westminster Memorial Park Mortuary and Cemetery, 431-6577.

11. My name is Theodore **Latta**. I am the great grandson of Felix **Latta**, Jr. I was wondering if you could tell me when Felix **Latta**, Jr. died? I know that it was in July of 1939, but I am in need of the exact date. My family is Native American (Cherokee) and are from Oklahoma. Felix **Latta** Jr. was the son of Felix **Latta** who was the son of George W. **Latta**, I believe. To complete my ancestry trace I need the date that Felix **Latta** Jr. passed away so that I can obtain his death certificate. Doing so I will have traced my ancestry back to the Dawes Roll and will be eligible to become a member of the Cherokee Nation, and hopefully receive money for my college tuition. Theo **Latta**, tlatta21@yahoo.com.

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Research Queries

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12. Statement of Frances **Latta**, who being sworn on part of claimant says:

I will be ninety six years of age the 5th day of next month.

I was well acquainted with John **Wilkerson** in the old Cherokee Nation. He was regarded as a Cherokee citizenship.

I knew his mother well and she belonged to the Wolf family (clan).

It has been about seventy-five years ago I first got acquainted with John **Wilkerson**.

John **Wilkerson** and his mother talked the Cherokee language. His mother spoke broken English.

John **Wilkerson** lived when I first knew him near Maker Jack Cove on the Tennessee River.

John **Wilkerson** had seven children by my sister and his other wife I think had five.

He had a first wife in South Carolina and two after he came to the old Cherokee Nation. My sister and mother.

John **Wilkerson** came from South Carolina to the Old Cherokee Nation at least he said he did.

He had sons named Uriah and William **Wilkerson**. Nelly **Wilkerson** was said to be a sister to Uriah and William **Wilkerson**.

I do not know how long after John **Wilkerson** came into the old nation that his sons Uriah and Wm came but the sons came afterwards.

Wm, Uriah and Nelly were the children of John **Wilkerson** by the South Carolina wife.

John **Wilkerson's** Cherokee wife named Cootiah by whom I think he had five children named Aaron, Dick, George and James.*

I was acquainted most with William and Uriah **Wilkerson** after they came into the Old Cherokee Nation. I never heard their rights to Cherokee Citizenship disputed there.

I was present when Uriah's house was burned. There was no corn to cut down by soldiers. It was cold up there.

I am the mother of Allen (?**Tatton**?) He was a _____ by _____?

Uriah, Williams house was burned.

John **Wilkerson's** children by my sister were named Hiram, Jefferson, Lewis, Lydia, Tom, George, Linda

I am a Catawba__ by blood. My father was also. I was born in North Carolina near the Catawba lands. The Catawba lands may have join both North & South Carolina.

I do not speak the Cherokee Language. I do understand it much.

I knew John **Wilkerson's** Mother. She lived near Macker Jack Cove. Her name was Mollie. Claimed white and Cherokee blood.

During the Revolution War John **Wilkerson's** father went to Nintysix South Carolina and afterward his wife went down and they remained there until their children were grown. Two of whom there married .**

I neither knew claimant, his father or mother.

Old man **Wilkerson** got mad with the widow and had her house burned,. He and the widow's sister were going to be married. A__? married a man named **Hubbard**. The other of Nellie **Wilkerson** I suppose was a white woman.

Hubbard I suppose was a white man

June 2, 1879

Francis **Latta**

J. A. Sialis, Clerk

Note:

Francis is Martha Frances **Latta** or **Latty** nee **Scott**, born about 1790, married John **Latty** born 1758, father named George **Scott**.

I would like any information on this **Latty/Latta** family. Raymond **Ray**, Raysharon73@aol.com.

13. Hi. It's me back again, James **Latta**, Junior, born 20th April 1943, son of James Ronald **Latta**, a member of the American 3rd Bomber Group, 5th Air Force, stationed at Charters Towers, North Queensland, Australia in 1942 / 43 then to New Guinea.

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Research Queries

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I have been chasing this guy since I can't remember when, I gave up! All done with smoke and mirrors I think :)?

I have moved to Queensland and now think I may take up the challenge again.

I have checked with the Armed Forces Repository and find out that because of a fire the records are no longer available, (National Archives and Records Administration.)

James Senior was born in 1914, in Oklahoma, at least that was where his social security number was issued, # 429 -09 - 4254. Suggested by Thomas **Knight** and Alex **Latta**.

I know he was here in 1942 / 43. I am the result.

He was sent from Savannah, GA arrived in Brisbane on the 25th February 1942, moved to Charters Towers North Queensland, Australia 10th March 1942, moved on to New Guinea in 1943. I believe he held the rank of Sergeant, three chevrons on his sleeve. (as Australian ranking marks.)

I sent some black and white photos over there for inclusion in the Newsletter, a tall man in service uniform and my mother, a shorter lady in white, hanging on to him. I don't know if they arrived, if not I will get them cut to CD and send them again.

It is extremely hard to get to information from there to here. I have had no answer to enquires I have posted before, but will try again. I am trying to confirm so info on the marriage certificate.

I am extremely sorry to hear of the passing of Alex **Latta**, he was most helpful to me and I will miss his advice. Thanks. James **Latta**, Junior, korkie@live.com.au.

14. As you may be aware, I have been trying for some time to establish a research plan with a professional genealogist in Ireland to try and link us back to the mother country through tangible evidence. This is the fourth reply I had like this which is a little disheartening. I've contacted a couple of organised groups of researchers, ones who

specialise in PRONI or freelance and the last mob put me onto the guy below who specialises in County Tyrone research all to no avail, all with similar outcomes and replies. I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news but it looks to be very unlikely that we will be able to link ourselves into any of the 53 branches. There may be a faint glimmer of hope for Belinda as she appears to be from a different branch from Mel and myself, but I fear that she may run into the same lack of records that has seen us hit the wall.

Oh well, there is still a lifetime of research to do on the Australian heritage of our noble families.
Peter **Latta**, saggital@optusnet.com.au.

From: Secretary of SGNI
[mailto:secretary@sgni.net]
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2009 12:26 AM
To: saggital@optusnet.com.au
Subject: Co Tyrone Research

Dear Peter, most researchers in Northern Ireland cover all counties as the records for all six counties are held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Below is the only organisation I have seen listed which specifies Co Tyrone.
Regards, Heather **Flanders**, Secretary SGNI

IRISH WORLD
Family History Suite
51 Dungannon Road
Coalisland. Co. Tyrone
BT71 4HP
Telephone No: (028) 8774 6065
E-mail: info@irish-world.com
Web: www.irish-world.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Peter **Latta**
To: info@irish-world.com
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009 2:48 AM
Subject: FW: Co Tyrone Research

Hi, The SGNI have kindly given me your details

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Research Queries

(Continued from Page 30)

as you specialise in County Tyrone genealogy. I'm not having much luck finding someone who can give me answers or even make a decent guess at the chances of a successful outcome for finding evidence of my ancestors. I have given a couple of researchers the details below and while they told me that Ireland didn't keep birth or marriage records for the time period I'm searching, that's about all they have told me and haven't seemed too interested in forming a plan to search for other evidence.

The information below is what I have gathered from the death certificates and other research. What I would really like is birth/christening and marriage records for John and Catherine but that seems to be unlikely. There must be some record of their lives somewhere; however being in Australia and unfamiliar with the past bureaucratic and religious structures of Northern Ireland, I don't know where to start looking. The info I have already is:

John Latta

Born: c. 1812, Strabane, Ireland
Parents: John and Mary [MNU] **Latta**
Married: c. 1840. Catherine **Lemon**,
Dunnamanagh, Ireland
Religion: Presbyterian
Education: Literate
Emigrated: 10th Jun 1841, Liverpool, England,
Ship 'Intrinsic', with Catherine
Died: 13th Jan 1873. Ballarat, Victoria,
Australia

Catherine Lemon

Born: c. 1820, Londonderry, Ireland
Parents: John **Crouchen** and Catherine
Lemon
Education: Illiterate
Died: 17th Apr 1895. Ballarat, Victoria,
Australia

I'm unsure if the Dunnamanagh (where they got married) is the one close to Londonderry where Catherine was born or the one north east of Strabane where John was born.

I would also like to get further info on John's parents. Establishing my family ancestors and associated info will assist me in linking my Australian lineage with the considerable research already done by the Latta.org. I have no info on John's relations in Ireland post departure and really, I'm not too interested in what happened to the family John left behind as I have a lot of work to do researching the ever expanding **Latta** family he sired in Australia. What I would like is to trace the male line as far back as possible with the intention of connecting to one of the 53 known branches of the **Latta** name.

Could you please let me know

§ If I have enough info to form a strong base for further research

§ What other info would be beneficial to the search

§ The chances of finding evidence, documents etc.

§ Your scale of fees

§ If you are OK to carry out this research

Please let me know if you require anything further from me as I'm more than willing to help in any way I can from my end. While this research isn't urgent, I would like to get the ball rolling.

Kindest regards, Peter **Latta**.

From: Irish World [mailto:info@irish-world.com]

Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2009 1:22 AM

To: Peter **Latta**

Subject: Re: Co Tyrone Research

Peter, thanks for your information - but I fear that progress will not be possible. The simple reason is that there are no extant church records for the areas you specify. The Tithe records (1820s) show several **Lat[t]a** listings, all in Donegal; however the parishes in question do not have Presbyterian baptism records for the period

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Research Queries

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c 1812, when your John **Latta** was born. One parish, Clonca, has Church of Ireland baptisms from 1802, and these offer the only possibility for research. The only John is in Taughboyne parish, which borders Tyrone.

As for **Lemon**, the name does not appear in the Derry Tithe records. It appears once in the Griffith Valuation (1850s) in Drumachose parish, where there are CI baptisms from 1804. Again it may be an idea to look at these. When you say Catherine **Lemon** was born in Londonderry, do you know if this denotes the city or county?

As for Dunnamanagh, there is village of this name, and also a townland, the latter encompassing the former, in the parish of Donaghedy, Co Tyrone, roughly midway between Derry and Strabane. Alas, the same situation obtains with regard to church records; there are none that can be searched for the marriage of John and Catherine.

Without church records, there is little chance of success in your project, as these would offer the only reasonable means of finding tangible evidence and associated documentation relating to your ancestors. Information from Tithes or Griffiths is okay, but offers no means of making educated links or connections. I do wish I could offer a more positive prognosis, but such is the case in many instances of Irish genealogy, where a dearth of church records can be so frustrating.

Best regards, Willie O'Kane, Research Dept.

Northern Ireland Research Project

A new coordinator for our Northern Ireland Research Project is needed. This is a great opportunity for a Latta researcher who wants to learn more about the lives of our Latta ancestors in Northern Ireland before they emigrated elsewhere, including North America and Australia.

If interested, please contact Ken Mueller, Editor,
DocHuer@aol.com.

New Branch 3 Captain

By: Ken Mueller, President,
DocHuer@aol.com.

We have a new branch captain for branch 3 of the Latta Family. He is Alan Leroy Latta. His Email address is allatta@aol.com.

Alan writes: "My permanent mailing address is: P.O. Box 21158, Cheyenne, WY 82003. I am currently staying with friends in Idaho and get my mail at: P.O. Box 508, Inkom, ID 83245 until further notice. With the help or assistance of my daughter Elizabeth June (Latta) Valdez, I am hoping to have some photos and family history articles written up for the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. Regards, Alan Leroy Latta, Branch #3."

Annual LGS Meeting 2009

By: Ken Mueller, President,
DocHuer@aol.com.

This summer our Latta Genealogical Society will need to hold its annual meeting. So far, we do not have either a date or a place. Past meetings have been small, perhaps two to ten to twelve members. The meeting only lasts about two hours. You do not need to do anything elaborate, just have everyone relax and talk genealogy. If someone would be willing to host our annual meeting, please contact me.
