
The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 39

Fall 2009

Reminiscing!

By: Sheridan Gorton Latta
[written about 1950]

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Having passed the allotted three score and ten and being into the four score, and recalling some of the various events that occurred during my very interesting and contented life, I thought that a recording of some of these might be of interest to some of the family, and for the benefit of the younger generation, I am going to record the family descendants.

James (1) Latta, born, lived and died in Ireland, place and dates unknown; three or more of his sons came to America about the time of the Revolution. Whether they all came at the same time or not is uncertain.

James (2) came at least as early as 1772. We have no record of their history prior to their arrival, but tradition among the descendants of James (2) says that he owned a line of sailing vessels trading between Liverpool and New York before he settled at Walkill, N.Y. They know nothing about the name of their Irish ancestors more than the two brothers James and Samuel; the descendants of Samuel (2) say there were four or five brothers,

and that two or more of them were the owners with their father James of a flouring mill in Ireland before they came to America. The descendants of Moses (2) only know that he came from the north of Ireland with two brothers, James and Samuel. As Moses died when his children were young, they know but little about him.

The descendants of James and Samuel have always known each other but those now living had no knowledge of Moses or any other brother. In tracing the descendants of James (2), the writer recently found some of the descendants of Moses (2) and thus verified the tradition as to one of the lost brothers. It will be noticed that all three of the brothers named their children after their relatives and it is hoped that this tendency to repeat the names James, Samuel, Moses and William may lead to the discovery of the missing branch or branches.

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Editorial

Over the years there have been many contributing authors and many fine subscribers. I am grateful to all of you. You make it possible for me to assemble and print three newsletters a year.

I am also grateful to our LGS officers, Randy Phillips, Beryl Redfield, Paula Gruginski, and Kathy Latta. Thank you for everything you do.

Our next issue, number 40, will include an excellent story by Betty Kitchen about her Latta family. I will also continue the Reminiscing! by Sheridan G. Latta.

With your help, I look forward to many more issues of our newsletter. Keep up the good work.

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.

Suggested membership contribution:
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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, rgnunn@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, Murrumbena, 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, cscocox57@verizon.net.

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

Branches 19 & 27/47: Ellen Rowan Taylor, 2763 Gleggarry 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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12-01-09
FINANCIAL REPORT - LATTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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REPORT PERIOD 08/01/09 – 12/01/09

Income 08/01/09 – 12/01/09 **\$867.00**

N. Ireland Research Fund \$ 0

General Fund Donations – 39 donors \$ 867.00

Expenses 08/1/09 – 12/01/09 **(\$992.83)**

Latta website fee \$ 44.85

Aug, Sep, Oct @ \$14.95

Postage to mail old records (Ken Mueller) 65.69

DNA testing (Kim Latta) 153.00

Newsletter 38 expenses (Ken Mueller) 729.29

<u>COMBINED FUNDS on hand - 12/01/09</u>	\$ 5823.71
N. Ireland Research Fund Balance	\$ 950.00
General Fund Balance	\$ 4873.71

You are now able to donate using the PayPal button at www.latta.org. We accept donations by credit card or PayPal account. Subscribers using other than U.S. funds find this particularly convenient.

Membership: The bylaws state, "Any person who supports the purpose of this Society may become a member in good standing upon payment of the minimum donation." The minimum donation currently is \$10 for subscribers within the U.S. & Canada, \$15 for other countries. Newsletter only status (non-voting) is provided for libraries and those interested in the newsletter but unable to make a donation.

Your donations support the publication and mailing of the newsletter and cover other expenses of the Latta Genealogy Society.

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS: Treasurer, Ms. Beryl Redfield, 4281 Winfield Road, Taylorsville, Utah 84123.
Thank you for your generous support!

Reminiscing!

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Great Grandfather

Samuel (2) Latta (James 1) born in Ireland in 1756 married Elizabeth Schultz of Newburg, N.Y., May 19, 1786, born Oct. 10, 1768 in New Windsor, N.Y. soon removed to Geneva, N.Y. where he had bought 1000 acres of wild land; he was in Geneva with his wife prior to Dec. 1793. He probably followed his brother Moses to that place, and was followed by his brother James with his family in Sept. 1789. That James and Samuel lost track of the family of Moses is not strange when we consider the route then traveled to go from New Windsor to Geneva via from New Windsor to Albany by schooner, to Schenectady by wagon, up the Mohawk river to Fort Stanwix (now Rome) in canoes portage over to Wood Creek and down that to Oneida Lake, cross the lake to Fort Brewster, then down Oneida river to Three River Point, then up Seneca River and Lake to Geneva. With good luck the trip could be made in two weeks, but oftener required three weeks.

Samuel made one of the best farms in the state out of his wild land near Geneva, and lived on it until his death Aug. 19, 1820.

Grandfather

Isaac Schultz (3) Latta (son of Samuel and Elizabeth Schultz) born in Geneva, N.Y. (Mount Pleasant) May 10, 1796, married Polly Reed Ford at Geneva Nov. 7, 1821. First settled in Geneva, N.Y. but Feb. 13, 1833 removed to Friendship, N.Y. He was a veteran of the war of 1812. Lumberman and farmer. He died Dec. 16, 1862.

Father

Samuel Elisha Latta, born in Geneva, N.Y. Aug. 11, 1822, came to Friendship, N.Y. with his parents Feb. 13, 1833. On Sept. 18, 1844 married Orpha Elizabeth Gorton of Friendship, N.Y. one of

the five daughters of Joseph Gorton. Died Jan. 12, 1911. In early life he was a farmer, later was for many years in the Implement and Carriage trade. Father had one sister and one brother Josiah Reed Latta, who had one daughter and one son, Judson Coburn Latta, who died without issue. My generation follows. Siblings:

Emmit Girdell (May 28, 1849 - April 10, 1925. Three sons Jefferson Brown who had no children. Frank Raymond who had three daughters and no sons. Hubert Isaac who had 2 daughters and no sons. Adrian Clarence (Dec. 5, 1851 - Aug. 26, 1926) had one daughter and one son, Jo Ghandi who had no children.

Samuel S. (Aug. 28, 1854 - 1915) had one daughter and one son, Clyde Smalley, who had son Clyde Jr., who perished while Purser on the steamship Omorro Castle that burned at sea.

Fanny Lillie (Mr. F. Hinman), sister born June 30, 1856, died May 2, 1932.

Frank Fremont (Oct. 29, 1860 - Nov. 23, 1933) no children.

George Clinton (Nov. 18, 1862 - May 18, 1904) no children.

Sheridan Gorton (June 19, 1867) one daughter Romayne (now Mrs. T. E. Palmer has one son Theron Lee and one daughter Sharon) and one son Sheridan Graham with no children.

By checking this family tree, it looks very much as if this branch of Lattas will fade out of the picture forever.

The Gorton Family (Mother's family)

Samuel Gorton, the first known generation, was born in Manchester England in 1592. He married Mary Maplet and had 9 children. Samuel (1) Gorton landed in Boston in March 1636 with his wife and son Samuel and one or two other children. He was a prominent man in Providence Plantations and died in Warwick, R.I. in 1677.

Samuel (2) Gorton, born in Manchester, England in 1630 married Susannah Barton on Dec. 11, 1684. He was a Captain in the Indian

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War, member of the upper house of the Assembly, Assistant Judge and all-around prominent man. He died Sept. 6, 1724.

Samuel (3) Gorton was born in 1690 at Warwick, R.I. He married Freelove Mason on June 1, 1715. Moved to Swansey, Mass. where he died in July 1784.

Joseph (4) Gorton was probably born in Swansey. He married Mary Barton on Jan 1, 1762. Joseph was a soldier in the Revolution. Time of death unknown.

David (5) Gorton was born at Warwick on Nov. 24, 1768. He married Alice Whitford and settled in Mansfield, N.Y. where he died in or about 1830.

Grandfather

Joseph (6) Gorton was born at Warwick, R.I. on Nov. 7, 1792. He married Phoebe Baxter on Jan. 5, 1814 at Fondabush, N.Y. Joseph Gorton moved to Friendship, N.Y. in 1821 where he died in Dec. 1872. Phoebe died in Friendship on Mar. 19, 1869 and was buried at North Salem, N.Y. Joseph was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Mother

Orpha Elizabeth Gorton was born April 25, 1826. She died July 10, 1909. She was one of five daughters of Joseph Gorton, who also had four sons.

The Author

Sheridan Gorton Latta

(named after mother's oldest brother Sheridan Gorton)

The "Births" page in our old family Bible records me at the bottom of the list of three boys, one girl and then three more boys. Evidently I was born

on June 19, 1867, on which date two other historically significant events occurred. Maximillian was beheaded and the U.S. purchased Alaska. I was born on a farm in the township of Wirt (Allegany County, N.Y.) four miles south of the Village of Friendship, N.Y., in the locality known as "East Hill" and at one time as Twin Hill on account of the number of twins in the vicinity.

My first 13 years were spent on the farm on which I was born, and I recall some of the many events during that time, one case happening when I was just old enough to remember. Brother Frank induced brother George to touch his tongue on an iron bar during very cold weather, not expecting that he would do it so completely. They had to take him into the house by the fire and thaw him loose. While still quite young I got two fingers caught in the cog wheel of a cutting box. The Doctor thought that they would have to be amputated, but very fortunately for me, he patched them up and I still have them as good as ever.

At one time I tried to train a pair of calves as they do oxen. One day I had them hitched to a big hand sled and trying to drive them but for some unknown reason they made a break and ran away with me on the sled giving me an exciting ride.

Making maple sugar was an important part of farming and during this period a fire has to be kept going night and day under the sugar pan and the maple sap is kept boiling until its required thickness is obtained. On this day Father had to go to town and I was in full charge. At evening I went home to do the chores putting in so much wood that when Father got home and went to the sugar bush, all the big batch of sugar was burned up and the big sugar pan was ruined.

When brother Adrian came home from the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, he brought me a pair of guinea pigs. We put a box under the ground with a good run way so they would have a warm home. I only had them a short time when someone ripped out the box and took the whole outfit and we never saw or heard of them again.

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Reminiscing!

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I recall getting up very early long before day break and walking four miles to the village to see the then famous Dan Rice Circus come into town. In those days such outfits traveled from place to place overland by horse power as the only way possible. Several of us boys got a job carrying water for the animals, having the promise of seeing the show, but all we got was a glass of pink lemonade. The one act that impressed me most was about twenty men dressed in red coats walking around the circus ring carrying on their shoulders a platform on which a beautiful snow white horse, called the most beautiful horse in the world, was posed.

One of the earliest events that I remember was when I was 4 years old. I got a pair of copper-toed boots with red tops for Christmas, and we went down to Grandmother Latta's for Christmas and it was very cold. I can never forget how my feet hurt when Grandmother pulled them off. That is the only remembrance that I have of how Grandmother Latta looked, for she passed away soon after.

While very young I can recall seeing Grandfather Gorton, lying sick in bed, and he had a genuine Grandfather clock (without the case) on the wall. He had a hole in the floor so the weights that ran the clock could go down into the basement. I never saw him again, for he passed away when I was only five years old, but I remember being left at a neighbor's home while my family went to his funeral. I think that the most appealing and longest lasting continuing events in my younger days was the annual visits to the County Fair. Father was a Life Member of the Valley Point Fair held at Cuba, N.Y. every fall, and the whole family always attended. I do not know how old I was when I started going, but I recall the very early getting up and getting all of the chores done so we could get an early start for the long 13 mile drive over rough and hilly country roads. The wonderful exhibits and the races certainly appealed to my young mind. On one of these trips we stopped in the village of Friendship

and picked up my sister Lillie who was attending Baxter University of Music. She worked on some fancy work which she exhibited at the Fair and secured a prize. On another trip, on the road between Friendship and Cuba, I counted over 100 hay stacks on one farm.

I will never forget an accident that I saw that occurred at one of these times, right close to our wagon, while watching the races. In those days nearly every farmer had what they called a platform spring wagon that had a permanent seat in front and one or two removable seats so the wagon could be used for many purposes. At this time right close to us the back seat of one of these wagons came loose and a young woman in that seat fell over backwards and broke her neck, but it did not kill her. Several years later I saw her with a wire arrangement on her shoulders and head supporting her head. In these early days the Erie Canal was in operation as was the Genesee Valley branch running from Rochester, N.Y. to Port Allegheny, Penn. Cuba was one of the points it passed through and one of the stations where they changed horses and sometimes men as well. There was a large barn and considerable activity. It was of great interest to me to see those canal boats being pulled by horses on the tow path.

At certain times cheese factories sell their stock and the patrons hauled the cheese to the railroad for shipment. This time I went along with Adrian, and just before reaching the little village of Nile, one of the tires came off one of the wheels. We had to leave the heavy wagon in the middle of the road and, lucky for us, Mr. Pat Connor (our cheese maker) came along with his so-called dog cart, took the wheel and tire downtown and had it reset. We had a very long wait and so many turned out to pass our wreck that they made a good new road.

I will never forget riding on a big horse "fork" load of hay from a wagon load of hay up to the gable of the barn and being dumped far down in the hay mow, where father was there to rescue me.

I do not know how old I was when I started school, but in those days, age did not count, as all children began as soon as they were able to walk the distance to the school house, which in my case,

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was as one mile and a half. I can just visualize that "old Cooley School House" with its large wide front door in the center of the building leading into a large entrance hall, room to brush and kick off snow, with a door in each end-- one for boys and one for girls. These doors led directly into the school room. At the ends of the hall there were shelves and nails for wraps and lunch pails. Off the boys' side was a door leading into a large wood shed and at the side of this door was the usual water pail with tin dipper used by all. In the school room was a long raised platform in the center of the front wall, with the teacher's desk and many misbehaving pupils sit facing the good pupils. A few feet in front of the teacher's desk was a large box stove with the stove pipe running clear to the back end of the building to help the heating of the building, and I remember one teacher having a small bunch of hickory switches tied up on that pipe in case he should need one. There was a solid plank bench running along both sides and back of the room, with several rows of double desks, which I remember were so high that in my first year I could not sit on the seat and have my feet touch the floor at the same time.

We had a Summer term and a Winter term, with a woman teacher in the summer and a man for the winter. The winter term was always much larger as many full grown young farmers attended, it being the slack season on the farms. I think I can recall all the teachers that I had. They were Josephine Brown, Lina Applebee, Inez Cleveland, and Ida Newton. The men were Sheldon Stanton, Thomas Eaton, Amos Wheeler, Charles Vincent, and George Gould. In those days teachers wages included board and room which was provided by all the parents in the district on a one day service. The teacher would notify a pupil each day to tell his parents what day he would be their guest. This system certainly gave the teacher a variety.

All over the territory, ever so far apart, were similar school houses known by the name of the

nearest prominent farmer. Ours was Cooley School. Nearest in order, were Dimick, Cleveland, Pratt, Meek, and Scott School.

There was quite a bit of friendly rivalry among some of these schools. They conducted, among each other, Spelling Bees, Debating Contests by the parents, and other events. These school houses were the center of all public gatherings. They held school exhibitions, singing, lectures, occasionally a home talent show, religious services, etc.

In those times everyone had to furnish all their books, pencils, and slates-- paper pads were unknown and every pupil had to have a slate. There was not much of an adopted uniform system and there were many kinds of text books used. I still have the two principal books that I used-- Swinton's Word Book and Colton's New Introductory Geography. The present kindergartners have it different than we had it. The youngest as well as the oldest students had from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., with one hour for noon and one half-hour mid-morning and afternoon.

There was a small stream of water running about a mile from our school with a small pool just big enough to get into. Many a time we boys grabbed our lunch, eating it on the run, while undressing en route for we had to get back before the hour was up.

This was a hilly country and in the winter we did a lot of coasting. Sometimes they had a farm Bob-sleigh that would hold a lot of kids and a full grown man would ride ahead on the large hand sled at the end of the sleigh pole to steer it.

Though leaving the farm at the early age of thirteen, I had become of considerable help. Our farm was on rolling ground, and deep, so the back end could not be seen from the front end. There was a spring of water in the far corner and the pasture lots were at the rear end. There was a twenty acre woods, including the sugar bush on one side, through which two so-called roads ran, and were only used in the sugar season or the cattle passed at times. A cow path running along the side of the woods close to the fence was the main trail, and at late afternoon it was my duty to go down this path

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and get the cows. We had twenty-two cows and at the time of my leaving the farm I was milking five cows, brother George seven, and Father the other ten. I had my pick of the easiest milkers. We also had a number of horses and a span of small mules of which I had considerable charge.

At haying time we had a "pole" on the big sulky hay rake (instead of the usual one-horse thills) and I did all the hay raking. I drove this span to the cheese factory every morning with a good-sized load. We had a special platform built on the wagon that held several thirty to forty gallon milk cans. We also picked up some of our neighbors' cans on the way.

The Connor Cheese Factory was nearly three miles from our farm and located on the four corners at the intersection of the highway. At the top of the hill on our road, nearing the Cheese Factory, one could see the other patrons coming from all the other directions. At times there was quite a race to get in line to deliver our milk.

Before leaving the farm I want to relate an event that has meant a great deal in my life. When I was twelve years old, brother Frank and I started to drive to Friendship to attend a Temperance Lecture to be given by the world famous temperance lecturer Frances J. Murphy. We had a young horse that in going down a rather steep hill, objected to holding back our buggy and began kicking and trying to run away. At the foot of the hill was a level stretch leading as far as the Joel Scott farm where another hill begins. We thought it best not to attempt another hill, so we put the horse in Mr. Scott's barn and completed the trip by walking. At this wonderful lecture I signed the pledge and I still have that signed card. Now over a period of seventy years, I have yet to take my first drink of liquor.

My one and only playmate was Charley Torry who lived a good half-mile from us, so the usual children's playtimes were very limited.

When I was about ten years old, one of Father's old-time friends, Samuel Sherman, who was one of

the first settlers in that region but had moved to Petersburg, Virginia, came back for a visit. While on his way home, I drove an old faithful horse (Flora) and took him over half way to the railway station for his train. He turned us around, heading me for home, and gave me the first money that I had ever received from anyone other than my own family.

Another of my annual "highlights," from the time I was big enough to go, was every fall when Uncle Joe Gorton and band played their opening of The Original New Orleans Minstrels. This organization was formed in the year of my birth (1867) by Joe Gorton and L. P. Benjamin and was on the road for over fifty years. Mr. Benjamin was a world known freak cornetist, and owing to a peculiar gum and teeth formation, we was able to play a whole octave above other players. Joe Gorton was a concert pianist in his younger days, and was one of the best band leaders and composers. We always had a wonderful band with his show.

Our nearest neighbor, Matt Phinney, lived directly across the road from our house, but their house set way back from the road down an alley. In those days there was no rural mail delivery, and it was the practice among all the families living on "The Hill," that whenever one of them went to the village they would bring what mail there was for any of the neighbors living between the Post Office and his home. Many was the time when I took their mail over to the Phinneys and always Grandmother Phinney would give me a chunk of maple sugar.

Mr. Phinney had a sister, Betsy, who had been bedridden for a number of years. One day their chimney burned out (which often happens, caused by an accumulation of soot catching fire) and Mrs. Amelia Phinney, who was a very fleshy and pleasant woman, went up on the roof of this house, which had a so-called "lean-to" built close to the ground, and from there she slipped and slid down the roof to the ground. Though she suffered no great damage, a very strange thing occurred due to the fire. The bedridden sister heard the commotion, jumped out of bed, and ran out of the bedroom--expecting to find her sister killed. From that day on, strange to say, she seemed to have recovered entirely and led a normal life.

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I remember going with Father and sister Lillie taking the milk to the cheese factory, then going a number of miles beyond to a wild section of land called "Wolf Spring." Though its location prevented it from being put to any good use, it was the largest and finest spring that I ever saw. We left all the empty milk cans at the factory except one forty gallon can, which we stopped and washed on the way. There were hundreds of acres that were covered with wild blackberry bushes, taller than I was. We were there only a few hours and got the big can nearly full of the largest berries that I ever saw.

We had another near neighbor, James Smith, who lived nearly a mile from our farm on an up-grade bringing them higher than us. He was an expect snare drummer, as were two of his sons. Another son played fife, so they made a marshal band that played at many gatherings of various kinds. They practiced in the summer time on the lawn at the side of their house which we could hear very distinctly.

When I was twelve years old, Father exhibited a high grade Ayrshire cow at the Cuba Fair and to bring her home, I came with Derrick Willard, a farmer living on the East Notch Highway leading from Friendship to Richburg. He had a number of cattle and horses at the fair, so Father left me to come home with him. Mr. Willard's father-in-law, George Clapp, lived on the Cuba Friendship Road and we stopped there for supper. I was very bashful and would not go into the house, and I will never forget Mr. Willard coming down to the barn with a great big sandwich. He said, "Eat that or I'll lick you." Off this East Notch Highway a so-called road led to the back end of our farm, which gave me about three miles to lead this cow over a very dark and lonely trip. I took down the rail fence into our pasture and took the well known "cow path" home. Believe me, I was glad to get there.

In June, 1879, the famous Triangle #1 oil well was brought in by O. P. Taylor. This was the first producing oil well in Allegany County. It was

located in a wild section known as "Pikeville" and later some little distance away became Allentown, in honor of Riley Allen, a prominent oil man. A few days after the exciting news got around, Father, a couple brothers and I drove there to see the thing that was the beginning of the great Allegany County Oil Development.

There was already a portable bar there and lots of drinking. I saw the most brutal fight that one could ever want to see and it became very near being a murder which was only prevented by bystanders breaking it up.

In the fall of 1879, Father rented his farm to a Mr. Weston, a Herkimer County farmer, who did not take possession until April next. At this time brother Frank was attending Friendship Academy and knowing the family would soon move to town, I went with Frank beginning the fall term. Thus ended my farm life.

From now on my city life began in the village of Friendship.

Friendship Township

Long ago in the early years of last century, when Township 3, Range 1 of the Holland Purchase formed a part of the old town Caneadea, the people of the various local cities throughout the region exhibited considerable rivalry against those of other places. Sometimes it was a friendly rivalry and sometimes it was of an unpleasant nature. In this township, tradition tells us, the inhabitants of the hills and the valleys were working against one another and frequently the disputes led to action and personal combat. One locality that whereon was built the first hamlet, called Friendship, was once designated Fighting Corners. In later years as settlement increased, the differences and animosities of the past were amicably settled and friendship prevailed; and in allusion to this period of reconciliation, the name Friendship was given to the settlement and also the subsequent township. As originally created on the 24th of March 1815, Friendship included all the territory of the town so named and also the present towns of Cuba, Wirt,

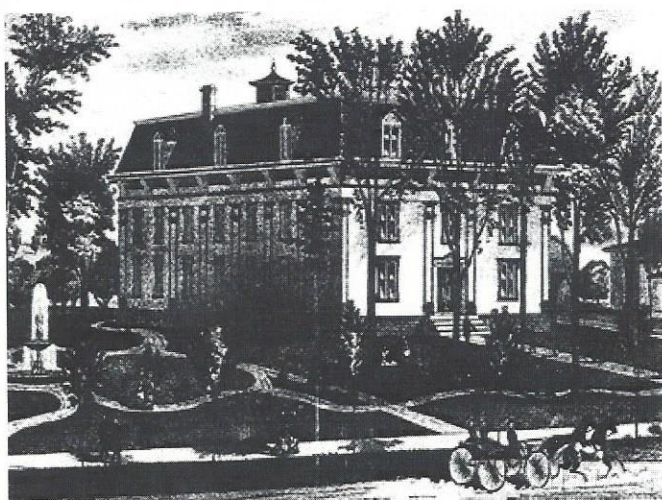
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Reminiscing!

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Clarkville, Bolivar and Genessee. The old state road was already in use in 1815, although the bridges were not built until later.

In the Spring of 1880 our family moved from the farm on East Hill to the Village of Friendship, but now instead of being a large family only brother George and I were left to help keep the home fires burning. Sister Lillie had married and four of my brothers were in business or working away from home.



As I was already a student of Friendship Academy, I might relate some of the history, as well as some of my personal experiences in this quite famous institution. The school was organized in February 1848 by a number of prominent citizens to provide higher education than was then supplied by the far-apart districts. The High School was unknown then and a small college at Alfred Center was the only place available. The Friendship Academy brought many students from a wide territory becoming quite famous as an institution of learning.

The Academy was a large three-story building located on East Main Street, about midway between what was originally two sections, but when the Railroad was built the so-called Four Corners became the center of town.

The first locomotive of the old reliable Erie Railroad arrived in Friendship on February 14, 1851. The school building was on the south side of the street sitting well back, with a nice front yard and a number of large elm trees. It had practically no back yard with a private residence quite close on the west side and an old cemetery still closer on the east side. This prevented all outside activities. This building had a very wide front door leading into a wide hall with wide stairs on either side, leading to the second and third floors. On the first floor was one classroom; a large room used as the town hall, band practice, and various other purposes. The second floor had a large room the entire width of the building which was the chapel, used by the entire school for studying, and in which the Principal heard all classes of science, foreign languages, etc. We also had a short religious session at the beginning of each school day. Leading from this chapel were two other classrooms.

The only grading done was based on Grammar, which was divided into three parts: Orthography, Etymology, and Syntax, and each of the three rooms taught the other common subjects.

I will always remember the teachers during all of my school days. There were Miss Ada Flint, Miss Mabel Hopper, Miss Elizabeth Crandal, and, of course, Professor Prosper Miller.

They always had home study hour from seven to nine p.m. The school bell was always rung at both these hours. One of my school friends, who occupied a small room in back of the building--boarding there-- had the task of ringing this bell. He always went home on Fridays and I rang the bell for him, and you can imagine the pleasant walk I had going along the old cemetery to ring that bell.

Professor Miller was always on the job, as will as all around town, and one was lucky to be out during these strictly enforced study hours and not be observed by the professor. I recall when a bunch of scholars pulled off a party at the professor's brother's house a couple of miles out of town on a farm, and much to our surprise, in walked the professor. He did not say anything but sized us all up and the next morning in chapel we were all called

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up before him and he gave us a good going over. All I remember of this session was that he informed us that it was much more essential to educate our heads than our feet. The school building burned down in the fall of 1893.

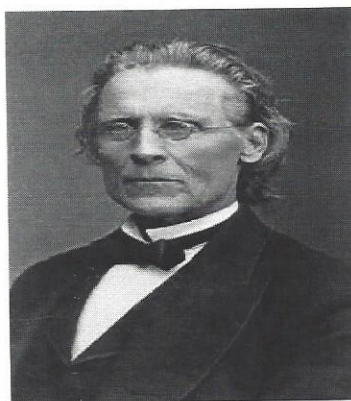
Professor Miller was a fine man and beside teaching he had a few acres of land on which he farmed in a small way. He had a stone quarry, which he worked himself, and also did surveying and other things. The first dollar that I ever earned, other than from my family, was carrying the chain on one of his surveying jobs, and I received what looked big to me, a dollar a day. He had a nice two-story brick house across the road to where we lived and up the street a short ways. It was located on a high bank of Moss Brook. At one spring freshet, as they called it, this stream completely undermined the house which disappeared with all his household possessions. All that was left was a part of the walk leading into where the house had been.

Besides the Friendship Academy, Friendship had another important school. Professor James Baxter, noted for his musical ability, opened the Baxter University of Musical Learning in March 1853, the first institution of musical learning in the United States. This uncommon school drew students from a very great territory. At one time there were 151 pupils from 16 states, 2 territories and Canada. During the number of years that this school was in operation, a considerable number of students married and settled in Friendship. The fact together with the fact that many musicians in shows made it their headquarters, made Friendship the home of more musicians than any other known place of its size. My uncle Joseph Gorton and his Original New Orleans Minstrels always lived here and was on the road with his famous Gold Band for over fifty years. Every year when starting out on his season's work. Some of the local boys would go along who had developed musical abilities during the summer, while the show took its regular summer lay-off.

For a small village, Friendship was a big show town. Mr. E. O. Rogers (who bought the farm I was raised on, for headquarters) started an Uncle Tom's Cabin tent show that did so well he expanded and leased twenty cages of animals and put on a very good circus. The next year he purchased the animals and had an even larger show, but was unlucky by becoming sick. The man who furnished the balloon ascension and parachute drop also transported an outfit of gamblers to follow the show, paying a nice sum. The only trouble was that when they went to Texas, although they had a big crowd to see the parade, no one had the money to go to the show. As a result the show nearly went broke. My father, who had sold Rogers a lot of wagons and equipment, went to Texas to save what he could of the wreck, taking along a lawyer named A. L. Elliott to help with the legal end. They shipped two carloads of horses to Elliott's brother, who lived in Kansas, but unfortunately father never got a cent for all this stock. He also sold an elephant and a cage of lions to a Cincinnati zoo, but I don't remember what was done with the rest.

During these years Mr. Rogers had bought a house in Friendship and Mrs. Lillie Rogers (who was a wonderful Topsy in Uncle Tom's Cabin) had a lot of friends. A few years later they had a theatrical show on the road, and though she begged Mr. Rogers not to play Friendship, they did anyway. She dropped dead on the stage at that performance.

In addition to Gortons Minstrels and Rogers Circus, we had Vreelands Minstrels, Middaugh-Phaff & Goodman show, George Olds Concert, etc.



Professor James Baxter

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Professor James Baxter had a very impressive personality-- tall and straight, he wore eye glasses and had a heavy head of snow white hair. I never saw him with a hat on, which in those days was uncommon. He almost always wore a Prince Albert coat and was quite active, taking long walks. He could be seen most any day somewhere about the near-by country. When I was a small boy still on the farm, the first time that I saw him he was riding a so-called velocipede. It had two quite large wooden wheels of the same size in line with a seat between. It had no pedals and was propelled by one foot at a time reaching the ground, thus furnishing the power. This was one of the first known bicycles. Friendship has also a national honor of being the birthplace of the Republican Party. A convention called by A. N. Cole, Editor of the Free Press of Allegany County, was held in the old Baptist Church (now the GAR Hall on Island Park) in the town of Friendship, NY. Not being able to agree on a suitable name, they consulted Horace Greely, who suggested "Republican Party." It was so called, and thus the Republican Party came into being on May 16, 1854.

My first summer vacation after moving into town, I have related of having earned one dollar a day carrying a surveyors chain, but that job was very short lived. My next job was working for the village pathmaster, driving a team of horses working on a pile driver. It consisted of pulling up the heavy weight to the top of the tower where it tripped causing the hammer to fall striking the pile. I made a good many trips a day, but did not get very far, as when reaching the distance of the tower's height, I turned the team around and started all over again. I received \$1.25 a day, which was a lot for a kid in those days.

Instead of going back to school in the fall, I went to work for Lester D. Cooley on August 20, 1880. He was a very fine young man, recently out of college, who built and furnished an up-to-date dry goods store and conducted it in first-class style.

Always a stickler for neatness and style, he was certainly a model in personal appearance as well as keeping the store in the same condition. I was just a kid and not supposed to know much, but I received valuable advice and instruction from Mr. Cooley, who took lots of pains to see that I became accustomed and competent to wait on customers. At slack periods he would act as a customer and I would show him different lines of goods, and if not satisfied I would show him something else, always telling him prices. He would call for things that I had never heard of so that in a very short time I knew just what we had in the store and the prices of them. I learned more in the time I worked for him than I could have learned in school or any other place.

I started this position with no fixed salary, beginning with none, and was to be paid according to my ability and increasing on that basis. I do not remember the various amounts I received, but know that it was satisfactory. I worked in that store seven months to the day, and the last one a Sunday. I went to the store, swept out, dusted, took down the curtains, etc., so that I would not have to go to work so early Monday morning, but I got up anyway at about 3 a.m. to watch a big fire entirely destroy the store, together with J. L. Molls Shoe Store and Flint & Warner's store on the corner of Main and Depot Streets.

That fire recalls a very serious accident to which I was a very close witness. I was across the street watching it, as many others were, when Mr. Fred Mulkin, then foreman of Elliott Hose Company, reached up to let down the awning of the store to protect the window glass. He was a little too late, for the heat from across the street caused the plate glass to go to pieces and one of those pieces struck Mr. Mulkin high on his cheek, shearing the whole side of his face. I was right next to him at that moment, when he slapped that whole side of his face back, he said, "For God's sake don't tell Mother." She was then very sick and he didn't want to upset her. The flesh grew back again, but left a bad scar. The Flint & Warner store had one of the first Edison Phonographs ever produced and

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Reminiscing!

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was purchased by Les Flint and Charley Helm. They traveled around the country exhibiting it. It was ruined in the fire and afterwards lay in the street-- no one thinking of its historical value later. This machine was all iron with an iron cylinder five or six inches in diameter. It was mounted on a suitable iron stand with a short crank, about four inches long attached. This was before the days of cylinders or discs and a sheet of tin foil was placed on the cylinder very firmly. On this tin foil a speech or some other program was recorded and could be repeated several times, but it could not be preserved or used again.

The day after the fire I again entered Friendship Academy for another stretch, which lasted until January 25, 1882.

I started in as trotter and all-round apprentice in the Citizens National Bank in Friendship (which was built on the same lot that Mr. Cooley's store had been located). This job paid no salary for the first year, which was the usual thing for beginners in banking. Mr. Herman Rice and Mr. Ward Rice, who were former Herkimer County farmers, controlled a majority of the stock. Although neither of them was an officer of the bank, they made it their headquarters-- especially Ward, who was as regular as the cashier on the job. The cashier was forced to take Ward's advice whether he liked it or not. They each had two sons. Ward's older one was the bookkeeper and Herman's younger one was away at college. I knew that my chances of receiving a paying position were very slim.

Mr. William H. Scott owned and operated a good store-- drugs on one side, groceries on the other. He wanted me to go to work for him and would pay me fifty dollars per year and board. I decided to learn to be a Druggist, so I quit the Bank job and went to work for Mr. Scott. I became a member of a family other than my own. Mrs. Scott was a wonderful cook and they had a full-grown daughter and a young son, Don. Little Don was the

cause of my wearing eye glasses all these years. One day I sat out on the front step and he had a wooden dagger, made from an advertising ruler, and he was playing Indian. He came up behind me and pretended to scalp me. I turned to grab him and the sharp stick struck me on the top left eye ball. It was my fault for trying to grab him. He later became a famous photographer and demonstrator for Eastman Kodak Company. There was also a young lady Academy student, Miss Emma Tibbets, who boarded during school weeks. We always had plenty to eat. I have not the exact date, but it was about 1882. I was again disappointed about prospects for becoming a druggist for about all of the time that I was on the Drug side of the store I swept and dusted, etc.

This was about one of the most remarkable periods that ever happened to a small town, and the facts that I am going to relate may seem exaggerated. But for those of us who lived through this period that would be impossible.

The Richburg Oil Well was brought in 1881, which produced the great Allegany County Oil Boom. Richburg was a small seventh day community of from 150 to 200 inhabitants and situated nine miles from Friendship Village. Friendship was the nearest town with a railroad, so it got a great amount of benefit from the boom. All the through-Erie trains stopped now, and there were a great number of stage lines between the two places. All the oil men and those who wanted to be would pay any price to get themselves over as quickly as possible. The competition to secure oil leases was fierce. Friendship secured most all of the business of the boom town, which grew from 200 to 4000 inhabitants within a few months. You can imagine the size of the grocery orders we handled. Boarding houses bought as high as 100 pounds of coffee and other goods correspondingly.

At this time the Olean & Friendship Narrow Gauge Railroad was built from Friendship as far as Bolivar and a little later continued to Olean. Several years later it was built from Friendship to Angelica, NY and still later was extended to Wayland, NY, where it connected with the D.L. and W.R.R.

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This railroad went through many reorganizations--Olean & Friendship, Allegany Central, Lackawanna & Pittsburg, Lackawanna & Southwestern, Central New York & Western, and Pittsburgh Shawmut & Northern, all made into a standard gauge and built extensions into St. Marys, Pennsylvania and into the extensive Shaumot Coal Field.

The store being closed on Sundays, I took many trips on the construction train, taking care of the small son of the Superintendent. After this railroad was completed you can imagine the amount of freight that was handled. The road being a narrow gauge, everything had to be transferred from one train to the other. At one time there were forty men working on this job.

My oldest brother Emmit had a harness shop and saddlery hardware store and brother Adrian, the next in age, had a furniture store. The consolidated the two businesses under the firm name of "Latta Brothers" and had just completed a fine new brick two-story store complete with basement, just in time to take advantage of the new oil rush. During this rush the furniture, of course, was the principal business and they sold an immense amount of mostly cheaper-class boarding house equipment. Brother George drove their delivery wagon making two trips a good many days. They needed more help and as I could get much more than the fifty dollars per year that I was getting for a hard grocery job, I left Mr. Scott's employ and went to work for the Latta Brothers. I worked mostly with brother George on the delivery.

This was in 1883, and I made quite a number of trips to Richburg with George and saw the boom town. They had a nice bank, several hotels, a very large opera house, and ran some of the big New York City shows direct to Richburg. In some of my early trips, one could see lines of men half a block long waiting for a chance to get to a lunch counter. Most of the buildings were of the cheapest construction and for instance, they would place short

lengths of a log on the ground for a foundation, lay a 6 by 8 inch timber on them for sills, then end up hemlock boards one inch thick and twelve inches wide about twelve feet long, nailing the top to about a 4 by 6 timber. They would then lay a rough board floor and move in, sometimes even before the roof was on. Later on batons would be nailed over the cracks.

Just as this oil field was having its big days, in May 1882, the famous Cherry Grove Oil Field in Pennsylvania came in and the rush was on, drawing the mobs away from Richburg.

Of course this naturally killed our furniture business in that field and brother George went to work on the Erie Railroad as a Locomotive fireman. This made me head of the delivery department and I wish that you could have seen our outfit at that time. We had a fine delivery wagon with not very high sides but long, with gold lettering reaching the entire length reading "Friendship Furniture" and "Latta Bros." on the back end. We also had sled runners to replace the wheels for winter. We had a pair of handsome jet black horses so near alike that you could hardly tell them apart. They were not twins, but their mothers were sisters from the same father, and strangely enough they were born on the same day. There were only about fifty pounds difference in their weight. We kept them loose in a large box stall and they never fought over their feed.

We sold furniture over a wide territory and I delivered in many small towns. Bolivar, which was only a couple of miles from Richburg, became the home of most everyone who left Richburg. It was much better built and became a very substantial and up-to-date village. Some of my deliveries were at Nile, Little Genesee, Wirt Center, Black Creek, Belfast, Ormel, Filmore, Belmont, Scio Belvidere, Cuba, and a wide farming territory.

In 1879, Latta Brothers had added a Bicycle Department and in 1884 they sold their furniture and harness business. They did not sell the building but leased it to the new owners, retaining the second floor in which they conducted one of the first bicycle stores in the U.S.

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Brother Emmitt was a professional inventor and mechanical expert. He had issued to him over 200 patents on saddlery, hardware tools and equipment and then he turned out over 80 bicycle improvements. One of them was, I think, the first so-called safety bicycle in the U. S. They had it manufactured in England. Instead of the usual 52, 54, or 56 inch high wheel, it had a 36 inch front wheel with the front forks extended down about 18 inches, with chain drive on both sides. This "Salvo" Safety weighed 85 pounds and I rode it at the head of the League of American Wheelmen's sixth annual meet in Buffalo, N. Y. on July 2-3, 1885. By my side was Dr. Beckwith of New York City, the President of the L. A. W., and he rode a 64 inch full nickel plated Columbia bicycle. The spectators tried to josh me by advising me to get a man-sized bicycle. From that Salvo the now known "safety" bicycle was developed by gradually making the front wheel lower and the rear one higher, and by putting the chain gear on the rear wheel. Eventually both wheels became the same size.

In 1885 they had manufactured in England the American Pilot and the American Express bicycles which had many of Emmitt's improvements. I was the first man in the U. S. to sell bicycles on the road. They sent me on several trips to show these new models and I covered some small towns that had never seen a bike. One of my prospective customers was Congressman Wadsworth of New York, who lived in Geneseo, N. Y.

After Latta Brothers sold their furniture store, I took a trip to visit my brother Frank who was the station agent of Verndale, Minn., on the Northern Pacific R. R., and brother Sam who had a ranch in North Dakota near Englevale, also only a few miles from Lisbon. By the way, there were quite a few former Friendship folks in this section. Jim Wisner, the inventor of the Tiger Revolving Hay Rake, established a bank and a large flouring mill in Lisbon and he became wealthy. He later got the mining

fever, went down to Honduras, and from all reports, lost all that he had made.

Englevale was named after Mayor Engle, formerly of Friendship, and Marshal, N. Dak., was named after Marshal David, also from N. Y. from the town of Scio, who married a Friendship girl. These towns were all located on the Fargo and Southwestern R. R., a branch of the Northern Pacific.

I made this trip sailing on the steamship "Japan" from Buffalo, N. Y., to Duluth, Minn. It was a combined freight and passenger carrier and was the finest boat on the lakes. We made long stops at all the principal ports and the Captain would tell us how long we would be in so that we could take in a few sights. I fell in with a young son of the manufacturer of Whites Youkotan Chewing Gum of Cleveland, and we chummed it all during the trip. We made a long stop at Erie, Penn., where they took aboard coal enough for the round trip, and at Detroit the Captain told us they would be there about eight hours, so White and I took in a matinee of Thacher Primrose and West Minstrels. I don't remember any other particulars. I went direct from Duluth to Verndale for a visit with brother Sam and his young son, Clyde.

Sam was divorced and they had a young farm hand who did the cooking and they all helped do the work. It was just harvest time when I arrived and they were cutting the wheat. He had four horses and four mules and one self binder, using the four at a time running the binder the entire 24 hours during the rush. I got on the binder and drove around the field and I thought that I would never get back as it was such a large field of wheat. Another experience that I had was with young Clyde. We took a shot gun and went several miles after prairie chickens. We reached a small body of water not large enough to call a lake, where we found a few of what I thought to be ducks. I shot one that fell into the water and the only way to recover it was to undress and swim in after it. This I did, and got tangled up in a lot of a sort of weed and I was mighty glad to get out alive. To cap the climax, the duck turned out to be a worthless mud hen.

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Reminiscing!

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I don't remember how long I stayed there but I headed back east again, stopping with Frank who came back as far as Chicago with me.

I again went back to the Friendship Academy, which in the meantime had been reorganized as Friendship Military Academy under the management of Professor Thatcher. I did not join the military department which required wearing uniforms and drilling, etc. During this time I did the bookkeeping and helped with other work for Latta Brothers and also my father who occupied the ground floor of a large warehouse in the rear of the furniture store. He handled a line of wagons, carriages, and all kinds of agricultural and dairy implements, supplies, etc.

Owing to the fact that brother Frank was a telegrapher, I decided to try for this line of work. I promoted an amateur gang of ten or twelve young fellows and built a telegraph line which nearly covered the whole town. We developed some very good operators. One case in particular that I remember was a Mr. Riley who came from Buffalo, N. Y., and had bought out C. L. Howard's Dry Goods Store. He had a young son who had never seen anything other than level ground and at first was afraid that the hill, close to the house they had just moved into, would fall on them. Mr. Riley came to see me and wanted to know what it would cost for his boy to come in on this line. He said the boy was crazy about telegraphy and was absolutely no good in the store. I sold him an outfit, and the way that young man picked up telegraphy beat anything I ever saw or heard of. In less than two months he was an operator in the Buffalo Western Union office, and a few months later he was transferred to New York to be assigned to a "hot" press wire.

I will never forget one incident that occurred to me while I was running a line to connect Frank Fuld, son of the proprietor of the Mansion House (which burned down years ago). This hotel was on Depot Street with the side running about three feet

from the back end of the stores on Main Street. I stood on the roof of one of the stores and reached across that vacant space to attach a bracket to the hotel. It took so long that my strength was about all gone and I thought that I would never be able to push myself back to the roof.

On Dec. 20, 1885, I entered the Bryant & Stratton Business College in Buffalo, only a few days before Christmas. Brother Emmet had to go to Buffalo on business and I went with him rather than see Santa. This college advertised no vacations, although just the day I got there they started a two-week vacation to move from the old Brown building on Seneca Street to a new location in the German Insurance Building on Main Street, the side of which faced Lafayette Square. They occupied the entire third floor and had all new equipment. It was the finest school of its kind in the U. S. It would have cost me as much railroad fare to go home and back as it did to stay there, so they said that I could use a desk in their office and the two weeks would count as one on my tuition. In that way I became the first and only student of the college in their new location. This was a wise move for there was, at most all times, some of the teachers around ready and willing to answer any of my questions and giving me valuable advice.

In addition to the regular studies, there were several small model offices in which students conducted various lines of business. This enabled the students to learn the right way to properly operate when they entered real lines of business. The highest and last of these was the bank and as I had some real experience in this field, they put me in that office as a bank cashier, and I thus did not have to fill some of the other positions. The final requirement of the bookkeeping study was to work out the actual days business of the Manufacturer and Traders Bank, one of Buffalo's leading banks. A special set of blank books was required and I received top marks on this item. The instructors had small rubber stamps with "Approved" on one side and "Excellent" on the other, which they used on all our markings. If your work was not good enough to get approved, you had to do it over again.

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Reminiscing!

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In recalling some of these old happenings, it brings to mind, now and then, things rather unusual, for instance: this school had a special English department for those lacking proper standing. This case was a young man considerably older than the rest of us, who came here from Georgia. He was a Fireman on a railroad and had been promoted to Engineer, but was unable to accept it because of not being able to read or write. To see this full-grown man wrestling with the ABC's was out of the ordinary. He was brought up during the Civil War, and as there were no schools in that part of the South, he had never been to school a day. He was a likable fellow and we were all glad to help him whenever possible. He had many interesting experiences during the war and could relate them very well. He always carried a razor, in true southern style, instead of a gun.

On several Sundays, several of us would go to Niagara Falls, which would only cost 50¢ for the round trip. We would see the Ice Gorge and even walk across to Canada on it.

In my boarding house on Delaware Avenue, there were four medical students and four Bryant students. Two of the latter were Olean boys, Jim McLowery and Willis Chamberlain. We became very good friends and several years later I was located in Olean where Chamberlain and I renewed our friendship. McLowery had located in Buffalo and I never saw him but once thereafter. In 1922, when I and my family located in Glendale, California, the Chamberlains came here and since that time we have been the best of friends. Although Mr. Chamberlain and Mrs. Latta have passed on, Mrs. Chamberlain and myself keep up our old friendship.

I graduated from the Bryant and Stratton Business College on May 1, 1886, and returned to my old job with Latta Brothers, Importers and Dealers in Bicycles, until April 1, 1887. We exhibited lines of bicycles at the Cuba and Angelica Fairs and I

did some trick riding and bicycle racing, winning several silver cups, badges, etc. We sold a Victor Tricycle to a doctor in Andover, N. Y., and I delivered it to him, advising him not to ride too much at first and to take it easy until broken in. I met him a short time after and he said he thought than I was a darn fool and that he knew what he was good for, but he found that I was right. He rode until near midnight and the next morning was unable to get out of bed.

In 1879, the year that my brothers added bicycles to their business, the League of American Wheelmen was organized and for about thirty years was a very important link in the bicycle business. I have the honor of being the youngest member ever to join that organization. Their age limit was 18 years. My 18th birthday was June 19 and to be sure that I could attend their 6th annual meet in Buffalo on July 2 and 3, I made a special request to headquarters and was admitted one day before reaching the required age. My first official number was No. 2432 and on Jan. 1, 1898, I was conferred the rank of Veteran and given the advance No. 629. I have, under date of 1897, and honor certificate of loyal work done in that year, and 22 annual membership cards of L. A. W. up to 1907, when they folded up. I was holding # 264. I also acted as Consul for a number of years.

To Be Continued.

Going Out on a Limb

By: Lou Putnam, Lou.Putnam@gmail.com.

September 12, 2009

My last post indicated that the questions I was pondering about the Stone house - as a safe haven, becoming part of the Underground Railroad - was directing me to research my family tree. I began wondering who owned the house

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Going Out on a Limb

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during that time. I searched the web and found an article pertaining to the house. (see previous post September 3, 2009)

I noticed the article was written by a Beryl Redfield, captain of Branch 45. What's a Branch 45? Back to the web and found the website www.Latta.org. Branch 45 is one of 22 branches of the Latta family. (Originally there were 52 branches, so it appears some branches were loped off or broken.) Branch 45 was about the Stone House! It shows a picture of how the house looks today, not when any direct descendants occupied it.

Redfield's email address was visible, so I emailed her what I was doing regarding researching the Stone house. To my surprise, she quickly responded back telling me she had done some research on the house in 2002 because she was a descendant of a Latta. Wow! I found a relative, though many generations and states removed. She lives in Utah and I'm in Indiana.

In her email she told me she joined a genealogy group for Washington County, PA and posed questions to a Suzanne Edwards (Another case of small world, my maiden name is Edwards. I may find Suzanne is also a relative! Another branch to follow, but that will be another project since she would be on my father's side.) Redfield offered to make copies of all the materials she received and found on her own and snail mail them to me. She thought I would find it quite interesting since I'm a direct descendant.

As a direct descendant, you'd think we would have lots of material about the house, especially how it was used in the Underground Railroad. The only thing I truly have is photographs. Very little about the history of the house was discussed, nor written down. Just like a photograph, I am on this journey to create an image of the house's history. (Thanks to Dr. Ken Smith, my adviser for this analogy.)

Curious as to Redfield's Latta connection, I emailed her my lineage to the house – mother, Mary Jane Fiedler Edwards; grandmother, Grace Chester Fiedler; great grandmother Ollie Jane Latta Chester who was daughter of Ostrander D. Latta (my great great grandfather) who co-owned the house (so it seems from Redfield's article) with his brother Alexander. Her lineage is not as direct to the house as mine. Redfield's great grandmother (maternal grandfather's mother) was Irene Latta daughter of Thomas Latta of Elizabeth, PA. A Latta database she used shows Thomas' father as William Latta who was a brother to Ostrander – my great great grandfather. (Redfield indicates she hasn't found proof of this connection...yet.)

As I read her email, I wondered how the Latta database got started, and why. She explained,

...I started doing some research on the house for an article in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. I am involved in the Latta Genealogy Society which evolved from research started in the 1930s by a man who believed all the Lattas could be traced back to Ireland.* His research resulted in an accumulation of a large amount of data so he divided the families up into what he called "branches" and this information was donated to some library. In recent times, it became available on the internet which is where I found it in 1999 while doing research on my Latta family. My grandfather was contacted by the Latta man, and in 1934 he supplied his family information.

*I had been told that the Lattas had come from Canada. I guess they could have started out from Ireland and come to Pennsylvania through Canada!

Armed with names and approximate dates, I can really start to find the lineage of the house – who owned it when – by contacting the Office of the Recorder of Deeds. Or perhaps Ms. Redfield's information will have it.

A picture of the Stone House is on Page 19.



This is the Latta Stone House. It is in Roscoe, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

National Archives of Ireland, 1911

By: Kathy Latta, Secretary Historian,
lattakj@telusplanet.net

These census extracts are copied from The National Archives of Ireland, 1911.

Surname Forename Townland/Street E County
Age Sex

Latta Robert Castlethird Killea Donegal 29 M
Latta Robert Haw Killea Donegal 29 M
Latta Maggie Haw Killea Donegal 25 F
Latta Willie Haw Killea Donegal 4 M
Latta Robert Haw Killea Donegal 2 M
Latta Sarah Haw Killea Donegal 1 F
Latta William Haw Killea Donegal 84 M
Latta Thomas Haw Killea Donegal 35 M
Latta Sarah Haw Killea Donegal 36 F
Latta William Robb Haw Killea Donegal 0 M
Surname Forename Townland/Street E County
Age Sex

County Age Sex

Latta James Newtown Cunningham Town
Newtown Cunningham Donegal 7 M
Latta George Newtown Cunningham Town
Newtown Cunningham Donegal 1 M
Latta John N.Drumherville Glenalla Donegal 41 M
Latta Maggie Drumherville Glenalla Donegal 36 F
Latta Mary Drumherville Glenalla Donegal 68 F
Latta Robert Alexander Ballynakill
Marshalstown Wexford 44 M
Latta Elizabeth Mobel Ballynakill
Marshalstown Wexford 43 F
Latta Margaret Elizabeth Ballynakill
Marshalstown Wexford 13 F
Latta Robert Andrew Alexander Ballynakill
Marshalstown Wexford 10 M
Latta Barbara Bessie Ballynakill Marshalstown
Wexford 9 F

Surname Forename Townland/Street E County
Age Sex

Latta Mary Jane Ivan Duncaim Ward Antrim 39 F

Latta Christina Ivan Duncaim Ward Antrim 5 F
Latta John Roundhill Street Pottinger (part of)
Down 61 M

Latta Margaret Annie Roundhill Street
Pottinger (part of) Down 47 F

Latta James Hen-it Roundhill Street Pottinger
(part of) Down 12 M

Latta Edgar Waveny Road Ballymena (No.2)
Urban (In 34 files) Antrim 35 M

Latta John Roosky Castleforward Donegal 44 M
Latta Mary Jane Roosky Castleforward
Donegal 34 F

Latta James Castlethird Killea Donegal 72 M
Latta Jane Castlethird Killea Donegal 73 F

Latta Francis Fender Ballynakill Marshalstown
Wexford 6 M

Latta Hesbert Lockhart Ballynakill
Marshalstown Wexford 4 M

Latta William Killenny Dunnamanagh Tyrone
81 M

Latta Jane Killenny Dunnamanagh Tyrone 80 F

Latta John H Patrick Street Mullingar South
Urban Westmeath 28 M

Latta Ethel Patrick Street Mullingar South
Urban Westmeath 27 F

Latta Harold Patrick Street Mullingar South
Urban Westmeath 8 M

Latta Arthur Patrick Street Mullingar South
Urban Westmeath 2 M

Latta Sidney Patrick Street Mullingar South
Urban Westmeath 1 M

Surname Forename Townland Street DED
County Age Sex

Lattie Stella Strand Street Tralee Urban (part
of) Kerry 94 F

Lattie May Main Street Lismore Waterford 16 F

Lattie Ida Bohalas Ballaghaderreen Roscommon
30 F

(Continued on Page 21)

National Archives of Ireland, 1911

(Continued from Page 20)

Latty Ellen Albert Court West Fitzwilliam
Dublin 37 F

Latty Mary Mocollop Mocollop Waterford 48 F
Latty Martin Harbour Street Mountmellick
Urban Queen's Co. 44 M

Also located on this Census was this family
from Branch 53:

Name, Relationship to Head of Family, Religious Profession, Education, Age and Gender, Occupation, Particulars as to Marriage, Years Married, Total Children born alive, Children still living, Where Born:

William Latta, Head of Family, Presbyterian, Read & Write, male age 81, Farmer, Married, - - - Tyrone.

Jane Latta, Wife, ditto, Read & Write, female age 80, - Married, 60, 4, 1, Tyrone.

Isabella McConnell, Daughter, ditto, female age 55, - Married, 25, 7, 7, Tyrone.

John McConnell, Grand Son, ditto, male age 24, Farm Labourer, Single, - - - Tyrone.

Jeane McConnell, Grand Daughter, ditto, female age 17, Scholar, single, - - - Londonderry.

Bridget Graham, Servant, Roman Catholic, Read, female age 40, General Servant, Married, under one, none, - Tyrone.

Colin Latta of Scotland

By: Penny Boyce, Branch 23,
Penboy@tpg.com.au

The following information has been collated from the Scottish OPR births and baptism records available through Scots people:

Collon Lata born 20/1/1771 to John Lata b..23/3/1746 Dalgetty married 21/2/1766 to Helen Beveridge b.16/12/1741

They had 6 other children:

Grisle Lata 1/2/1767 Dalgetty named after her maternal grandmother

Eupen Lata (twin) 11/4/1769 Dalgetty named after her paternal great grandmother

Margaret Lata (twin) 11/4/1769 Dalgetty named after her paternal grandmother

John Lata 6/6/1773 Dalgetty named after his father

Janet Lata 11/9/1775 Dalgetty named after her mothers sister?

James 21/12/1777 Dalgetty

Colin Lata married Mary (Margaret) Muir 1/1/1789..

I could find records of 7 children under various spellings, but none to suggest that any of the children were those of Janet Bauch.

Thomas Latow 10/2/1793 Dalgetty

Hellen Lata 8/6/1797 Dalgetty

John Latta 2/6/1799 Dalgetty

Jannet Latta 25/3/1802 Dalgetty

Hugh Baird Latta 8/7/1804 Kilsyth

Elizabeth Latta 15/3/1807 Kilsyth

Sophia Latta 9/7/1809 Kilsyth

Hellen Lata married 11/3/1815 David Beveridge b. 3/11/1798.

They had one child that I can locate: Colin Beveridge b.29/3/1818

Colin Beveridge is my maternal great great great grandfather.

The original Collon forefathers as I believe them to be as follows:

John Lata 23/3/1746 is the second son of Colin (Collen, Collin) Lata (Latta, Lato)

And Margaret Beveridge (Beverich, Beverage, Belfrage) b: 3/1/1718 m: 25/4/1740 Dalgetty,

(Continued on Page 22)

Colin Latta of Scotland

(Continued from Page 21)

They had 8 other children that I have been able to find, they were all born in Dalgetty:

Euphame 1/11/1742

Collen 31/5/1744

Walter 15/2/1748

Alexander 3/6/1750

Jean 8/8/1751

James 9/11/1753

Alexander 14/12/1755

Margaret 23/4/1758

Colin is the son of Colin Latow m: 21/10/1704 to Jean Bailye in Fife

They have 1 other child that I have been able to locate

Elizabeth 1/3/1719.

More on Branch 23

By: Nancy Latta, rlatta6374@aol.com

Branch 23 (Latta.org) Colin Latta B. Jan. 20, 1771 m. MaryMuir B. abt 1768 at Dalgety, Fife, Scotland. My husband is descended through son Thomas B. Feb. 7, 1793. From your note it sounds like I have the parents' names of Colin, John Lata, and Helen Beveridge. Thank you. Anything else you can tell me about them would be helpful. My husband's grandmother was Jessie No. 38. I don't think there are any other Latta.org members in this branch.

Three Latta Photographs

By: Eugene Latta, Branch 3, ulatta@nc.rr.com

The only information I have on Henry and

Rachael is that I suspect that Rachael was a sister of my maternal grandmother, Elizabeth E. O'Toole Latta. Even where the picture was taken I believe was on the reverse of the picture, as I had the reverse of all done with the exception of the 2 boys. As to Margary Shaw picture, I again believe that Cora was the sister of Elizabeth. I think that her parents had quite a few children, and have the DOB & DOD of some, but where and exact dates are unknown. Many of them migrated from Pennsylvania, as my grandfather Clarence J. Latta and Elizabeth attended a couple of the reunions in Pennsylvania. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania 8/3/1871; married Elizabeth E. O'Toole, Sept. 1903 at Anaconda, Montana. DOD 7/9/1962, Sterling, Colorado and he and Elizabeth are buried at Riverside Cemetery there. Their oldest child was Rosemary Latta, born in Butte, Montana on 3/28/1905, DOD 9/21/1990. She married Matthew C. Rodney. The next child was Joseph James Latta, DOB 4/3/1907 in Keokuk, Iowa, and died 2/21/1909 of ingested lye. Then my father, Clarence Jr., DOB 9/12/912; at Chinook, Montana; then Eugene O'Toole Latta SJ DOB 12/27/1914 at Haxton, Colorado, DOD 3/3/1992. Then Donald Monroe Latta, DOB 11/21/1919, at Sterling, Colorado, DOD 9/2/1990. He was married first to Patricia Kennedy ending in divorce, then to "Aletta", the subject of a family bible containing some genealogical information. Donald died in Burk, Burnett, Texas of cancer. Her whereabouts is not known to me. My father, Clarence Latta Jr., died 3/31/1984 in Denver, Colorado and is buried at Ft. Logan cemetery. His last wife, Fantine, committed suicide a week later.

The three pictures follow on pages 23 and 24. The first picture is of Mrs. Margery Shaw, nee Hendrickson, Derry, Pennsylvania. Her mother was Cora Latta, sister of Frank, Wm. James, and Boyd Latta.

The second picture is of Harry and Rachael (possibly O'Toole) and Donald Monroe Latta, in Irwin, Pennsylvania.

The third picture is of Clarence Latta Jr. and Eugene O'Toole Latta.

(Continued on Page 23)



Latta Shepard Family

By Kathy Latta, Secretary Historian,
lattakj@telusplanet.net

George and Clarissa Latta (nee Shepherd)
Branch 13 - Family Group 152
Headstone Pictures August 2009

George Henry, son of John Chester and Catherine Hooey was born 24 May 1861. George was the youngest of 4 siblings, 2 girls and 2 boys.

Clarissa, daughter of Thomas Shepherd and Mary Ann Shaw, born 18 Dec. 1864. Clarissa was the second eldest of eight siblings, 6 girls and 2 boys.

Saskatchewan Land Grant # 714484, NW 10 - 20 - 11 - W2, located NE of Regina. Geo. Henry Latta Application Proved 1887 - 08 - 15.

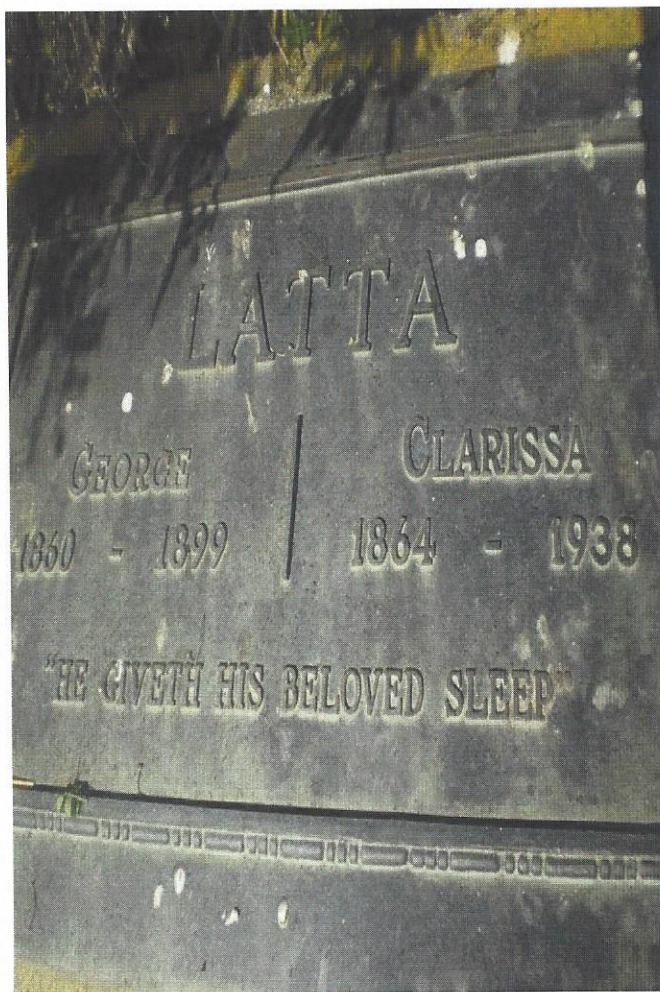
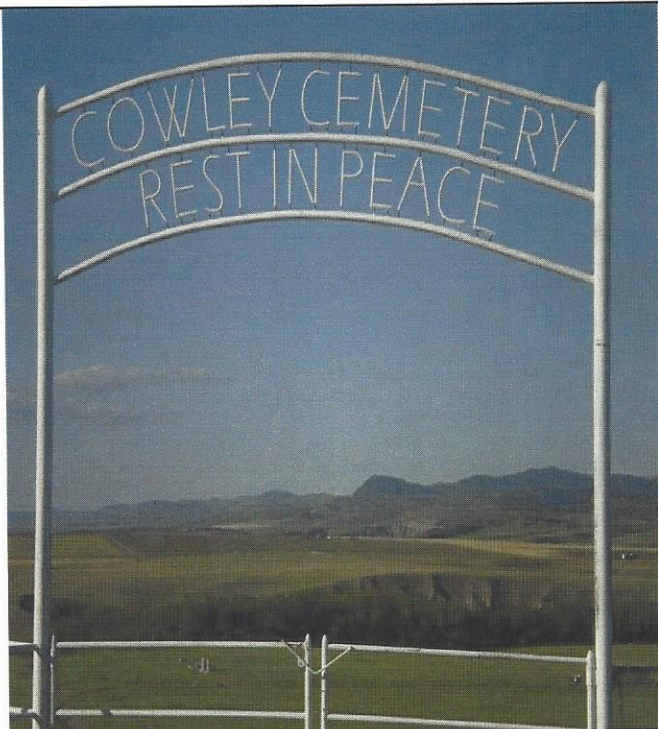
LDS lists all three children as being born at Cortez, Nevada, these are unconfirmed.

George H.'s father, John Chester is listed in 1880 USA Census as boarding in Argenta, Nevada and working in a Quartz Mine. This is within a hundred miles of Cortez.

George H.'s Uncle Chauncy P. is listed in the 1880 USA Census as running a Boarding House at Carson City, Nevada. There are 16 Chinese Immigrants, some single, some married living here as well. All the Chinese are working as Wood Cutters.

At Cowley are buried George and Clarissa, with Clarissa's three siblings, Thomas H., William and Annie. George and Clarissa's two daughters Etta May and husband Lawrence Michael Clelland, along with their son Paul Ivan Latta Clelland, Ida M. and husband James R. Irwin. Note Etta May and son Paul both died the same year.

The Cowley Cemetery is located in South Western Alberta, north of Highway 3 on Range Road 1-4 about 3/4's of a mile North of the Highway. Going west from the Town of Cowley you take the first right hand turn heading North. You pass a sign post with RR1-4 and Twp Rd 7-4 on it still heading north. The road peters out at the Cemetery. It is nestled on the side of a hill overlooking a body of water, possibly a reservoir.



Real Photo Post Cards

By Paul Peterson

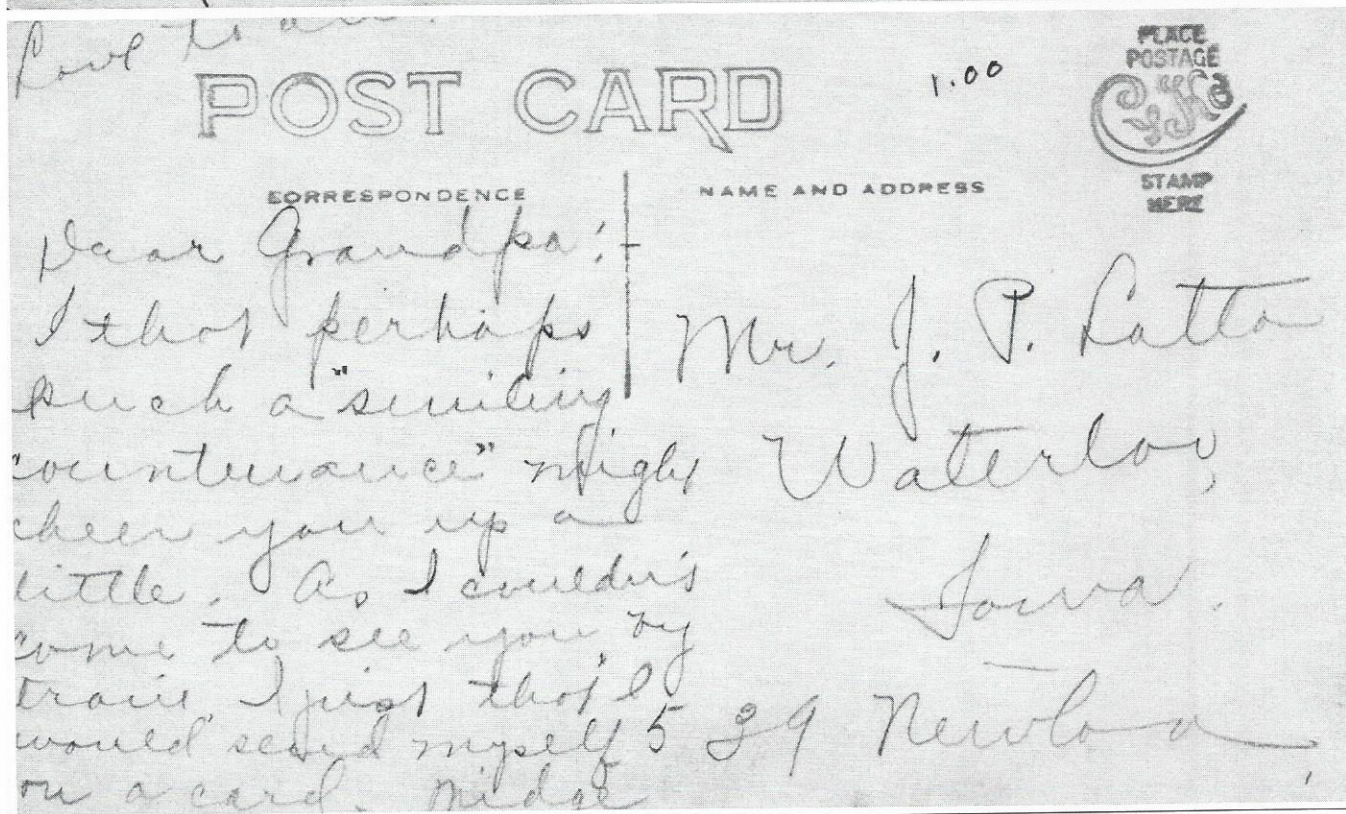
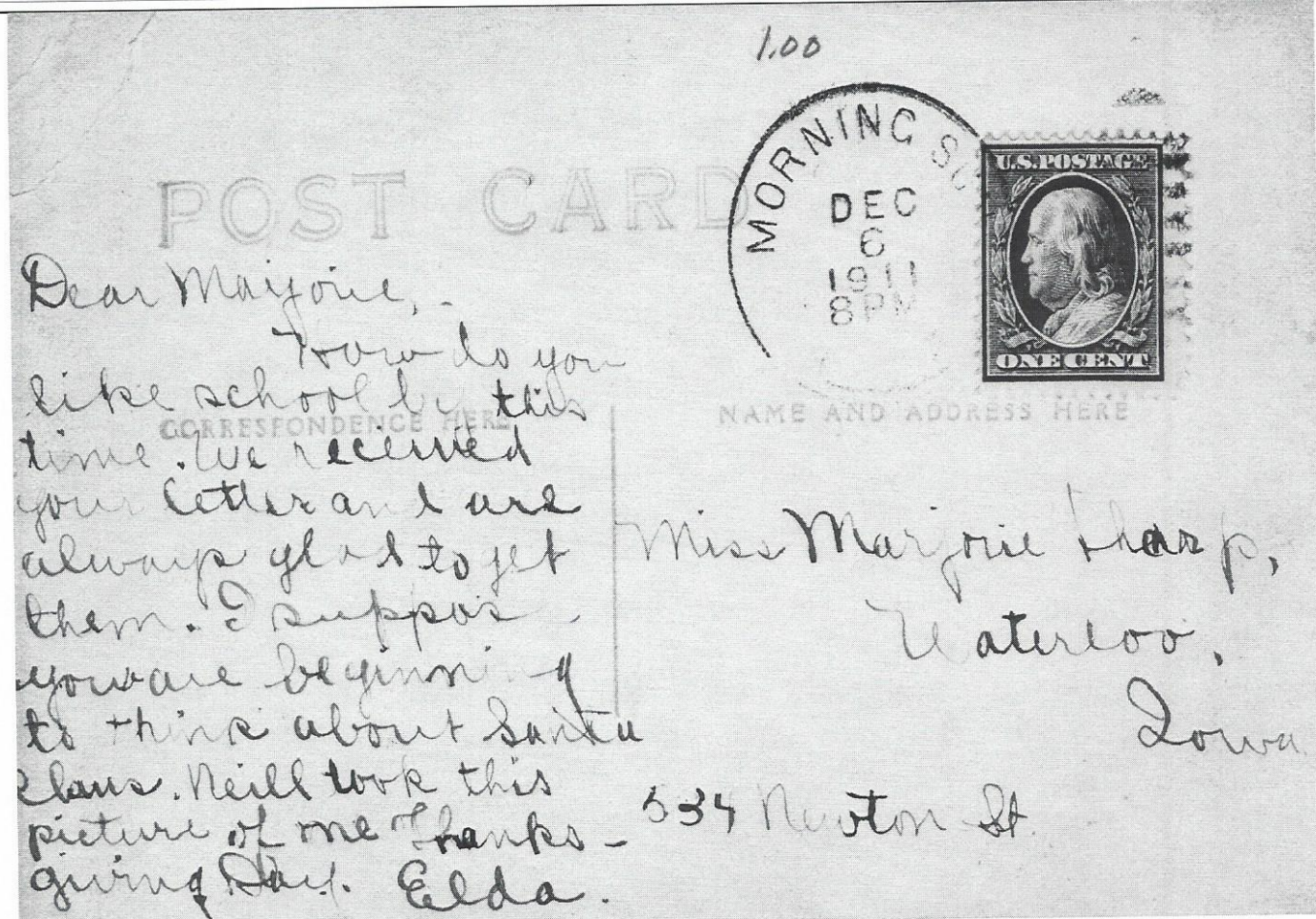
I purchased the subject RPPC (Real Photo Post Card) March 26, 2009 at the Alameda Historical Museum gift shop, Alameda, CA. It was sent by Elda to Miss Marjorie Tharp, 534 Newton St., Waterloo, IA, postmarked Morning Sun, 6 Dec 1911. In her message, Elda states, "Neill took this picture of me."

Although Elda did not give her name, the only Elda I could find in the U.S. Census data for Morning Sun, IA, that closely matched the age of the teenage girl in the photo, is Elda M. Latta, born about 1895 in IA, daughter of James K. Latta and Eva Upson (see also www.latta.org web site, Branch 29, Individual 145). By the time of the 1920 U.S. Census, Elda was 25 years old and married to Walter C. Weinrich, but she still resided in Morning Sun. The Iowa State Census conducted in 1925 lists the Weinrich couple as residing in Des Moines, Iowa.

I purchased a second RPPC of the same woman from the same museum gift shop in Alameda, CA. This one is undated and not postally used. It was addressed by "Midge," referring to her "smiling countenance," to her "Grandpa," Mr. J. P. Latta, Waterloo, IA. I found John P. and his wife Sophia, both born in OH, listed in the 1910 Census data for Waterloo, Black Hawk Co., IA. The couple had been married 44 years, had 9 children, 6 of which were still living. I found this couple listed in the 1870 Census data for Sheridan, Linn Co., KS, living with three children (presumably theirs)--James S. (age 3), Alcesta (age 2), and Jemina (age 7 months). I found them listed in the 1900 Census data for Morning Sun, Louisa Co., IA, living with son Fred G. (age 20) and daughter Ninie G. (age 17).

These postcards were purchased by Latta Genealogical Society Vice President Randy Phillips on behalf of our Society. We are printing them to preserve them for present and future generations.





Clarence Palmer Latta

By: Bob Orr, boborr@abelink.com.

1.8.8.4 Applegate, Bertha Emmaline b. 24 Aug. 1872, Scotch Grove, Jones Co., IA. Bertha was d/o Charles Reno Applegate and Elizabeth "Betty" Minglin. Married 24 Jun. 1896, Scotch Grove, Jones Co., IA to Clarence Palmer Latta b. 21 Dec. 1873, Washington, Washington Co., IA, d. Jun. 1957, Danville, Vermillion Co., IL, s/o Wes H. & Mary (Palmer) Latta. Res. Hollywood, CA.

Ref: WW #1 Draft Registration - Clarence Palmer Latta b. 21 Dec. 1873, reg. South Bend, St. Joseph Co., IN, res. 1511 Spruce Place, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., MN, medium height, medium build, brown hair and eyes, dtd. 12 Sep. 1918. Listed as an Automotive Engineer. Emp. Studebaker Corporation, South Bend, IN; Mrs. Bertha E. Latta, next of kin.

Ref: CA Death Record - Bertha E. Latta b. 24 Aug. 1872, d. 7 May 1967, Los Angeles Co., CA, 94 yrs., Mother's name was Minglin.

Ref: 1910 Wd 27, Chicago, Cook Co., IL census, pg. 50A; 187/232.

Latta, Clarence P., 36, b. IA, Pts b. OH, Chicago RR Elect Engr

" , Bertha E., 36, b. IA, "

" , Elizabeth, 6, b. NY, Pts b. IA

" , Bertha M., 2, b. IL, "

Schoonover, Franc, 34, b. IA, F b. IN, M b. OH,

Clarence & Bertha md. 13 yrs; Bertha had 2 ch/2 liv.

Ref: 1920 Wd 5, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., MN census, pg. 10A; 300.

Latta, Clarence P., 46, b. IA, Pts b. OH, Auto Salesman

" , Bertha E., 47, b. IA, "

" , Elizabeth, 16, b. NY, Pts b. IA, Telephone Opr.

" , Marian, 12, b. IL, " , "

Ref: 1930 4th Wd, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., MN census, pg. 7B.

Latta, Bertha E., 57, b. IA, md., Pts b. OH
Bertha m1 at 23 yrs. of age.

Bertha appears to be staying at Minneapolis at a hotel when the census was taken.

Children:

.1 Elizabeth Isabel b. 25 Aug. 1903
.2 Bertha Marian "Sally" b. Sep.

1907

1.8.8.4.1 Latta, Elizabeth Isabel b. 25 Aug. 1903, New York City, NY, d. Jul. 1992, Indianapolis, IN, bur. Danville, IN, md. 9 Mar. 1931 by Dr. Porter to John Claybourne Rader b. 19 Jan. 1905. Res. 1945, Danville, IN. Res. 462 East Broadway, Danville, IN.*

Ref: SSDI - Elizabeth Rader b. 25 Aug. 1903, d. 21 Jul. 1992, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN 46202; John Rader b. 19 Jan. 1905, d. Nov. 1975, Edwardsville, Madison Co., IL 62025. Ck!

Ref: Elizabeth's DAR Nat'l. No. 361128.

1.8.8.4.2 Latta, Bertha Marian "Sally" b. 11 Sep. 1907, Chicago, IL, Sherbert Chorus Girl, d. 12 Nov. 1994, 87 yrs., md. ca 1941, Los Angeles, CA to Daniel G. "Geoffrey Homes" Mainwaring b. 22 Jul. 1902, CA, d. 31 Jan. 1977, Los Angeles Co., CA, 74 yrs., Free-lance and Mystery Writer, Employed by Warner Bros. Res. North Hollywood, CA.

Ref: CA Death Index - Daniel G. Mainwaring b. 22 Jul. 1902, CA, d. 31 Jan. 1977, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA, 74 yrs.

Ref: SSDI - Sally Mainwaring b. 11 Sep. 1907, d. Nov. 1994, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA 90049, issued CA; Daniel Mainwaring b. 22 Jul. 1902, d. Jan. 1977, Los Angeles.

Ref: Los Angeles Times, 2 Feb. 1977, pt 2, pg. 4 - Mainwaring, Daniel, passed away January 31, 1977. Survived by his wife, Mrs. Sally Mainwaring; daughters, Dannie Hoffpauir and Deborah Mainwaring; 1 grandchild, Christien Hoffpauir. Donations to the American Cancer Society. Services will be private. Westwood Village Mortuary, directors.

(Continued on Page 28)

Clarence Palmer Latta

(Continued from Page 27)

Ms. Kiburz writes that Daniel wrote "No Hands on the Clock". Nom de plume is Geoffrey Home Mainwaring.

Ref: Variety, Wednesday, 9 Feb. 1977 - Daniel Mainwaring - Daniel Mainwaring, 74, vet newspaperman turned publicist-novelist-scripter, died Jan. 31 of cancer in Los Angeles. Author of 13 novels, 41 screenplays and many TV productions, most of them under his Geoffrey Homes nom de plume, in recent years he had collaborated in Europe with producer-director-author Hardy Krueger.

Born in Oakland, CA, he was associated with several NY dailies during the 1920's prior to returning to California as a crime reporter for the Los Angeles Herald, the Daily News and the Express.

He became a publicist in 1934 when he joined Warner Bros., later moving over to RKO. He abandoned flacking when his novels found a growing market and he adapted several for the screen, among them "No Hands On the Clock," "Out of the Past," "The Lawless," and some of the early sci-fi hits, "The Body Snatchers."

Surviving are his wife; two daughters.

Ref: From WWW.Abebooks.com I find the following books written by Geoffrey Homes. I assume that this is our Geoffrey Homes. Some of his books were written in other languages and some were printed more than once. Likely these is not the complete list of books written by Geoffrey.

Then There Were Three, Bantam, 1945,

The Man Who Murdered Himself, 1945, Vintage Press

No Hands on the Clock, Bantam, 1946

Finders Keepers, Bantam, 1947.

Dead As A Dummy (Murder at a Tucson Theater), Bantam, 1949.

The Case of the Unhappy Angels (Six Silver Handles), Bantam, 1950.

The Case Of The Mexican Knife (The Street of the Crying Woman, Bantam, 1948.

Build My Gallows High, Jonathan Press, 1958.

The Man Who Murdered Goliath, NY Dell, 1938.

The Doctor Died At Dusk, William Morrow, 1936.

Finders Keepers, Bantam, 1947.

Stiffs Don't Vote, Bantam, 1947.

Then There Were Three, Bantam, 1945.

The Man Who Didn't Exist, Dell, ???.

Children:

.1 Dannie Rosemary

.2 Deborah

State Abbreviations: IA = Iowa, IL = Illinois, CA = California, NY = New York, MN = Minnesota, OH = Ohio, IN = Indiana.

Newsletter By E-mail

Any member who wishes to receive the Latta Genealogy Newsletter by e-mail, please contact the editor. It would save our Society some postage, conserve resources, and you will get the pictures in color. Some members have already taken advantage of this opportunity, and they report quite favorable results.

The editor does plan to continue to mail this newsletter to select libraries to help preserve it for present and future generations. Some of these libraries are the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois; the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana; the Library of Congress in Washington, DC; the State Historical Society Library, Madison, Wisconsin; and the Genealogical Society of Utah, the LDS Main Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The LDS Film Number for the Latta Genealogy Newsletter is: 1783414.

Reprints of Issues 1-38 are available for \$4.00 each. If interested, please contact the editor, Ken Mueller, 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314, Doc Huer@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.

1. All I have for Sidney **Latta** is that she was born 4/4/1817 in Richland Co., Ohio. She died 8/27/1895 in Buckeye, IA, Hardin Co. Her parents were William **Latta** b.1776 in Westmoreland Co. PA d. 2/2/1849. Mother was Nancy **Johnson**, d. 1800 Crawford Co., Ohio. Sidney married David **Swaney**, b. 7/3/1807 in Washington Co. PA, d. 3/3/1882 Buckeye, Van Buren Township, Jackson Co. (Not sure which is correct county). They had my great grandfather, William **Latta Swaney** 2/2/1840 Jackson Co. IA, m. Chatutauqua Co. IA 12/2/1873 and d. 12/16/1922, wife Arminda **Wilson** b. 7/11/1848 in Audubon Co., IA, d. 12/20/1921 Iowa City, IA. My grandfather was Wilson Bacon **Swaney**, b. 1/28/1878 in Audubon Co. IA, m 8/1/1902, d. 10/31/1961 in Webster Co., Iowa. My grandmother was Caroline **Brunner**, b. 10/2/1879 in Carroll Co. IA, d. 9/7/1944 in Webster Co. IA. My father was Marion Russell **Swaney**, b. 7/4/1904 in Manning, Iowa, d. 7/13/1956 in Fort Dodge (Webster) IA. My Mother was Dortha Mae **Johnson**, b. 4/01/1907, m. 6/22/29 and d. 7/31/1988. Last is me Sue **Swaney**, married Charles D. **Olson** (1928-1991), three kids. Sue **Olson**, swanolson@comcast.net.

2. I have been researching my kin and the **Lattas** that are buried in the cemeteries in the older Denver area cemeteries for some time. The records at the three older cemeteries are not computerized so you nearly to need to go there and look up information manually.

Three of the older cemeteries in Denver were: Crown Hill, Fairmount and Mount Olive.

In the information from Crown Hill as shown below lists five **Lattas** buried at Crown Hill, 7777 W. 29th Ave., Wheatridge, Colorado. Can you identify or connect these five to Branch 3? Thanks, Alan Leroy **Latta**, ALLATTA@aol.com.

From: Jean.Muckey@sci-us.com

To: allatta@aol.com

Sent: 10/28/2009 11:46:40 A.M.

Subj: **Latta** Family at Crown Hill

Dear Allen,

Here are the names of the family you asked about:

Charles Thornton **Latta** Block 22 lot 202 grave 5
November 1975

Edwin G. **Latta** Block 55 lot 126 grave B 2 November 1954

Hannah E. **Latta** Block 22 lot 202 grave 6 May 1958

Harriett Mae **Latta** 55 lot 126 grave B 1 April 1955

Maggie E. **Latta** Block 22 lot 202 grave 3 June 1956

Thank you for calling Crown Hill, Jean **Muckey**, Family Service Counselor, 303-233-4611.

3. From Denver Public Library: Western History Genealogy: Research Tools - Fiftyniners' Directory: L

Latta, J. C., certifies that he is entitled to two Draw Lots on southwest corner of D. and McGaa Streets, Denver dated July 30, 1859. Later Sep 23, James C. **Latta** is grantor of lots to B. D. **Williams** of Kentucky. In Nov., same year, he is witness in Aurora and Dec. 3 had three or four lots donated by Denver Town Company. This may, or may not, be same man as James **Latta**, who was one of the witnesses in murder of the German, John **Gantz**. He is heavily ironed and guarded and is on way to Leavenworth to appear at the trial of **Gordon**, carefully watched by U. S. Marshall W. H. **Middaugh** (RMN, Sep 12) Later on Dec 8, 1862, James **Latta** married Miss Sarah **Gordon**, at residence of Thomas **McGavran**, Justice of the Peace. (RMN, Dec 11, 1862). This is James Clarkson **Latta** of Branch 18. Thanks, Kathy **Latta**, Secretary Historian.

4. Also from the Fiftyniner's Directory: L

Law & Order League, a Vigilance league, which preceded the Provisional Government in early part of 1859. It held a Court, and tried offenders by a jury. Its decisions were obeyed and were considered just and equitable. Offenders were not often hanged but were taken to the edge of town and told to disappear, which they invariably tried to do in a rapid manner.

5. Only recently I found that one of my relatives had married a James **Latta** of Blythswood, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. James **Latta** married Elizabeth Boyd **Sharp** in 1959. Any assistance appreciated. Thank you, AnneRutherford77.

6. I don't know where my Aunt Virginia is. I am Phyllis Jean **Latta**'s daughter. They called me Princess Penny when I was a little girl living in my grandmother's

(Continued on Page 31)

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

We now accept PayPal donations from the button on our website. We have received several such donations so far, and it seems to work fine. Our web site is: <http://www.latta.org>.

3. Barbara A. Benish, unpublished.

Anna Latta Owens, 3513 DePauw Pl., College Park MD 20740, alo17@wdn.com.

Geoffrey Latta, 2432 Pine St., Philadelphia PA 19103, gwl820@hotmail.com.

9. Charlene Latta Wellman, 1906 Bird Ave., Joplin MO 64804, cawellman@cablone.net.

7. E. Michael Latta, 1536 Shadowood Lane, Raleigh NC 27612-5917, mikelatta@nationsconsultants.com.

Barbara R. Smith, 3333 West 4630 South, West Valley City UT 84119-5920.

18. Kit Latta, 130 Perkins Lane, Lopez Island WA 98261, llatta@rockisland.com.

Sue Latta Panter, Rt. 1, Box 355, Stilwell OK 74960, jspanter@hotmail.com.

Norman W. Latta, unpublished.

6. James Larry Latta, 107 Cardinal Ct., Dothan AL 36303, lakalatta@aol.com.

16. Nancy Latta DeFusco, 459 Bethel Church Rd., Spring City PA 19475, mdefusco@comcast.net.

9. Don B. Latta, 1127 CR 1362, Mt. Pleasant TX 75455, belatta@sbcglobal.net.

30,1. Wilma L. Chambers, 3006 S. Crysler, Independence MO 64051-3237.

Leroy & Pearl Latta, 9965 E. Armstead St., Azusa CA 91702-4732.

4. Craig A. Jack, 2406 Washington Blvd., Kansas City KS 66102, jack.craig1@gmail.com.

6. Robert Latta, 2685 Belgian Pl., Arroyo Grande CA 93420-5347.

1. Corrine Latta Afton, P.O. Box 103, Benton KS 67017-0103, cafton@cox.net.

3. Eugene Latta, 307 Sandwedge Dr., Fayetteville NC 28311-2948, ulatta@nc.rr.com.

28. Barbara Hammett, 175 County Rd. 840, Gaylesville AL 35973-2155, bhammett@tds.net.

50. Nick Charles, unpublished.

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

9. Alan D. Latta, 100 Northwood Dr., Willowdale, Ontario M2M 2K1, Canada, alatta@chass.utoronto.ca.

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

Genealogy Society of Utah, 50 E. North Temple, Room 545, Salt Lake City UT 84150.

22. Jane Latta Brother, 2025 Prewitt Pike, Mt. Sterling KY 40353-9544, janelatta@catalpahill.com.

Elizabeth Nelson Tull, 104 Mustang Creek Dr., Waxahachie TX 75165-1404, eliztull@hotmail.com.

28. Linda Latta Carr, 229 Yacht Club, Ft. Walton Beach FL 32548, benlindac@cox.net.

50. Elvira Latta Charles, 767 10th Ave., Salt Lake City UT 84103, elvira@wilkinsoncharles.com.

35. Janie G. Quarles, unpublished.

9. Lyla K. Richard, 15501 Persimmon Creek Rd., Jones OK 73049.

9. David Latta, 1625 Post Oak Lane, Moore OK 73160.

18. Celia Gammel, 7224 S. Montgomery St., Tacoma WA 98409-5116, mudhen75@yahoo.com.

43. William A. Latta, 13705 W. Countryside Dr., Sun City AZ 85375.

8. Cynthia Elliott, 4449 Terra Cranada, #4A, Walnut Creek CA 94595-4030, routree@aol.com.

4. Frederic John Latta, 1430 E. Drahner Rd., Oxford MI 48371, lattagreenbuilt@charter.net.

13. Theodore A. Rinness, 556 Tulane St., Saginaw MI 48604-2249, bnlatta@shaw.ca.

27. William C. Latta, 408 14th St. S., Lethbridge Alberta T1J 2X7 Canada, bnlatta@shaw.ca.

45. LouCynda Putnam, 25037 Aqua Dr., Elkhart IN 46514, lou.putnam@verizon.net.

45. Beryl Redfield, 4281 Winfield Rd., Taylorsville UT 84123, bredf331@comcast.net.

Research Queries

(Continued from Page 29)

Dorothy **Smith-Latta**'s home. I have MS, which is a genetically passed disease. I thought I was the terror of Marion's life when I was a child.

I live in Cherry Valley health center and will soon move into a senior apartment. Please call me if you are one of my many cousins! Penny at 951-8496168.

6. Hello Penny; I found your family listed at www.latta.org. In the names index you can find your father Roy **Romaine** in Branch 4 Family Group 58. Your Mother is listed as Family Group number 279.

I see that Grandma Dorothy **Smith-Latta** is the second marriage for Roy. Randy **Phillips** is the Branch Captain for Branch 4. Perhaps he will know where your family are. Kind Regards from Canada, Kathy **Latta**, Branch 16, lattakj@telusplanet.net.

7. I have just connected w/internet again and was trying to find our **Latta** lineage. My Great great grandfather was John (D. or N? shown differently on census to census) **Latta** married to Margaret M. **Cochran**. I went to Shelby Co courthouse and found the marriage record as I recorded it to be Feb.5, 1848, Shelby Co, TN.

I have a copy of letter written to a "cousin" that lists children and etc. If you are interested in dates and such of descendents I can send what I have. My Great grandmother was their daughter Alice Cynthia **Latta**.

My mother called her "Allie". She is listed as "Cinthia" "Alice" and others on different census records. Also shows different ages for her. Please let me know if you receive this. I would love to be able to connect with **Latta** family. There is also a copy of the letter stating our ggggrandfather came from Ireland and was lost at sea. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you. JennyJan51.

8. In the last issue, Frank **Latta** of Bozeman, Montana was described as a "man whose uncanny eyes could follow the dimmest trail." This is an interesting quote because Leroy K. **Latta** Sr.'s Great Grandpa Frank **Latta**'s left eye was blinded by a splinter while playing a game with one of his brothers when they were young. Obviously Frank had excellent vision in his right eye. Later photos of Frank **Latta** show his blind eye. Leroy K. **Latta**, Sr., Azusa, CA.

List of Branch Captains

(Continued from Page 2)

Branch 28: Carol Rini, AAmco, 1490 S. Service Rd., Wentzville MO 63385, 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, Alamo-gordo, 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.

FT-DNA Project Third Report

(First Report Issued in Issue 38 Spring 2008)

By: Kathy Latta, Secretary Historian,
lattakj@telusplanet.net

At the time of the first report we had 20 people participating. They represented 14 Branch's with 3 people not reporting connection to any Branch. One has since given their Branch affiliation. As of the 15th of October, we now have six more participants and this increases the Branch affiliations up to 17 with another two male lines with no known connection and a female participant who has joined the group because of personal interest.

I was thrilled to see Branches 5 and 29's results showing a relatedness to other Branch's at 6 generations to an MRCA. This close to the eldest known ancestor makes it a real possibility that we may actually tie a good number of Branches together with a little bit of perseverance. I'm going to take this on as a special project for the next period between publishing dates.

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Annual Meeting 2009

(Continued from Page 32)

Randy Phillips, Candidate for Vice President,
Communications

Paula Gruginski, Candidate for Vice President

Kathy Latta, Secretary/Historian

2. Northern Ireland Research Project:

Discussion centred around having reached a point where hands on research in Ireland is needed. The question at hand is; do we have sufficient funds to hire a genealogy researcher over there? We need to establish a cost estimate for the project. It was moved by Kathy Latta, and seconded by Connie Leaman, that we ask Paula Gruginski to contact Sherry Irvine to obtain the names of several Northern Ireland Researchers. Then we could request proposals for on-site research. Motion Carried.

3. Website discrepancies:

A) Numbering System- conflicts between the Names Index and the Branch File Family Groups. There are some instances where end note numbers are being listed as Family Group #'s.

4. DNA Research:

The need for increasing participation is ongoing. We shall continue to publicize and this opportunity and encourage participation, particularly among new contacts.

5. Questions/Discussions:

Alan Leroy brought in some Xerox copied images of a) Page of Latta's from the Denver, Colorado City Directory. He is interested in confirming the relationship of the people listed. b) A page from the Hunton Diary, pg 255, vol. 5, which lists Latta, J. Latta, L. and Latta, Old. He would like to identify the people listed.

6. Virginia brought forward the question from Curt Lantz, asking for assistance in finding connections for Alonzo Latta.

7. Annual Meeting 2010:

Virginia might consider hosting next year again. Hopefully this will give more time for others to think about coming to the 2010 meeting

or for planning a more elaborate meeting for 2011.

Post meeting Activities:

Some attendee's elected to go on the Harbour Cruise on Sunday afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Notes taken by Kathy Latta,
Acting Secretary/Historian

Election Results for 2009

By: Ken Mueller, Doc Huer@aol.com,
President, Latta Genealogical Society

I received the election results from our election judge for offices in the Latta Genealogy Society. Sue Cox and her husband counted the ballots and the winners were:

Kathy Latta was elected Secretary Historian;

Paula Gruginski was elected Vice President of Research;

Randy Phillips was elected Vice President of Communication.

The term of office is for two years.

I want to thank Sue and her family for counting the ballots.

**The Harbour Cruise
on Sunday Afternoon**

By: Kathy Latta, Secretary Historian

The Harbor Cruise enjoyed by some attendees at the LGS meeting included Joe and Virginia Curulla, Kathy Latta and friend Dianne Houwing, Alan Leroy and friend Elizabeth Wylot. The picture is on the following page.

(Continued on Page 34)

More Harbor Cruise Pictures

By: Virginia Curulla, latta4gen@comcast.net

The first picture is Virginia Latta Curulla, Alan Leroy Latta, and Margery Latta Maclean next to the Lattawood Park sign (adjacent to our homes).

The second picture is of our group waiting for the Argosy Cruise ship to take a tour on Puget Sound.

(Continued on Page 36)

Latta Genealogical Society Meeting

Saturday, 31 July 2010

By: Virginia Curulla, latta4gen@comcast.net

With the approval of the LGS Board, I am pleased to announce that the next meeting of the Latta Genealogical Society will be at my home in Bellevue, Washington, on Saturday, 31 July 2010. The meeting is open to all members and interested persons. Please plan on attending.



More Harbor Cruise Pictures

(Continued from Page 35)



This picture shows from left to right: Virginia Latta Curulla, Kathy Latta of Edmonton Alberta, Dianne Houwing (Kathy's friend); Alan Leroy Latta of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Elizabeth Wylot (Alan's friend), and Joe Curulla. We were waiting for the Argosy Cruise ship to take a tour on Puget Sound. Imagine yourself in the picture next year!
