
The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 41

Summer 2010

Granddad Writing

By: Sharon Mountford,
smountford@socal.rr.com

I remember Granddad sitting at his venerable typewriter writing his memoirs, which he called *Reminiscing!* My mind's eye sees him in the small room that he rented in a house at the corner of Glenoaks and Estelle in Glendale, California. That was three short blocks from my home and not far from where he had lived when my grandmother was still alive. He was always dressed in a wool suit and vest, without the coat, if it was hot.

I can see the shiny dark grey back of the buttoned vest, the white shirt sleeves, with garters to hold the cuffs up and out of the way. A green celluloid eye shade was part of the uniform, as well. The rotary fan in the corner moved the warm air around as Granddad typed on his black Remington, or was it a Royal? I seem to hear flies buzzing as well.

Whenever I came, he would always stop and visit with me, so I didn't actually watch him in the writing process. To the best of my knowledge, he did not have a diary to consult, but had stored away all of the names, places, and dates in his incredible bald head.

He knew that he wanted several copies of the book he was writing, so there were multiple thin sheets of paper interleaved with carbon. He made few typing errors. Important ones were corrected after the page had been finished, by typing replacement lines, trimming them, and carefully gluing them over the imperfect line – on all the copies. When the work was finished, he bound each one in red leatherette and gave them to his four descendants, two children and two grandchildren.

When I was 10 and 11, I would walk over to "his" house and shoot baskets on the driveway

court outside his window. The people who owned the boarding house had sons now grown and moved away. When I tired of my shooting practice, or finished the pick-up game of GHOST which often developed, I would go in to collect Granddad. He would put away his work, unfold his tall lean body, don his suit coat and hat, pick up his cane – an accessory of the well dressed man rather than a necessity of age – and we would walk to our house for dinner.

I know that I did not appreciate his work then as I do now. But I did appreciate him and missed him greatly when he died while I was in college. I have typed his book into the computer and prepared copies for distribution. That project started when I replied to a query in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter about the Erie Railroad. Granddad had worked for the Erie for several years, becoming a telegraph operator after serving as an agent. I typed up a

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside This Issue

Editorial Page	Page 2
List of Branch Captains	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 3
Chronology of the Life of S. G. Latta	Page 5
Reminiscing! Part 3	Page 6
The Children of Jane Latta	Page 23
Research Queries	Page 27
Our Financial Contributors	Page 28
Reprints of Issues 1-40 available	Page 28
New Captain for Branch 43	Page 32
Newsletter by E-mail	Page 32
Nominating Committee Report	Page 33
Biography of Candidates for President and Treasurer	Page 33
2010 Annual LGS Meeting	Page 33

2010 Ballot

Loose
Page

Editorial

Memorial Day and the Fourth of July remind me that we are eternally grateful to our veterans who fought and served to keep us free. To keep their memory alive, I have included some information in this newsletter about them. See pages 29 to 32. If your Latta family member served their country, please write or e-mail me. I will be glad to include in future issues of this newsletter the story and biography of any Latta family member who served in their country's armed forces. Future generations will then be able to remember their sacrifice and honor their memory.

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:
\$10-15 dollars per year (US and Canada)
International US \$15-20

Please send your membership donations to:

**Beryl Redfield, Treasurer, Latta Genealogy Society,
4281 Winfield Rd., Taylorsville, Utah 84123-2344,
Bredf331@comcast.net.**

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

**Kenneth A. Mueller
Editor
7400 East Mule Circle
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314-5429
e-mail: Doc Huer@aol.com**

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@c-mark.us.

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

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

Branches 10 and 15: Cindy Stiene, 158 Intracoastal Dr., Madison AL 35758-7925, lmsjfs@knology.net.

Branch 12: Belinda J. Peterson, 43 Railway Pde, 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, cscx57@verizon.net.

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

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

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

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

(Continued on Page 32)

LATTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY**Treasurer's Report****15 June 2010****TREASURER**

Beryl Redfield
4281 Winfield Road
Taylorsville, UT 84123-2344
(801) 281-8020

AUDITOR

Randy Phillips
41 S Morrell Ave
Geneva, NY 14456
(315) 759-9121

REPORT PERIOD 03/01/10 – 06/15/2010**Income 03/01/10– 06/15/2010 \$ 696.43**

N. Ireland Research Fund \$ 0

General Fund Donations –38 donors \$ 696.43

Expenses 03/01/10 – 06/15/2010 (\$721.56)

Latta website fee \$ 44.85

Feb, Mar, Apr @ \$14.95 ea

Newsletter 40 expenses (Ken Mueller)\$ 676.71

COMBINED FUNDS on hand – 06-15-2010 \$ 5645.28

N. Ireland Research Fund Balance \$ 950.00

General Fund Balance \$4895.28

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!

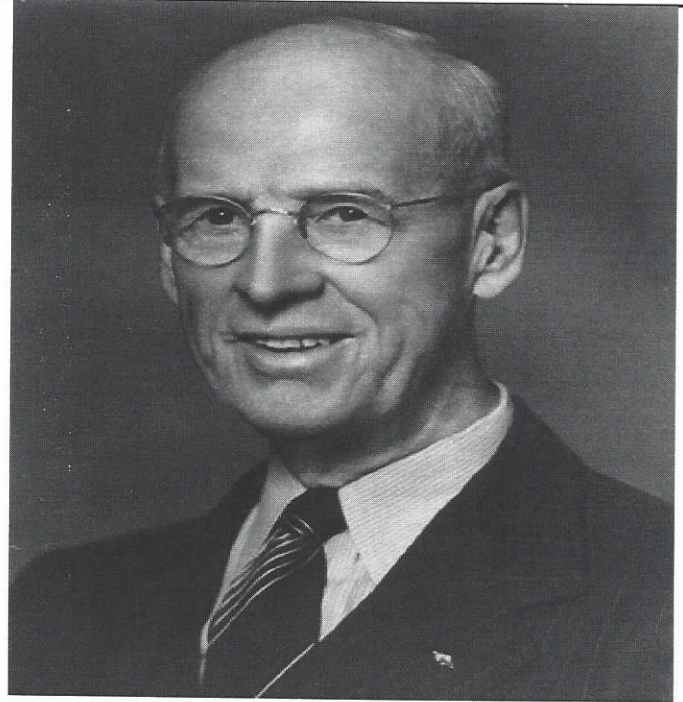
Granddad Writing

(Continued from Page 1)

section relating to those years and sent it off to the newsletter for them to excerpt whatever they found of interest. They printed the entire piece in three installments, so I proceeded to type the rest of the book, index it, and make copies for his great grandchildren and anyone else who might be interested.

He considered that he had lived at an unparalleled time in history. The explosion of technology he found fascinating and did not think such an age could ever be repeated. He died on the eve of the computer age. Perhaps each generation feels as he did about its own lifespan.

(Continued on Page 5)



Sheridan Gorton Latta



Granddad Writing

(Continued from Page 4)

The photograph on page 4 is a much younger Sheridan Gorton Latta at work in his office in Olean, NY. He managed four telephone exchanges for American Union Telephone Company from 1908-1910 from this desk. The office was on the second floor of the Masonic Building, next door to Olean House. From his window Granddad looked across the park onto the residence of the New York Governor, Frank W. Higgins. That looks like the typewriter I remember there on the window ledge.

After dinner at our house, Granddad and I usually did the dishes. I washed and he dried while we visited. I recall two other tasks which he usually performed at our house in those post-World War II days. Nucoa, the brand of margarine I still use, came as an uncolored white block. Packaged inside the tough clear wrapper with the white margarine was a capsule of orange coloring. One broke the capsule and then kneaded the mass in the bag until it was a uniform yellow color. Granddad was a master at this job.

He was the one to take out the wrapped garbage after dinner, while I got something ready for him to dry. He would always fetch his hat in order to go out the back door and take about twenty steps to the garbage can. Ever the gentleman!

Chronology of the Life of Sheridan Gorton Latta

By: Sharon Mountford,
smountford@socal.rr.com

June 19, 1867, Birth, East Hill, Allegany County, NY.

Fall 1879, Entered Friendship Academy.

Spring 1880, Family moved into town, Friendship, NY.

August 20, 1880, Began work for Lester Cooley, dry goods.

March 20, 1881, Fire at Main and Depot destroyed Cooley's store.

March 21, 1881, Returned to Friendship Academy.

January 25, 1882, Began work for Citizen's National Bank.

1882, Began work for Bill Scott, drugs and groceries.

1883, Began work for Latta Brothers, delivery.

1885, Sold bicycles for Latta Brothers.

Visited brothers Frank and Samuel in Minnesota.

Reentered Friendship Academy.

Was bookkeeper for Latta Brothers.

Started a telegraph network.

December 20, 1885, Entered Bryant and Stratton Business College in Buffalo, NY.

May 1, 1886, Graduated from Bryant and Stratton and returned to Latta Brothers.

April 1, 1887, Became Baggage Master on NY Erie and Western RR, Friendship.

August 1, 1887, Became telegraph operator and Assistant Agent on Lackawanna and Pittsburgh RR, Friendship.

December 15, 1888, Relief agent in Bolivar, for Bradford, Eldred and Cuba RR.

1889, Became Station Agent in Winnipeg Junction, MN for Northern Pacific RR.

Worked at the grain elevators in East Grand Forks, ND.

Became Station Agent for the Erie RR in Friendship.

May 20, 1890, Married Helen Mar Graham.

November 1, 1890, Became Station Agent for the Erie RR in Cuba, NY.

November 1, 1891, Became telegraph operator at S. P. Tower, Friendship.

1893, Attended the World's Fair in Chicago.

Assigned to the White House Tower, midway between Hinsdale and Cuba (boarded with the Vincents in Hinsdale).

Assigned to the H. R. Tower, east of Olean. (rented a house in Boardmanville and then moved to the home of the Elsworths).

(Continued on Page 6)

Chronology of the Life of Sheridan Gorton Latta

(Continued from Page 5)

October 22, 1897, Daughter Romaine born.
February 1, 1898, Retired from the Erie RR.
Became bookkeeper for the J. L. Brown Banking Company, Wilcox, PA.
Installed the Wilcox Telephone Exchange and the Western Union Master Clock system in non-banking hours.
January 8, 1906, Son Graham born.
November 1, 1906, Became Secretary—Treasurer for Commercial Union Telephone Company, Ridgway, PA.
February 1, 1907, Became Division Manager for twelve exchanges of the American Union Telephone Company.
March 11, 1908, Returned to Olean, NY with four exchanges.
May, 1910, Retired from American Union Telephone Company.
July 1, 1910, Moved to Crosby, MN to begin the First National Bank of Crosby.
December 1, 1912, Sold real estate in Winnipeg, Canada.
December 9, 1912, Became Investigator in the Freight Claims Department for Canadian Pacific RR, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.
December 17, 1912, Returned to Minnesota where Romaine was ill.
January 22, 1913, Began three stints as relief agent on the Soo RR, in Aytken, Anamias and Denham.
August 16, 1913, Became Cashier and Freight Agent on the Northern Pacific RR in Casselton, ND.
December 13, 1913, Opened the First State Bank of Crosby as Cashier in full charge.
1914 Contracted smallpox.
March 25, 1916, Resigned as Cashier of the First State Bank of Crosby.
April 1, 1916, Arrived in Austin, MN to try to establish the East Side Austin Bank.

May 30, 1916, Left Austin, MN.
June 1, 1916, Became Manager of the Lyric Theatre, Fergus Falls, MN.
December 12, 1916, Bought the Bijou Theatre, which became the Cozy, and formed Fergus Picture Corporation.
June 22, 1919, Fergus Falls Tornado.
April 20, 1922, Sold theatres and left for California.
August 28, 1922, Became real estate agent for R. N. Striker, Glendale, CA.
July 3, 1925, Resigned from position with Striker.
November 15, 1925, Purchased Pacific Northwest Service Station, Glendale, CA.
June 1, 1930, Sold station and retired from the service station business.
March 1, 1934, Took over the Dale Theatre in Long Beach, CA.
March 10, 1934, Long Beach earthquake.
September 15, 1942, Joined the Glendale Police Force as a crossing guard.
September 22, 1943, Wife Helen died.
September 15, 1946, Retired as a crossing guard.
September 24, 1946, Tried selling insurance for Forest Lawn Insurance Company.
Became a full-time grandfather and part-time author.
August 17, 1955, Sheridan Gorton Latta died. His ashes, and those of Helen, are together in the mortuary at Forest Lawn, Glendale, CA.

Reminiscing! Part 3

By: Sheridan Gorton Latta
[written about 1950]

Within a few days I was headed west, not knowing whether I would go to Texas or Minnesota until I got to Chicago. After talking with Mr. Winters in Chicago I decided that I would rather take the chances with the men that Frank had been with

(Continued on Page 7)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 6)

for years, and be near him, rather than go to an entirely unfamiliar part of the country, unknown to anyone. So I eventually landed in the new mining town of Crosby, Crow Wing County, Minn. July 1, 1910.

After making the decision in Chicago to go to Minnesota, I was soon on my way for Wadena, Minn., where after a short visit with brother Frank I took a train on the Wadena Branch of the Northern Pacific R.R. for Clitheral, a small station nearest to Battle Lake where Mr. Isaac Hazlett had his summer cottage. He met me at the train driving out to his home, and in the afternoon he took me out in his boat where I had my first experience in lake fishing.

The next day Mr. W. E. Parker, the Cashier of the Merchants National Bank of Wadena took me to Crosby to survey the situation. They had already applied for a charter for a State Bank, but on my advice we dropped that and took out a charter for "First National Bank of Crosby." My reason for the change was that I had found that foreigners had more faith in a National Bank than in a State Bank.

Mr. George H. Crosby, the sole owner of the entire plot of Crosby, had had it laid out scientifically, located at the west end of beautiful Serpent Lake, three miles west of Deerwood, Minn., at the east end of the lake and the point where the Duluth Branch of the Northern Pacific R.R. had a station.

A private rig or a livery was the only transportation between these towns, although it was only a few months later that H. Ingalls and son Edgar established a regular boat service between the two places, which connected with all the N. P. trains.

The Fitger Brewery of Duluth had just completed a forty thousand dollar brick hotel on the strength of receiving from Mr. Crosby the exclusive liquor privilege of the Village of Crosby. Mr. Henry Spaulding, an ex-Sheriff of Crow Wing County, was the landlord and Herman Lefkowitz and I were the only boarders, and we got first class service for ten dollars per week.

Ed Lovedall had just completed a drug store. James A. Nelson had a General Store, and Stall & Iverson had a small General Store in which the Post Office was located, and that consisted of a soap box sitting on the counter containing all the mail to which everyone went and picked out their own mail. Brink Bros. were building a hardware store which was only partially completed. Charles Lindberg of Little Falls was our Congressman (the father of Charles A. Lindberg, the world famous flyer). His brother Frank A. Lindberg, who was secretary for his brother in Washington, had expected to be appointed Post Master and had erected a building suitable for it, but his brother got in wrong with the administration and he failed to land the Post Office. We rented this building, and this same banking concern had expected to start a bank right near Deerwood where there were good prospects of a good mining district development, but it failed to make good and they had a bank about ready to start but never opened it. We took all the furniture and fixtures of this proposed bank and moved it to Crosby and thus equipped our Crosby Bank.

The village was growing quite rapidly although we were in no hurry to open the bank, and my principal work, aside from getting the fixtures set up, was looking up insurance, and getting acquainted with the newcomers and looking up their past records. Banking in a new place is entirely different than it is in an old established town where everyone is known, their business ability known, and everything stable. In a brand new place there are two distinct classes, one I call the "has beens" and the other the "to bes," the one putting up a big bluff, good clothes, lots of hot air, and a big supply of nerve, trying to impress you that they are well fixed and of great importance. In many cases it is wise to steer clear of this class if you want to avoid trouble. The other I find in some cases appear to have had the worst of it, not so well dressed, do not have that bluster and smart alec appearance, but in many cases they have gone through rough times in a business way that has taught them what to avoid, and they make the best business that we have now.

The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Saulte Ste. Marie

(Continued on Page 8)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 7)

R.R. Co. had just completed a rail line from Moose Lake on their main line, to the new location in Deerwood, but they, like the bank, misjudged what would happen, and only ran in there a short time. At this time they were building a branch from that at Iron Hub to Crosby, and I, being an old rail-roader, made friends with the construction crew and had many rides on their construction train between Cuyuna and Crosby. About half way between these places the line ran between two small lakes which apparently were connected, and the ground gave way, so it took a lot of filling before the R.R. could pass over it. They would have the track apparently OK and the next day it would be two or three feet below grade. After a long time it was all right.

The Roger Brown Mining Co., then the only large company operating this territory, had their offices in Deerwood, and their first mine at Cuyuna. This name was given to the whole Iron Range by Mr. Cuyler Adams of Deerwood who discovered iron here. He had a dog that always accompanied him named Una. He made the name using the first three letters of his name and completing it by using the dog's name. At the time I went to Crosby, Roger Brown Co. was sinking a shaft right close to Crosby. A Duluth bank had figured on building a bank in Crosby and had purchased one of the principal corners for its location. We advanced the idea that there was not room for two banks in that new town and that we had our charter and a suitable building equipped and ready to start. We offered to take over their site at a satisfactory price which they accepted, and we later built an up-to-date brick bank building, with a suite of offices on the second floor especially arranged for Roger Brown Mining Co., who established their permanent offices there.

I rented Webster Cottage at the very head of Serpent Lake, and the family came on, and we soon were back at the good old family home. This was a large fine house, but built for summer, and when the cold weather came, we were lucky in securing

the living quarters over the Bank that Mr. Lindberg had lived in, but was now in Washington, Secretary for his brother, our Congressman.

It was interesting while in the cottage when the lake began to freeze over, the noises that the ice made would astonish you. They opened the first school over a store, with, I think, six pupils, my daughter Romaine was one of them. Before the lake froze over Romaine and I rowed a boat to and from home to school and bank. After the ice got in its work, we had to walk quite a distance around the point of land, making a good long walk.

The day that we opened the First National Bank of Crosby, Mr. Hazlett, the President, Mr. Jacob Myers, Vice-President, and Mr. F. B. Coon, a Director, all officers of the main Merchants National Bank of Wadena, First State Bank of Deerwood, First State Bank of Cuyuna, First State Bank of Pequot, First National Bank of Staples (also the other bank in Staples, unbeknownst to the public), First State Bank of Ironton, and some others, were in Crosby to give the proper send-off.

The first application for a loan was made by Mr. Rube Hudson, a liveryman, who had just moved from Superior, Wisc., and had to erect a tent for himself and son while his wife and daughter were at the hotel. Mr. Hudson had, if I remember correctly, fourteen horses and equipment, and wanted to borrow one thousand dollars, paying it off one hundred dollars every month, giving a chattel mortgage on his whole outfit. I turned him over to Mr. Hazlett as the head of the new bank. Mr. Hazlett told him that money was pretty tight right now, and they would have to charge him ten percent interest. That was satisfactory to Hudson, but this was the way Hazlett figured ten percent. He made eleven notes for one hundred dollars each, payable one hundred dollars on the first of each month. The eleventh note paid the interest on the whole amount for a whole year. At his payment of one hundred dollars at the end of the first month he will pay interest for eleven months on money he does not have. The next payment he

(Continued on Page 9)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 8)

pays interest on the one hundred dollars for ten months that he does not have it, and so on to the end of the year, when he had paid a little more than forty percent for the loan.

Mrs. Hudson, who was stopping at the hotel, and Mr. Burt Parker, the clerk and son-in-law of the proprietor, had figured out how much interest they were being charged, and when I went to the hotel for dinner, Mr. George Crosby, the owner of the whole town site, was at the telephone talking with Mr. J. B. Galamault, State Superintendent of Banks at St. Paul, asking for a charter for another bank, saying that he would not stand for having Crosby citizens being robbed. You can imagine how quickly such matters circulate in a small town, and I had to stand alone for all the abuse being heaped upon the bank, I being the only local stockholder. They called us all robbers and cut-throats, which sure made it a hard row for me.

Anyone not familiar with banking can hardly realize the difference in different parts of the country where it is conducted. In Wilcox where I put in eight years in one bank we had more deposits than we knew what to do with, with no demand for loans, and in making exchange charges we charged one-tenth of one percent on the total of letter.

In Crosby they charged ten cents on each item regardless of the number. In Crosby, a new town, there were practically no deposits, and everybody wanted to borrow, with very little security. When I first accepted the position of Cashier, Hazlett said that it being a new bank in a new town, they did not expect it to pay expenses the first year, and if I came within two or three thousand dollars of doing it that they would be satisfied. To help me do this, this is what they did. The main Wadena Bank was to pay for the new bank building, which they did not do, but they took its cost out of our capital, leaving me with much less to work on. The bank was capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars, which as a National Bank had to purchase that

amount of U. S. Government Bonds and deposit them with the Government as security for equal amounts of currency the bank was allowed to issue. At the time these bonds were at quite a premium, which should have been charged over the entire time that they had to run, but they insisted that the whole amount be charged right at the start.

Another item, the insurance on the new bank building was written for five years, but instead of distributing it over five years, I had to charge the whole amount to the first year's business.

Also fire insurance premiums were a great help to our income, although I had to do all the soliciting and writing the policies. Hazlett said that his son Jim was trying to make a good showing and that I would send all the premiums to him in Minneapolis. In spite of all of these handicaps I made a showing at the end of the first year, a very fair balance on the right side of the ledger.

New iron mines were being developed in many localities and new towns were springing up. Ironstone, Cuyuna, Iron Hub, Riverton, Walford, Trommald, Lerch, and several others, but Crosby remained the principal village in the Cuyuna Range. For a long time all the mines were underground workings, and the Inland Steel Co. came in and opened a stripping operation not far from the Roger Brown Mine, that developed into a large outfit. Mr. Crosby built a dozen or so houses for sale or rent in various sections of his town site. They were all two stories, but he did not finish the second floor.

I bought one of these houses and finished the second floor myself. There was no plumber in Crosby, so I bought an entire bath room equipment from Sears, Roebuck & Co. and installed it. I also bought a furnace and installed it with the help of Ed Ingalls. In the meantime Mr. Crosby had put in a water system and a septic tank sewer outfit, so that we did not have to go to the lake and cut holes in the ice to get our water.

Crosby had no school house, but there was a small country school about three miles out in the country. A good-sized bunch of Crosbyites went over there to a school meeting and voted to remove the building to Crosby, which was done.

(Continued on Page 10)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 9)

A good four-room school building was built at the edge of town, then some time later a fine brick building was erected near the center of the village. A few years later the new town on Iron-ton was developed two or three miles from Crosby. The school officials got together and built a fine large high school halfway between the two towns. The Mining Company's taxes were high enough so that it was a small matter to build schools, etc., and the ordinary property owner got off very easy.

We incorporated the Village of Crosby and I was the first City Clerk, and M. F. Crosby the first Mayor, and believe me, it was no snap. We had to adopt many, many ordinances and to get everything in proper working order was a difficult undertaking.

Hazlett was a man who knew it all and did not like to have anyone else make a suggestion. Before we got our bank started most of the business concerns were doing their banking in Deerwood or Brainerd. One of my duties was to secure these accounts for our bank, and I got nearly every one of them except Mr. Henry Spaulding, the proprietor of the hotel. In going over these accounts with Hazlett he said that Spaulding was just a tin horn gambler and never had a cent. On a later date I showed Hazlett where Spaulding had a balance of better than a thousand dollars as well as a savings certificate for three thousand dollars.

Hazlett turned down another application of Mr. James A. Nelson, a general merchant, who wanted a thousand dollar loan, and who a few years later retired a wealthy man. Still another case, Mr. E. W. Hallett applied for a loan of fifteen hundred dollars and when the application was submitted to Hazlett he said that he knew Hallett's father who was not worth a dollar. He turned E. W. down and today E. W. Hallett owns this same bank, a big store, a wonderful residence on the lake front and is reported to be very close, if not quite, a millionaire.

I made several objections to the way that our prospective customers were being treated, and paid

for so doing. One day about two and a half years after starting the bank, one of my bank cashier friends in Brainerd called me up and asked me where I was going, saying that Hazlett and a Mr. A. J. Hays, formerly cashier of a small bank in LeRoy, Minn., were just in there stating that they were on their way to Crosby and that Hayes was to be the new cashier of the First National Bank. That was the first that I had heard of any change, as I had never heard of any dissatisfaction in my management. A few hours later in they came and I was through, not one minute's notice. Mr. Herman Lefkowitz, one of the Crosby merchants, asked Hazlett what was the matter with me and he replied "nothing," only that I was too much of a gentleman.

I had a good many friends there and we very soon started to organize the First State Bank of Crosby. We had a lot of difficulty in getting our charter as Hazlett had a pull with the then Superintendent of Banks and held us up a long time, as the old bank bunch did everything possible to head us off.

Knowing that it would take along time to get results, I did not want to hang around doing nothing. I got in contact with Sunset Realty Co., with headquarters in Winnipeg, Canada, and went to Winnipeg on Dec. 1, 1912. This was a large concern with branches in most of the important cities in Western Canada. The real head man of each of these branch offices was located in Winnipeg, and instead of selling lots as I had always done by taking a customer to the property, their system was for Winnipeg salesmen to handle properties in the other cities by a blue print method. Each division was kept separate and I landed in Moose Jaw, Sask. Department, and was assigned to professional men and school teachers. The hours at which I could approach these classes were limited, so I thought that I could secure something else to put in the time.

I looked up an ad in the paper calling for a clerk in the Canadian Pacific R.R. Co.'s office. In calling there I was informed that that position was filled the day before. The Chief Clerk asked me what

(Continued on Page 11)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 10)

R.R. experience I had had, and went into another office. Coming out he informed me that Mr. DeArcy would like to see me. I had no idea who he might be, but found him to be the head of the whole Canadian Pacific Freight Claim Department. After a pleasant conversation he asked me how I would like to go to Moose Jaw as a Freight Claim Investigator. I told him I would not promise to stay, but would try it out. He gave me a pass Winnipeg to Moose Jaw and that gave me just the chance that I had wanted to see what kind of property I was trying to sell from blue prints in Winnipeg.

Before reporting to the R.R. Co. I went out to the property I was working on, which was a long distance from the city proper. The only improvement made on some of the streets was that evidently a road grader had passed. Some street signs had been staked out and names painted on them. Some very uneven land, doubtful that they could ever be built on, and it would be years, if ever, before the city would extend out that far. That settled my attempt to sell any civilized people that kind of stuff.

December 9, 1912 I began working for the Canadian Pacific R.R. Co. as Investigator in the Freight Claims Department at Moose Jaw. There were three others with the same duties. Each had a stenographer and plenty of work. To this department all claims for damages, shortages, and claims of every kind are turned over for investigation – all refused shipments, uncalled for freight, etc. My desk had charge of what they call the jail, which consists of a section of the warehouse set aside, in which all uncalled for freight was placed, and at specified times public sales are held and cleared out ready for more to follow. Perishable goods have to be handled immediately and disposed of to best advantage.

I had only got nicely started at this work when I received word from home that Romaine was sick, and I started back for the states as quick as possible. I went into the Chief Clerk's office to inform

him how matter stood, and we had a very pleasant chat; he was from Scotland and a very interesting person. He said that they were having a very severe run of thievery, breaking into cars, and stealing everything that they could get hold of. Most of the criminals caught were from the U.S.

Dec. 17, 1912 I left Moose Jaw, Sask. for Crosby via Winnipeg. Before leaving Canada I must tell about the first incident that occurred upon my arrival in Winnipeg. It was Sunday p.m. and I was looking for a place to room. I passed a good looking house with a room-for-rent sign on it. I stopped to inquire and was informed that she had a room to rent, but would not rent it that day, but she would the next day, Monday.

The latter part of 1911 we took a survey and found that among the newcomers to Crosby there were quite a number of Masons, and we proceeded to organize a Masonic Lodge in Crosby, and on Dec. 4, 1911 we held a preliminary meeting in Ingalls Boat House. We pursued the proper course to obtain a dispensation and applied to Most Worshipful Grand Master Elmer Kling of Little Falls for a dispensation. There having been a number of new mining towns springing up all quite close by, the Grand Master had his doubts about Crosby being the best place for the location of a new lodge. I personally invited him to Crosby and took him over the whole range into every location and he decided that Crosby would be the best location.

On January 11, 1912 we received our dispensation for Cuyuna Range Masonic Lodge #276, and I was appointed the first Worshipful Master by Grand Master Elmer Kling. We had quite a time in selecting a name satisfactory to all the different towns, but decided that Cuyuna Range would cover the whole territory and not favor any one town. Among the twenty-five signers for dispensation there were nineteen different states and countries represented, so imagine the work we had to get a proper working Lodge under way. We did it and had a fine Masonic Lodge in Crosby. At our installation a member of our Aitkin Brothers attended

(Continued on Page 12)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 11)

and I became acquainted with Mr. Comstock who was the Station Agent at Aitkin on the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie R.R. Co. I found that his father was the Station Agent at Winnipeg Junction, Minn. at the time that I was located there on the Northern Pacific R.R. A short time after this Mr. Comstock wanted to go hunting up in Canada but the Railroad Company had no Relief Agents at the time, and he asked the Superintendent, Mr. Michels, if he could get me if it would be all right. I had met Mr. Michels several times in Crosby where he often stayed over the night, which he was compelled to do on account of the "Soo" train laid over there every night. I had also met him at Lodge. He informed Mr. Comstock that I would be satisfactory, so on Jan. 22, 1913 I went to Aitkin, Minn. as Relief Station Agent on the Soo R.R. When Comstock returned, the Superintendent's office asked me to go to Anamia and relieve the Agent there who had eye trouble and was unable to work. Upon his return they asked me to relieve the Agent at Denham where the agent was getting married.

On my way home I called on the Chief Clerk in the Superintendent's office, telling him the trouble that we were having in getting our Bank Charter, and asked him what would be the chances of a regular R.R. job. He said very good and had he known that I was available that they could have given me Superior, which had just had a change in Agents.

We were still being held up by the old gang from getting our bank charter, but I had gotten Mr. Will S. Pitt, one of my best friends and a first-class hustler, all around interested, as well as Mr. J. B. Galamault, President of Aitkin State Bank and former State Bank Superintendent. These two men could do all that was possible.

On August 16, 1913 I went to Casselton, N. D. on the Northern Pacific R.R. Co., as Cashier and Freight Agent during the annual wheat rush. Then Nov. 19, 1913, I headed back to Crosby where the

new bank began doing things. We rented a vacant store building from William Mageau and bought used furniture and fixture equipment from a St. Paul concern, installed it, and December 13, 1913 opened the First State Bank of Crosby.

I was cashier in full charge, with Mr. J. B. Galamault, President, Will S. Pitt, Vice-president, James A. Nelson, C. E. DeLate Aitken, Directors. Soon after this Mr. Will S. Pitt built a fine two-story double block white enameled brick front, one side for the Post Office and the other especially as a bank, and its arrangements and fixtures could not be excelled anywhere. We had strong competition as the First National tried their best to make it as hard as possible for us, but we held our own. Of course the amount of business in a small town is limited and neither bank got very rich. I don't recall any special exceptional events happening in the banking end of it, but I do surely recall a couple of personal events that happened while on this job. I was alone in the bank, doing all the work. One day when I felt pretty bum, I went down and saw Dr. Smith, who gave me some dope.

The next morning just as I reached the bank, Dr. Smith was coming out of the post office. I told him that he would have to give me something stronger, as I felt no better. He said to keep taking what he had given me, as he could do no better. The next morning, feeling worse if anything, I went down to his small hospital where he was just coming down the walk, and as soon as he saw me he exclaimed, "For God's sake, where did you get it? Now I know what is the matter with you. You go home and go to bed." I had a nice big case of small pox. I sure had a dandy at that. I had not been out of town for months, there had been no other cases in Crosby, and none followed mine. We figured that it must have come from some of the filthy currency that was in circulation.

The Cashier of the Aitkin State Bank came over in the morning and back at night on the Soo train to hold down my job while I was laid up. I suffered much more before I knew what was the matter than after I broke out, which relieved the pain. I was a sight though. Every morning my eyes were so

(Continued on Page 13)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 12)

swollen that it took from twenty to thirty minutes to soak them out so I could see anything. My whole body was completely covered with eruption, which took quarts of Vaseline to keep from scarring, which I was lucky to avoid. The most painful were those on the soles of my feet and palms of my hands, where the skin is so thick that the eruptions cannot break through. It took a sterilized needle to dig out each one. I was surely a red-faced man for some time.

Another interesting experience that I had there, Romaine had won a scholarship in Hamlin University in St. Paul. The mother of Mr. A. W. Uhl, a Crosby attorney, lived close by the school, and he wanted his mother to come to Crosby, so he rented a furnished home from Mr. Anderson in Crosby. We rented the house in St. Paul furnished, and we rented our Crosby house furnished to a new school professor who had just come to Crosby. That made a rather mixed-up affair, but it worked OK.

I moved a bedroom suite down in the Director's room in the Bank and slept there, getting my meals at the hotel and restaurant. We were having a siege of LaGrippe, and one morning while eating breakfast in the restaurant, I felt rather faint and thought that it was too close in there, so I walked outdoors. Mr. James Nelson was standing in his store door of the next building and I said to him that I felt rather funny, do I look all right? The next thing that I knew it was nearly noon the next day, when I came to in bed in Dr. Smith's Hospital, and my dear wife was by my side. I could not understand how I came there and how she got from St. Paul, and I could not believe that I had lost a whole day. They kept me in a darkened room for some time. My eyes pained, hearing was somewhat affected, and taste was way off. This improved slowly, but never got back to normal, and my sense of smell never came back a particle. I had fallen over backwards while talking to Mr. Nelson, striking my head on the cement sidewalk and the doctors said that I had a very close call.

I was elected and served as President of the Crosby Commercial Club, and at the time of leaving Crosby, I was City Auditor. I disposed of my First State Bank stock to President Galamault's brother and resigned my position as Cashier as of March 25, 1916. My brother Frank who was then operating three theaters in Austin, Minn. informed me that a couple of men had been in Austin trying to organize a new bank on the east side of Austin and had failed in the attempt and the prospective stock owners wanted me to come down there for an interview. April 1, 1916 I arrived in Austin, Minn. to investigate the proposition that had been made to me for establishing a new bank on the East Side of Austin, to be known as the East Side State Bank. I found that two men had been there for some time trying to sell stock in a proposed new bank to be located on the East Side where the Railroad Shops were located. They had even persuaded a man to put up a brick building for the bank. They pulled off a big banquet and took in quite some money for the proposed stock, but in some cases did not even give receipts for what they took in. Soon after they left for parts unknown. That was sure a very difficult situation to run up against. Everybody was leery of any more stock buying and, in addition, the three banks uptown did everything possible to head off another bank in Austin. The Farmers and Merchants Bank even called me in to consider a proposition of accepting Cashiership of their bank.

After nearly two months of hard work trying to straighten out this bad situation, I told brother Frank that I did not believe that it could ever be accomplished and that I was going to give up. I rather liked the way he was conducting his three theaters and that I thought that I would go back into the movie game. He said that it was a tough game, but what one took in was all cash, and that was a good point. He said, "You come up and run the Cozy (one of his theaters), and I'll scout out to see what I can find." At this time my family was living in St. Paul where Romaine was in Hamlin University. I received a telegram from Frank to meet him at my house in St. Paul, so on May 30, 1916, I left Austin.

(Continued on Page 14)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 13)

Frank had traded some of his Minnesota Farm lands in on a deal for the Lyric Theatre in Fergus Falls, Minn. and June 1, 1916 I went to Fergus Falls as Manager of the Lyric Incorporated. Here again I was up against a stiff proposition. Mr. Applebee, the man we bought out, was a dope addict and his wife (who sold tickets) had a rather shady reputation, which was a hard situation to overcome. Fergus Falls was a rather nice little city with about seven thousand population, but with about fifteen hundred confined in a State Insane Hospital, the county seat of Ottertail County, on the Red River of the North on the main line and the Fergus Falls Branch of the Great Northern Railroad, with a branch line running from Fergus Falls to Pelican Rapids. A fine farming country on all sides, a good business center for everything except "movies." A very religious place, some sixteen churches, many of them regularly preaching against such bad things as moving pictures. They would not allow us to make any kind of an exhibition on Sunday. In Fergus Falls there was also the Bijou Theatre, operated by Mr. A. J. Lawrence, who was a very unprofessional competition, stopping at no dirty tactics. He had a good pipe organ and a splendid organist, Martin Read, which gave him an advantage, although the Lyric was the better equipped and larger and more up to date theatre.

After about six months of the very disagreeable tactics of our competitor, I prevailed upon my very good friend Mr. Will S. Pitt of Crosby, Minn., with whom I had been associated in the Crosby Bank, to come over to Fergus Falls and make a deal for the Bijou for us. Another condition then existing that induced us to do away with competition was the fact that the film producers would send out their salesmen who would go from one theatre to the other in the same cities and get them to bid against each other, and sometimes after buying a certain picture, and even receiving advertising matter, would give the picture to the other house.

Mr. Pitt succeeded in making this purchase, and we took possession of the Bijou Theatre Dec. 12, 1916. We incorporated as Fergus Picture Corporation, I as Treasurer and Manager. We changed the name from Bijou to Cozy and put up a larger electric sign. As the Lyric was a much better house, we moved the fine pipe organ to the Lyric and made that the feature house, and ran the Cozy only Saturdays and with westerns, a cheaper picture at a cheaper admission. The Lyric had a small stage only large enough for Vaudeville, and was just right for the organ, and the Cozy had a much larger stage which after taking the organ out, gave us room for regular road shows, and we equipped it for such events. The Bijou had only one projection machine, an old Simplex. I traded that in on a deal for two latest Powers, placing the new machines in the Lyric and moving the two older Powers from the Lyric to the Cozy, after enlarging the projection booth and building a new stairway to it.

Now, controlling both houses, I could tell the film companies just which pictures I wanted, and there was no cross bidding, and I did not have to take their entire output as was the way they were doing business. They even compelled exhibitors to sign for pictures even before they were made, and when they happened to produce an extra good picture, they would not give it to us, but put it in as a special road show, allowing us only to show them on a commission basis.

Before buying the Bijou, we had installed an expensive Foto Player in the Lyric, but it did not compare with the pipe organ, especially with a first class organist. We shipped this Foto Player to Austin, Minn. and installed it in the Lyric Theatre there.

Very soon after I went to Fergus, a prominent hardware merchant, next to the Lyric, told me there were two factions there, and that if I wanted to succeed in my business, not to have anything to do with the other outfit. Not long after I received some more advice from the other side entirely different. I then decided that I would have nothing to do with either, and that plan I continued for the six years

(Continued on Page 15)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 14)

that I stayed in Fergus Falls. Mr. Joe Ulland, President of Fergus Falls National Bank, and the head of the large Methodist Church, was at first very cordial when he found that my daughter Romaine was a student at Hamlin University (a Methodist institution), but when he found out that she was there because she had won a scholarship instead of being a good Methodist, his conduct was quite different.

While making the change in the Cozy Theatre, one day I was up on a high step ladder changing some scenery, when lifting on a scene one leg of the ladder went through a hole in the stage floor that had been left from moving the pipe organ and covered by linoleum so that it did not show. I landed on the side of my foot, tearing ligaments loose and causing a very painful and long drawn out recovery. They kept me in bed for some time, finally getting out on two crutches for a long time, then another long stretch with one crutch and a cane, then I made it with two canes, and after a long time got along with only one cane. It was many months before I could get along without a cane and still much longer to get rid of my limp.

I was on the Executive Committee of the Associated First National Pictures Association, and attended their meetings in Minneapolis each month. I was also Treasurer of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, which gave me considerable advantage in knowing just what was taking place in the business. I was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Fergus Falls, member of Corner Stone Masonic Lodge #99, and a Corporal in the Fergus Falls Home Guards. I was too old to enlist in the regular army, but near the end the government passed a new law which allowed those up to 55 years of age to join for special duties. Being an old time telegraph operator and then studying wireless, I went to Minneapolis and passed the required examination,

and was allowed ten days to clean up my business affairs, and was to be sent to Siberia as a wireless operator. Before these ten days were up, the Armistice was declared and that was as far as I got in World War No. 1.

One proposition in the Picture exhibition business that I failed to accomplish was to get a change in the method of setting prices on films. The producing companies set a price that they must get on each picture, then divided the country into districts, setting the amount they must get from each one, then taking the theatres in each district setting the amount they should get from each one, governing the separate price by population of the theatre location. In my case with a population of seven thousand, about fifteen hundred were confined in the State Asylum and they did not help my business at all. I was never able to get the companies to recognize that fact and give me the benefit in prices of films. However I did get a little benefit from the Hospital by furnishing them a feature once a week. They had a good outfit and a good large room for exhibiting, and of course only the most mild cases were allowed to attend these shows, and only the highest grade pictures could be shown – no westerns, crime pictures or slapstick comedies. They even had an orchestra composed of inmates, and many of them were real fans and anxious for the next show to come around.

The greatest event happening in Fergus Falls was a genuine cyclone, that caused the death of some ninety people, and was almost beyond description. One Sunday afternoon I, and my two operators George Dorn and Harry Kerkow, were in the Cozy Theatre changing the scenery and getting ready for a road show that we were to have the coming week, when Mrs. Latta sent Graham down to tell me that an awful storm was coming and to come home. Being inside the theatre we could not, of course, see anything, although we did hear a peculiar noise, but we were nearly through our work and stayed to finish it. We went to the front of the theatre, getting to the door just as the storm broke. Dorn lived in a flat

(Continued on Page 16)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 15)

directly across from the theatre and he made a break across the street for home. Kerkow and I stood in the partly open door and observed the strange happenings. The noise was terrific and the rain fell in sheets. A regular river running down the street, then the terrific wind changed and the water ran back in the opposite direction. All kinds of refuse, automobiles, and everything imaginable were flying through the air as well as along the ground. It broke an iron street light standard in front of the theatre in three pieces, landing them in our front lobby. Signs, awnings, and all kinds of things were flying by.

The tornado performed many strange things. It came in over the State Hospital just clearing it with no damage, but just a short distance beyond, it struck a new house owned by Mr. Johnson, a photographer, killed him, his wife and two children. Not a sign of the house was to be found. The basement walls were not damaged, the furnace clean and even a stack of wood in perfect shape, the lawn perfectly clean, not a sign of there ever having been a house there.

A passenger train on the Great Northern that had just pulled out was hit just at the edge of town by all kinds of objects, breaking many windows and leaving a sad looking train. A man living in Iowa and the owner of the Grand Central Hotel, a big three story building on Lincoln Avenue, had arrived on this train, and was just walking into the Hotel when the cyclone hit it and completely demolished the entire building, killing a number of people. They tried to find his body by starting in the front of the building throwing back all the rubbish until the back end was reached, but no body was found. They started again at the front end and found that they did not go back far enough in the first place. There they found the body six or seven days later.

There were many narrow escapes, one case was up on Washington Street. There was a four-story brick building called Bed Bug Row, used as a store

house, and one old man had a room on the top floor. This building was entirely collapsed and the man slid down with the brick, picked himself up, brushed himself off, and walked away. Every one of the sixteen churches, the County courthouse, and many buildings were more or less badly damaged or destroyed. One house up on Union Avenue was turned completely bottom side up, resting on its roof.

Our Lyric electric sign with letters over three feet across was torn to pieces, and some of the large letters were found several miles away. Two of the bridges crossing the river were picked up and tossed bottom side up, landing on the bank, one on one bank, the other on the opposite bank, and the two bridges were only one block apart. Many, many strange cases could be given, but these will answer.

Frank and I thought that by having three theatres in Austin and two in Fergus Falls, that we could buy pictures at an advantage, use the same advertising matter, and work the two cities together, but found that it would not work as the two cities were as different as they possibly could be. Austin was a railroad town, and a large packing plant, a good show town with Sundays the best day of the week. They liked wild and woolly westerns, blood and thunder features, and he could not get enough serials to supply the demand. Whereas in Fergus nothing but the highest grade features could be shown, no westerns, and I could not make a serial of any kind go. I tried several first class ones, but they would not go to another chapter as soon as a week. Even with a free first chapter, I could not make a go of serials.

One interesting show that I had – one winter night I put on at the Cozy Theatre a special war picture on which I had given a women's organization a percentage of the receipts on all the tickets they sold. The house was packed and a very severe storm developed which blocked the Northern Pacific train coming from Wadena on which the film was coming. The railroad kept informing me that the train would arrive soon. At last they gave up all

(Continued on Page 17)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 16)

hope of getting through. I had an old film "Old Heidelberg" which I had shown before. I told them that while they were waiting I would show that and passed the hat for a dime apiece and it worked out fine. I gave them all tickets for the big show which I received for a later date.

I had the Lyric Theatre equipped with three different electric currents, so that I could show pictures while the whole city was dark (which happened one time). The regular 110 AC with a rheostat and also a Mercury Arc Rectifier, and a 220 DC on a transverter. One time while running a matinee, the power running the motors on projecting machines went off, and in hastily replacing a crank the power came back catching my thumb, cutting the end nearly off, but in time I got it grown back on.

Brother Frank was building a big new theatre in Austin, and I bought his interest in the Fergus Picture Corporation, becoming the sole owner of both Fergus Falls Theatres. I did not have enough ready cash to complete this deal, and as Mr. Applebee did his banking with the Fergus Falls National Bank, we continued my account there. After buying the Bijou Mr. Lawrence did his banking with the Swedish American Bank. We continued the Cozy account with them, so that neither bank knew just how much business we were doing. Now I wanted to borrow five thousand dollars and went to Mr. Joe Ulland, the President of the Fergus Falls National Bank, giving him a complete statement of just what we were doing in both houses. After studying this account, he said that was a very good showing, but he did not think much of the moving picture business, and admitted that he had been to only one picture in all the years that I had been in Fergus Falls, and that was a Charlie Chaplin, so he turned me down. Another case of prejudice was when the Rev. Zing, a top-notch Methodist preacher, a great pet of Ulland, came to the Lyric one night to deliver one of the three-minute appeals for War

Bonds. He had to wait a few minutes for the end of the picture being shown, which happened to be an up-to-date newsreel. He said that he never knew that we had such pictures and admitted that he had never seen a moving picture before.

I then made application to Mr. Anderson, Cashier of the Swedish American Bank, who, after thoroughly going over my statement, immediately started the movement to build a new theatre, and eventually got about sixty local men interested, and after a long time succeeded in building the Orpheum Theatre.

After this second turn down, I called on Mr. Elmer Adams, the President of the First National Bank of Fergus Falls, to whom I showed the same statement. He informed me that the directors were to meet the next day and that he would advise me later. This he promptly did, saying that they would be pleased to grant the application any time that I would want it. I immediately closed both of my bank accounts and opened a new one with the First National, combining the two.

Frank was delayed by being unable to get steel for the new theatre so did not need my payment until later, and in the meantime the Austin National Bank advised us that if I would just send along a note that the loan would gladly be granted, that would suffice. The delay in building was so long that I did not have to take any loan at all.

During this war time the Great Northern Railroad was very short of telegraph operators and my good friend Joe Tracy, the Station Agent in Fergus knew that I was an old telegrapher. He induced me to come and work a trick as operator for him. One of my picture machine operators, George Dorn, had gone to France, and I had to run the machines for matinees, so I told Tracy that if I could get off long enough to run the matinee through that I would help him out. Although it had been fourteen years since I quit telegraphy, I managed to do this work satisfactorily. Believe me, I was some busy during that time. I had to get the films ready, machines threaded and ready to start the matinee before going to the depot in the morning, then rush down

(Continued on Page 18)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 17)

just long enough to run through the show, not waiting to rewind or anything else.

During the latter part of the time that I was in Fergus Falls, Frank had completed his new Park Theatre and sold out his entire Austin holdings and gone to Long Beach, California.

I continued to do a good business until the new Orpheum was opened, and of course, with so many local stockholders, it was bound to cut into my business. They opened with a poor picture, had put in old used projection machines, and had trouble with their orchestra, who came to me and offered to play my Cozy (next door) without any pay. With an orchestra and a ten-cent admission I packed them in on Saturday nights, and with Mr. Read at the organ at the Lyric, the new outfit failed to put me out of business, as they had promised. They finally came to me with a cash proposition to take over both of my theatres, and without Frank's three theatres to help my case, and the McCarthy Bros. the principal owners having a chain of theatres, I decided to accept their offer, and on April 20, 1922, I retired from the theatre business in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

In the meantime we had bought a house on Union Avenue from which the cyclone had torn off the roof and entire second floor, and cut off half a dozen tall trees in the yard. This house had been rebuilt and was a very nice pleasant home. We also sold this house.

Frank had just built a new theatre "The Dale" in East Long Beach, California. He wrote me that if I would come to California that he would turn the new theatre over to me to manage. We bought a new Hupmobile automobile and Mrs. Latta, Romaine, and son Graham started on a very pleasant and interesting trip across the western part of the U.S. We took it very leisurely, stopping at many interesting places, such as Yellowstone National Park, a ways up the Columbia River, and a number of side trips, taking about thirty days for the trip.

Coming through Montana we came to a place where they had just had a heavy rain washing out some of the roadways which tied us up one extra day. We came to a place where the highway ran close to the railroad and the water still covered the road, so could not see the condition of the ground. One end of a culvert had washed out and nearly every auto that tried to go over it dropped off the end and had to be pulled back by a team of horses. We discovered that by keeping clear over on one side of the road that the auto would not drop down, so we took the suitcases and baggage off the running board. All of us except Graham carried them over the railroad track and Graham drove through with only a good wetting.

We arrived in San Francisco on July 4, 1922. It was so cold and disagreeable that we headed south at once. Arriving in Long Beach, we found that Frank had secured a furnished house next door to his house. After we arrived in Long Beach, Frank's wife liked the show business so well that she did not propose to let go of the Dale, so we made East Long Beach our headquarters and Mrs. Latta, Romaine, Graham and I spent several weeks going over a good part of Southern California, looking for a good theatre proposition. At that time everything for sale was either a lemon or priced way out of sight, so we failed to find anything satisfactory.

In our first trip through Glendale, California, we called on Mr. P. E. Brown, formerly of Fergus Falls, now manager of Glendale Realty Co. He invited us to dinner within the next few days, which we of course accepted. We were glad to see again Mrs. Brown and their three interesting boys who were all good theatre patrons. Mr. Brown's concern had a branch office in Eagle Rock, the Manager of which had recently died, and Mr. Brown wanted me to go there and take charge of the office, but the Real Estate business here was handled so much differently than I had ever been used to, that I hesitated until I knew more about California methods.

This I had the chance to do by accepting a position as Office Manager and Salesman in the

(Continued on Page 19)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 18)

office of Mr. R. N. Striker, one of the leading Real Estate offices in the fastest growing city in the U. S. I started this position August 28, 1922. Real Estate was very lively at this time. I did not go out with prospects at all, but kept them interested until one of the regular salesmen came in to take them out. I did quite a lot of advertising, writing, etc. It was almost impossible to find a place to rent, so we bought a good little five-room house on Isabel Street, and in that deal I made my first extra dollar in California.

Glendale at the time claimed to be the fastest growing city in the U. S. Financing new houses was an easy matter. If one could pay for a lot, a contractor would build a stock-plan house, and as soon as it would appear as a real house, they would place a first mortgage on it for just as much as they could get. Then they placed a second mortgage (called a Trust Deed) for enough to cover the balance of the builder's contract and enough to cover a good-sized discount. The Trust Deed the contractor would discount as much as he had to get the cash.

In buying my house I paid cash for all except fifteen hundred dollars. The seller was to take a Trust Deed for fifteen hundred, and I heard him tell the real estate agent that he would have to discount it five hundred dollars. I asked him if he was going to pay that discount and he said yes. I told him if he would allow me that, we would not bother to make any Trust Deed at all, and I gave him a check clearing up the whole matter, thereby saving myself five hundred dollars.

Real Estate was booming now. Mr. Striker had two or three salesmen besides himself on the jump, and I was holding the prospects until one of them returned to the office to take out another buyer. We sold properties two and three times before getting out of escrow. Prices did not seem to bother, just so it did not take too much cash. If we had a home priced at \$4,500 requiring a thousand dollars down payment, and if we would advance the price to \$5,000 with only five hundred down payment, we could sell it much quicker.

When a mortgage came due, they never thought of paying it off or even reducing it, but if possible would try to increase the amount of the mortgage. That day has long passed. No real estate loan is made unless amortized so that it is gradually reduced. Mr. Striker and I did some buying and selling ourselves, and also built and sold several houses. Nothing of great importance happened during the nearly two years that I worked for Mr. Striker, only great chances to make money if only one had the required capital. I decided that if I sat around the office a few years more that I would never be good for anything else, so on July 3, 1925, I resigned my position with Mr. Striker.

One of my first friends that I made in coming to Glendale was Mr. Kitterman, Cashier of the First National Bank of Glendale, which a few years later was absorbed by the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, which at one time was figuring on establishing a branch down in the Atwater District, and Mr. Kitterman asked me to go down there and look it over, which I did. However, they never went any further with the proposition, but the Citizen's Trust and Savings Bank of Los Angeles did come there and establish a branch soon after.

I took it easy for a short time looking for some good opening, finally buying the Pacific Northwest Service Station, 1101 North Pacific Avenue, at the corner of Dryden Street in Glendale, California, taking possession November 15, 1925.

During the early 1920's there was a lot of money made in real estate, although a lot was lost a little later. I know from personal experience. In 1923 I built a good seven-room house at 725 North Maryland Avenue that cost us just a little less than eleven thousand dollars, in which we lived for several years. I had paid all claims except forty-five hundred dollars still due. Having several other properties, I could not pay this balance. The Security Bank would not renew the mortgage and all other banks and financial companies would make no loans. I had to let the bank take it for the unpaid claim of forty-five hundred dollars. Another bad deal that I recall, Mr. Striker and I bought two valuable lots on the corner of Brand Blvd. and Stocker

(Continued on Page 20)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 19)

Street, but the bottom dropped out of the real estate business so that we lost out. After paying interest charges and heavy taxes for some years, we traded one of the lots for a double brick building in Burbank, then some time later we divided up our interests, me taking the Burbank building and Striker the Glendale corner lot. One of my Burbank tenants moved their plant to Canada and the other went bankrupt, and I owed fifteen hundred dollars on this building, with the financial condition same as on my house, so that had to go the same way.

The ended my real estate losses until several years later, but it came. On November 15, 1925 when I purchased the Pacific Northwest Service Station at Pacific and Dryden, I paid seven thousand dollars cash. The buildings and business which was located upon leased ground, for which a ground rental on one hundred dollars per month was paid. At the time that did not seem so bad, as I rented the repair shop for one hundred dollars per month. I had two good men working split tricks and I was also on the job every day. For some time we did a nice business, but there were four new stations built within five blocks, and some of them cut prices so that it divided up the business so that none of them made any money. Mr. Chisholm, the garage man, moved to a new location, and I was compelled to equip the shop before I could do anything with it. This I did, and also remodeled the station by taking the toilets out and building a new, separate building away from the station. These operations cost me eighteen hundred dollars. Before my lease expired I traded a new house that I had built on Fairmont Street for a vacant corner lot at Glenoaks and Kenilworth and a good house, figuring that when the lease expired I would move the station to this new location. When that time came I found that the buildings were built of concrete blocks which could not be torn down and used over, and also that the gas tanks that had been in use underground for five years were not worth

moving. I did the best thing possible under the circumstances and sold the whole outfit for three thousand dollars, and retired from the service station business.

I sold the shop equipment to Mr. Wood for four hundred fifty dollars, taking his note in payment. He rented a shop already equipped in Montrose, and stored the outfit that I had sold to him in a garage near his home, which was broken into and the whole works were stolen. He never found any trace of it and I never received a cent for its payment. So putting all these together it is easy to see where I made a final real estate loss. This ended June 1, 1930.

During the summer of 1933 I went down to Long Beach and helped Frank install new seats in his Dale Theatre, and he very much wanted me to come down there and take over the Dale, but business was so bad that he did not want me to go into a losing game. He had had a contract with a Mr. Barnes who was to pay him three hundred dollars per month rent for the theatre fully equipped. Business being so poor and Frank feeling sorry for Mr. Barnes very foolishly cancelled this lease and told Mr. Barnes that he would pay him thirty dollars per week for himself and wife (who sold tickets) and turn the balance over to Frank. He turned over hardly anything, and at the time of Frank's death, Barnes owed him over three thousand dollars, had he been held to the old contract. Regardless of that fact, Barnes sued the estate for unpaid salary and secured a judgment for over eight hundred dollars, which I carried to a higher court. The court would not take into consideration at all the fact of what Barnes owed, confirmed his judgment which I had to pay.

On November 11, 1933 Frank was stricken with Cerebral Meningitis and never regained power to speak. He seemed to understand the situation, but he passed on very shortly thereafter. I immediately went to Long Beach and Frank's will provided that I be appointed executor of his estate. I closed the theatre as soon as possible, taking it over March 1 and intending to make some improvements. Graham and I put up a false front and began this work,

(Continued on Page 21)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 20)

but on March 10 the big earthquake hit Long Beach and h--- was to pay.

I had been fastening down some seats in the theatre and had just got to the house for dinner and gone into the bathroom removing my glasses. I had just gotten nicely soaped up, when the quake truck, and believe me it was some quake.

Josephine (widow of Adrian Latta) was just putting the dinner on the table, the chops were still on the stove. The shake threw the things from the stove clear across the kitchen, turned the stove quarter way round, moved the refrigerator out of its corner into the middle of the kitchen and mixed everything up in general all over the city. We, of course, rushed out into the street as every one else had done and watched the big school house across the street tumble little by little at every frequent shake. The gas and electric lines and most of the water lines were shut off all over the city and it was several days before they were back on.

Everyone stayed outdoors, building bonfires in the street for all cooking and warmth. I immediately went down to the theatre and we had to cut through the door of the Sweet Shop in the theatre to rescue the proprietor and his wife. In the next building to the theatre, a restaurant, the proprietor's son, in rushing out, was killed by the falling walls. This was my second experience with catastrophes and I don't care for any more. The Fergus Falls tornado and this earthquake are plenty.

Somebody started the rumor that a big tidal wave was coming and many people took to their cars and made for the country, anywhere to get away from the beach, but it was just as bad where they went and there was no tidal wave.

All communication was cut off from Long Beach and Graham and his mother came to Long Beach as soon as possible to see how we were. We were all right and in a few days able to resume normal conditions, although there was a lot of work to fix things up. A later quake did as much or more

damage to what was left of the building as the original one had done. Had I known how severe the concealed damage to the gas lines, water lines, etc. was, I would never have attempted to rebuild the theatre at all.

All of Frank's properties were free of debt, but the terrible condition of nearly everything in Long Beach made it more impossible to secure funds for the rebuilding of the theatre, especially so as theatres are classed as a one-purpose building, such as churches, etc. making it doubly hard to finance. After a lot of hard work I finally got the theatre rebuilt, but as I had been out of the theatre business for a number of years, and in a different part of the country, and the hardest and most important part of the business is the proper purchase of films, I thought that the wisest thing to do was to make a deal with a Mr. Menard who was running a theatre in Burbank and one in Glendale. I leased the Dale to him on a percentage basis as the Estate of Frank F. Latta, and an arrangement between us to divide the receipts above a specified amount equally. I was manager in full charge. The reverse damage to nearly everybody left business in a very poor condition and receipts failed to come up to expectations. After seven months of hard work, without receiving a cent for it, I decided that it was time for a change. I got Mr. Sutton of the firm of Galston and Sutton to buy Mr. Menard's lease and made a more satisfactory lease in which I personally had no interest. They put on better pictures and more advertising brought the business up to where the Estate fared better, but not enough to take care of the upkeep, taxes and payments on the Government mortgage, which they were going to foreclose. I secured a court order enabling me to sell the theatre. Galston and Sutton assumed all back unpaid taxes, insurance and government claims and gave the estate \$1,051.26. Although it had cost nearly sixteen thousand dollars to rebuild, I considered that we were lucky to secure that much. Time roved that I was right for the theatre changed hands several times during the next few years without any of them making any money.

(Continued on Page 22)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 21)

Besides willing Josephine and me considerable interest in the theatre, Frank willed Josephine the house at 1055 Orizaba and the one at 1841 Orizaba to me. These houses were both free from all debt, but I was forced to place a mortgage on both of them to complete the theatre, which was rather hard on both of us. I finally sold both houses and we got something out of the wonderful gifts of brother Frank.

Frank had so many interests so widely scattered that it was a long and hard job to settle, especially just at this time when everything was so badly upset. Three of the four banks that he was interested in failed, and I had to even promise to make good on some of the stock that I gave away if an assessment should be made. Several farm mortgages defaulted and never recovered. Building and Loan Co. suspended mining stocks all failed and it took me until March 9, 1942 before I could get fully discharged by the court as executor of the estate.

In the meantime we had moved to Glendale into a rented furnished apartment on Belmont Street and rented our Long Beach house furnished. We tried several apartments on Brand, Hahn and Harvard, but we had lived too long with our own furnishings to like any furnished apartment. When we sold our Long Beach home, we sold some of the furnishings but retained enough to equip an unfurnished apartment on West Glenoaks only a short distance from Romaine's home, and it seemed more like living again.

September 15, 1942 I joined the Glendale Police Department as a School Crossing Officer, located at Glenwood Road and Virginia Avenue, within walking distance of home. I held this position until Sept. 15, 1946 when several of us older men had to give way to younger men who wanted jobs.

We had not been in our latest own furnished new home very long when my dear wife's health began to fail. After a spell in Queen of the Angels

Hospital in Los Angeles, with three nurses, she recovered somewhat and we took her to a Hospital Home in Glendale, but she did not like it there. We put a regular hospital bed in our apartment and had a regular nurse for her there all of the time. This failed to secure the desired results, so we took her to the Glendale Sanitarium where she would get the best of care. All to no avail. On September 22, 1943, she passed on to where we are all headed for.

I tried to keep the apartment but the landlady's sister wanted it, and I was forced to vacate. I sold some of our furniture and fixtures, stored some of it, and rented a furnished room on Stocker Street. It was in walking distance of my school, as my work called for only five hours a day, but spread out over ten hours. I went to work at 8:00 a.m. and was off from 9 to 10. During this time I took the city bus (on which I had a pass) going downtown for breakfast, going over to the Hoover cafeteria for lunch at 1:00 p.m. (when I had another hour off duty) and going downtown again for dinner at night.

The owner of the Stocker Street house was going to convert it into a duplex, and I had to move. I was lucky in securing a nice large room on Arden Street, almost as near the school as the Stocker Street room, and only two and a half blocks from Romaine's home. Again this Arden Street house was sold and I had to move once more, but again was lucky to find a very pleasant front room with private outside entrance, and diagonally across two streets from Romaine's home. I had my own easy chair, bookcase, radio, etc. June 1, 1949 my landlord wanted the room that I had and I was compelled to move again. Fortunately I secured a much more desirable corner room on the ground floor of an apartment at the corner of Glenoaks Blvd. and Estelle Ave., only three short blocks from Romaine's, two blocks from Graham's office, and one block from both the city bus line and the Pacific Electric Trolley.

September 24, 1946 I started in as an insurance salesman for the Forest Lawn Insurance Co., a strictly commission proposition and a regular doorbell ringing job. If I could get the lady of the house interested, I always had to make a date when I

(Continued on Page 23)

Reminiscing! Part 3

(Continued from Page 22)

could interview the husband, which most always had to be nights, and to chase around after dark with a flashlight trying to find the house number was no fun. I soon got enough of that work, turned in all supplies, and called it quits.

No matter how competent and experienced and in perfect physical condition, at my age employment is impossible to secure, so I have entered the retired list and am taking life easy as long as possible. I am a member of the 19th Century Wheelmen, an organization of old-time wheelmen, who hold an annual get together meeting and banquet. I joined the League of American Wheelmen June 18, 1885 and have the complete annual membership cards for the next 22 years, up to the time the club went out of business. I am a member of the "Morse Telegraph Club of America, Inc.", an organization of old-time telegraphers, a business that I entered over sixty years ago. I am an active member of the Glendale Adult Recreation Center, playing roque and shuffleboard for exercise and recreation. As a hobby I collect stamps.

Masonic Record: For the past forty years since I joined Olean Lodge #252 F & AM, Olean, N.Y., Feb. 2, 1909, I have been quite active in Masonry, starting through the chairs as far as Junior Deacon when I moved to Crosby, Minn. There I became prime mover in establishing Cuyuna Range Lodge #276 F & AM, of which lodge I became Past Master, the highest honor to be granted by any Blue Lodge. From this lodge I demitted when moving to Fergus Falls, Minn., where I joined Cornerstone Lodge #99 F & AM, from which I again demitted when moving to Glendale, California/ I was one of the principal movers in establishing the now popular Meridian Lodge #667 A & FM, of which I am an active member.

While living in Olean, N. Y. I joined Olean Chapter #150 Royal Arch Masons from which I demitted Dec. 13, 1929 and while living in Fergus Falls, Minn., I joined Palestine Commandry #14 K.T., from which I demitted Dec. 31, 1924. I also

joined Zuhruh Temple A.A.O.N.M.S., Minneapolis, Minn., from which I demitted Mar. 5, 1926 – never rejoining the three higher bodies, but confining my Masonic work to the Blue Lodge.

Notable Inventions during my Lifetime

During my life time I believe that more important inventions have been made than will ever happen again in one life time. To mention some of these. In my boyhood days only muzzle-loading rifles and shot guns were known. I was nine years old when the first telephone was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in 1876, and it was many years later before coming into practical use. The first electric arc light was produced by Brush in Cleveland, Ohio, 1878. First electric light system in New York, 1882. First Edison incandescent electric light exhibited 1879. First phonograph exhibited in 1877 but not until 1888 did it become practical. First electric streetcar, 1879 and first overhead trolley in 1884 in Kansas City. First high-wheel bicycle produced 1873 and first so-called safety bicycle in 1886. First pneumatic tire invented by Dunlap in 1888. Duryea produced first automobile in U. S. in 1892. Ford came out with his first car in 1903. Wright Brothers made the first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903. First motion picture came about 1890, but talkies did not appear until 1932. X-ray was discovered in 1895. 1895 saw Marconi's first radio, good for only one and a half miles, but DeForest's inventions in 1906 made it of practical use and the Federal Radio Commission took over full control of the industry in 1927. Typewriters, cash registers, washing machines, refrigerators, television, atom bombs, and now hydrogen bombs, and no telling what is to follow, but these are a lot for one life time.

The Children of Jane Latta

By: Lindy Wise, lindyjay@bellsouth.net

This is the way I believe we fit into the Latta family:

(Continued on Page 24)

The Children of Jane Latta

(Continued from Page 23)

Branch No 1: James M. Latta, born before 1740. John Latta, born 1756, married Margaret Potter. Their daughter, Jane, married Henry McLaughlin in Mercer County, Pennsylvania on 8 Sept. 1816, and were the parents of ten children:

John L. McLaughlin

Samuel Potter McLaughlin. My husband Jay's ancestor.

Levi McLaughlin

David H. McLaughlin

James Reid McLaughlin

Benjamin W. McLaughlin

Josiah B. McLaughlin

Margaret Ann McLaughlin

Henry Allen McLaughlin

Silas Speir McLaughlin

Henry McLaughlin was born 31 Oct. 1795 in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, and died 20 Sept. 1881. Jane Latta was born 10 April 1796, and died 13 Sept. 1872. Henry and Jane lived in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Illinois. They died in Mercer County, Illinois, and are buried in Norwood Cemetery.

The first child born to Jane Latta and Henry McLaughlin:

John L. McLaughlin, born 8 Nov. 1817 in West Salem, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, died 16 Dec. 1907 in Iowa. Married 1844 probably in Mercer County, Pennsylvania to Martha J. Angelo. Martha was born 1 Oct. 1825 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, died 3 Oct. 1887 in Mercer County, Illinois. From the 1882 History of Mercer County, Illinois, page 650:

John L., a son of Henry and Jane McLaughlin, was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania in 1817. His father and mother were both of Irish descent. His mother was a niece of General Potter, of Revolutionary fame. In 1856, he emigrated to Illinois, and in 1857, bought land in section 2, Suez township. His father died in September 1891, aged

eighty six and was buried in the Norwood Cemetery. Mr. McLaughlin was married in 1844 to Miss Martha J. Angelo, also a native of Mercer County. Both are members of the United Brethren Church of Suez. The names of the children born to them are: Sarah J., James H. (deceased), Cassius C., Willis J., Mary M., and Josephine.

Second child born to Jane Latta and Henry McLaughlin:

Samuel Potter McLaughlin, a.k.a. Potter, S. P. or Petter, born 9 June 1819 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, died 4 June 1882 in Paton. Buried in Paton, Iowa on 7 June 1882. In Pennsylvania in 1845 he married Margaret Jane Strong. Margaret Strong was born 16 Nov. 1824 in Adams County, Pennsylvania, and died 19 April 1891 in Paton, and buried in Paton, Iowa.

1860 Census, Fairfield Township, Jackson County, Iowa:

S P McLaughlin, age 41, Margaret, age 35, Elman a.k.a. Sylvester, age 12 (born 31 Jan. 1848 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania), Sarah Angeline, age 10 (born 11 Jan. 1849 in Salem, Mercer County, Pennsylvania), James a.k.a. Henry, age 5 (born 18 Jan. 1855 in Jackson County, Iowa), Alice A.k.a. Jeanette Alice A.k.a. Nettie, age 2 (born in Jackson County, Iowa).

1870 Census, Fairfield Township, Jackson County, Iowa:

Petter a.k.a. Samuel Potter McLaughlin, age 52, farmer, June a.k.a. Margaret, age 45, Enman a.k.a. Sylvester, age 22, Henry a.k.a. James, age 15, Nettie a.k.a. Jeanette Alice, age 12.

1880 Census, Paton Township, Greene County, Iowa, Samuel, age 61, Margaret age 55, Sylvester, age 32, Henry, age 26, Alice a.k.a. Jenette Alice a.k.a. Nettie, age 22, later married to Harvey Wise.

The third child born to Jane Latta and Henry McLaughlin:

Levi McLaughlin, born 7 March 1821 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and died 7 Oct. 1900 in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, buried in Clearwater Cemetery Clearwater, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Married 1846 to Mary M. Moore. Mary Moore was born in 1825, died 1910.

(Continued on Page 25)

The Children of Jane Latta

(Continued from Page 24)

From the biography for Levi McLaughlin:

Levi McLaughlin, farmer, section 18, P.O. Clearwater, was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania in 1821, and is the son of Henry and Jane Latta McLaughlin. Was married 1856 to Mary M. Moore, daughter of George and Margaret Ewing Moore, natives of Pennsylvania. He has eleven children - Florence A., Amelia J., Thaddeus G., Elizabeth, Margaret M., Josiah B., Thorwaldson, William, Minnie, Laura, James. He came to Kansas in 1874 and located on the farm where he now resides. Owns 160 acres of land and is engaged in farming and stock raising. Is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and of the Masonic Fraternity, A., F. & A.M. Wichita Lodge, N. 99. He is Justice of the Peace and has held that office for three years. He was Justice of the Peace in Illinois, also Constable and Deputy Sheriff for eight years in Illinois.

The forth child born to Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta:

David H. McLaughlin was born 15 April 1822 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and died 3 Dec. 1923 near Mediapolis, Iowa. He married Margaret Stevens. In 1852 he moved with his family to Mercer County, Illinois.

1860 Census, Township 13 N2W, Mercer County, Illinois: Bought farm near Old Oxford, Henry County, Illinois.

1870 Census, Oxford Township, Henry County, Illinois.

1880 Census, Oxford Township, Henry County, Illinois.

1900 Census, Oxford Township, Henry County, Illinois.

In 1893, David moved to Alpha, Illinois, and lived with daughter, Mrs. J.H. Sexton, near Mediapolis, Iowa.

David's children were: Columbus, Frank B. (married Etta), Florence, Myrtle (married Melvin Rutledge), and Jennifer (married Clark Sexton).

The fifth child born to Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta:

James Read McLaughlin was born 12 April 1825 in Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and died 13 Dec. 1912 in Alexis, Mercer County, Illinois. Married (1) Nancy Ann Lossell. Nancy Ann Lossell was born in 1833, and died 15 May 1862 in Mercer County, Illinois. Married (2) Lavina A. Sedgewick in 1864. Lavina Sedgewick was born 13 Sept. 1840.

History of Mercer County, Illinois:

James Reid McLaughlin was born 1825 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, son of Henry and Jane Latta McLaughlin. His family are of Scotch and Irish origin and came to this country at a very early date; his grandfather, John Latta, served as major in the Revolutionary War. He was married January 1850 to Miss Jane Lossell, a native of Trumbull County, Ohio; she died 15 May 1862. In 1864 he married Miss Louisa Sedwick, a sister of Captain Sedwick, of Suez Township. The children in order of their ages are as follows: Oscar, Eliza J., Ella, Amanda, Charlie, Maggie, Alice, Lewis, Dora, Roy. The latter five are by the second wife. In 1854 Mr. McLaughlin came to Illinois and bought land in section 2, in Suez township. He now owns about a section of land in Mercer County, and 160 acres in Iowa, situated about twenty miles north of the city of Davenport. Mrs. McLaughlin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. McLaughlin started out life without anything to aid him, but by perseverance and an untiring energy, he has made his life a success. He has many friends, and is highly respected wherever known.

The sixth child born to Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta was Benjamin W. McLaughlin, born 2 May 1827 (twin to Josiah). He died in 1911, buried in Schaller, Iowa. Benjamin married Lydia Donaldson (her mother was Rebecca Donaldson). Lydia died in 1910, buried in Schaller, Iowa. Benjamin and Lydia had 10 children, 2 boys and 8 girls.

1870 Census, Mercer County, Illinois:

Benjamin McLaughlin, age 43, Lydia, age 38, Leonder a.k.a. Arlo, age 17, born in Pennsylvania,

(Continued on Page 26)

The Children of Jane Latta

(Continued from Page 25)

Henry C., age 16, born in Pennsylvania, Clara, age 14, born in Illinois, Alvira, age 11, born in Illinois, Rebecca A., age 9, born in Illinois, Lowisa, age 5, born in Illinois, Emma, age 7, born in Illinois, twins Hellen, age 3, Adda, age 3, born in Illinois, Mary Agnes, age 5/12, born in Illinois.

1880 Census, DeWitt, Clinton County, Iowa

1900 Census, Eureka, Sac County, Iowa.

The children of Benjamin W. McLaughlin and Lydia Donaldson were:

Leonder a.k.a. Arlo, born 1852, married Susan Sadie Smith; Henry Charles, born 1854; Clara, born 1865, died 25 May 1933, married Albert Franklin, lived in Schaller, Iowa; Alvira a.k.a. Alice, born 1858, married Mr. Likely; Rebecca, born 1861, married A. L. Hyzer, lived in Storm Lake, Iowa; Louisa, born 1865; Emma, born 1866; Hellen & Adda, twins, born 1867; Mary Agnes, born 8 Jan. 1870, married Frank Stone, lived in Britt, Iowa.

The seventh child born to Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta was Josiah Brown McLaughlin, born 2 May 1827, twin of Benjamin, died 27 Nov. 1895, and is buried in Clearwater Cemetery, Clearwater, Sedwick County, Kansas. He married Harriet McMillian. Harriet was born in 1829 and died in 1879. Their children were: Lizzie, born 1859; Hattie, born 1863; Jaimie, born 1865; Annie, born 1868; Grace, born 1870. Josiah McLaughlin married second Catherine Bowles.

The eighth child born to Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta was Margaret Ann McLaughlin, born 22 Feb. 1829 in Pennsylvania. She married first John B. Morford, and second, Robert Sample Moore. Margaret and Robert were the parents of Elizabeth Bell Moore, a.k.a. Lizzy.

The ninth child born to Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta was Henry Allen McLaughlin, a.k.a. Allen. Allen was born 20 Dec. 1830 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, died Nov. 1913 in Sac County, Iowa, and is buried in Schaller Cemetery in Iowa. He married Lavina Jane Morford on 5 Sept. 1853. Lavina was born 21 Oct. 1830 in

Shenango, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, died 9 April 1920 in Sac County, Iowa, and was buried in Schaller Cemetery in Iowa.

1860 Census Township 13, N2, Mercer County, Illinois.

Moved to Sac County, Iowa in 1879.

1880 Census, Eureka Township, Sac County, Iowa.

1910 Census, Eureka Township, Sac County, Iowa.

1920 Census, Lavina living with son John and daughter in law Marie in Sac County, Iowa.

The tenth child of Henry McLaughlin and Jane Latta was Silas Spear McLaughlin, born 26 July 1834 in Greenville, West Salem Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. He died 20 Nov. 1900 in alpha, Henry County, Illinois. Silas married Adelaide (Addie) Drown on 13 Sept. 1866 in Henry County, Illinois. Addie was born 29 Sept. 1846 in Ohio, and died 29 May 1931.

1850 Census West Salem Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, Silas, age 15.

Moved from Mercer County, Pennsylvania with his parents to Township 13 N 2W in Mercer County, Illinois in 1857, and located on a farm where the village of Burgess in now located. He and Addie were married and went to housekeeping on this home farm. In the spring of 1869 they moved to a farm in Knox County where they lived about 18 months. They then moved to a farm at Oxford, Henry County, Illinois, and from there moved to Alpha, Henry County, Illinois in 1898, living there until his death. They had two sons, Elmer Bennett McLaughlin and Bert Ellsworth McLaughlin.

1860 Census, Mercer County, Illinois, Township 13N 2W, P.O. Pope Creek.

1870 Census, Town of Rio, Knox County, Illinois, P.O. Galesburg. Silas, age 32, farmer, Adelaide, age 22, Elmer age 6/12.

1880 Census, Oxford, Henry County, Illinois, Silas, age 45, farmer, Adelaide, age 33, Elmer, age 11, Burt, age 8.

1900 Census, Oxford, Henry County, Illinois, Silas, age 65, landlord, Adelaide, age 54.

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. My Branch of the **Latta** Family is: Great Grandfather Robert **Latta** m. Catherine **Mills** died in NSW on 18.12.1924. His Father Robert **Latta** (born Glasgow, Scotland - a Shipwright) m. Emily Sarah **Williams** and died in Sydney after 30 years in Australia. His Father James **Latta** (a Shipwright - lived in Glasgow, Scotland) m. Emma Sarah **Williams**. I also found a John **Latta**, a fireman, born at Grauge Mouth, Scotland 1876 and died on 27.10.1902 aged 26 and not married. His Father was Colin **Latta** m. Margaret **Back**. John was 17 months in NSW Australia. He must tie in somewhere as he is buried at the same cemetery as my Great Grandfather Robert **Latta**. If you can help I will be so grateful. Sincerely Yours, Helen **Pomfrett Latta**, helcpom@bigpond.net.au.

2. Can I add a little anecdote? My Robert **Latta** had a warehouse at The Rocks in Sydney NSW. I didn't know much about it. His wife, Catherine **Latta** nee **Mills** died at 48 years of age leaving 5 children. She was buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, along with other members of Robert Snr's family (his brothers and sisters) and his Mum and Dad.

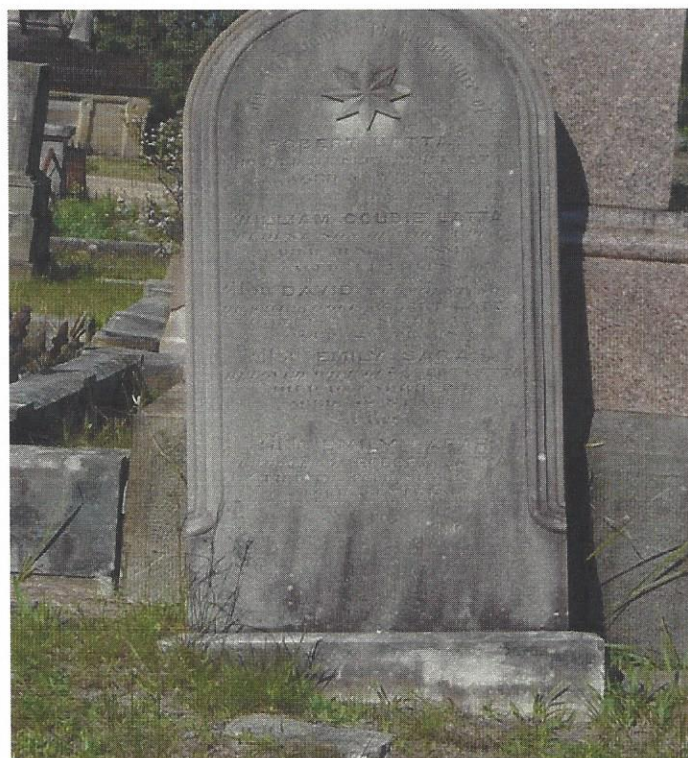
After Catherine died, Robert sold up and went to live in Thirlmere, NSW, where he built homes – the one they lived in was one of them.

His two daughters married and lived in Thirlmere and were buried in Thirlmere Cemetery. Robert himself died in 1924 and was also buried in Thirlmere Cemetery.

I don't know where two of his sons, Robert **Latta** and Henry **Latta**, went to or what became of them. His youngest son, Herbert **Latta** went to live at Lane Cove, NSW, after he married Ethel – they had 6 children I think.

After many years I learnt much later that my Grandmother Catherine **Latta Chalker**, in her later years, should have inherited some money from the Family in Europe somewhere. But, as the costs to get the money here would have cut into the worth of the inheritance, they did not try to collect it.

This is just a little anecdote in case someone knows about it. Wonderful thanks for all your good work, Helen **Pomfrett Latta**, helcpom@bigpond.net.au.



3. I am able to give the following text on the headstone as pictured here. It is the grave of my Great Great Grandfather and Great Great Grandmother, Robert **Latta** and Emily Sarah **Latta** nee **Williams**. It is in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, Australia, Section 4 Grave 142 - last in the row:

Robert **Latta** died 11-9-1874 age 58 years.
Shipwright

William Coudie **Latta** Eldest son of the above died 1-6-1889 age 45 years. Labourer
also David youngest son of the above Robert **Latta** died 18th January 1901 age 29 years

also Emily Sarah beloved wife of Robert **Latta** died 10th April 1911. Widow age 88 years at Rest
also Emily Sarah daughter of Robert **Latta** died 17th February 1944 aged 67 years

(Continued on Page 29)

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>.

29. Marsha Frey, 223 E. Perrin Ave., P.O. Box 306, McComb OH 45852-0306, mfrey223@woh.rr.com.

Jackie Testerman, 2126 N. 24th St., Grand Junction CO 81501, jtesterman@bresnan.net.

22. Kim L. Latta, 830 Emmett St., Burlington IA 52601-1947.

29. John M. Latta, 250 Loyola Dr., Millbrae CA 94030, johnlatta@att.net.

8. William J. Latta, unpublished.

18. Billie J. McInerey, 649 N. Ironwood Rd., Benson AZ 85602-7848, janemacmc@gmail.com.

Ginger K. Goodwin, unpublished.

4. Richard Crawley, 254 Fleetwood Lane, Elk Grove Village IL 60007.

4. Harriet Wing, do not publish but make available on request from branch 4 researchers.

15. Hallie Mae Rinek, 4939 NW 79th Rd., Gainesville FL 32653, rinekhw@att.net.

1. John W. Duwe, 3000 NW 30th Circle, Camas WA 98607, jdduwe@comcast.net, descendant of Maud Pearl Latta, d/o Warren Johnson Latta.

11,15. Jolene K. Latta-Hale, 760 Tunk Creek Rd., Riverside WA 98849-9605.

45. Beryl Redfield, 4281 Winfield Rd., Taylorsville UT 84123, Bredf331@comcast.net.

43. Gerald K. Heuer, unpublished.

9. Russell Latta, 748 Broadway, Atwater CA 95301, russlatta@live.com.

3. Paul I. Latta, Jr., unpublished.

13. Edith Tresner, 54 Auburn Rd., West Hartford CT 06119, chammie@comcast.net.

3. Ralph W. Allen, unpublished.

30. Robert E. Latta, 11632 Kosine Lane, Loveland OH 45140-1912.

36. Mary Taylor, 700 Carolina Meadows, Apt. 217, Chapel Hill NC 27517.

43. Ray E. Garlick, Jr., P.O. Box 581, Krum TX 76249-0581, rgkdfw@hotmail.com, new branch captain.

1. Bonnie Henry, unpublished.

Tiffany & Scott Howell, 1941 Altavue Rd., Catonsville MD, 21228, tiffany.howell@gmail.com.

John Evans, 40 Third St., P.O. Box 20, Warragamba NSW, Australia 2752, rev352@gmail.com.

1. Virginia Latta Latchford, 134 Morningside Rd., Paramus NJ 07652-1600, latch10@aol.com.

3. Cheryl M. Larson, 113 Fort Wayne, Universal City TX 78148, cheryl_m_1@yahoo.com.

1. Perry D. Latta, 2920 Old Troy Pike, Apt. 100, Dayton OH 45404-2374, pd1454@yahoo.com.

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

15. Yvonne S. Perkins, 2107 54th St., Lubbock TX 79412, yvonnegengirl@aol.com.

William B. Latta, Jr., unpublished.

12. A. Douglas Marion, 145 York St., Chester SC 29706, dmarion@truvista.net.

Harriet Latta, 2624 Roseland Dr., Ann Arbor MI 48103.

James P. Latta, unpublished.

51. Kenneth W. Erdle, 7890 Wexford Ct., Bloomington IN 47408, sasquatsh1@gmail.com.

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

49. Stanley Ray Latta, P.O. Box 998, Alamogordo NM 88311, redog@wayfarer1.com.

1. Letha VanWyck, 1310 282 St., Ocean Park WA 98640.

Reprints of Issues 1-40 are available for \$4.00 each. If interested, please contact the editor,

Ken Mueller, 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314, DocHuer@aol.com.

Research Notes

(Continued from Page 27)

Also 2 graves further back in Section 4 Grave 138, the following are buried without a headstone:
Buried 29.10.1874 Emma S.E. **Latta** aged 5 weeks.

Buried 18.2.1877 William Robert **Latta** aged 16 months.

Buried 25.3.1877 Emily Sara **Stevens** aged 2 years.

Buried 5.10.1884 Alfred Robert **Latta** aged 5 years.

Buried 14.10.1884 Jane **Latta** aged 14 months.

Died 15.8.1897 Catherine **Latta** aged 41 years.

Died 17.4.1941 Thomas **Mills** aged 83 years
Father of Catherine.

I hope you can make sense of all this and that it is helpful for someone. Thank you for your care and help, Helen **Pomfrett Latta**,
helcpom@bigpond.net.au.

4. I have a copy of the Denver Directory Vol. XXXI - 1903. There are (7) seven **Latta**'s listed in this directory. I believe that we have identified them with Branch # 3.

There are (67) sixty seven **Day**'s listed in this directory. See the **Latta/Day** connection -

105 William Ray (7) **Latta** - married Daisy Marguerite "Pearl" **Bryant** on January 9, 1901 in Denver, CO. Daisy Marguerite was born September 2, 1883 in Otterville, MO the daughter of William Wesley **Bryant** and Cora Bell **Day**. Daisy Marguerite is my grandmother and Cora Bell **Day** is my great grand mother. My great grand mother, Cora Belle **Day** is listed at 1401 S. 12th Street in Denver in the 1903 Denver Directory. Cora Bell had two brothers and two sisters that I am aware of and I have pictures of Ed, Bertha, Ida and Frank as well as some other **Day** kin that I have not yet identified for certain.

Is there anyone currently working on **Day** genealogy? I will be happy to share information and pictures. Alan Leroy **Latta** - Branch # 3,
ALLatta@aol.com.

5. Just wanted to add one comment to the "Branch 31 Information" Article on pages 27 - 30 in Issue 40. At the end of article is a note from Joshua **Armstrong** about James **Latta**, 1st settler of Orange Co., NC and his brother, John **Latta**, (head of Branch 15). If the relationships he and John **Moore** have laid out can be proven, you have to add branch 15 and note 3 in the mix too! This would tie most, if not all of the Orange Co., NC **Latta** branches together in one neat package. The article's contention that John B. **Latta** was a son of James **Latta** (1732-after 1804) would also make this John a brother to James **Latta** Jr. (1760 - ca 1860) (head of note 3) who settled his family in Limestone County, Alabama around 1815/16 and Thomas, son of James, who was granted a power of attorney in 1804 on his father's behalf to collect debts. Discussion???? Keep up the good work, guys! Thanks again for sharing, Cindy **Stiene**, Captain, Branch 15, Note 3, lmsjfs@knology.net.

6. I am forwarding the most recent information that I received from Oddette **Cruz**, American Battle Monuments Commission, Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines, cruzr@abmc.gov.

Frank D. **Latta**, Commander, U. S. Navy, Service number 0-071545, United States Navy, entered the service from Iowa, died 25 May 1946, missing in action or buries at sea. Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines. Awards: Navy Cross, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Silver Star.

Rob Roy **Latta**, Quartermaster, Chief, U.S. Navy, Service number 2721065, entered the service from Alabama, died 13 Nov. 1942, missing in action or buried at sea. Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines. Awards: Purple Heart.

Robert C. **Latta**, Private, U. S. Army, service number 18043898, Quartermaster Corps, entered the service from California, died 3 May 1942, buried at plot D, row 3, grave 49, Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.

(Continued on Page 30)

Research Notes

(Continued from Page 29)

William **Latta**, Jr., Private First Class, U. S. Army Air Forces, service number 6949903, 803rd Engineer Battalion, Aviation, entered the service from Pennsylvania, died 3 June 1942, buried at plot N, row 14, grave 57, Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.

Robert T. **Latta**, Brown, Kansas, born 1913, Major, U. S. Army, service number 0-354717, killed in action. Died 10 September 1952 in Korea. Major **Latta** was a member of the 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed in action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on September 10, 1952. Major **Latta** was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Can someone give me the branch number and family number of the **Lattas** listed here? Alan Leroy **Latta**, Branch 3 Captain, ALLatta@aol.com.

7. The following Veterans listed in the United States Department of Veterans Administration and American Battle Memorial sites belonging to Note 03 families and collateral to Branch 15 are:

Harry A. **Latta** of Blountsville, AL, a son of FG 8, #21 Jacob A. **Latta**.

J.D. **Latta** of Pinson, AL, FG 27, # 40

Ray A. **Latta** of White City, AL, FG 28, #46.

Robert (Rob) Roy **Latta** of Blount Co., Alabama (burial at sea - WWII), a son of FG 8, #20 Robert T. **Latta**.

Not all these **Lattas** are listed in the Note 03 database at LNG, but are descendents of those families listed. Hope this helps in the sorting.

One more thing - I had a note from a different source that Rob Roy **Latta** served aboard the U.S.S. Atlanta at the time of his death. I have not verified this note, but I did keep it for future review. Cindy **Stiene**, Captain, Branch 15, Note 03, lmsjfs@knology.net.

8. Lester Leroy **Latta**, buried at McComb, OH is a member of branch 29. He is the son of Charles Fredrick Orville **Latta** and Flora Ann Blew **Newell Latta**. He was my grandfather's (Ernest Nathan **Latta**) brother. Marsha **Latta Frey** - Branch 29, mfrey223@woh.rr.com.

9. **Latta**, Theodore L., T Sgt. U.S. Army Air Forces, World War II. Date of Birth: 04/29/1920. Date of Death: 01/01/1995. Leavenworth National Cemetery, 150 Muncie Road, Leavenworth, Kansas 66048, (913)758-4105. Buried at section 46, row 30, site 6.
<http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/leavenworth.asp>.

Sgt. Theodore **Latta** is from branch 22. He was my Grandfather. Thanks, Anna **Smith**, aks_710@yahoo.com.

10. Australia, New South Wales, Ulladulla Milton War Memorial. The Milton Ulladulla District's War memorial is found at Milton Memorial Park, on the corner of Princes Highway and Thomas Street Milton, opposite Milton Primary School. The Memorial is a granite obelisk, constructed in 3 stages above a rusticated base. The surrounds were once fenced with granite fence posts with galvanized pipe railing. This area is now paved to match the Milton streetscape. This along with spot lights, which light up the memorial every night. The granite for the memorial and fencing posts would have come from the Moruya quarry, which also supplied granite for the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge. The memorial features names for both WW1 and WW2.

5 **Latta** Brothers:

Latta, Arthur Henry,
Latta, Betrie Roy,
Latta, John James,
Latta, Robert Gibson,
Latta William Clyde,
Latta, Arthur Henry

(Continued on Page 31)

Research Notes

(Continued from Page 30)

Arthur **Latta**, Serial Number and Rank: 2478,
L/CPL - PTE

Birth: Milton 1896/32270

Parents: James **Latta** and Rosetta **Thomas**

Enlisted: 13 May 1915

Service: 4th Battalion, 7th Reinforcement

RTA 12 May 1918

Marriage: Florence **Higgins** 1922 Milton

Honour Rolls: RSL Honour Roll

Milton Methodist

Milton Town Memorial

Yatte Yattah Community

Brother to Bertie Roy, John James, William
Clyde and Robert Gibson **Latta**, all who served in
WW1.

Bertie Roy **Latta**

Serial Number and Rank: 2586, Private

Birth: Ulladulla 1892/22542 Milton

Parents: James **Latta** and Rosetta **Thomas**

Enlisted: 21 September 1916

Service: 39th Battalion. RTA 3 January 1919

Death: 8 September 1952

Honour Rolls: RSL Honour Roll

Milton Town Memorial

His name does appear on the Congregational
Church Honour Roll as like his two brothers.

Brothers - John James **Latta** and Robert Gibson
Latta both who were KIA.

Other brothers who served were William Clyde
Latta, Arthur Henry **Latta** who served in the 4th
Battalion.

Bertie served with John William **Sperring** and
Thomas **Duffy** in the 39th Battalion.

John James **Latta**

Serial Number and Rank: 3525A, SGT

Birth: Milton 1890/21787

Parents: James **Latta** and Rosetta **Thomas**

Enlisted: Ulladulla 22 September 1915

Next of Kin: Wife. Ellen **Latta** of Lismore

Marriage: Ellen **Gumley** (born **Milton**) March
1910 Bangalow. 1910/1115 Byron Bay.

Service: 54th Battalion

Death: DOW 19 November 1916. Burial:

Heilly Station Cemetery France

Honour Rolls: Kendall Cottage Memorial - To
Our Fallen Comrades

RSL Honour Roll

Milton Town Memorial

Milton Methodist Church

Milton Congregational

Yatte Yattah Community

Brothers - Arthur Henry **Latta**, Bertie Roy
Latta, William Clyde **Latta** and Robert Gibson
Latta also served in WW1.

Robert Gibson **Latta**

Serial Number and Rank: 3181, Private

Birth: Milton 1894/21065

Parents: James **Latta** and Rosetta **Thomas**

Enlisted: Ulladulla 7 November 1916

Next of Kin: F. James Latta

Service: 45th Battalion

Death: DOW 2 April 1918. Burial: Etaples
Military Cemetery Pas de Calais France

Honour Rolls: Kendall Cottage Memorial - To
Our Fallen Comrades

RSL Honour Roll

Milton Methodist Church

Milton Town Memorial

Milton Congregational

Brothers - Arthur Henry **Latta**, John James
Latta, William Clyde **Latta** and Bertie Roy **Latta**
also served in WW1.

Robert Gibson **Latta** served with his cousin
Robert Joseph **Backhouse** in 45th Battalion.

William Clyde **Latta**

Serial Number and Rank: N92857

Birth: 15 Aug 1898 or 1899 Ulladulla

Parents: James **Latta** and Rosetta **Thomas**

Enlisted: 19 Jul 1918 Sydney. William was liv-
ing at Forbes St East Sydney

(Continued on Page 32)

Research Notes

(Continued from Page 31)

Next of Kin. F. James **Latta** of Ulladulla
Service: Discharged 31 Aug 1918 (Medical
and also 4 brothers in AIF)

Honour Rolls: RSL Honour Roll

Milton Town Memorial

William also re-enlisted 8 Jan 1918, but was
discharged in two days.

Information contributed by George **Latta**, Sr.

11. Hi, it is part of Branch 12 at the moment but
there actually about 5 different groups of **Lattas** in
Australia. Some from Scotland and some from Ire-
land. Earliest immigration is from the 1840's.
Cheers, Belinda **Peterson**, Year 10 Student Man-
ager, Mentone Girls' Secondary College,
peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

12. I wasn't sure who I should contact on this
website with questions, but I am doing some family
research over the summer, and I am stuck at my
great grandfather, Robert Lee **Latta** (July 4,
1902—1982). The family story is that his father
had a falling out with his family in Pennsylvania
and moved to Oklahoma. He married a Native
American woman (from the Choctaw tribe), and
they lived in Porter/Tulahassee, Oklahoma. He
was married to Bertha **Durham** (April 11, 1910—
Nov. 30, 1954). My grandmother, Patricia **Latta**,
and her sisters, Pam and Mae, were born in the 30s,
and the entire family moved from Oklahoma to
California during the Dust Bowl. I'm not sure if he
had siblings, or not.

If there is anyone who could help me from your
site, could you please have someone contact me?
Thank you so much for your time, I hope to hear
from someone soon! Kyle **Legg**,
kylelegg@me.com, 661.742.5388.

New Captain for Branch 43

By: Sue Cox, Branch Captain Coordinator

We have a new Captain for Branch 43. He is:
Ray Garlick Jr., PO Box 581, Krum, Texas
76249, rgkdfw@hotmail.com.

List of Branch Captains

(Continued from Page 2)

Branch 28: Carol Rini, 208 Alden St., Troy MO
63379, carri137@gmail.com.

Branch 31: John Moore, P. O. Box 13429,
Trapper Creek, AK 99683, johnm@mtaonline.net.

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

Branch 43: Ray Garlick Jr., PO Box 581, Krum,
Texas 76249, rgkdfw@hotmail.com.

Branch 45: Beryl Redfield, 4281 Winfield Rd., Tay-
lorsville 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., Bloom-
ington IN 47408, sasquatsh1@gmail.com.

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

Newsletter By E-mail

Any member who wishes to receive the Latta
Genealogy Newsletter by e-mail, please contact the
editor, Ken Mueller, DocHuer@aol.com. It would
save our Society some postage and conserve re-
sources.

Report of the Nominating Committee

With this issue, our Society will hold elections for the offices of President and Treasurer. The term of office is for two years. The Nominating Committee, Alan Leroy Latta and Sue Cox, have selected as candidates for President, Ken Mueller, and for Treasurer, Beryl Redfield. A ballot is made available for each member of the Latta Genealogy Society. Please vote.

Kenneth Mueller, DocHuer@aol.com Candidate for President

Ken has been doing genealogical research since 1978, and has been editor of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter since 2002. In 2007, Ken was elected the first President of the Latta Genealogy Society. He lives in Prescott Valley, Arizona with his wife, Karen, and daughter, Krista. Ken and Karen also have two sons, Jeremy (Cristin) and David (Melanie), and four grandchildren. Ken is also a member of the Northern Arizona Genealogical Society.

I would like to continue to serve you as your president, and humbly ask for your support.

Beryl Redfield, Bredf331@comcast.net, Candidate for Treasurer

Beryl was born in China to a career military father and lived in San Diego, New Orleans, Virginia Beach and Arlington, Virginia. She attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1970, she moved to Utah and has lived there ever since. She is now retired from the VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City. She is the mother of six children and grandmother of seven.

Beryl's interest in genealogy began in 1959

when she heard about a family document called The Circle of Nine, which was a compilation of round-robin style letters originated by her mother's cousin in the 1930s, wherein each of the nine Thompson children of Harvey Thompson wrote their family history and family memories. She was able to obtain this document and it became the starting point of her genealogy interest and research. Her mother's cousin had done extensive research on several family lines, notably the Thompson, McWilliams and Day families, including the original Day ancestor who came to America in 1634. She has recently traced her paternal Bennett and McMurdy families and added additional family information.

On and off through the ensuing 40+ years, Beryl added information to her files. With the advent of the internet, she was able to contact others searching her lines, and in 1999 she discovered Alex Latta while searching her Latta line. She has been active on the Latta website and currently holds the position of Acting Treasurer in the Latta Genealogy Society.

NOTE: I am honored to have served as your acting Treasurer and would be happy to continue to do so if elected.

2010 Annual Meeting of the LGS

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

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Latta Genealogy Society will be held on 31 July 2010 at the home of Virginia and Joe Curulla. Please contact Virginia for more information at 4511 154th Place, Bellevue, Washington 98006, 425-6430309 or Latta4gen@comcast.net.

We also need ideas for the 2011 meeting. If you have a suggestion, please contact me.
