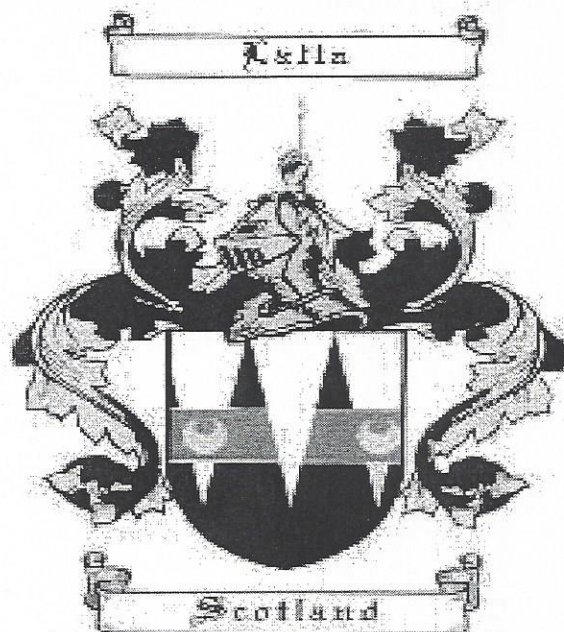


The Latta Newsletter

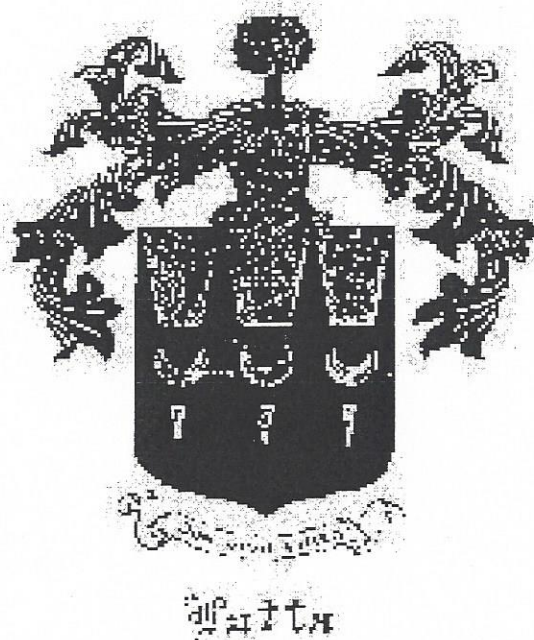
Issue 45

Fall 2011

The Latta Coats of Arms from the
Latta Web Site, www.Latta.org



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Editorial

Recently a member e-mailed me and stated that her computer's hard drive had crashed, wiping out all of her Latta genealogy information. I have also heard of tornados, fires, hurricanes, etc. destroying personal files and data. The worst stories of all are when a genealogist passes away, and his relatives toss out everything — too much junk in that closet.

How can we, as family historians, work to keep our genealogy from disappearing? Simple. Send me a write up with your Latta genealogy. I will print it here in our newsletter, and send copies to members and libraries, thus saving your history for future generations.

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

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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, suelattea@cox.net.

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

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

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

(Continued on Page 27)

LATTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY**Treasurer's Report****December 15, 2011****TREASURER**

Beryl Redfield
4281 Winfield Road
Taylorsville, UT 84123-2344
(801) -550-7360

AUDITOR

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

REPORT PERIOD August 31, 2011 – December 15, 2011***Income* 8/15/2011 – 12/15/2011 \$822.37**

N. Ireland Research Fund: 7 donors \$ 120.00

General Fund Donations: 36 donors \$ 702.37

***Expenses* 8/15/2011 – 12/15/2011 (\$885.54)**

- Latta website fee \$ 74.75
- Feb., March, April, May, June, July @ \$14.95 per month
- Newsletter Issue 44 expenses (Ken Mueller) \$ 627.41
- Lunch Board Meeting in Arizona in Nov. \$41.35
- New Software for Webmaster \$142.11

COMBINED FUNDS on hand – 12/15/2011 \$ 6362.72

N. Ireland Research Fund Balance \$1335.00

General Fund Balance \$5027.72

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

Heraldic Research - Latta Coat of Arms, Crest & Motto

By: Peter Latta, saggital@optusnet.com.au.

Family of: LATTA

ARMS: Sable, three piles argent, over all on a fess gules, three crescents of the second.

Crest: An oak tree proper.

Motto: Dum Vivo Vireo (While I live, I live)

Authority: Burke's "General Armoury", 1844 edition.

Tinctures: The shield s of black. The three piles are of silver. The fess is of red. The crescents are of silver. The oak tree is of proper or natural colourings. The wreath, under the crest, is of alternate twists of silver and black. The helmet is of steel colour or silver. The mantle is of black lined with silver. The ribbon is of silver, motto lettered in black.

Notes: Burke, highest published authority on the subject of heraldry, records the above described coat of arms, crest and motto - as authentic for the family of Latta; the only coat of arms, crest and motto so recorded in the name.

Hyperlink: "<http://www.latta.org/Articles/arms.htm>" "<http://www.latta.org/Articles/arms.htm>" viewed 3 Nov 2011.

Arms were granted to an individual by a nobleman. Only the individual to whom the arms were granted was permitted to use them. Upon the death of the grantee, the arms could pass to the eldest son of the grantee, and so on in perpetuity. Contrary to a common belief, a coat of arms does not belong to everyone who bears the surname. The original description of the arms was written ("Three silver oak leaves on a field of blue with two rabbits rampant and the motto 'Breed Like There's No Tomorrow'") and when turned into a graphic the actual design could be interpreted in any of countless ways.

Hyperlink: "<http://www.latta.org/Articles/arms.htm>" "<http://www.latta.org/Articles/arms.htm>" viewed 3 Nov 2011.

1847 An Alphabetical Dictionary of Coats of Arms, Volume 2, page 787.

Two Entries - Latta, plus derivative Lauty:

(1) Meaning - Latta, Scottish

Sa.: abbreviation for Sable, the heraldic term for the colour black. Three piles: three pointed columns. Argent: the heraldic term for the colour silver. Fess: the form of a broad horizontal band across the middle of an escutcheon. Gu.: Abbreviation for gules, the heraldic term for the colour red. Three crescents: three crescents. Of the second: in line with and the colour of the feature listed second, in this case the three piles.

(2) Meaning - Lauty, Scottish.

Sa.: Abbreviation for Sable, the heraldic term for the colour black. Three piles in point: three pointed columns that reach the base of the escutcheon. Argent: the heraldic term for the colour silver. Fess: the form of a broad horizontal band across the middle of an escutcheon. Gu.: abbreviation for gules, the heraldic term for the colour red. Charged with containing as many crescents, three crescents to match the three plies. Or abbreviation for the heraldic colour gold.

Further definition - colours, particularly metallic colours or tinctures; piles.

"Metals : 3. Or, signifying Gold ; 4. Argent, signifying Silver. Yellow may be substituted for gold, as white may be, and generally is, for silver."

"The Pile, of wedge-like shape, is usually borne as on fig. 30, but may issue from other points of the shield, in which case its position must be specified, and also the number if there be more than one. When it reaches quite to the base, it is blazoned a pile in point."

1897, Eve, G.W., Decorative Heraldry. A Practical Handbook of its Artistic Treatment.

1847 An Alphabetical Dictionary of Coats of Arms Volume 2, page 1027.

Three listings on this page. The first, Latta, is described as per the listing on page 787. The third, Lauty, is also described as per the listing on page 787. However; the second, also a Lauty, seems to be the one shown at Latta.org with an incorrect surname.

Meaning - Lauty, Scottish (variant)

Sa. abbreviation for Sable, the heraldic term for the colour black. Three piles in point 3 columns. Argent the heraldic term for the colour silver. Fess

(Continued on Page 5)

Heraldic Research

(Continued from Page 4)

the form of a broad horizontal band across the middle of an escutcheon. Surmounting Over Exterior outside columns, i.e. columns one and three.

Debruised to overlay, i.e. the centre pile is over the fess. Gu.: abbreviation for gules, the heraldic term for the colour red. Two crescents: two silver crescents to match the two covered plies.

1905 rev. ed. Fairbairn's Book of the Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland Volume 1, page 330.

Meaning - Latta

The Latta listing is for the oak tree crest atop the helmet in the coat of arms. The oak tree signifies antiquity and strength. The 'ppr.' abbreviation denotes that the oak tree is represented 'proper'; that is in natural colours and shape. The Latin motto *Dum vivo, vireo* literally translates to "as long as I live, strength". This can be interpreted a few ways; however the most common would be "While I live, I flourish".

1905 Fairburn's Book of Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland Volume 2, page 545.

Meaning - Latter

The Latter crest described here is very busy. As this book is about Great Britain and Ireland, foreign would denote that the coronet or crown would be of a form found outside this area. Coronets were assigned to the various ranks of peers not of royal blood. Balls, sometimes called pearls, were used to show their status.

"The coronet of a duke has its circlet heightened with eight leaves, of which five show. That of a marquis has four leaves alternating with balls of silver, technically called pearls, which are raised on spikes to about the same height as the leaves, thus showing three leaves and two pearls. An earl's coronet has eight balls, raised on tall spikes which have leaves between them. A viscount has twelve balls resting directly on the circlet, and a baron six similarly placed, the former showing seven and the latter four." *

If a Viscount had 12 balls with only seven visible, having nine visible on the crest would seem to indicate that someone in our shared lineage had some serious rank, although with a foreign coronet, perhaps had not originally achieved or been granted this rank in Great Britain or Ireland. Rising from the centre of the coronet is an argent (silver or white) greyhound head on a gold (or.) or yellow collar and chain.

The motto listed is not in Latin, as is usual, but in French. It is also probably suffering from some misreporting. *Pour trios* means "For three". The rest is less self evident as the phrase *a tot bien estrain* has some translation issues. *A tot bien* by itself means "a much earlier" and unfortunately there is no French or English word spelt *estrain*. This may be a *tot bien entrain* which translates as "a good spirited" however the *tot* becomes redundant in the phrase. It could be a *tout bien entrain* which translates as "was all good spirits". If these assumptions are correct then "For three. Was all good spirits" requires some further research or better translation. Perhaps a reference to the Holy Trinity?

An example of a coronet as opposed to the shape of a crown worn as a crest.

*1897, Eve G.W., *Decorative Heraldry. A Practical Handbook of its Artistic Treatment*, page 60
1856, *Encyclopaedia Heraldica* Vol. 4, p360

In this description we have the escutcheon and the crest described together for the Latta Coat of Arms.

1905 Fairburn's Book of Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland Vol. 1, p331

In this listing the crest as shown on one of the coat of arms on the Latta.org pages is described. However; this is for the Lauty coat of arms rather than Latta coat of arms which has the oak tree crest. Together with the debruised* coat of arms description above, this is fairly conclusive evidence that the coat of arms as shown on Latta.org belongs to the name of Lauty not Latta.

Dexter in heraldic terms means of, on, or starting from the right side of a shield from the bearer's point of view and therefore on the spectator's left. The opposite to dexter is sinister.

(Continued on Page 6)

Heraldic Research

(Continued from Page 5)

*1847 An Alphabetical Dictionary of Coats of Arms Volume 2, page 1027.

1850, Robson T., The British Herald, Volume 2, page 286.

The British Herald confirms everything nicely for the Latta coat of arms; however provides multiple variants of the Lauty coat of arms. The main one is confirmed in much the same manner as the Latta description and then lists 3 more variants. Are these variants of the main coat of arms that represent evolutions through different eldest sons or are they coats of arms awarded to the male members of the same family who weren't born first? More research required. One for the Lauty's if there are any interested in digging deeper.

1850, Robson T., The British Herald, Volume 2, page 288.

The first variant listed is very close to the Latta coat of arms with only 2 very minor differences. The first is that the piles are in point on the Lauty escutcheon which means they reach the bottom; the Latta piles don't reach the bottom of the escutcheon. The second is the 3 crescents in the Lauty description are gold while the Latta crescents are always listed as silver.

I also researched heraldic books from outside Great Britain and Ireland but found that I'm unfamiliar with the possible differences in the Latta surname in these countries. My linguistic knowledge of these languages is limited which leaves me guessing at spelling and potential pronunciations.

I did find one entry in a French heraldic book for the surname Lattay; not a great distance from the known variations of Latty and Lattey. If you have traced some French ancestry in your lineage then this may be of interest to you.

1860, Gourdon de Genouillac H., Recueil de Armoiries des Maisons Nobles de France (French), page 292.

Translates to:

Lattay (of) Argent, a fess gules, accompanied by seven of cinquefoils same.

This would be a silver escutcheon (shield) with a red horizontal stripe covering the middle third. Cinquefoils are roses with five petals (e.g. Yorkshire rose, Lancashire rose, Leicester City symbol) and have many variants in heraldic art. Most commonly a cinquefoil is represented as a five leaf clover and on this coat of arms they would be red. No arrangement of the seven cinquefoils is recorded

Point of interest - the Yorkshire rose and the Lancashire rose together make the Tudor rose

Conclusion.

After researching the Latta coat of arms in over 50 heraldic books dealing with Great Britain and Ireland as well as others from The Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland and Spain, I feel I am now in a position to propose some tentative conclusions.

Of the three coats of arms shown on the Latta.org site [see page 1], the first figure on the first page of this document is the correct Coat of Arms for the Latta name. Of course, this would need to be represented in the correct colours and a much crisper format to do our coat of arms justice. The second figure has little heraldic merit and appears to be an artist's impression. The third figure shown on page one; I believe I have clearly shown that this coat of arms is for the name Lauty, not Latta, and I believe that it should be shown as such.

The description of another coat of arms at the bottom of the Coat Of Arms page on the Latta.org website appears to be a red herring. All listings (e.g. escutcheon, crest, motto etc.) for Latta that I came across describe the same coat of arms, that being the first figure on the first page. Secondly, a heraldic description would not be written in plain English, as is shown in the quotation marks and the colour of the escutcheon would be listed first. Thirdly, the motto would not be in English either. Until further evidence can be produced to substantiate this second coat of arms was granted to a Latta, I would suggest that this should be removed from the website.

All references are shown in text. I would welcome any and all feedback and any additional research that others may have of the Latta Coat of Arms.

New Secretary Historian Needed

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

I have decided to move this article to the front of our newsletter in the hopes of finding a volunteer. We no longer have a Secretary Historian for our Latta Genealogy Society. If you are a member in good standing, and wish to be considered for an appointment to this position, please contact me, or any Board member.

The duties of Secretary Historian are listed in our Society's by laws, see Issue 27, Page 29, Fall 2005. They include:

The Secretary Historian shall record all actions of the Board, preserve a record of all activities of the Society, provide a report of the Society's activities for each publication of the newsletter, make available records of the proceedings of the Board and the Society to any member in good standing or government official with a legal claim.

The Secretary Historian should also keep correspondence for 5 years, which can be on a disk.

If it is printed in the newsletter, that preserves the record.

Connections Between Branches 6, 8, 22 and Note K

By: Virginia Latta Curulla, Branch 22,
latta4gen@comcast.net

These charts begin with the Robert Latta Collection versions of branch 22, as told by Thomas Waller Latta in 1937 and Note K information as related by my grandfather, William Tevis Latta in 1918. Together, these interviews by Robert Latta formed the basis for my many years of Latta research online and in archives and libraries.

Documentation showed that much of what Thomas and William remembered was correct, but

some was erroneous. For example, according to what Robert Latta recorded in his branch 22 notes, Thomas confused members of the first and second known generations. That does not mean that the first Matthew could not have had brothers with the same names that he used for his sons.

Because there was so much repetition of names within branch 22 from one generation to the next, each name is followed by a unique identifying number. This number signifies only the order in which I entered the persons in my family history software. These numbers are different on each chart, so can be used only with reference to them. Unique numbers can be useful if we want to talk about a particular "Alexander Latta", for example Alexander #16 for the son of Matthew #4, as numbered on the research based chart for branch 22.

The frequency of the name Matthew Latta in branch 22 suggests that this branch might connect with the Matthew of branch 8. And Thomas's confusion of Mary Ann Moore as the wife of William W. Latta with Mary S. Williams suggests that he might have known or at least heard of members of branch 6, of Orange County North Carolina and later of Maury and Hickman Counties Tennessee. These areas need further research.

I will be happy to share the sources for my data with anyone who is interested in the documentation, and will gratefully receive updates or corrections. Hopefully, this sourced information will ultimately be put on the Latta.org website as an addition to what is already there. I believe it is particularly important to list the daughters in each Latta family, as their descendants are equally "Lattas" with the rest of us.

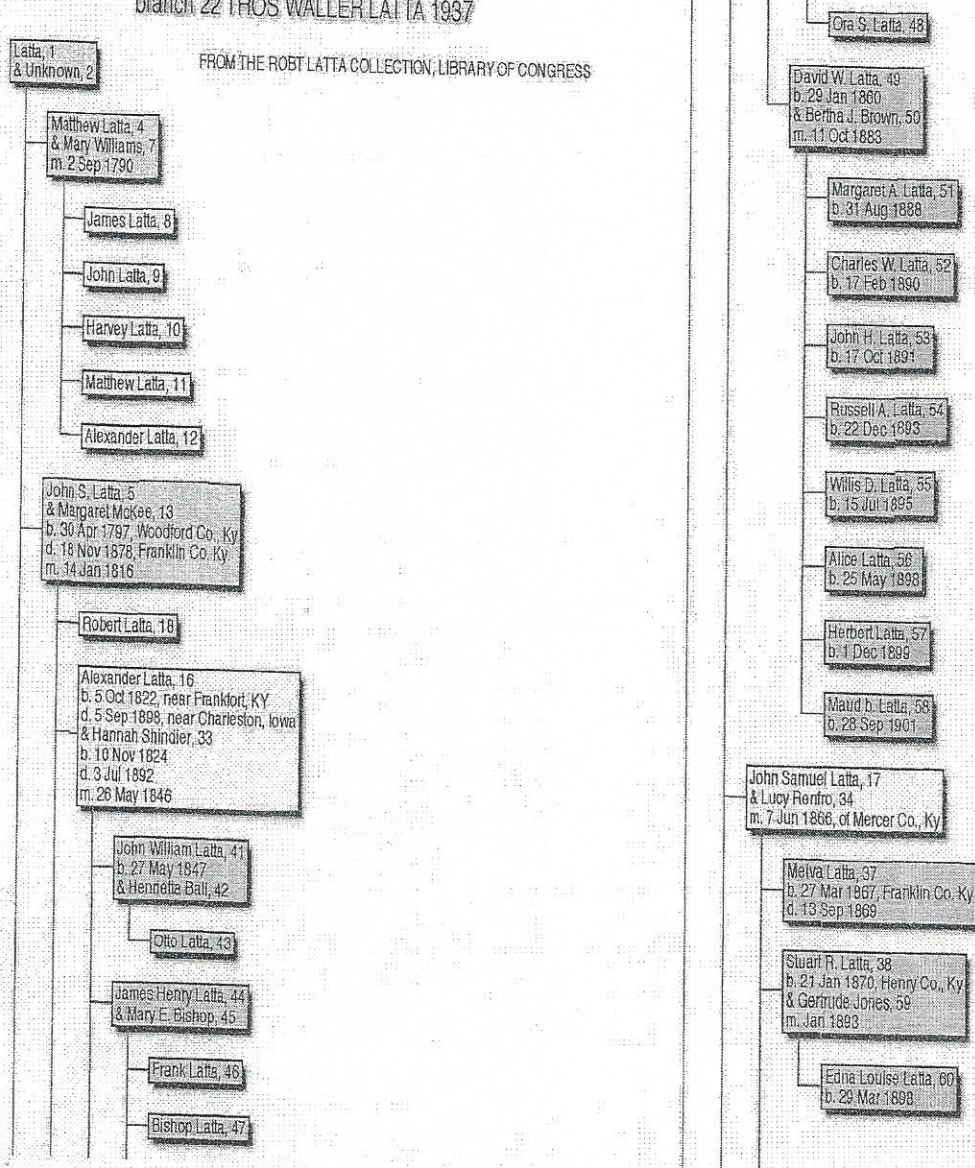
In the next newsletter, several individuals descended from the Latty family of "Maryland" and later Iowa will chart their families' descendants, and we will discuss the implications of recent DNA testing and supportive research that show a close connection between the Latta branches and that particular Latty family that came from Maryland in the 1700s and has descendants now living in Burlington, Iowa.

(Continued on Page 8)

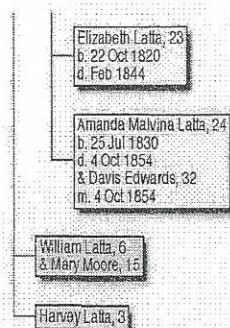
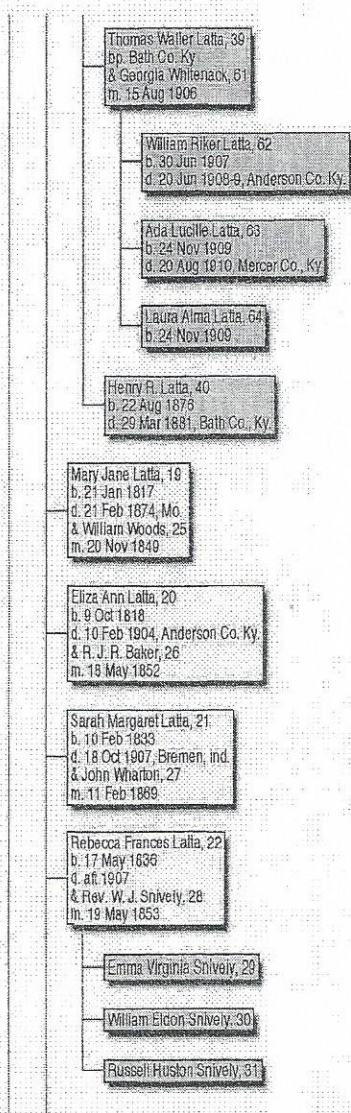
Disclaimer: Subsequent research has replaced this information from 1937 with the Branch 22 information on pages 10 through 13. This chart is shown so that you can see how the genealogical data has been changed and corrected by research over the years since 1937.

branch 22 THOS WALLER LATTI 1937

FROM THE ROBT LATTI COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

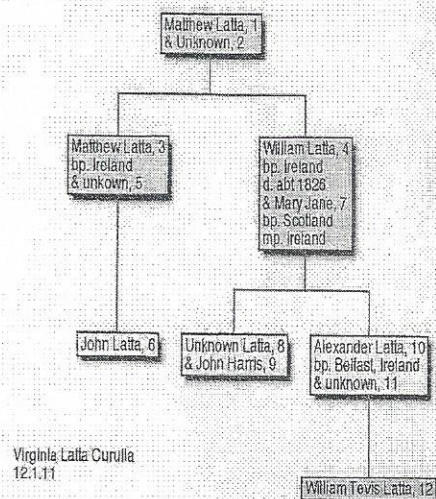


Disclaimer: Subsequent research has replaced this information from 1937 with the Branch 22 information on pages 10 through 13. This chart is shown so that you can see how the genealogical data has been changed and corrected by research over the years since 1937.



NOTE K LATTAS from William Tevis Latta 1918

FROM THE ROBT LATTI COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



BRANCH 22 RESEARCH BASED 11.30.11

Latta, 2717

Matthew Latta, 368
 b. abt 1765, MD?
 d. bef. Apr 1816, Woodford Co., KY
 & Mary "Polly" Williams, 369
 b. abt 1770, KY
 d. 1840/1850
 m. 20 Sep 1790, Woodford Co., KY

Alexander Latta, 377
 b. abt 1791, Woodford Co., KY
 d. 1812/1813

John S. Latta, 376
 b. 11 Feb 1794, Woodford Co., KY
 d. Oct 1849, Franklin Co., KY
 & Margaret Peggy McKee, 379
 b. 30 Apr 1797, Woodford Co., KY
 d. 18 Nov 1876, Franklin Co., KY
 m. 13 Jan 1816, Woodford Co., KY

Mary Jane Latta, 929
 b. 21 Jan 1817, Woodford Co., KY
 d. 21 Feb 1874, MO
 & Woods Woods, 935
 m. 20 Nov 1849

Eliza Ann Latta, 930
 b. 9 Oct 1818, Woodford Co., KY
 d. 10 Feb 1904, Anderson Co., KY, MO
 & Robert J. R. Baker, 942
 m. 18 May 1852, Franklin Co.

Elizabeth Latta, 931
 b. 22 Oct 1820, Woodford Co., KY
 d. Feb 1844

Alexander Latta, 928
 b. 5 Oct 1822, Near Frankfort, Franklin, KY
 d. 5 Sep 1898, Near Charleston, Iowa
 & Hannah M. Shindler, 943
 b. 10 Nov 1824
 d. 3 Jul 1892
 m. 26 May 1846

John William Latta, 944
 b. 27 May 1847
 d. aft 1904
 & Henrietta Ball, 963

James Henry Latta, 945
 b. 17 Jan 1849
 & Mary E. Bishop, 965
 b. 30 Apr 1860
 d. 13 Jul 1931
 m. 1875

Robert McKee Latta, 947
 b. 7 Aug 1850
 d. 7 Jul 1853

Melvin P. Latta, 949
 b. 26 Sep 1852, Franklin County KY
 d. 7 Aug 1853

Stamper Latta, 950
 b. 20 Aug 1854
 d. 8 Aug 1874

Samuel Latta, 1737
 b. 4 May 1856
 d. 11 Sep 1857

Mary Alice Latta, 951
 b. 7 Sep 1858
 d. 2 Sep 1859

David Willis Latta, 946
 b. 29 Jan 1860, Clark MO
 d. 11 Jun 1938
 & Bertha Iowa Brown, 969
 b. 21 Apr 1861, Iowa
 m. 11 Oct 1883

Richard S. Latta, 948
 b. 18 Jan 1863
 d. aft 1908, Montrose, Iowa
 & Josephine A. Taggart, 952

Robert M. Latta, 927
 b. 3 May 1825, Woodford Co., KY
 d. 9 May 1847, Mexico

John Samuel Latta, 932
 b. 31 Mar 1828, Woodford Co., KY
 d. 25 Jul 1905, Anderson Co., KY
 & Lucy Renfro, 954
 m. 7 Jun 1866

Melva Latta, 955
 b. 27 Mar 1867, Franklin Co., KY
 d. 13 Sep 1869

Stuart R. Latta, 956
 b. 21 Jan 1870, Henry Co., KY
 & Gertrude Jones, 978
 m. Jan 1893

Thomas Waller Latta, 957
b. 15 Aug 1875, Bath Co, KY
d. 21 Dec 1938, Harrodsburg, KY
& Georgia Whitenack, 959
m. 15 Aug 1906

Henry R. Latta, 958
b. 22 Aug 1876
d. 29 Mar 1881, Bath Co, KY

Amanda Malvina Latta, 981
b. 25 Jul 1830, Franklin Co, KY
d. 20 Oct 1855, Franklin Co, KY
& Davis W. Edwards, 982
b. abt 1826, Woodford Co, KY
m. 4 Oct 1854, House Mng Latta, Franklin Co, KY

Sarah Margaret Latta, 933
b. 10 Feb 1833, Woodford Co, KY
d. 18 Oct 1907, Bremen, IN
& John Wharton, 984
m. 11 Feb 1869

Rebecca Frances Latta, 934
b. 17 May 1836, Woodford Co, KY
d. aft 1907, Louisville, KY
& William J. Snively, 980
b. abt 1823, Jefferson Co, PA
d. 5 Jul 1899, Louisville, KY
m. 13 May 1853, House Wm Latta, Franklin Co, KY

Emma Snively, 1732

Virginia Snively, 1733

William Elden Snively, 1734

Russell Huston Snively, 1735

James Latta, 392
b. abt 1798, Woodford Co, KY
& Matilda Forston, 395
d. aft 1830
m. 17 Aug 1825, Woodford Co, KY

Matthew Latta, 387
b. abt 1827, TN

Charles T. Latta, 993
b. abt 1832, TN
& Martha J. Coleman, 1002
b. abt 1832
m. 28 Dec 1859, Gibson Co, TN

Mary Latta, 968
b. abt 1833, TN

Catharine Latta, 989
b. abt 1833, TN

James Latta, 392
b. abt 1798, Woodford Co, KY
& Martha J. Harrison, 906
b. abt 1814, VA
m. 8 Dec 1846, Gibson Co, TN

Matthew Latta, 371
b. abt 1800, Woodford Co, KY
d. aft 1873
& Zorilda, 388
b. abt 1818, Kentucky
m. abt 1837

Elizabeth (Mary) Latta, 339
b. abt 1838, Kentucky

John Richard Latta, 390
b. abt 1841, Kentucky
d. 1877, Pomona, CA
& Mary Elizabeth Chambers, 1005
b. 1851, Harper's Ferry, VA
d. 1928, Topeka, KS
m. abt 1871, Missouri

Fannie Frances Latta, 1508
b. abt 1872, MO

Robert Daniel Latta, 1006
b. 24 Mar 1873, Lexington, Lafayette Co, MO
d. 18 Mar 1932, Kansas City, MO
& Anna Marie Ehler, 1009
b. 13 Mar 1876, Leavenworth, KS
d. 6 Jun 1964, Kansas City, MO
m. 15 Nov 1897, Kansas City, Wyandotte, KN

John Latta, 1509
b. 1877, MO

Sarah F. Latta, 391
b. abt 1845, Kentucky
& John T. Butler, 926
m. 17 Feb 1869, Lafayette Co, MO

William W. Latta, 33
b. abt 1805, Woodford Co., Kentucky, USA
d. abt 1863, Lafayette Co., Missouri, USA
& Mary S. Williams, 34
b. 1805, Kentucky, USA
d. aft 1880
m. 11 Oct 1826, Woodford Co., Kentucky

Alexander W. Latta, 26
b. 25 Jul 1827, Gibson Co., Tennessee
d. 21 Nov 1895
& Melissa Tevis, 27
b. 24 Nov 1826, Bracken Co., Kentucky, USA
d. 11 Apr 1908, Zionsville, Boone Co., IN
m. 7 Feb 1850, Rush Co., Indiana, USA

Mary H. Latta, 26
b. 1851, Woodford County, Kentucky
d. 20 Jan 1931, CenHosForsane, Indianapolis, Boone Co., IN
& William (Willis, P.?) Battles, 334
d. Aug 1899, Providence, Rhode Island
m. 25 Oct 1880

William Tevis Latta, 20
b. 15 Feb 1854, Orange Twp., Rush Co., Indiana, USA
d. 11 Dec 1922, Seattle, King, WA
& Sarah LaVanche Webster, 21
b. 20 Feb 1859, Manilla, Rush Co., Indiana
d. 27 Aug 1917, Center Twp., Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN
m. 14 Mar 1886, Rush Co., Indiana

Virgil Theophilus Latta, 29
b. 24 Mar 1856, Rushville, Rush Co., IN, USA
d. 2 Feb 1929, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN
& Eliza Caturah Penrose, 335
b. 24 Jan 1870, Woodbank, Marion Co., IN
d. 2 Feb 1899, Zionsville, Boone Co., IN
m. 8 Feb 1887, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN

Laure O. Latta, 30
b. Feb 1861, IN
d. 29 Dec 1925, Clay Twp., Hamilton Co., IN
& James Macajah Robey, 336
b. 25 Mar 1862, Hamilton County, Indiana
d. 1 Aug 1931, Hamilton Co., Indiana
m. 22 Apr 1889, Zionsville, Boone, IN

Clara Belle Latta, 2268
b. 19 Mar 1870, Rush Co., IN
d. 28 Sep 1948, Hamilton Co., IN
& Marion Alonzo Robey, 338
b. 30 Mar 1867, IN
d. 15 Oct 1911, near Zionsville, Boone Co., IN
m. 16 Nov 1890, Zionsville, Boone, IN

Mary Jane Latta, 32
b. 1834, Kentucky, USA
d. aft 1880, CA?
& John C. Harris, 137
b. abt 1835, PA
d. aft 1880, CA?
m. 18 Sep 1867, Lafayette County, Missouri, USA

Mary Harris, 815
b. abt 1869

Harvey McDowell Latta, 370
b. abt 1807, Woodford Co., KY
& Frances Elizabeth Johnson, 372
b. abt 1820, KY
m. 29 Apr 1845, Woodford Co., KY

Mary Latta, 373
b. 1846, KY
& John T. Cardwell, 1475
b. 1845
m. 9 Jan 1867, H.M. Latta's, Woodford Co., KY

Elizabeth Latta, 374
b. abt 1848, KY
& Dandridge Graves, 1736

Thomas M. Latta, 375
b. abt 1850, KY

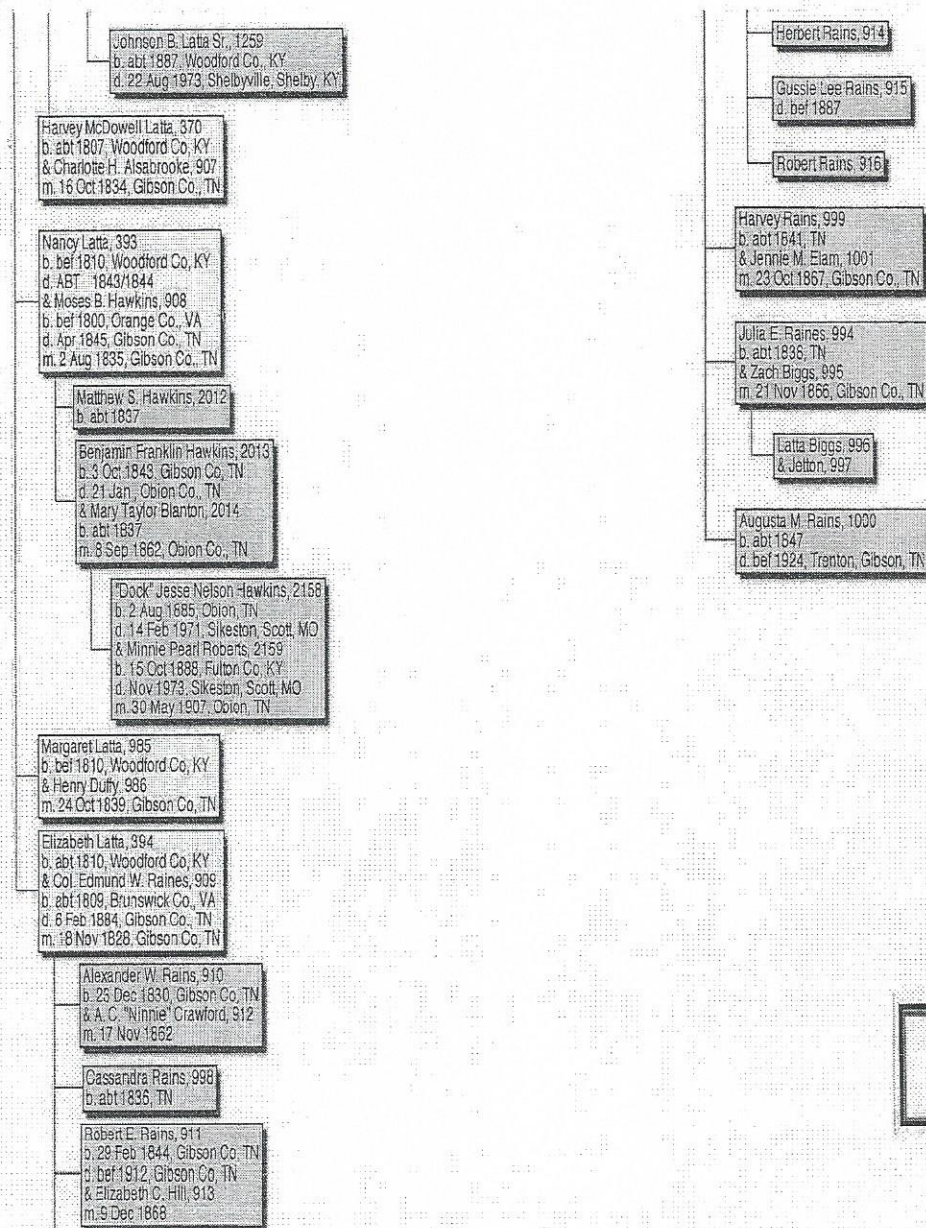
John W. Latta, 1003
b. 12 Apr 1854, KY
d. 19 Aug 1899
& Emma Letcher, 1016
b. 1858
d. bef 12 May 1925

Samuel Latta, 1018
b. 1 Mar 1885
d. 28 Jun 1885

Margaret Latta, 1017
b. 2 Apr 1890
d. 9 Jul 1890

Emily Latta, 1265
b. abt 1891
d. bef 30 Jan 1970
& Elmer Francis Worthington, 1266
b. abt 1875, Bracken Co., KY
d. bef 4 Feb 1963, U of KY Med Ctr, Lexington, Fayette, KY

Robert C. Latta, 1004
b. abt 1853, KY
& Ollie Johnson, 1258
b. abt 1866
d. bef 15 Jul 1933



Virginia Curulla
4511 154th Pl. SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

Early Latta Photos

By: Virginia Latta Curulla, Branch 22,
latta4gen@comcast.net

Here are some early photographs of my Latta family.

Do you have early photographs of your Latta family? Please consider sharing them with us through the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. And please remember to include genealogical information on the people in the pictures.



Two Latta Men: Alexander W. Latta (born 25 July 1827, died 1895) and probably John Richard Latta (born c. 1841, died 1877), first cousins. Taken at Saunders' City Art Gallery, Lexington Missouri. Best estimate for the date is around 1866, according to a letter I received in September 2000 from Christine Montgomery, Photograph Specialist at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Alexander W. Latta: This appears to be the same man as on the right in the first photo, thought to be Alexander W. Latta. The photo came from the album owned by Clara Latta Robey, Alexander's daughter. According to the August 31, 2000 letter from Joe R. Struble, Assistant Archivist at the George Eastman House, this photo probably is a copy of an earlier Daguerreotype or ambrotype, probably dating around 1850. This image is from Hershberger of Zionsville, Indiana. It could have been made as early as 1885 when the Latta family moved to Zionsville, or could be considerably later.

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This photograph is of the William Tevis Latta family, circa 1892. On the left is Sarah LaVanche Webster (20 Feb. 1859 — 27 Aug. 1917), in the back middle is Virgil Clyde Latta (29 Aug. 1887— 30 June 1937), in the front middle is Charles Webster Latta (18 Nov. 1888— 26 Aug. 1970) and on the right is William Tevis Latta (1856—1929). William Tevis Latta is the grandfather of Virginia Curulla.

Virgil Clyde Latta is the same person as on page 11 of Issue 44 of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter.

1910 Census Report on William T. Latta

In the U. S. Census taken 16 April 1910 in Center Township, Ward 4, Indianapolis City, Marion County, Indiana, the William T. Latta family is listed on pages 3B and 4A, enumeration district 86, family 67, T624, Roll 367, as follows:

Latta, William T., Head, male, white, age 52, married 24 years, married once, born in Indiana, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Indiana, feed store employee, rents home.

— Lavanche, Wife, female, white, age 51, married 24 years, married once, 5 children born, 4 living, born in Indiana, father born in Kentucky, mother born in England, occupation none.

— Virgil C., Son, male, white, age 22, single, born in Indiana, father and mother born in Indiana, machinist, automobile.

Latta, Charlie W., Son, male, white, age 21, born in Indiana, father and mother born in Indiana, machinist, automobile.

— Chester A., Son, male, white, age 12, born in Indiana, father and mother born in Indiana, occupation none.

— Ruth E., Daughter, female, white, age 10, born in Indiana, father and mother born in Indiana, occupation none.

Frances Gladys Latta Dunn

By: Eileen Hook, Branch 4,
ehook54@comcast.net

My grandmother, Frances Gladys Latta Dunn, was born in Lewiston (Model City), New York on May 30, 1899. Her father, Walter Romaine Latta, was a carpenter, and her mother, Adelle Angela Bartholomew Latta, kept house. Frances had two older brothers and one older sister. When she was two, a younger brother was born but only lived a short while, her mother dying as well. I remember Grandma telling me it was the midwife's fault as she did not know her business and caused the death of both her mother and little brother. Little Frances was left in the care of her older sister Eva, 14 years old at the time. Their family's life in New York and later in California is told below in grandma's words.

She loved to write and wrote many short stories, some about her own life and some about other family members. Grandma Frances died February 11, 1989 in San Mateo, California after a short illness. She told me many times she wanted to live to the year 2000 and thus live in three centuries, but it was not to be.

NOTE: There are 21 pages here; there is a gap between pages 10 and 17, whereabouts unknown. If found will be added.

1900 Census Report on Walter Romaine Latta

In the U.S. Census taken 14 June 1900 in Lewiston, Niagara County, New York, the Walter R. Latta family is listed in enumeration district 51, page 10B, line 59 as follows:

Latta, Walter R., Head, white, male, age 46, married 17 years, born Oct. 1853 in New York, father and mother born in New York, Carpenter.

— Adill, Wife, female, white, age 40, married 17 years, 5 children born to her, 4 living, born Mch 1860 in Wisconsin, father born in Indiana, mother born in Illinois.

— Roy R., Son, white, male, single, age 16, born April 1884 in Dakota, No., father born in New York, mother born in Wisconsin.

— Guy M., Son, white, male, single, age 14, born Nov 1885 in Dakota, No., father born in New York, mother born in Wisconsin.

— Eva E., Daughter, female, white, single, age 13, born June 1886 in Dakota, No., father born in New York, mother born in Wisconsin.

— Frances, Daughter, female, white, single, age 1, born May 1899 in New York, father born in New York, mother born in Wisconsin.



Here is a picture of my grandma Frances Gladys Latta at age four.

An Autobiography

Dedicated to my Grandchildren and their children.
By Frances Gladys Latta Dunn

My father was one of twelve children, ten boys and two girls. He was born on a farm near Niagara Falls, N.Y., the third son and named for his father, Walter Romaine Latta. My earliest recollection of him is concerned with the cutting off of his mustache. My sister and brother had gone to Detroit for the winter. While they were away, I was sent to board with some neighbors named Blue. They had a grocery store and three daughters whose names were Myrtle, Blanche and Delta. While at their home, which was in the rear of the store, I had the measles and had to stay in bed for several days. One day, someone gave me a chocolate baby (near relation of a licorice baby but much better tasting) to play with and warned me not to eat it. Later, the baby could not be found—no harmful reactions.

After recovery, I went home one night for a visit. And there, in a rocking chair where my papa usually sat was a man with no mustache. It couldn't be my Papa and I cried and asked, "Who is that monkey?"

As long as I can remember, my Father had no hair except for a fringe around the base of his head. Pictures in existence taken before his marriage show him minus a good head of hair. But that made no difference to Mother. How they met was told me one day by my Father as she died when I was two and all I know about her was told me by others.

He said, "My friend, Oscar White and I were carpentering at Jamestown, North Dakota and were living in a boarding house run by a very nice lady, Mrs. Pratt. One day upon returning from our work she met us at the door with a very long face. We asked her what the trouble was. She told us that a friend of hers from Lodi, Wisconsin, was sending his two daughters to Jamestown and expected her to board them. Now Mrs. Pratt said that she was short of room. But she told us that they were young and pretty, that one was a piano

teacher and the other a seamstress. Well, we up and told her she would have to find room for them or we would leave. We thought we were pretty important telling her such a thing, but she did find room for them. Oscar said he wanted the music teacher and I wanted the seamstress. That is the way it turned out. The music teacher is your Aunt Eva and the seamstress was your Mother."

My mother was the youngest in her family. Her background can be found in the book, "The Bartholomew, McNaught and Franklin Families," which is in my possession and was compiled by a distant cousin and her Mother. Her sister Eva was just older, so that both girls set out on their own rather young, at least for those days. My Mother was Adele Angela Bartholomew and was usually called Dell by her associates and Dollie by close friends and family. My father gave her an amethyst ring for their engagement. I have that ring, a plain gold band with a standing setting.

They were married in Jamestown and lived in Pingree, a few miles north for a number of years. There were two boys born there, Roy Romaine Latta and Guy Milton Latta. Then a girl, Eva Elizabeth Latta. Edith Marie Latta came along during a stay at Great Falls, Montana. Papa was a carpenter there and worked in a shop building cabinets. It got pretty cold there and one day as he went to work he thought it was cold but it took a stranger to tell him it was 64 degrees below zero and Papa then went home. After a few years, because of his poor health, the family moved back to Lewiston, NY. There, Edith died of spinal meningitis at age 3. Then I came along and two years latter, Johnny. He lived a few weeks after Mother's death from blood poisoning. Both were buried in the same grave in the cemetery in the rear of the Presbyterian Church at Lewiston. There is a family marker there. Roy was about 17-1/2, Guy was 16 and Eva was 14-1/2. Thus my sister took on the responsibility of raising a small child when she was hardly more than a child herself.

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An Autobiography

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I remember isolated incidents of my childhood. I have unpleasant recollections of being awakened with croup and my frantic Father and sister grabbing anything within reach to bring me out of it. Once it was kerosene, another time it was Epsom salts. Then there was the night I woke to find our family doctor holding me on his lap in our sitting room which was lit with a coal oil lamp, taking my temperature and announcing that I had scarlet fever. I had to stay in bed I recall for three weeks and then spend a few more recovering my strength. I know my sister told me that Aunt Mary and Cousin Willis had just arrived for a visit and had to be rushed out of the house before the isolation sign could be placed on the front of the building. Also my two brothers got out quick so that they could work and bring in a bit of money to keep us going. Someone had to earn the money since Papa couldn't do it.

I remember that I was pretty proud when I learned that the pretty red medicine I took several times a day was really poison. But I guess it helped to make me well and my sister's excellent care. She gave me a bath every day which in those days was unheard of. Then one day I sat up in bed and bared my chest so that my brothers could see how clear my chest was with no signs of the disease. When I went outside to play, Delta Blue came to play with me as well as a one-handed girl named Bessie Sandwich who later became a very good friend.

When my own sons got the croup, I used the remedy that a doctor in Geyserville recommended for any of his croup patients and Eva being a nurse gave to them. It was very effectual and the boys got so that they would get up in the night and prepare the cold compress treatment for themselves. They finally outgrew it as did I.

Christmas was an event. My recollections are of three in particular. The first was when I was four. Father and some of the family, uncles, aunts,

cousins and such, decided to surprise Grandma and Grandpa Latta at their home in Model City (which was never more than a gleam in the planners eye but we always called it Model City.) Papa went down the night before with a gallon can of oysters which he would not let Grandma handle. Then the next morning, he met a neighbor who seemed to be on his way to the station and asked him if he would bring Aunt Marion out when he came back past the home. So when the wagon came by with a load of people aboard, grandma said that Elmer was having a houseful. But Elmer backed up to the kitchen door and let out a lot of family, each with something for the big dinner.

A long table was set up in the sitting room, a Christmas pie in the middle with a streamer of red ribbon from it to each place and a gift at the end of it. My brother, Roy, got a pipe but my gift was a piece of candy. Insult number one.

No snow that year so the family went outside to have a picture taken. That is, all but the small children. And I was told to stay inside with the children. I was all of four years old and so this was a second insult. The finished picture shows my feelings, I look as mad as I felt.

Another year, when Christmas came around, I looked at the gifts in my stocking mostly clothes and candy in the stocking with an orange in the top. After breakfast, I was called to come into the "parlor." There was a big tree in the corner of the room but the biggest surprise was that on the couch was Santa Claus, fast asleep. Our noise woke him up and he told us that it looked so comfortable that he just couldn't resist trying it out and fell fast asleep. He said his reindeer and sleigh were on the next street and he must get on with his job. (Not until we moved to California did we find a coat in our closet with cotton around the collar and sleeves. My sister got around it by saying the Santa must have left it in appreciation for the comfortable couch. I found out years later that Santa was my brother, Guy.) I got a gift of a muff and fur set and recall how very proud I was of it.

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An Autobiography

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During the next year, Roy got married to Louise Schacht. I had a fine new dress with a bertha collar all made of white serge. It was a church wedding with a reception held at her home. She had several sisters with odd names. There was Ivy, Ona, Violet and Daisy who were twins, Isola. One brother was Cristopher. Louise was called Lulu and she was deaf caused by an accident earlier in her life. She was a dressmaker and during the next year, made me a doll with a sailor dress and this was found up in the tree in the "parlor" the last Christmas we had at Niagara Falls. Our home was on Cleveland Ave., across from the Cleveland Avenue School. I started my schooling there in kindergarten at table three. By the end of the year I had advanced to table one. My friends included blonde fat William, dark slender Paul, blond blue-eyed Marie and Bessie mentioned previously.

We sang, played games, did cutouts, and the regular type of pre-grade work. Then we were promoted to the first grade and table one became Group A. Our seats were in the center of the room in front of the teacher's desk. C group was on the left of us and B on the right. We were a small and exclusive bunch of small fry but very important in our own eyes. I remember doing difficult arithmetic and reading such advanced books as "The Sunbonnet Babies." At Christmas, we gave a play and program. One number required that we dress in white nightgowns and carry lighted candles while we sang a forgotten song. It was lots of fun and very important too.

There is usually a bully in such a large group and ours was no exception. Harold was his name and I shall never forget the one experience that we two were involved in. It was a rainy day and we had to go inside at noontime instead of playing outside. For some unknown reason, he started to chase

me around the room and then our teacher came in. She didn't ask what it was all about or ask of any other students who had caused the chase. She just put each of us in a corner. My corner was just inside the door to the hall and my fear was that Mr. Sheck the principal would come in. He didn't but my punishment was just as bad and I have retained my dislike of poor Harold ever since.

I was promoted to the next grade in the spring but by that time my Father had decided to move to California. He came home one night and announced, "I am going to California next week!" He loved to come up with surprises and I expect he had it in mind for a long time. But he kept many of his thoughts to himself. So he was off and hoped to send for the rest of us by fall. He arrived in San Jose on April 12, 1906. And you know what happened on April 18th of that year. He said that it was for his special benefit but I don't think he should have thought such a thing. But it did help him and the rest of us since there was plenty of work for him, my two brothers and all mechanics of carpentry. We didn't hear for some time but then at last a letter came telling us to sell, pack and come in September. We did so and by mid-September, we were on the train to the unknown.

I remember one incident you might enjoy. The night before leaving Niagara Falls, we stayed with Aunt Marion. In the morning it was necessary for me to have a laxative. Castor was selected. My sister said, "Would you like banana or jelly with the oil?" I chose banana, and for many years I could not eat bananas without tasting oil as well. I still am not too fond of them.

We came by day coach, carried all the food we needed for our meals in large valises. Our friends and relatives saw to it that we lack for nothing that we could possibly want. Cakes, pies, salads,

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An Autobiography

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biscuits, cookies, pickles, and other things I don't recall. There was a diner on the train but we never saw it. I know about it, though, since the conductor one day gave me a piece of peach pie in appreciation for an apple I gave him; but it had a worm in it! And he bit into it!

From the Falls to Chicago, we went across Canada. I slept most of the way but did awake as the train was crossing the Detroit River and my folks were gone. I remember how frightened I was. In Chicago, we had to lay over until night so we visited some building in town which I think was the Post Office. Then to a show in the afternoon. Coming out later in the evening, we found it raining hard. I recall that I saw my first movie there as well as a vaudeville performance. (Not too long ago, I asked an acquaintance if it always rained in Chicago as it always seemed to be doing so when I arrived there.)

Some things on that trip stand out. Switching trains once caused me to run between the cars and frightened the conductor and my family almost to death. I was playing but they were concerned since the car we were on was the last one and I really was in danger. Then the Indians in Albuquerque, New Mexico I remember because they ran alongside the train to get people to buy their pottery. We had a sand storm while crossing the Mohave Desert. At Fresno, a delightful couple with a small baby left us with regret. We crossed the S.F. Bay on a ferry boat and spent the day sightseeing. It was just four months and six days since the earthquake and fire and little had been done to remove the rubble. The Call Building was the most notable landmark.

An afternoon train took us to San Jose where we arrived in time for supper. We spent the night at Aunt Carrie's home on South Sixth Street. She had three sons, Clyde who was a student at Stanford, Lennard and Harry. There were also two boarders, Miss Woolverton, called "Woolver" and Miss Bill, called "Billy." Next day we went to the home

Father had rented for us at 339 South 11th Street. He had bought some used furniture and with our belongings from the East, we soon had a comfortable home.

I've already mentioned my first school at Niagara Falls. My teacher was a very understanding person and was especially partial to her A class. She was always thinking up things to reward this group, and as a result, we thought her marvelous. Just before the end of the school year, and when spring was bursting out in all her glory, she took us on a walk through the woods a short distance from town. The rains had left dampness all over the soil but had also caused the new shoots to appear – lilies, violets and ferns. We wandered slowly, listening to the roar of the Falls, three or four miles away, gathered violets and generally enjoyed ourselves. Then we discovered we were lost! Perhaps we really weren't lost but we thought we were and that in itself was a thrill. Then we came to the edge of the woods and we saw an unforgettable sight – a slope covered with tulips of every color imaginable. Above the slope was the sports field of DeVoe College and we were no longer lost. I know I forgave her the corner-standing episode at that moment.

My first school in San Jose was the Normal Training School, used for teacher training. I was put in the high second grade. The department head was Miss McCall whom I thought was beautiful. Much of the second grade work I had already had in the eastern school such as the "Sunbonnet Babies." My grades did not show the previous training and I remember I was ashamed to show my report card to my family when I received a "D" in writing, doubtful the meaning. I hid the card in the barn at the back of our house and never did get it signed.

In the low fourth grade, we put on a play, "Little Men" a takeoff on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. I was a Japanese dancing girl, an idea far from the story but some of us got a chance to dance if we couldn't act.

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The principal was Dr. Margaret Schallenburger, a wonderful woman and prominent in state education circles for many years. One day when I had another experience with a California-style bully, she called me into her office and soothed my hurt feelings with a picture to put into a frame I had made in manual training. (In high school, I had her sister Frances, who taught Latin. She also had a famous brother who saved a firm from failure by keeping the products safe from the elements as well as thieves, while he was a mere boy of 18. It is a story of suffering but ended happily as he was found in the Sierras after a winter protecting his employers' property during a fierce winter in the mountains and by himself.)

I liked manual training best and we made toy furniture but mostly learned to handle tools. I also liked gardening where each child had a plot of ground in which he could plant what he wished and take home the products of his work. I don't remember taking anything home from mine. We had our picture taken as a class in front of the school. One day, in Burlingame, I met one of my classmates who had one of the pictures. She had kept in touch with many of our classmates and knew where many of them were. It was a fun day for me.

I went to that school for two years. My brother Roy, and his wife Lulu, came out from the east to keep house for the family and let my sister Eva go into nursing training at the Stanford Hospital in San Francisco. It was at Clay and Webster Streets and was called Lane Hospital. She was there just under a year and had to come home to take care of me when I got sick. We were a normal family and found the two families could not live in harmony together. So after a quarrel they moved out and I

was sent to first one then another couple to board for a while. The first was a Mr. and Mrs. Long who lived on a farm near Los Gatos. They were both very tall and gave me a wonderful time, spoiled me. Then I went to a couple named Reibsam, Fred and Anna. They went to great pains to get me to call them "Mama and Papa" even going so far as to offer me a bribe. I never could do it and so lost out on a pearl necklace. My school at this time was the East San Jose School with my teacher a Miss Baylis. They had no divided grades there and as I started there in September, I was again put into the fourth grade. I was a good student as a result. We had good times with several incidents standing out.

Mr. Jeffreys was a lively little man who made us all love him and his singing. He would act out a song and one was the Mailman Song. He would march up and down the room with a "he always whistled a merry tune as he marches down the street." Mr. Jeffreys was later leader of the city music department of San Jose and I came in contact with him again at that time.

Then one time, we put on a show, also selling items of inexpensive kinds which we could buy for pennies. We sold to several classes things such as a square of Nestlé's chocolate for a penny. I also had a boy friend who thought so much of me that he stole from his mother to buy me perfume and candy. This was at Christmas and just after the first of the year, we found that his mother worked hard to make a living for the family. They came and took back what they could of the perfume and stuff. I wonder what happened to him. I was somewhat of a puritan then and this all made a deep impression on me.

My friends included Wilbur Elmer, Jessie Bishop, Mary Hartley and her little sister, Olive. I met them all again in high school.

Then came Grant School after a year's illness of which I shall speak later. I was again placed in the low fourth grade! Changing school was decidedly unprofitable to me but did not hurt me. My teacher was Miss Blanchard who told me I was not fast enough in giving the answers to multiplication tables, but when I answered I was correct! The

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repetition did not hurt me except for my feelings. Upstairs next year to the high fourth and Mrs. Fowler. Here was Ethel Grosbeck who was the daughter of an actress and along with her sister, Juanita, wanted to go on the stage. Both were pretty girls and may have made it. We had plays given each year, written and directed by Mrs. Hancock, wife of our principal, Joseph Hancock who later became superintendent of the city schools of San Jose. These plays were fairy tales with songs and dances and lots of characters. Ethel and Juanita as well as Athene Desimoni and Alma Broderick were especially noted for their good work.

Mrs. Hancock played the accompaniment for it as well as coached the entire play. She had some fine dancers, among them Athene Desimoni and Ethel and Juanita I mentioned before. The Three Bears, Cinderella, and Jack and the Beanstalk were some of her plays, really operettas. They were well attended by people from all over town.

A special boy in this class gave us several laughs. One time, he wanted to go out, which meant that he needed a visit to the boys' toilet. Mrs. Fowler was busy and paid no attention to Michael when he raised his hand and started to call softly, "Mrs. Fowler." Getting no attention, he called louder and louder, waving his hand over his head, then moving up to her desk, all the time calling to "Mrs. Fowler." She finally asked him what he wanted. "I have to go to the toilet," was his answer. He went out. He was always doing something to call attention to himself, probably because he felt insecure since he was an immigrant from Italy. We had many of them in our neighborhood and several in my classes. None, though, made the impression on us that Michael did.

I think it is time to tell of my illnesses. I think they began with my bout with scarlet fever, followed by measles and other childhood diseases. In the first year in California, there was a smallpox epidemic and everyone was vaccinated. I have

always blamed the doctor for my years of illnesses following the vaccination. It was done at night in his office. I felt faint, I remember. But I remember nothing else of what followed. My sister told me that I very nearly lost my arm and was very sick for some time. Afterwards, I had a spell of mumps, tonsillitis, mumps again on both sides and then again on the right side. The swelling persisted and I was taken to another doctor who said, "Operate!" This was done in my Aunt Carrie's dining room on her table. My sister helped, having come from her hospital training to take care of his little sister. There was a large growth the size of a hen's egg and full of tuberculosis germs. I had to stay out of school for some time from this time, with a nervous disorder called Saint Vitus Dance. I could do nothing that would excite me and that is really a hardship being an active child. But I got through a couple years sometimes doing things behind my family's back, such as going to a nickelodeon on a Sunday afternoon when I was supposed to be at Epworth League. Yes I was a naughty child at times!

I did read a lot and perhaps it was at this time that I got my love of war stories. I read everything I could about wars – Civil, Revolution and Indian. Maps of them fascinated me and I learned to know maps as we say, "like the palm of my hand." I still enjoy an hour with a map of almost any place.

Eventually I returned to Grant School since my father and brother lived in that area at this time. I will say that from the high fifth grade on, I was a good student. In fact, one teacher said I could be the best they had ever had at Grant if I would concern myself with my studies instead of boys. But being a normal girl, I liked the boys. So, at that, I was at the head of my class. I skipped the high fifth after only a week. For some reason I have never found out, I stayed out of school that term and my class went on ahead into the sixth. On my return I asked my teacher, Miss Murphy, if I could catch up with my friends. She asked Mr. Hancock and the decision was that I should do nothing but arithmetic until I had done the fifth grade math and then I could go on. I did, but a secret; I could not

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do fractions then or ever. Don't skip grades! But I was happy and loved the competition of the departmental work. My chief competitor was Robert Cowden in history and geography. He gave me a run for my grades and I think we came out about evenly. Other work was more or less easy for me and I passed into high school. This was in 1914.

Another event during my grammar years was a San Jose Festival, celebrating our founding. There was a big parade and all schools took part. Each was given a color – ours was lavender – and we could do anything in the parade our principal wanted us to do. We were trained for several weeks to march to commands given by Mr. Hancock on his bugle. We had fun up and down the streets of our area. One group also danced with Athene as its leader. We were so good that we took all awards in our division over our arch rivals, Horace Mann School. Another time, we had a May Fete, and performed various stunts on the front lawn. By this time, I was in the eighth grade and very important kids we thought we were. We learned the Swedish Weaving Dance, a complicated affair and we loved it. You may think I liked school; I did and still do! Athene's partner in dancing was Alma Broderick!

As is usually the case, I finally graduated from grammar school at the age of fifteen (15 in May, graduated in June). But this did not hinder my high schooling; in fact I think it did me good. I was older than many of my mates and should have known more; but his was not so. I was maybe more ignorant of life than any of them but was willing to learn when it came time for that. I was too busy these years having a good time.

I may as well list here my early boy friends. I liked boys but as is usually so, they were timid of me. My first one was in Niagara Falls, named Gordon Gentz. He lived close by and I remember going to his house to play. He was blond, blue eyed, and I remember that he had a lovely red suit. But moving to California closed that situation.

From friends of later years, I heard that he eventually married, drank to excess, and finally died from that.

Then at Normal Training School, there was Eugene Silver who lived in the same house where a cousin of mine, Grace Clarke, live and boarded. It was he who told Grace that I was his girl. Well, not for long. I don't remember that he made much of an impression if he even tried.

In Grant Grammar School I was much older, all of 13-14. At the boy struck age. I had several friends but my family did not think much of the idea of boy friends. So when I was invited to a girl friend's home one night for a party, I failed to mention that boys would be present. We did have a good time, playing such games as Spin the Bottle, etc. Nothing naughty but fun. We were too young to make anything more of it. Anyhow, my friend then was Jack Hobson, I think he later went to U.C. and became a dentist, but of this I'm not sure. He was younger than I by about one year, a nice lad and I thought he was wonderful. But then along came a girl I supposed was a good friend and he deserted me for her. Oh well, just one of those things.

In high school, I was one of a group and we did have fine times. These were mostly boys and girls of Eprouth League or Christian Endeavor, young church groups. We had our regular meetings on Sunday, late afternoon and then during the week we might go on a picnic or on another weekend or such. One time, we had a progressive party with each course of the dinner at a different home. The salad course was at my home on North Eleventh Street. We had an enclosed garden in back of our house and with paper lanterns it was a lovely sight. My sister made a fruit salad with crackers, I think to go with it. Then on to the dessert and games for the rest of the evening.

I liked several of the boys especially but not any one in particular. Besides, those who were well liked had special girl friends. I saw one couple a few years ago (at a 50th anniversary of my high school class in 1968), and he was almost helpless and his wife also of my class, spent much time looking after him. That seems to be the way life is.

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An Autobiography

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I have already mentioned the one who stole for me. But it was not until I went to college that there was one who could have been taken seriously. But before too long, I met your grandfather who was 12-1/2 years older than me but younger at heart. It seems to be the case that if there is love on either side, each one knows it almost at once. That was so with my Dick. His name was Walter but I never liked that name and so he became Dick. Another early boy named Walter declared one day to his brother that I was his girl, and I never forgave him that remark even though he might have been joking. I don't think so.

Memory is a strange thing: when I am around this machine I can't think of what I want to say, but away from it I think of numerous items. Thus this narrative may be a bit confusing. You will just have to sort things out to get them in correct order.

As regards cooking, Eva did her best to teach me all the things about housekeeping that she didn't know when she was called upon to take over. Thus, she conceived the idea of going to work each summer in the nearby cannery, "to make money for our clothes," she said but later she told me really why. But there was also the fact that my folks were generous enough but cautious. The men folks gave her a small amount, usually \$5 per week to carry the food and incidental expenses. This was not enough but they would supplement the \$5 with a dollar now and then. But even women in those days liked clothes, shoes and even hats. All cost quite a lot, so that Eva had a good excuse for working. And I got experience in doing all the necessary things and many that weren't necessary around the house. I really enjoyed it and moreover, I still like the jobs a house requires, especially cooking. I like to eat and so like to cook..

I also learned to sew because when I was about four years old, I needed a new dress. Eva bought dimity, white with a cord through it, and white with tiny red dots and a pattern to make a jumper dress with lace around the neck and cuffs. It cost about five dollars and she thought that was too much and

decided to learn to sew for us. Then my brother Roy married a seamstress and she became the teacher. I then learned from Eva. Part of it though was probably due to my mother, who was a more or less a professional. As she gave me my musical ability, she also gave me some sewing ability. I am and have been a very lucky person. I suppose I could earn a fair living by sewing if I wanted to do so, but I'd rather sew for pleasure, doing for myself and my family. A few dollars now and then by a bit of altering or re-hemming is plenty for me.

I don't recall just when I saw or rode in a gas buggy, better known as an automobile. It was sometime between 1906 and 1910 I'm sure. Guy bought a Ford along about 1911 or 1912. It started with a crank, inside as well as outside. Tempers would fly when the machine wouldn't start and sometimes after starting. She would just as contrariwise stop for no apparent reason, just orneriness. Most folks who bought cars in those days purchased Fords as the least expensive of the new contraptions. Yet on a Sunday afternoon, when Guy condescended to take his family out for a ride, we would count more Fords than any other kinds on the dirt roads. We went as far as Princeton-by-the-Sea or the Water Tower (Monument) at Pleasanton or perhaps a picnic at Big Basin or La Honda. It was always a treat and made Guy feel big-hearted.

Just before Dick and I were married, along about October 1920, he bought a Ford but one with a starter. Then I learned to drive and never had to crank a car or take a chance of getting a broken arm as so many did in those days. We have surely come a long way from those first cars and now so many are call "antique" or "classic." We should have kept any that we bought in those days, but who would have thought they would be valuable? Now nearly every family has at least one car and most have two. At one time, we had one per person on Broadway, five in all, and I also find that Don and his family are keeping up the tradition of one car per person, having five in his family.

Two habits I acquired very early in life have remained with me and have given me much pleasure. First is my music. When my grandfather

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Latta died, my grandmother Latta gave about all of her furniture and keepsakes to her children and grandchildren. We got the melodeon, a type of instrument much like an organ but even harder to play. Yet at the age of seven I was playing that melodeon, any tune I could remember and without music. Thus my ability to play "by ear" was mine at that early age. It has stood me in good stead ever since, pleasure to me and my friends say, to them. Later, when reaching California, my folks got me an upright piano and I started lessons from Aunt Carrie, Dad's sister. Then at about nine years of age, my cousin Harry who played the cornet also was very good at that instrument and needed an accompanist one day. Then I play my first accompaniment and I even remember the tune – "Carnival at Venice." I was very proud.

At Grant School one day, Mr. Hancock, the principal, called me out of my sixth grade class and had me practice some easy tune for about ten minutes while he wandered around. When he asked me to play it for him, I was amazed that he should have made me practice it. But later he had me play all types of tunes for the assembly each morning, including a march to send pupils to class. Our class was preparing for a combined graduation with all the other eighth grades in San Jose, in the first of the combined graduations. Mr. Jeffries, who was music director of the city schools, asked me to play the songs before all the grades practicing at Horace Mann School and was I proud! A teacher of that school who expected to play must have been chagrined to have a mere student taking her coveted place. This happened many times later, in high school and at other choruses. It still happens and I am used to it now. I am surely a very blessed person to have such a talent and I am most grateful that I can share it with my friends.

Lessons for three years from Miss Maude Caldwell in San Jose helped me along. But being of a somewhat studious nature, I stopped lessons during my second year in high school. At that, I took

music, playing in the orchestra, for school singing, for the "Mikado" which the music department gave in my second year, and then helped train a friend for our senior play, "so I could be in it," as I also liked to sing and act. That was "The Windmills of Holland" by Otis Carington who lived for many years in Redwood City. He wrote many musicals and had them produced in schools throughout California. I took harmony and in college also had counterpoint, which I liked best of all the courses I took in music. But they have all gone by the way, since I have not composed any music to speak of since leaving high school.

After graduating from the University of California in 1946, I joined the CAUW and got into the chorus. That gave me a chance to sing and alto was my voice. As I had acquired from my Mother absolute pitch, I was a most important voice in that group, no solo, just true tone. Eva and I had sung duets as we did our housework for many years. Roy also had a fine baritone voice and loved to come over to our home at night and have me play his favorite songs. Among them was "When the Sands of the Desert Grow Cold," which he almost sang to death. Eva and I got so tired of hearing this song that we hid it under the mattress of our bed. Roy looked for it the next time he came over and of course could not find it. Eva and I being rather devilish didn't tell him about it and then forgot about it until we moved from that house, when we found it under the mattress. I have that song now among my sheet music.

Moving pictures came into being sometime during my early life. I saw my first one in Chicago, on our way to California. Later in San Jose, movies became a favorite pastime and cost the large sum of 5 cents. As they became better, in photography, acting and story content, they also cost more. At 10 cents, they were a bargain, but when they got to be a quarter, that was too much. Yet I don't remember of not going due to increased price. They had become a habit. We had certain favorites; Francis X. Bushman, Beverly Baine, Dunston Farnum, Mark Pickford,

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Marguerite Clarke, and many others. Eva and I would go once a week to follow continued stories, hating to miss even one episode. Some of them were impossible to be real but then we knew they were only stories.

When Dick and I were going together in Oakland, we went frequently to stage shows, having a good theater in Oakland with a repertory company. Also in Sacramento we continued to see good plays. I also had the privilege of seeing several operas. My first was "Lucia" in San Jose, later in Sacramento I saw "Aida," "Faust," "Pagliacci," "La Forza del Destino," and others. I had the privilege of hearing fine music. I tried to encourage my sons to like it also and I think I succeeded.

There was the time I heard Madame Schumann-Heink sing for the school children in San Jose auditorium for ten cents. It was an opportunity not to take lightly. There were about 10 or 12 of us from Grant School who attended. Later she became one of my favorites in records, and her "Silent Night" in German was a treasure. I also heard Lily Pons at the 1939 Exposition in San Francisco where the seats were all sold out and they put up loud speakers so that the overflow crowd could hear her too.

Living in Burlingame, we were close enough to San Francisco to go often to see fine plays or hear good shows. We saw Victor Borge as well as heard him. A great comedian as well a fine musician, he had a way of saying the simplest things which made you laugh. For instance, the night Stalin was killed, Borge remarked sleepily, "I wonder who will be next," and brought down the house. Joe E. Brown was another we saw in a fine play, "Harvey." We saw the "Swing Mikado" several times beginning with the performance at Treasure Island which I have never forgotten. When the curtain came up on the first act and a line of black men sang, "If You Want to Know Who We Are," and answered themselves by singing, "We are Gentlemen of Japan," I exploded as did the rest of the audience. It was a riot of fun all through it.

I don't remember at this time all the fine plays Dick and I took in but they were all enjoyed by both of us. We had no television and liked our radio. We also had a phonograph or record player and listened to great music which we both enjoyed. Symphonies such as Beethoven's Fifth and Dvorak's Fifth were favorites. Also Scheherazade was a favorite.

I remember that as a growing girl, I wanted an allowance but my folks seemed to think that was unnecessary. If I wanted a nickel, all I had to do was ask and if the need seemed right, I was given it. But I resented the need to ask and decided then and there that if I ever had any children, they would be given an allowance as soon as they were old enough to know what money was for. They were. Also they were given dancing lessons, another of my regrets. I never learned to dance and I loved it. If I had had lessons, I might have enjoyed dances more as I grew older. At school, I was the leader in any dancing and so could not follow a man in this regard. Dick did not dance and so I didn't get much chance later on. But I am sure my sons will never regret not learning to dance and they surely never regretted having an allowance.

My high school days were full, studying, playing and making friends. I loved my work and tried to do my best. I took work to get into college although I think I already knew that my folks did not approve. But it didn't hurt to take those studies, just in case, and I liked them all. Well, almost all. Latin I could have done without but it has come in handy at times when a new word comes up. I like Spanish well enough but was not too good in it. My friend Bernice Lovejoy came to my rescue many a time. She has been my friend over all the years although I haven't heard from her in about a year and wonder about it. History and English I love but math was not my cup of tea. My only "C" came in it. I played the piano in our orchestra in high school. We gave many fine concerts with guest stars as is done now. One was in the Vendome Hotel on North First Street and the guest violinist was a lady who played a very difficult Spanish number. Later

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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. Hello **Latta** cousins: I've thrown this story out a few times before but never got a response. My grandmother, Blanche **Latta** (branch 15) from Indiana was living in Indio, California in 1940. For about 6-8 weeks (Oct-Dec 1940), my grandfather was working at a Hudson car dealership in Indio, California, as a mechanic. My grandparents and my mother rented a house there while he was temporarily assigned there. My grandmother used her maiden name as her middle name when signing checks. So, one day she shows up at one of the utility companies (my mother thought it was the gas company; though it could have been the electric company) to pay the bill. She gets to talking to the clerk at the counter and she says that the middle initial 'L' represents **Latta**, her maiden name. The clerk tells her that (his or her) family name is also **Latta** and they are from Oklahoma.

She comes back the next day and the clerk loans her a book on the **Latta** family. The family history went back hundreds of years to Europe. My grandmother and my mother looked at it, but it had no direct connection to their **Latta** branch and returned the book. I keep repeating this story because this branch of **Lattas**, at one time, had a thorough history of their branch. Perhaps, next year when the 1940 census is released, we can verify more information.

I have looked up **Latta** in Indio, California, in the 1930 census. There is only one family in 1930. They are from Oklahoma. I have noticed all of the Oklahoma **Latta** connections on the list lately.

Mary **Latta** (head of the family) 24 single
Born Oklahoma Father-Arkansas Mother-Missouri
Saleslady of soft drinks.

Lloyd N. **Latta** (brother) 14 single
Born Oklahoma Father-Arkansas Mother-Missouri
in school.

Prudence H. **Latta** (sister) 12 single
Born Oklahoma Father-Arkansas Mother-Missouri
in school.

It looks like the parents might be out of the picture because the two younger ones were living with their older sister who was supporting the family. By 1940, all three would have been old enough to work at the utility company. My mother has now passed away, and there is no one else to ask. If anyone out there recognizes these 3 **Lattas**, please respond. I looked the data base and can't connect any of them to a specific branch. Thank You, Robin **Flatt Olson**, Branch 15, mjflatt@aol.com.

2. In **Latta** family Branch 9, #7 John Leander **Latta** you have the following:

7 John Leander (4) **Latta**, Samuel (3) Thomas (2) John (1). Born in Tennessee on Feb. 29, 1825; d. abt. 1903; buried at Corsicana, Texas. Married three times. First wife died soon after marriage. 1) Eunetta **Chandler**, sister to Thomas Neely **Latta's** wife. She was born February 29, 1829 in Fannin Co., Texas. 2) Martha Story in Fannin Co., Texas. She died at Angus, Texas. 3) Martha **McCade**. He served in Co. I, 34th Texas Cavalry. Was also in Doniphan's Army in Mexican War.

CORRECTION:

Wife of John Leander **Latta** - Eunetta **Chandler** [name in the **Chandler** Family Bible was Unity in the birth record and Eunita in the marriage record and death record] was born 8 February 1829 [date from family Bible] not in Texas but in Washington County, Arkansas. She never lived in Texas. She died in Washington County AR 23 Nov 1856 [Bible record] three years after her marriage to John Leander **Latta** 20 Oct 1853 in Washington Co. AR. Janelle **Swearingen**, Bixby, OK, janellesw@cox.net

3. I am the great-granddaughter of Catherine **Latta**, she was my father's paternal grandmother and she was the daughter of Robert **Latta** and Hannah **Coyle**. I am interested in finding any other descendants, it sounds though Sue is one too. I would really like to contact her. Also, Catherine was born

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Our Financial Contributors since the last issue. We really appreciate your support!

If there is a number before the name, it is that person's branch number. The editor suggests that the reader contact researchers of the same branch and share information.

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>.

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Reprints of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter, Issues #1 to 44, are available for \$4.00 each. This includes the postage. Please make the check payable to the Latta Genealogy Society. If you are interested, please contact the editor, Ken Mueller, Doc Huer@aol.com, 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314.

Latta Genealogy Society 2011 Annual Meeting

By: Beryl Redfield, Treasurer

The annual meeting of the Latta Genealogy Society was held on November 5, 2011 in Prescott Valley, Arizona, with Ken Mueller presiding. Also in attendance were Beryl Redfield, Treasurer, and Judy and Tom Kintigh, members. The meeting was called to order at 11:00am by Ken Mueller.

Update Website. We discussed updating the website, and found that our webmaster, Sue Cox, is using an old software program. A motion was made by Beryl to use treasurer funds to purchase a new version for her use. Tom seconded the motion and funds were approved in the amount of approximately \$149.00. It was suggested that there be a "subscriber only" section on Latta.org where PDF files of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter could be accessed. We will forward this and other ideas for the website to Sue Cox for her advice as to whether it is possible.

Communication. We discussed how to best use technology to aid Society members with communication. Because George Latta has put up a Facebook page but no longer wishes to maintain it, we would like to ask him to remove his page. We would then have Randy Phillips, Vice President for Communications, set up and maintain our official Facebook page. Randy will contact George Latta.

Survival. Ken discussed the issue of survival, both of the Society as well as of personal records. As for the survival of the Latta Genealogy Society, we will carry on until it appears there is no longer interest. For our personal records, it was suggested we look for family members with an interest in genealogy who can carry on or preserve the records. Ken encouraged all to get our records in order and published in our newsletter.

Irish Research. Ken reported that it appears Irish research has not been successful because of the scarcity of existing records. Many records were destroyed in wars and fires in Ireland.

DNA. We discussed ways to encourage more members to pursue DNA testing. It was suggested that the Society offer funding for volunteers. We would print the results in the Newsletter.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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 resources.

Newsletter Sent to Libraries

Our Latta Genealogy Newsletter is sent to several major libraries, including the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, The Library of Congress, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the Newberry Library in Chicago. This is done to preserve our Latta family history for years to come.

Research Notes

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in Scotland but both her parents were born in Ireland, am researching it currently. I am interested in being part of the **Latta** DNA project too. Robert was born in 1803, not sure where, somewhere in Ireland. Hannah **Coyle** was born in 1813 in County Antrim, Ireland. They had about 5 or 6 children, it's documented on the Latta website. Thanks so much. I haven't got a brother or male **Latta** cousin. Best, Jackie, Jackie.Marshall-Smart@MHCD.org.
