

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 5

Autumn 1997

Branch 12

"Uncle Bob" Latta honored for heroism

Community helps family uncover police officer's story of courage

By Kristy Eppley, C-I staff writer,
Chronicle-Independent, Camden, SC.

Submitted by C. Marquita Latta, Hampton,
VA. (CLatta@aol.com)

Nearly 80 years ago, a Camden police officer paid the ultimate price for justice. Robert "Uncle Bob" Latta laid down his life in an attempt to protect a woman from her estranged husband who reportedly had intentions of killing her.

Tuesday night, 9/09/1997, Marquita Latta, the officer's great-grandniece, thanked the

granduncle's name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall, in Washington, DC, and the Criminal Justice Hall of Fame in Columbia, SC, in our year of 1997.

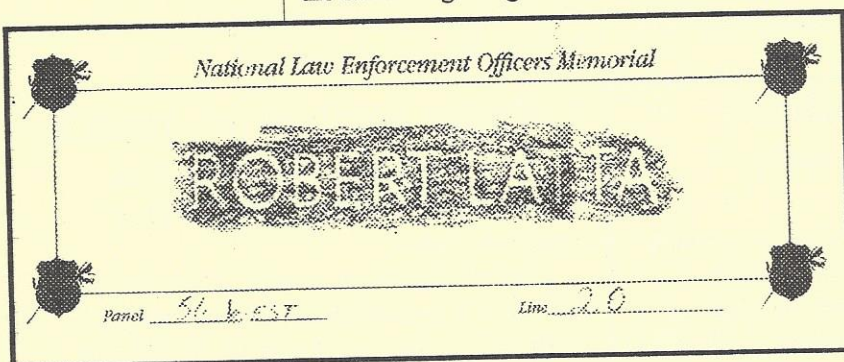
"If you... had not of helped me, I could not have gotten this far," Latta said, scanning the room full of city officials and history buffs with her eyes.

Latta presented the Camden Police Department with a framed collage—a pencil rubbing of her great-granduncle's inscription on the national wall, surrounded by police patches, the program from the national service and a picture of Latta's name on the wall. "In valor there is hope," one of the items read.

Latta also gave gifts to those who helped her most in her quest to honor her great-granduncle. Cobb and Mayor Minges received hats from the National Law Enforcement Wall in DC., in addition, peanuts, specialty of her home state of Virginia. Monica Sheorn, Records Administrator, received a T-shirt with the Hampton Carousel and peanuts. Bev Crane received a coffee cup with peanut.

However, the big gift was saved for someone Latta said helped her tremendously. Agnes Corbett, director of the Camden Archives, SC, received a fax machine for the

(Continued on page 5)



Rubbing taken from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC

citizens of Camden, SC, during the meeting of Camden City Council for helping her bring his story to light and finally getting a sense of justice for his heroic act.

The story was uncovered when Latta, who lives in Hampton, VA, accidentally stumbled upon her great-granduncle's death certificate while doing research in the courthouse in Columbia, SC, on a short trip.

At the time, almost no one she found in Camden, including Police Chief Jack Cobb and Archives Director Agnes Corbett, had ever heard of the Lattas or the incident that claimed Robert Latta's life.

Through research, Latta found a 1/24/1919 issue of the *Camden Chronicle* that originally reported the incident. After four years of researching and submitting forms, her great-

Inside This Issue

New feature debuts	Page 8
Lattas of LaGrange	Page 3
Newsletter retrospective	Page 4
Research queries	Page 9
Lattas on the Lost Continent of Atlantis?	yet to be fathomed

Editorial**Getting technical**

We're at the halfway point of our second year in operation, and we have some big ideas for the newsletter and the web site. However, we're short on technical know-how. We're counting on you, our readers, to come through for us again.

First, the text files that we've been sending out on 3.5-in diskettes will no longer fit on a single diskette. There are auto-extracting applications that don't require the user to have an unzipping program installed on his or her computer. But, is there an auto-extractor that will work on both a Mac and a Windows platform? If possible, we want to avoid having separate Mac and Windows disks.

Next, we want to expand our web site to allow downloading (and possibly uploading) of files and search capabilities and the like. We hope to have all the branch files, notes, indices, etc., available on the web site.

We also want to provide a subscription form

on the web site which folks can submit and which we can suck into our database without retyping all the information.

Now, we have a provider in mind which can host our site, but we don't have the knowledge and skills about CGI's and BIN and bandwidth and Java applets that will be necessary.

So far, the branches are being maintained as text files. Suppose we put all the branch information into a GedCom-compatible database. Then we could use Ged2html, for instance, to post it on the web site. The entire database would then be searchable instead of having to search each branch file separately, would it not?

If we converted to a GedCom-type database we would probably need to rely on volunteers to enter the information, as this would be too big a task to foist on George.

What do you think? How feasible are these ideas? We want to continue to expand our service to our readers, but we want to move ahead cautiously and confidently. We need your feedback and your suggestions.

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Published approximately thrice annually

Dedicated to research among the fifty-one branches of the Latta family in America, and of our family's origins in the Old World.

Funded by contributions from its readers. Suggested contribution: seven to ten dollars per year (US and Canada) international US \$10 to \$13

Please send your family group sheets, pedigree charts, photos, documents and/or gedcom files to:

George P. Latta
4 S Pearl Street
Oakfield NY 14125-1217
e-mail: Latta34@aol.com

Send your subscription contributions, address changes, newsletter articles, queries, comments, etc. to:

Paul H. Calhoun
736 Grant Street
Port Clinton OH 43452-2149
e-mail: pcalhoun@infinet.com

We're on the World Wide Web! Visit our web site at
www.infinet.com/~pcalhoun/latta.html

Foreign exchange, part 2

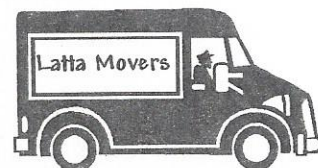
We're still looking for a solution to the problem of receiving contributions from our readers overseas.

Answer this for us, readers: How easy or difficult is it to exchange currency between Australia, Scotland and England? Would it be feasible for one of our readers in those nations to act as the foreign depository, accept contributions from UK readers, and then every couple of months send a single check to us here?

If this plan would work, is anyone willing to volunteer? Preferably this would be someone with e-mail capability.

On the move

George and Paul have both moved recently. Our new postal addresses are shown at the left. Please make the changes in your address book. E-mail addresses have not changed.



Branch 1**Lattas of LaGrange**

HISTORY OF LA GRANGE AND NOBLE COUNTIES, INDIANA, published by F. A. Battey and Co., Chicago. [Sorry I don't have year, it is a copy that was sent to me with year published cut off.]

Submitted by Corrine Afton

History of LaGrange County, Eden Township, Chapter X, page 185: The southeastern quarter of Eden Township is included in that broad area of fertile country which the early settlers called the Haw Patch. About one Congressional township of land in La Grange and Noble Counties is embraced in this tract, which is distinguished throughout by a rich soil, freedom from marshes, level, or very gently rolling surface, and a perfect adaptability to successful agriculture. At the opening of the country to settlement, it was densely covered by beautiful forests, in which sugar maple and black walnut were most abundant, and remarkably free from small growths, except hawthorn and wild grapes. The abundance of the hawthorn was the most striking peculiarity of the region, and gave rise to the name by which it is so widely known. Now that the forests and the hawthorns have vanished, the region has taken on another style of beauty, and is made doubly attractive by splendidly kept farms and elegant residences, where every comfort possible has taken the place of the hardships of log-cabin days.

There is some dispute about the first settlement of the township, but the account here given is believed to be the correct one. This is, that the Latta family were the first in Eden. In 1830, Robert Latta, who lived near Urbana, Ohio, came to Goshen to bring medicine and stores to his son, Johnston Latta, who was then a practicing physician in that settlement. While at Goshen, the elder Latta heard from surveyors who had been through La Grange County of the fine Haw Patch land, and he visited it on his return, and it seemed to justify all the praise he had heard. He had a good farm in Ohio, under cultivation, but he longed for new forests to conquer. Accordingly, in the spring of 1832,

leaving his Ohio home, he came to the Haw Patch, with his wife and daughter, Achsah. His log house was built on Section 26. In the fall of the same year, William McConnell of Ohio, settled in Section 35, south of the Latta home, with his wife and sons, James, Alexander, Thomas C. and William A., and a daughter Mary Ann, who was married November 17, 1835, to Isaac Spencer. The McConnells had a remarkable leaning for public affairs, and since then there have been few matters of public interest in and about the Haw Patch in which they did not have a prominent part. The other well-known family which preceded them was not less public-spirited, and as was very natural, a rivalry soon arose. There were special reasons for this. Latta was a Whig, and McConnell a Democrat; the former was Methodist, the latter a Presbyterian. The contrast early showed itself in the purchase of land, and the result was that each was the owner of eighteen eighty-acre tracts, which was considerably more forest land than was profitable in those days. Much of it was afterward given away. Eighty acres were given as pay for one man's work for a year, and a job of rail splitting was the consideration for another considerable piece of land. In 1841, Dr. Johnston Latta moved to the Haw Patch, giving up his practice, and lived upon the old homestead until his death, in 1873, at the age of sixty-five. His widow Martha L., still lives here, adjoining the farm of her son, James Norman Latta. The McConnells, in later years, were more prominent in Noble than LaGrange County history. They have now no living representative of their name in the township. But the family graveyard still receives from time to time some descendant of the old pioneer. It is a suggestive fact that this family burying place lies just across the road from the site established for similar purposes by Robert Latta, and where he now rests.

During 1833 or 1834, Samuel Curl, of Ohio, a son-in-law of Robert Latta moved to Haw Patch, and settled on Section 35, and his brother, John Curl, at the same time on Section

(Continued on page 6)

Latta was a Whig and McConnell a Democrat; the former was Methodist, the latter a

From the archives of The Latta Family Newsletter

Latta Family Newsletter

Page 11

1900 CENSUS - UNITED STATES

NAME	PERSONAL DATA				BIRTH DATE			MARRIAGE			NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION			EDUCATION			HOME	
	Relationship	Color or Race	DATE		Age at last Birthday	Marital Status	Years Married	Mother of How Many Children	No. of Living Children	PLACE OF BIRTH		Year Immigrated to U. S.	Years in U. S.	Naturalization	Occupation of Persons 10 Years of Age and Over	Months not Employed	Can Read	Can Write	Can Speak English	Owned or Rents	Farm or House		
			Month	Year						This Person	Father											Mother	
ALABAMA, BLOUNT COUNTY Blountsville, Precinct # 5																							
Latta, Jacob	Head	W M	Aug	1829	60 M	18	18	8	8	Ala.	N.C.	Vol. 4, E.D. 17, Sheet 5, Line 63			Farmer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	M F		
Maggie E.	Wife	W F	Aug	1855	44 M	18	18			Ala.	Ga.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
William W.	Son	W M	Feb	1853	17 S					Ala.	Ala.					0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Lewis E.	Son	W M	Aug	1884	15 S					Ala.	Ala.					0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Robt. T.	Son	W M	Feb	1887	13 S					Ala.	Ala.					0	No	No	Yes				
Jacob A.	Son	W M	Nov	1888	11 S					Ala.	Ala.					0	No	No	Yes				
Cynthia L.	Daug	W F	Dec	1890	9 S					Ala.	Ala.					0	No	No	Yes				
John Pearce	Son	W M	Mar	1892	7 S					Ala.	Ala.					0	No	No	Yes				
Ethelene	Daug	W F	Apr	1894	6 S					Ala.	Ala.						No	No	Yes				
Alice, D.	Daug	W F	Jan	1896	4 S					Ala.	Ala.						No	No	Yes				
ALABAMA, BLOUNT COUNTY Liberty, Precinct # 33																							
Latta, John P.	Head	W M	Feb	1852	48 M	12	12	4	4	Ala.	N.C.	Vol. 4, E.D. 4, Sheet 5, Line 62			Farmer	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	R	F		
Lucindy A.	Wife	W F	Nov	1869	30 M	12	12			Ala.	Ala.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
Julius M.	Son	W M	Oct	1890	9 S					Ala.	Ala.				at school	2							
Moses A.	Son	W M	Oct	1892	7 S					Ala.	Ala.				at school	2							
John D.	Son	W M	Mar	1896	4 S					Ala.	Ala.												
Ida G.	Daug	W F	Apr	1899	1 S					Ala.	Ala.												
ALABAMA, JEFFERSON COUNTY Birmingham, Precinct # 37																							
Latta, Clide C.	Brdr	W M	May	1877	23 S					Tenn.	Tenn.	Vol. 32, E.D. 154, Sheet 18, Line 21			HrsDebr	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
(Boarder; in home of Tom Martins)																							
ALABAMA, MADISON COUNTY Huntsville, 335 Walker Street Vol. 38, E.E. 101, Sheet 13, Line 79																							
Latta, Eugene R.	Head	W M	Mar	1854	46 M	24	24	3	3	Iowa	Ind.				PlnMill	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	F		
Lou	Wife	W F	Mar	1860	40 M	24	24			Ky.	Ky.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
Arthur	Son	W M	Mar	1880	20 S					Ala.	Iowa				LPlnMill	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Laura	Daug	W F	Jul	1882	17 S					Ala.	Ky.				Bkkeeper	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Coburn, Charles	S/L	W M	Sep	1875	24 M	1	1	1	1	Ga.	Ga.				LPlnMill	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Pearl	Daug	W F	Jun	1877	22 M	1	1			Ala.	Iowa						Yes	Yes	Yes				
Chas. C.	N	W M	Feb	1900	12 S					Ala.	Ky.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
ALABAMA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY Montgomery, 6 So. Goethwaite Street Vol. 46, E.D. 96, Sheet 8, Line 8																							
Latta, Blanche	Sist	W F	Jan	1893	7 S					Neb.	Neb.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
(Enumerated in home of Frances Kerchner and Flora Kerchner)																							
ALABAMA, TALLAPOOSA COUNTY Popular Spring Precinct Vol. 58, E.D. 69, Sheet 3, Line 85																							
Latta, Earl C.	Head	W M	Oct	1852	47 M	17	17	5	5	Ala.	Ga.				Farmer	1	No	No	Yes	0	M F		
Emma L.	Wife	W F	Jul	1860	39 M	17	17			Ala.	Ga.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
Ellott W.	Son	W M	Sep	1884	15 S					Ala.	Ala.				Farmlab	3	0	Yes	Yes				
Mary C.	Daug	W F	Jul	1886	13 S					Ala.	Ala.				at school	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Martha E.	Daug	W F	May	1889	11 S					Ala.	Ala.				at school	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Lonie A.	Daug	W F	Jan	1892	7 S					Ala.	Ala.						Yes	Yes	Yes				
George W.	Son	W M	Jan	1899	2 S					Ala.	Ala.						No	No	Yes				

ABBREVIATIONS: Daug:Daughter, S/L:Son-in-Law, Sist:Sister, HrsDebr:Horse Dealer, Pln-Mill:Plaining Mill
LPln-Mill:Laborer Plaining Mill, Bkkeeper:Bookkeeper, Farmlab:Farm Laborer.

ABBREVIATIONS: Daug:Daughter, S/L:Son-in-law, Sist:Sister, HrsDebr:Horse Dealer, PlnMill:Plaining Mill
 LPlnMill:Laborer Plaining Mill, Bkkeeper:Bookkeeper, Farmlab:Farm Laborer.

"Uncle Bob" Latta honored*(Continued from page 1)*

archives, a plaque in regards to Robert A. Latta, police officer, and his only son Albertus L. Latta, U. S. Rural Mail Carrier, to be hung in the archives and a plaque for her own dedication to Camden, SC, history.

Latta said she could not express how much she appreciated all the help she had gotten from the people of Camden in making sure that her great-granduncle was properly honored. He is the only city of Camden police officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Robert "Uncle Bob" Latta was killed 1/22/1919. On 2/10/1919, he would have reached his 65th birthday. His reputation was that of not carrying a gun and would reason things out in potential problems.

Through previous publicity, Dallas Phelps, a Camden, SC, citizen provided Latta with documents that helped her locate a great-grandson of the officer in Monroe, NC, who put her in touch with his aunt in Florida who was 10 years old when the incident occurred.

Robert Albertus Latta was her grandfather, and one of the things she told Marquita Latta in their telephone conversations was that her "Pop-pop was a hero".

"Now, he will always be a hero to everybody" who appreciates the police department, Latta said, urging folks to let their policemen know they are appreciated.

Latta has a special reason to believe that her great-granduncle was a hero. She was a victim of spousal abuse in the mid 70's. "Uncle Bob was saving a woman from spousal abuse and possibly murder when he died. That could have very easily been me in a different time. Abuse is abuse, it has no date or time. It remains the same.

When she got into town this week, Latta was taken to Boykin Park by David Blackwell, who was 11 years old when the shooting took place. The park, which used to be known as Team Row, is where the incident occurred.

Corbett said she enjoyed helping Latta bring her great-granduncle's story to light. "I want to commend this family and Marquita especially for bringing a story forth that might have been forgotten."

Robert Albertus Latta, police officer, was the great-grandson of James Latta and Elizabeth Houstin Latta, descendent through their son William Latta, branch #12.

James Latta was the owner of Historic Latta Plantation, which is now on the National Register of Historic Sites, located in Mecklenburg County, Huntersville, NC.

LETTERS**Officer's sacrifice remembered**

My heart is filled with thanks to everyone who contributed to making the tribute possible in memory of my great-grand uncle, Camden Patrolman Robert Albertus Latta, who was killed in the line of duty in 1919.

Through Camden's devotion to its interest in history, you, as friends, came together to help make my great-grand uncle's tragic fate properly memorialized.

David Blackwell of Camden was a small boy of 11 at the time of Uncle Bob's death. He recalled the shooting incident very clearly. During my recent trip to Camden, he escorted me to the area once known as Team Row, where now stands Boykin Park. For me, this was a walk into the past as he explained what he remembered. Thank you, Mr. Blackwell.

Following the Camden City

Council meeting where I expressed my appreciation for the help provided by the community and the Camden Archives, a woman and her little girl approached me. The woman said the little girl had something to tell me but was too shy.

Her mother said, "Remember you mentioning David Blackwell earlier?"

"Well, ma'am, this is his great-granddaughter."

Call it fate if you will. David Blackwell was there for my history recall and now this small child from his family will once again recall the name of Robert Latta with a memorial ending.

Our patrolmen deserve a lot of credit. Each day they put their lives on the line for us, which may be the ultimate sacrifice to pay.

Constance Marquita Latta
Hampton, Va.

Lattas of LaGrange

(Continued from page 3)

26. Samuel Curl died in 1863, and John Curl and family removed from the township.

In the spring of 1832, Benjamin Gale, William McConnell and Robert Latta viewed a road to run from the southwest corner of the county to Lima. This was afterward known as the Haw Patch road.

The Latta family were Methodists and the McConnells Presbyterians, and this determined the denominational lines of the early efforts toward church organization. The first society to be organized was the Methodist, which had its meeting place at the residence of Robert Latta, Sr. James Latta, who had been for some years an itinerant preacher, and had settled in Perry Township, was the one who most frequently conducted the meetings. Among the members of this pioneer church were besides the Lattas, Samuel and John Curl.

In 1842, the society, aided by general contributions, built a frame meeting-house on Latta's land, called Eden Chapel. A graveyard was opened west of the old chapel about this time, on an acre donated by Robert Latta.

The grant of land was afterward enlarged to two and one-fourth acres.

The old church was, after many years' service, torn down and a neat frame chapel, capable of seating about 800 persons, was erected on the west side of the churchyard, and dedicated in 1866.

A camp-meeting was held for many years at a grove on Mr. Latta's land, and largely at his expense. He was generous in support of religious enterprises.

The Amish Mennonite Church was organized in 1854 by German-speaking residents in the township. [More about this later.]

During the dry season of 1871, at the time of the Chicago fire, there was considerable danger to buildings near the marsh, and great loss in the way of fences and timber. About nine-tenths of the timber in the township was injured by the fires which swept over the swamp. Almost the entire marshes were burned over, and nothing but deep ditches, aided by persistent fighting of the

fire, could check its course. That season of fire by night and clouds of smoke by day will be long remembered. But those few years, when the marshes needed some water, were exceptions. The great problem has been, generally, how to get rid of the surplus of water collected in these vast bogs. The first effort at drainage was the State ditch in the Big Marsh. Johnston Latta, at about the same time, a little before 1850, commenced the first private ditching, in the face of considerable discouragement from the neighbors, in the eastern branch of the swamp. The viewers and surveyors on these early ditches had a hard time of it in the traceless and bottomless bogs, and among the poison sumach. [sp]

Note: When we visited the cemetery in Eden Township in 1983, it was located on the south side of Section 26, part of a beautiful farm. The entry to the farm yard was on the west side of the section where an attractive sign, "Haw Patch Farms" was situated. It was evident that the former land of Robert Latta was being farmed by Mennonites. I found this very interesting because of my maternal Mennonite ancestors. The nearest town was Topeka. I chuckled to myself, remembering how diligently I had searched the Topeka, KS area at one time for Latta information. Someone had shared a clue about Topeka and I decided I had been misled. When I contacted the LaGrange County Courthouse in the 1980's, the clerks had never heard of a town in the county of Haw Patch. According to an 1883 map it was located in the southeast part of Eden Township. I was pleased to find the "Haw Patch Farms" sign mentioned above on Section 26, because no other mention of this historic spot was observed.

I would entertain the comments of any Latta researcher as to the identification of James Latta, the itinerant preacher mentioned in the History of LaGrange and Noble Counties. I have spent some time on this but reached no valid conclusion.

Corrine L. Afton, CGRS
P. O. Box 103
Benton, KS 67017-0103

A camp-meeting was held for many years at a grove on Mr. Latta's land

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS - LATTA

Extracted by Corrine L. Afton

Marriage Records:

Johnston Latta and Martha L. Copeland, married 26 September 1842, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Death Records from LaGrange County, Indiana:

Book A, page 109, #199: Latta, Jane S., died 29 September 1892 in Clay Twp., aged 81 years, 5 months and 10 days, daughter of Michols and Maria Schummerhorne.

Book F, page 53, #8: Latta, Laura S., died 3 March 1921, born 17 August 1854, d/o Isural Hoffman and Catherine Fidler, wife of William S. Latta [s/o Silas and gs/o Ephriam Latta].

Book B, page 24, #16: Latta, William Warren, died 30 January 1899, Clear Spring Twp., aged 70 yrs. [son of Dr. Johnston Latta].

Book A, page 40, #438: David Latta, died 30 August 1887, Clay Twp., aged 79 years. [son of Ephriam Latta].

Book F, page 18, #4: Esther Latta, died 6 May 1919 in LaGrange, aged 48 years, 1 month, 16 days, wife of W. A. Latta, daughter of Joseph Green.

Book A, page 147, #112: James Norman Latta, died 20 November 1894, in Topeka [IN], aged 49 years, 11 months, 22 days. [Son of Dr. Johnston].

Birth Records from LaGrange County**Courthouse:**

Bruce A. Latta, born 10 July 1918, son of Geo. A and Laura Belle Allen Latta, Book H-11, page 19.

Kathryn E. Latta, born 25 October 1914, daughter of Silas H. and Verna Mae Snyder Latta, Book H-10, page 24.

Merna R. Latta, born 18 April 1919, daughter of Silas H. and Verna May Snyder Latta, Book H-11, page 39.

Latta, no first name, born 2 March 1883, son of William and Laura H. Huffman Latta, Book H-2, page 22.

Latta, no first name, born 29 March 1886, daughter of Jno. Latta [mother's name not listed], Book H-2, page 78.

Latta, no first name, born 4 October 1890, son of David M. and Kittie A. Kuntz Latta, Book H-3, page 33.

Latta, no first name, born 22 April 1900, daughter of James Frank and Lucy J. Maslet Latta, Book H-3, page 234.

Latta, no first name listed, born 20 August 1903, daughter of George A. and Laura B. Allen Latta, Book H-5, page 22.

LATTA FAMILY CEMETERY

Eden Township, LaGrange County, IN

Copied 21 June 1983 by Corrine L. Afton

South to north:

Latta, William	1842 - 1899[s/o Dr. Johnston]
Latta, Hattie	d. 6 July 1870
Latta, Warrie E.	infant son, age 5 mos.
Latta, Frank C.	1860 - 1897 s/o Johnston and M.
Latta, Johnston	d. 5 January 1873, aged 65y, 11m, 23 ds.
Latta, Martha	d. 24 February 1899, aged 776, 8m, 11ds.
Latta, Maurice F.	1877 - 1928
Latta, Augustus (Esq.)	d. 8 June 1869, aged 40 years [s/o Dr. Johnston]
Latta, Frank J.	d. 31 December 1854, aged 6y, 8m s/o Dr. Johnston and Martha
Latta, Achsa	d. 7 October 1864, aged 53 y, 7m, 11ds
Latta, Isabella	d. 2 February 1853, aged 87 years, w/o Robert
Latta, Robert	d. 28 April 1851, aged 78 years

In front row west of above:

Latta, Norman	1844 - 1894 [s/o Dr. Johnston]
---------------	--------------------------------

In second row west of above:

Curl, Willim E.	1823 - 1853
Curl, Elizabeth A	1827 - 1908
Curl, Ashley	1849 - 1865, s/o William
Meroney, J. Reader	1844 - 1907
Meroney, Isabella	1847 - 1929, [d/o Dr. Johnston]

Information in brackets [] are my conclusions made from various records.

*Searching
for one's
roots is
similar to
digging a
well*

Marion Latta Fawl

Research Room

Introducing a new ongoing feature of our newsletter: tips for your research, edited by Marion Latta Fawl. Your contributions to this column are very welcome. See Marion's address at the end of the article.—ed.

Searching for one's roots is similar to digging a well. You can only dig so far before you need help to brace your work and eliminate the unwanted material you have accumulated.

The braces that you need for genealogy are called 'DOCUMENTS.' These come in a variety of sizes and colors depending upon the needed information and the time period in which they were issued. Wills and land grants tend to be lengthy documents, whereas birth, baptismal, marriage and death certificates are usually only one or two short pages...if you can find them.

That is the purpose of this column. With help from you, and my own 'well' of experience we may find the needed direction to locate that elusive spring of information that you have sought.

There are two brochures published by the National Archives that are valuable to the researcher. One is "Military Service Records" and the other is "Using Records in the National Archives for Genealogical Research." Both of these are free of charge and available by sending a SASE either to the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, or to one of the eleven regional branch offices. Two stamps will be necessary to cover the weight of the brochures.

It is relatively easy to trace one's ancestors as far as 1850 because one of the listings of names, places of birth and ages of family members on census reports. It is prior to 1850 that information is spotty and difficult to access. But it is available if one is determined to find it. Trial and error seems to be the credo of many researchers, and possibly through this column some of the errors will be eliminated. If it worked for you let me know so that I can share it with my family. For instance:

Revolutionary War land grants were issued to veterans of that conflict by the state where

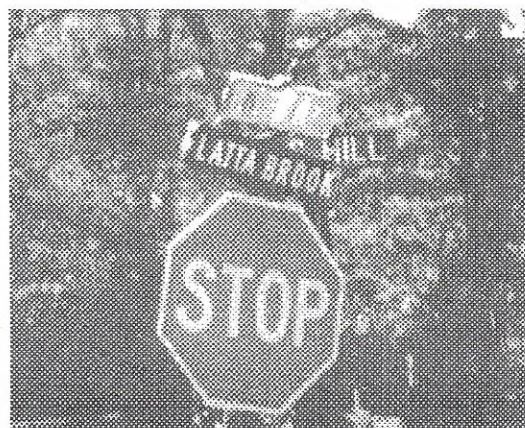
the person served in a military capacity. The man's home could be in Maryland, but if he served on the Virginia Line, then Virginia would be the state issuing the grant. The land to be claimed was wild land west of the settled regions of the newly formed states and ranged from 100 acres for a private to 500 plus for a general. By the time these were issued, many of the western lands were being organized for separate statehood or were considered territories with territorial governments. Land grants for western North Carolina eventually became land in middle Tennessee and this same principle applies to most of the original states.

To locate a copy of these records, write to the State Archives where the grant was REDEEMED. Remember, these grants could be sold, or given, and/or willed to others, so the person who received one need not to be the person who redeemed it. The information the state archivist needs is the name of the redeemer and county of redemption. You could receive the land grant papers for another county under the name you requested, but don't let that upset you. A later census report may be able to clarify the relationship of these papers to your family line, or your ancestor may have settled in a place different than you believe.

If you have any questions or wish to get your feet wet with a contribution, please write to:

Marion Latta Fawl
PO Box 2002
Weaverville CA 96093-2002

Where in the world?



Queries

Send your queries to the editor, Paul H. Calhoun, 736 Grant St, Port Clinton OH 43452-2149 (pcalhoun@infinet.com)

FORD LATTA NEELY	James John LATTA was born 24 Jun 1855 in AL, died before 1910. Married Julia Ann FORD, born 10 Feb 1862 in AL. Was he the son of John LATTA and Margaret NEELY? James John and Julia Ann had twelve children, including my grandfather John William LATTA, born 10 Oct 1889, in Pruitt Community, VanZandt Co, TX, died 28 Nov 1965 in Baltimore MD. —Bob Schmidt, 24 Tenbury Rd, Lutherville MD 21093-6335, bekiamy@erols.com
BULLOCK LATTA	Drusilla Mahaley LATTA, born 19 Sept 1857, married James N. BULLOCK. She was the daughter of Jake LATTA. This is all I know of them. Any information would be appreciated. —Lisa Williams, 1327 Armand St, Kuna ID 83634-2255, LAW@htch.com
BRAZIEL HARRIS LATTA	Seek information on Henry LATTA, born ca 1885/90 in OK, married Rosie HARRIS in 1913 in Sallisaw OK. They divorced and he remarried Esther Etta BRAZIEL. Henry died in 1967 in Bates AR, and is buried at Heavener OK. Would like any information on parents and siblings. —Constance G. Latta, 11931 Lambert Ave, El Monte CA 91732-2031, Angeluss@aol.com
BURNS CORNELIUS GRUSH LATTA	Catherine LATTA was born in Huntingdon Co PA ca 1777, died 1864 in Dresden IA, and is buried in Old Dresden Cemetery, Poweshiek Co IA. She married Isaac BURNS before 1800 in Shirleysburg area of Huntingdon Co PA. Is she the daughter of John LATTA who appears in the 1784 and 1790 census of Shirley Twp, Huntingdon Co PA? I have extensive info on four of her nine children; two daughters who married CORNELIUS brothers, a daughter who married Isaac GRUSH, and her son John BURNS, who migrated to IA with his mother, his wife Eliza and seven children. —Dwayne L. Pretzer, #6 Old Farm Rd, Charlottesville VA 22903-4722
LATTA WILLIAMS	James LATTA, shipwright, and his wife Emma Sarah WILLIAMS had at least one son, Robert LATTA, born 11 Sep 1819 in Glasgow Scotland, died Sydney Australia 11 Sep 1874. Robert emigrated to Sydney ca 1844 and was married same year to Emily Sarah WILLIAMS who was born 1827 in Bristol, England. They raised a large family. James presumably remained in Scotland. Any information will be appreciated. —Francis John (Frank) Latta, 16 Einstein St, Winston Hills, Sydney AUSTRALIA 2153, fjlatta@ozemail.com.au
LATTA OLIVER	William LATTA (Branch 24, family 2) was born 13 Aug 1806 in Stark Co OH. I am seeking documentation of the date and place of his birth, and also the date and place of his marriage to his first wife, Deborah OLIVER. —Patricia McDougall, 2010 S Union Ave Apt 326, Tacoma WA 98405-1068
ALFORD LATTA	I have access to a daybook belonging to James ALFORD, who was enumerated with the family of William LATTA (Branch 24, family 2) in the 1850 census of Blanchard Twp, Putnam Co OH. This daybook details prices charged for labor performed by Mr. ALFORD for Mr. LATTA and others in the neighborhood around 1849. I would appreciate information on the descendants of this LATTA family. James ALFORD was my great grandfather. —Richard A. Alford, 71374.2734@compuserve.com
LATTA LATTY WILSON	Can anyone identify the Ann LATTY (LATTA) mentioned in the 1760 Granville District proprietary deed of Robert Wilson for 228 acres of land on the Middle Fork of the Little River in Orange County NC? The deed notes that Robert WILSON's land had been "surveyed for Ann LATTY" in 1757. James LATTY (LATTA) is listed in the deed as a sworn chain carrier for the 1757 survey. How was Ann related to James? Could Ann LATTY have married Robert WILSON? Later records indicate that Robert WILSON's wife was named Ann. —Jeff Reece, 1550 North Parkway #610, Memphis TN 38112-4986
LATTA RUSSELL	I have the Civil War pension file for Alexander LATTA who was married to Mary Jane RUSSELL 12 Apr 1857 in Chicago IL. He enrolled at El Paso IL in June 1861 in Co D, 8th Reg't, MO volunteer infantry. The couple moved to Trenton, Grundy Co MO in 1874, where he died in January 1881. Contact me if you are interested. —Virginia L. Curulla, 9050 Meridian Pl N, Seattle WA 98103-4153, vcurulla@cks.ssd.k12.wa.us

Our Financial Contributors since the last issue

You're the cream in our coffee! Thanks to one and all!

<u>Subscriber</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Postal Address</u>	<u>e-mail Address</u>
Barbara A. Benish	3	1302 Highland Avenue, Helena MT 59601-5241	bbmtcity@wln.com
Emily L. Brock	12	812 Lake Dr, Miami Springs FL 33166-6051	
Jane Latta Brother	22	2025 Prewitt Pike, Mt Sterling KY 40353-9544	brotherj@mis.net
Doris M. Campbell	1	2634 Veteran Hts, Colorado Springs CO 80904-5115	
Ila M. Chastain		2051 Willow Ave, Merced CA 95340-4020	
Cheryl S. Cox	17	6 Woodhill Ave, Salem WV 26426-1238	latteacox@aol.com
Virginia L. Curulla		9050 Meridian Pl No, Seattle WA 98103-4153	vcurulla@cks.ssd.k12.wa.us
Ida Jane Davis		2830 N Richmond St, Wichita KS 67204-4640	BPIDAN@aol.com
David W. DeFrees	1	Address not published at subscriber's request	
Marion L. Fawl	4	PO Box 2002, Weaverville CA 96093-2002	
Betty I. Fowler	43	8254 Riviera Dr, Severn MD 21144-2429	ffowler@postoffice.worldnet.att.n
Liz J. Latta Garver		2300 W Savage, PO Box 3082, Show Low AZ 85901-8505	
Deborah A. Haywood	33	PO Box 158, Piggott AR 72454-0158	
Jack Heuer	43	5713 Rio Vista Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-2853	JDHEUER@aol.com
Diane K. Hollenback	27	1850 S Tanner Ct, Deltona FL 32738-8523	horse@bitstorm.net
Tom W. Kelly	9	149 Chisholm Hills Rd, Weatherford TX 76087-3101	tkelly2@earthlink.net
David W. Kinard	28	3540 Gleneagles Ct, Lithonia GA 30058-7290	gkinard@aol.com
Curtis M. Lantz		PO Box 7678, Bend OR 97708-7678	clantz@transport.com
Alan D. Latta	9	100 Northwood Drive, Willowdale ONT M2M 2K1 CANADA	alatta@epas.utoronto.ca
Beth & Colleen Latta	45	7104 Brixworth Pl, Atlanta GA 30319-4173	buzylizy@aol.com
Billy L. Latta	29	Q-359 CR 15 Rt 4, Napoleon OH 43545-9449	billatta@bright.net
Charles L. Latta	3	1558 Mulberry Ave, Upland CA 91786-2247	
Constance G. Latta		11931 Lambert Ave, El Monte CA 91732-2031	angeluss@aol.com
Constance Marquita Latta	12	102 Shenandoah Rd, Hampton VA 23661-3428	CLatta@aol.com
Daniel W. Latta	7	2330 Bryan St, Kissimmee FL 34741-5961	kissydan@phoenixat.com
Danny R. Latta	9	5904 Wescott Hills Way, Alexandria VA 22315-4740	
David G. Latta MD		499 Monarch Ln, Montecito CA 93108-2689	freya112@ix.netcom.com
Dianna L. Latta	30	2707 Carnation Drive, Richardson TX 75082-4258	76301.3233@compuserve.com
Eugene C. Latta	3	836 Pebble Beach Dr, Upland CA 91784-9130	
Frank J. Latta		16 Einstein St, Winston Hills, Sydney 2153 NSW AUSTRALIA	fjlatta@ozemail.com.au
Geoffrey W. Latta		2432 Pine Street, Philadelphia PA 19103-6417	gwl@orc-ny.com
Gregory A. Latta		306 Willard Ave SE, Warren OH 44483-6238	
Harriet Latta	13	2624 Roseland Dr, Ann Arbor MI 48103-2135	
James S. Latta		PO Box 69, Pinedale WY 82941-0069	jlatta@wyoming.com
Jane S. Latta	15	4805 N Seventh St, Arlington VA 22203-1419	muwzik@erols.com
Kit and Laurie Latta	18	1804 S Vera Crest Dr, Veradale WA 99037-9035	mlatta1996@aol.com
Leroy & Pearl Latta	18	965 E Armstead Street, Azusa CA 91702-4732	
Patricia A. Latta	15	620 Capeside Dr, Wilmington NC 28412-3034	
Perry D. Latta	1	6389 Alp Ct, Dayton OH 45424-3403	HHDON@aol.com
Richard G. Latta	13	2293 Balfour Ct, Kamloops BC V1S 1H5 CANADA	jlatta@cariboo.bc.ca
Robert E. Latta	30	11632 Kosine Lane, Loveland OH 45140-1912	
Stanley R. Latta		PO Box 998, Alamogordo NM 88311-0998	
Wayne H.W. Latta	13	210 Webb Rd, Stouffville ONT L4A 7X4 CANADA	Klatta@aol.com
William A. Latta	44	3320 40th Ave W, Seattle WA 98199-2535	blatta@adcomsys.net
William J. Latta	36	2559 Sundance Ln, Okemos MI 48864-5211	DXDY58A@prodigy.com
Kimberly S. Latta-O'Malley		2604 N Sycamore St, Arlington VA 22207-1041	momalle@gmy.edu

Subscriber	Branch	Postal Address	e-mail Address
Alexander Latto		3 Ochilview, Alva, Clacks FK12 5EU SCOTLAND	
Kathryn M. Matrosovs	16	Box 4, Site 3, RR 1, Priddis AB T0L 1W0 CANADA	
Daine C. Maxwell Jr.	29	4102 Malaer Dr, Cincinnati OH 45241-6626	
Harriet H. McCown	1	401 Fairfax Rd, Florence SC 29501-5605	
Samuel A. McCray J.D.	3	6524 Halberd Ct, Dayton OH 45459-1308	
Patricia McDougall	24	2010 S Union Apt 326, Tacoma WA 98405-1068	
Sharon P. Mountford	4	23684 Schoenborn St, Canoga Park CA 91304-3020	SMount@aol.com
Robert G. Nunn	6	12 Dunbarton Ct, Highlands Ranch CO 80126-3935	Rgnunn@aol.com
Robin L. Olson	15	8841 Faircrest Dr, Las Vegas NV 89134-8575	Mjflatt@aol.com
Audrey L. Parker	6	6212 Baker NE, Albuquerque NM 87109-2742	
Dwayne L. Pretzer		#6 Old Farm Road, Charlottesville VA 22903-4722	
Phyllis E. Riess	4	PO Box 44, Galesburg IL 61402-0044	Riess7@aol.com
Bob Schmidt	9	24 Tenbury Rd, Lutherville MD 21093-6335	beckiamy@erols.com
Joyce M. Schonert	43	PO Box 5572, Lake Station IN 46405-2219	
Vivian A. Setterberg	3	423 Harrison, Burlington IA 52601-6427	
Bernard L. Shackelford		PO Box 99, Hundred WV 26575-0099	bshackle@access.k12.wv.us
Shirley J. Skeers		2659 Minkler Rd, Sedro Woolley WA 98284-9725	
Truett L. Smith		627 Waller St #C, San Francisco CA 94117-3320	truett@crl.com
Ann B. Wade	29	192 Essex Road, Lexington OH 44904-1008	bwade@richnet.net
George W. Wilkerson		419 Achievement Dr, Nashville TN 37209-2830	wilkerbee@aol.com

Financial report

from 1 January through 30 April 1997

PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$438.59
Receipts	
Subscription contributions	\$766.20
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$766.20
Expenditures	
Advertising	\$ 0.00
Postage	\$228.74
Printing	\$216.75
Supplies	\$143.37
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$588.86
BALANCE ON HAND	\$615.93
Estimated cost to publish and mail Issue 5: \$461.85	

Update on Dr. C. J. Latta

Gene Latta of Upland CA wrote to provide additional information about his grandfather, C. J. Latta, Branch 3, family 68, who was featured last issue in an excerpt from a state history book.

Gross Medical College from which Dr. Latta graduated (at the ripe old age of 39!) has become the University of Colorado School of Medicine. His wife, who was an R.N., put him through school. While practicing medicine in Sterling CO, Dr. Latta founded St. Benedict's Hospital, which is now a rest home.

Mrs. Latta's maiden name was originally O'Toole, having been changed to Toole when the family emigrated from Ireland during the potato famine. Gene's uncle was named Eugene O'Toole Latta, S.J., and was actually one of five children, a brother John having died in infancy.

J'ever wonder...

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

When it rains, why sheep don't shrink?

When you choke a smurf, what color does it turn?

Where else
in the world...?



A Latta Civil War saga

Ila Chastain of Merced CA published a book this year on her husband's great-grandfather's parents, William and Susan (Abernathy) LATTY. William and Susan were found in Hamilton County TN in 1850. William took his wife and two small children to McDonald Co MO.

While researching, Ila came across the following record in a document called *Leaves From the Family Tree Edwards*. This passage is taken from the account book of Col. R. M. Edwards.

John Latty, of Capt. Cato West's company in Col. Thompson's regiment of South Carolina, lived in Chester District, S.C., where he enlisted. Was a regular soldier. Was at Sumpter's defeat between the Catawba River and Fishing Creek. The men of his company never gathered together any more after that.

He served under Gen. Morgan at the Battle of Cowpens. He was at "96" under Sumpter. At Cowpens, at King's Mountain, Sumpter's defeat, Hanging Rock and Eutaw Springs under Morgan.

Received a wound in the left hand at Hanging Rock.

Says he is about 92 or 93 years old. Has lost his discharge.

Born and raised in Chester county, South Carolina.

He was married in the county (in Tennessee) in which Winchester is the county seat.

Was at Gramby, at Monk's Corner. Left South Carolina about sixty and came to the Cherokee nation and then was married in Franklin County, Tennessee, about fifty-one years ago and moved to this (Bradley) county in 1839.

Knew Col. Joseph McKinn and Col. Hopkins.

Route—Volunteered in Chester, went to Charlotte, N.C., then to the Waxhaw settlement. Sumpter and Morgan parted. He went with Sumpter to "96." had a fight and then went to Fish Dam fords on Broad River. Staid all night and was met by Morgan there, and went back to "96" when he found all gone from there and they burned the fort and then went back and crossed Broad River at the Fish Dam ford.

Then went to Cowpens and fought Tarleton—in a few days went to King's Mountain. Morgan and Sumpter along. Went thence, as he thinks to Charlotte, and camped some time. Then went to hanging Rock in South Carolina. Morgan and Sumpter along as he thinks and then went to Charleston.

In the meantime, he was at Sumpter's defeat at the junction of Catawba and Fish Creek. Went to within ten miles of Charleston at the time of the surrender of the place and was left there to guard baggage, and was finally discharged at Ten Mile near Charleston.

He knew Capt. John A. Gaston, of South Carolina; Capt. John Land.

Latta geography lesson

Name	State	County
Lattasburg	OH	Wayne
Lattaville	OH	Ross
Latta	OK	Pontotoc
Latta Grove	PA	Huntingdon
Latta	SC	Dillon
Latta	TN	Maury
Latta	ONT	Hastings
Latta Tank	AZ	Cochise
Latta School	IL	Bureau
Latta Lake	IN	Noble
Latta Yard	IN	Greene
Latta Creek	IN	Greene
Latta Landing Strip	KS	Harper
Latta Oil Field	KS	Sumner
Latta Park	NC	Mecklenburg
Latta Tanks	NM	Socorro
Latta Brook	NY	Chemung
Latta Run	OH	Ross
Latta School	OK	Pontotoc
Latta Church	PA	Huntingdon
Latta Run	PA	Fayette
Lattas Cemetery	TX	Jim Wells
Lattas Creek	TX	Jim Wells
Lattas Ranch Trail	WY	Laramie

The signs pictured in this issue are from Latta Brook NY and Latta Ontario.