
The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 50

Summer 2013

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

By: Kimberly Suzann Latta, Ph.D.,
Branch 6, kslatta@gmail.com

Reprinted with the permission of Dr. Latta from
<http://lefthandoffeminism.wordpress.com>.

Copyright 2013 by Dr. Kimberly Suzann Latta.
All rights reserved.

My great-grandfather, Lynn Latta, was born 26 June 1867, the fourth of seven children in a large and settled family near Fulton County, Kentucky. One day he walked away from his brothers and sisters and parents without telling anyone why or where he was going. His niece, Mary Emma Pittman, the daughter of his brother, Thomas Benton Latta, suggested that he went away to avoid a fight with one of his brothers over money. Her mother had once told her that Lynn "got tired of Uncle Guy borrowing his money and never paying back."

"I never did hear my Father speak of him very often," Mary wrote, and I asked my mother one day why. And she said it hurt him so much as he was so good a person, but he didn't like his brother treating him the way he did, as he was a good person who liked to save his money.

So, rather than confront his brother about the debt, and, presumably, shame him in front of his family, Lynn decided to take the shame upon himself and leave. This, at least, is the story given by his niece, Mary, who stayed on the "Old Home Place" that Lynn's parents, Benjamin Franklin and Mattie (Mitchell Morris) Latta, built.

Years later, Lynn's daughter Edith noted, "Dad left his childhood home when in his teens, and how he ever went so far north to find a wife, I'll never guess."

Lynn was not the only peripatetic member of the family. All of his brothers and sisters left Kentucky except for Mary's father, "TB," Thomas Benton Latta, who stayed on at the Old Home Place and then passed it on to Mary.

Courtship and Marriage

No one knows why, when, how, or where Lynn met his Martha Matilda Kennedy, a headstrong, Protestant Canadian of Irish and German heritage. One of my grand aunts, it might have been Ruth, told me that her parents met in Detroit or Chicago, where her mother was working as a milliner, but I have not found any census records to prove it.

We know that Martha, at least, was in Arkansas on January 14, 1899. Twelve days later—and this seems incredible—Martha and Lynn got married 1000 miles away, in Huron, Ontario. A little more than a year after that, the little family had moved to an apartment building at 507 Ninth Street, in Des Moines, Iowa.

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside This Issue

Editorial Page	Page 2
List of Branch Captains	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 3
Robert Wallace Latta and Family	Page 11
Fifeshire Lattas	Page 16
Calling All Branch Captains	Page 17
Our Newsletter Goes to Libraries	Page 17
Research Queries	Page 18
Our Financial Contributors	Page 19
The Red Onion Restaurant	Page 19
Tom Latta of the Red Onion	Page 20
The Red Onion	Page 20
Newsletter By E-Mail	Page 26
2013 Annual Meeting	Page 26
2013 L. G. S. Elections	Page 26

Editorial

Another benefit of membership is to send the editor your Latta family history. I will print it in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. If your computer crashes, or you have any other disaster, your family's Latta heritage will still be preserved. Recently a member contacted the editor, saying that his computer had failed. But since he had sent his information to the Latta Genealogy Newsletter, he was able to restore his family information. The editor can be reached at:

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

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Published approximately thrice annually

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

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

Please send your membership donations to:

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

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

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

Please send family group sheets, pedigrees, and ged-com files to your branch captain.

We're on the World Wide Web! Visit our web site at
<http://www.latta.org>

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

Revised List of Branch Captains

Another goal of our Latta Family is to find a branch captain for every branch of the Latta Family. Unfortunately, we do not have a Captain for every Branch. We could use some more volunteers. If interested, please contact Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17, Coordinator of Branch Captains. The duties of a branch captain were spelled out in issue 27, Fall 2005, page 32. Here is a revised list of our branch captains, with names and addresses.

Branch 1: Ken Mueller, 7400 East Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, DocHuer@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, 1456 Lake St., Elmira NY 14901, 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, LorraineLatta@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 29)

LATTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY**Treasurer's Report****August 31, 2013****TREASURER****Beryl Redfield****4281 Winfield Road****Taylorsville, UT 84123-2344****(801) -550-7360****AUDITOR****Randy Phillips****1456 Lake St.****Elmira NY 14901****(315) 759-9121**

REPORT PERIOD April 30, 2013 – August 31, 2013**Income 04/30/2013 – 8/31/2013 \$628.50**

General Fund Donations: \$578.50

Research Fund: \$40.00

DNA Research: \$10.00

Expenses 01/01/2013 – 4/30/2013 \$531.03

• Latta website fee \$59.80

May, June, July & Aug. @ \$14.95 per month

• Newsletter Issue 49 advance (Ken Mueller) \$400.00

• Newsletter 49 additional expenses (Ken Mueller) \$71.23

COMBINED FUNDS on hand – 8/31/2013 \$6963.58

General Fund Balance \$4977.08

N. Ireland Research Fund Balance \$1876.50

DNA Research \$110.00

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!

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 1)

At some point during this year Martha traveled back to Canada. The official documenting her crossing at Rockport, Ontario, wrote that she and her daughter intended to visit her husband, who was in the country for six months.



Lynn Latta

Perhaps Lynn had found an especially lucrative job up in Ontario. Shortly after he returned he purchases six and a half acres on Indiana Road in Des Moines, built a house on top of a hill and opened the "White House Cafe," a small restaurant on West Fourth Street that catered to passengers heading to and from the Rock Island Railway.

Martha cooked and bore ten more children: Lynn Howard, John, Frederick, Edith May, Elsie, Evelyn, Edward, Albert, and Dorothy. The third child, John, died in infancy. Lynn and Martha owned two horses, Nellie and her son, Ben, cows, and chickens. They farmed hay, vegetables, walnuts, plums, cherries, and berries. They bought an upright piano and hired a teacher to give lessons to the older children.

Lynn's second daughter Edith recalled that her father: "was a very kind, hard-working man. He never had enough sleep that I can remember. He went to his restaurant after doing a lot of jobs around the house in the mornings and early afternoon. He went to the restaurant in plenty of time to prepare the evening meal, keeping the place open late in the evenings and letting his horse bring him home. Old Nellie knew the way, so Dad could sleep. He built our home, little, by little, with the help of a handyman. He was so good to all us kids."

Ed's wife Wilma also observed: "the children all remember their father as a kind, loving man. There is a snapshot of him somewhere with a bunch of kids on a wagonload of hay. So apparently they played with him while he worked at home."

Martha, on the other hand, was not as much fun. Edith recalled that her mother: "was always busy raising children and working in the fields and gardens. She was not demonstrative, but she must have had a good business sense, continuing to keep the household going after Dad left, with no monies except what we older ones who were working could give her. I don't think she ever had time to do what she might have liked to do; she was just too busy doing what was necessary to keep the family going."

In the margins of this typed letter Edith has written by hand, "she did enjoy her flower gardens."

(Continued on Page 5)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 4)

(Editor's Note: In the U.S. Census of the 1st Precinct, Des Moines City, Polk County, Iowa, T625, Roll 509, enumeration district 127, page 17A, visitation 350, family 351, the Lynn Latta family is listed as follows:

Latta, Lynn, Head, male, white, age 52, married, born in Kentucky, parents born in Kentucky, Proprietor, Restaurant.

Martha, Wife, female, white, age 46, married, born in Canada, parents born in Canada, Occupation: none.

Ruth, Daughter, female, white, age 21, single, born in Arkansas, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Canada, Bill Clerk, Steam Railroad.

Lynn, Jr., Son, male, white, age 19, single, born in Iowa, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Canada, occupation: none. The rest of the children also have the same birthplaces and no occupation.

Fred, Son, male, white, age 16, single.

Edith, Daughter, female, white, age 15, single.

Elsie, Daughter, female, white, age 13, single.

Evelyn, Daughter, female, white, age 11, single.

Edward, Son, male, white, age 9, single.

Albert, Son, male, white, age 7, single.

Dorothy, Daughter, female, white, age 5, single.)



Evelyn, Dorothy, and Elsie Latta

(Continued on Page 6)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 5)



Martha Matilde Kennedy, circa 1885

On the other hand, he was difficult. Ed remembered his parents arguing often, which bothered him. His wife Wilma, who told me this, also recalled that Martha's neighbors: "tried to help her when she had problems, asking her why she took him back when she knew it meant trouble. She resented their 'helpful' interference, and told them so. So apparently he left more than once, although Ed doesn't remember.

During the delivery of one child (Elsie, I think), she hemorrhaged so badly that they feared for her life. (All deliveries were at home, of course.) They

sent for the father, but couldn't find him. He had left the restaurant to go to a movie. She never forgave him for that. She probably was afraid of each of the four pregnancies after that, and felt trapped and resentful. He must have been charming, to persuade her to bear more children under these circumstances. My only purpose in telling these details is to help you understand what a hard life she had, and to see why she became a bitter old woman. It also helped me to understand why Ed refused ever to argue with me; he would walk out instead."

Culture and Traditions

Lynn Latta and Martha Matilda Kennedy came from completely different cultural backgrounds. Lynn's Scotch-Irish folk settled in North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky—Protestant middling people who distinguished themselves for their extraordinary fierceness, stubborn pride, and cheerfulness, which neither poverty nor hardship could suppress. These out-spoken, hard-scrabbling folk brought their rich and colorful music, dance, and cultural rituals with them, elaborate weddings, wakes, festivals, and celebrations. The greater freedom they allowed their children fostered independence and self-confidence, but it also caused outsiders to think of them as somewhat wild. The object of their child-rearing practices was not will-breaking, but rather will-enhancing. Great men and women came from this stock—the brilliant orators and statesmen John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and Andrew Jackson.

Martha Kennedy had more than a streak of stubbornness in her, having grown up on the western frontier of what was then known as "Upper Canada." The Six Nations who lived on the land did not surrender it to the crown until 1844, and white people—most of whom were German—did not officially begin to settle in Haldiman County, where Martha was born in 1873, until 1832. Her mother's people were puritanical, staunch, upstanding, orderly, and strict Free Will Baptists, who believed that once a person had renounced his or her faith, that there was no returning to God.

(Continued on Page 7)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 6)



Martha Matilda Kennedy's grandparents, James Burch Nelles and Martha Matilde Nelles, circa 1870. The children are most likely Alexia Matilda and James Joseph Nelles.

Martha Matilda's maternal grandparents were Nelles family cousins who traced their lineage back to Andrew Nelles and the United Empire Loyalists, German mercenaries fought against the Americans during the war of Independence. Passionately devoted to the English Crown, the Nelles family moved north from New York State after the Revolutionary War. Many German loyalists were given free land, as the British Crown wanted to bring in more Protestants, whom they regarded as more tractable than the Catholic French-speaking settlers who had intermixed with the native peoples.

These Germans regarded the women and men who fought for the independence of the United States as radicals and anarchists. In her obituary, Martha's grandmother is remembered for her piety and "splendidly furnished residence," as well as for her "untiring efforts to make home attractive as well as her skill and good taste."

Much less is known about Martha's father, John Kennedy, a Church of England (see the 1881 census) Protestant. He is listed as a general laborer in Huron in the 1881 census, but Evelyn said that her mother grew up on a farm. Perhaps Delilah Nelles married outside her ethnicity to escape their narrowness when she took up with the first Canadian-born Northern Irishman. She certainly doesn't look as dour as her mother.



Martha Matilda Kennedy's mother, Deliah Nelles Kennedy, circa 1900.

And what about Martha Mathilda, this half-Irish, half German girl from London? One of her daughters said she once fell in love with a Catholic but was forbidden to marry him, and that she met Lynn while working in Detroit, Michigan,

(Continued on Page 8)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 7)

as a nurse's aide. One of her other daughters said she had been a milliner. I can imagine the first rush of romance, the affable Southern boy sweeping the beautiful, Irish-eyed Northern maid away with dreams of cooking together in their own business.



Martha Matilde Nelles, circa 1890.

In response to my query, "Did [Lynn and Martha] love one another?" Edith responded:

"That is a good question. I never saw any affection between them; I remember one time when Dad put his arm around Mother standing in a doorway, and she shrugged away." Obviously there was some affection, or at least, a strong physical attraction to one another—they brought ten [sic] children into the world."

These children had a great deal of merry freedom, much more than they might have enjoyed had they grown up in the stern, well-furnished rooms of Germanic Upper Canada.

Edith recounted that her brothers Lynn and Fred "were very good to us, ...making all kinds of play equipment—a merry-go-round out of an old wagon wheel, a trolley slide across the field that sloped, a greased wood slide from the hay mow to the ground. That had to be taken down in short order, because we got grease on our clothes. I remember once daring those who would follow me to jump from the hayloft, turning a somersault before landing on a stack of hay on the ground. I didn't do very well, landing mostly on my neck, so no one followed, and I didn't try again. How crazy can kids get!! We really had fun, though....I really don't believe any child these days can have as much fun as we did, o so many years ago."

Hard Times

When the train service to Des Moines dropped back, business at the White House Cafe began to fail. Lynn had to sell his restaurant and began working as a chef under another man. Edith wrote:

"As I remember, he didn't like his job at that time, we felt that he had been his own boss for so long that it wasn't easy for him to work for someone else. The incident that precipitated the argument with Mother, as told to me, was Dad was coming to Mother, wanting to mortgage the house to get money enough to buy a smaller restaurant in a different location in downtown Des Moines."

According to Edith, Elsie was there during the argument, and Martha Matilda threatened Lynn with a butcher knife. Evelyn discounted this story, but Edith thought it was true. Edith wrote:

"Evelyn told me that Elsie was not there when Mother was confronted with the proposal to mortgage the house. It was Evelyn and Ruth, and there was no butcher knife. Mother had something in her hand, probably a spoon, but Evelyn can't remember what it was. And all Mother said was, "You old fool." Then Dad sat down on a kitchen

(Continued on Page 9)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 8)

chair, probably feeling he was at 'the end of a rope.' How soon he left home after that, she doesn't know, but I imagine it might have been the next day. That's a relief to me, as he would have had time to get his clothes, and all these years I have believed he left with nothing."

Edith had more sympathy for her father than Evelyn, who flatly stated, "he deserted us when I was about nine years old." In a different letter she wrote, "I never could forgive him. Guess I'm stubborn, but mother had so little." She remembered her mother rising early every morning to light the fire, and toiling in gardens, raising vegetables and fruit for food.

Lynn's oldest son, named for his father, also got up before dawn to milk the cows and take care of other chores around the farm to keep it going while he simultaneously put his younger siblings through school paid for his own law education. He started working as a lawyer in the 1920s, and gave his brothers and sisters jobs in his offices.

Shortly after the argument in which Martha did or did not wield a butcher knife at him, Lynn left the family and moved north, looking for other work. Edith wrote that "he never intended to leave the family for good." Edith wondered if he had "wanderlust in his system." I remember Ruth telling me once that after that third baby [John, 1902-lived three months and 20 days] was born and died, [Mother] told Dad that she was not going to travel any more."

At any rate, Lynn left his home after 1920, already in his mid-fifties, intending somehow to come back. Sore feelings, frustration, a short temper, pride, and all the other little factors that lead people who love one another to storm out when they ought to stay, brought him to say goodbye.

The story he tells of the years that followed, of his successive attempts to find work and of

repeated disappointments and increasingly degrading jobs, is a familiar one these days, when people who have borrowed tens of thousands of dollars for college degrees, only to find themselves out of work and passed over in favor of cheaper and younger applicants for jobs that are scarcer and scarcer. In June 1928, on stationary from "Renahan Manor: A High-Class Residential Community" at Round Lake, Illinois, Lynn complained to Edith, who had tracked him town and phoned him:

"I have been here two months and it had to be the only time I went to town, 1 1/2 miles, to get my hair cut, that you called...If only you had given...a number, I would have called at once. And now I want to know how you knew I was in Chicago, and how you found out my address. I suppose some one that I have met then must have told you for I have met several that know me in Des Moines...If only you could know how much it hurt me to think what a mess or failure I have been since I sold my restaurant. But I had been [illeg] with it so long that I had no home, just a place to sleep for a few hours, then go again. Then when I sold out card [?] to trick to stay home nobody wanted me. Then that fall and four [?] attempts to work for others, which [ended?] in disaster on account of my foot, which still hurts me in the night, although a little less each year."

It is hard to know what to make of these lines—was he feeling especially sorry for himself or did he really feel unloved and pushed out? Had he become alienated from his wife because they were both working so hard that they never saw one another? Was he tricked into selling his restaurant? How did that happen? And what about the fall he mentions here, the one from which never obviously never recovered? In those days working people had little or no health insurance. There also was absolutely no safety net, no social security, and no disability assistance, which exacerbated the Great Depression that descended on the country after the crash of '29. These factors certainly contributed to the demise of Lynn Latta, Sr., who

(Continued on Page 10)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 9)

was by all accounts an extremely hard worker and devoted father.

It appears Lynn had traveled away from home before to find work, for his letter continues, in a story that many today would find familiar, with the earnings adjusted.

"Now when I left the last time I had a chance to get a small room for my old time sandwich business and also a job at Florant City, up near Colfant[?], Minn., at \$30 per week on the same day. Having no money left just enough to get to [?]; I had to take it. I did not intend to do as I have done but [meant to] keep silent and save \$300 in 15 weeks and [had] started just trying to find some flour for myself and get in Dubuque 4 weeks in the Spring and find outside work, but my foot hampered me and I came into Chicago, where cooks were in demand. Went to Flint Mich as 2nd cook in a Hotel at \$50 a month, came back, worked in the Mug [?] hospital 3 weeks at \$40 a month, three in a steel plant 18 miles south of the Lake..., 5 months at \$150 and 7 months at \$163; then when good times had passed I lost out for a younger man.

Then I tried business again, but it takes a lot of money to buck the grade in Chicago. So five years ago when I was hoping to let you all know where I was I found myself down and out again, but I never gave up, nor asked anything of anyone. But I found it a lighter burden going until I caught the Light House Lodge the 18th of June with no argument as to wages. When it was over 2 months and 18 days they gave me \$365 and my RR Hay [?] asking me to come the next year, then to get \$14 a month and last year a little less, for I had stopped here a week before I went up there, and that 1 week as 2nd cook got me the chef's job this year, and Mr. Renehan wants me to run a Restaurant (that he owns in Round Lake) next winter after he closes here in Oct. If I come through successfully here and take it I will let you know about it. Then you may tell your mother and the other children, for I would sure love to see Ruth's babies."

Lynn's agonized concern for his reputation and image in his daughter's eyes is palpable in the last lines of the letter, where he instructs her to travel to the Light House Lodge, where she should "show them" his picture and "see what they say about me. You remember I had to get glasses before the War. Well, my eyes got better and now at 61 last June 26, I can read the Chicago Tribune without them, and then ...I finally lost them. And I weigh 137: one pound more than I weighed before and 10 pounds more than I weighed 2 to 5 years ago. Your old broken-hearted Dad."

Unfortunately, things did not turn out as hoped for at Renehan Manor. The Great Depression must have had something to do with that, and his family lost touch with him again.



Lee and Elizabeth Smith Latta, circa 1915.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Tragedy of Lynn and Martha (Kennedy) Latta

(Continued from Page 10)

In January, 1930, Lynn's brother Lee, a well-to-do and pious banker living in Minnesota, wrote to one of his daughters, Ruth or Edith:

"Just keep on trying, dear, to locate him if possible...make an extra effort to find him, and if he is not well, for brother Tom [Thomas Benton] to take him home with him for a rest, as T.B. lives on the Old homestead where your Dad was borne. Then we his brothers and sisters could come, and see him there, if your mother still felt toward him as she now thinks she does. But I believe for the fact that he has a sense of duty toward her dear children, who love both she and he [sic], may enable her to forgive to a degree the past unfortunate mistakes, which we all are subject to as none of us are perfect, but only human. One was perfect that that was that we might be saved from sin.

This discovery of your Dad seems like a dream to your Uncle Lee, for had I almost given up hopes of ever finding him and now that I have positive proof of his being alive a year ago, I shall never be satisfied until we locate him, and we can let him learn from us all that we love him as we have always.

Now you do what you can to trace him as you suggest through his lodger affiliation, and we will see what action your Uncle T.B. takes after receipt of my last letter with Lynn's enclosed. T.B. is well able to go to Chicago, and put forth this effort and care for him, should he succeed in finding him. When we get hold of him then we can plan the future, and if it is God's Will that he should be restored to you children it shall be so. Because he belongs to your, his blood courses through your body temple, and no matter what his shortcomings may be, you must in no way deny him, for his brother the Christ never will, Your loving uncle, Lee"



Thomas Benton Latta and his sons at the Old Home Place in Latta Bottom, near Fulton, Kentucky.

At some point in 1930 or shortly afterwards someone contacted Lynn Latta's oldest son, Lynn Howard Latta (my grandfather), to tell him that his father was in a county hospital in Chicago. My grandfather then packed his mother, his sister Edith, and himself off to Chicago to see him. Martha told her husband that he could return, but later instructed her daughter Elsie to write to him not to come home.

"So, he was lost again," Edith lamented. "He probably died in or around Chicago, but that is only guessing."

Robert Wallace Latta and Extended Family

By: Jeanne Hebert Larson, Branch 3,
jrjlars@aol.com

The following information has been pulled from official census records, Nevada County, California records (with appreciation to the Nevada County, California Genealogical Society), the Latta web site www.Latta.org, and family history.

(Continued on Page 12)

**Robert Wallace Latta
and Extended Family**

(Continued from Page 11)

Generation 1

1. James Latta-1 was born on 03 Dec 1786 in Airsty, County Donegal, Ireland. He died on 29 Sept. 1865 in Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa, U.S.A.

Isabelle Nichols, daughter of Samuel Nichols and Elizabeth Edmonton, was born on 22 April 1790 in Fauquier County, Virginia, U.S.A. She died on 30 Oct. 1853 in Grandview, Louisa County, Iowa, U.S.A.

James Latta and Isabelle Nichols were married on 17 May 1816 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A. They had the following children:

- i. Elizabeth Latta was born on 8 March 1817 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A.
- ii. James Latta was born on 8 June 1821 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A.
- iii. Humphrey A. Latta was born in 1824 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A.
- iv. Reuben C. Latta was born on 27 April 1826 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A. His middle name may have been Chritchitt. He died on 14 Aug. 1860 in Omega, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.
- v. Robert Wallace Latta was born on 24 May 1828 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A. He married Sarah Almeda Darling on 10 Dec. 1858 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died on 5 Nov. 1875 in Washington, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.
- vi. Francis Marion "Frank" Latta was born in 1831 in Iowa, U.S.A.
- vii. Mary M. Latta was born about 1833 in Iowa, U.S.A.
- viii. Samuel Nichols Latta.
- ix. John Briggs Latta.

Generation 2

2. Reuben C. Latta-2 (James-1) was born on 27 April 1826 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A. He died on 14 Aug 1860 in Omega, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

Notes for Reuben C. Latta: Rueben C. Latta died in a mine collapse.

4. Robert Wallace Latta-2 (James-1) was born on 24 May 1828 in Ross County, Ohio, U.S.A. He died on 5 Nov. 1875 in Washington, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

Notes for Robert Wallace Latta: Robert Wallace Latta died near Nevada City in 1875 when hit on the head with a fence post while making an enclosure for cattle.

Sarah Almeda Darling, daughter of Nabby F. Maynard Darling Wing, was born in 1826 in New York, U.S.A. She died on 11 Nov. 1888.

Robert Wallace Latta and Sarah Almeda Darling were married on 10 Dec. 1858 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. They had the following children:

- i. Frank James Latta was born on 12 April 1860 in Napa, Napa County, California, U.S.A. He died about 1861.
- ii. Isabelle Latta was born on 7 Nov. 1863 in Grass Valley, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died on 24 Dec. 1934.
- iii. William Addison Latta was born on 9 Feb. 1866 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He married Harriet Marie Smith on 20 April 1892 in Marysville, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. He died on 25 May 1944 in Yolo, Yolo County, California, U.S.A.
- iv. Lillie Louise Latta was born on 4 April 1867 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She married John O. Houser about 1886 in Stockton North, San Joaquin County, California, U.S.A.. She died on 4 Aug. 1959 in Covina, Los Angeles County, California, U.S.A.

(Continued on Page 13)

**Robert Wallace Latta
and Extended Family**

(Continued from Page 12)

v. Robert Mengo Latta was born on 10 Sept. 1868 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He married Mary Stineman on 8 Feb. 1888 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. He died on 16 July 1911 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

Generation 3

3. Nellie Latta- (Parents unknown) was born on 7 Aug. 1855 in Jackson County, Michigan, U.S.A. She died in May 1925 in Chico, Butte County, California, U.S.A.

Notes for Nellie Latta: Nellie Latta Singley abandoned her children about 1894. Nellie Singley Dunnigan's death certificate lists her father as F. Critchett Latta and mother as unknown born in England. The informant was her daughter, Adalyne Singley Dugan.

Nicholas Samuel Singley was born Nov. 1846 in Utah, the son of Nicholas Singley and Caroline Conrad. He died on 20 May 1938 in Sacramento, Sacramento County, California, U.S.A.

Notes for Nicholas Samuel Singley: He was a teamster delivering supplies to the mines in the Nevada County area. Nellie Singley abandoned her family in Nevada County when her youngest two, Henry and Irene Singley, were 12 and 15. Nick Singley then moved with the children to Yreka, California, where he divorced Nellie and then married Anna Rhodes. She was divorced from her husband, who was jailed for embezzling bank funds. Nick and Anna had ten more children, the last born when he was 72.

Nicholas Samuel Singley and Nellie Latta were married on 17 March 1871 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A., at the home of Robert and Sarah Latta. They had the following children:
i. Lula Maude Singley was born on 22 April 1872 in Eureka, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.

Notes for Lula Maude Singley: Lula Maude Singley was the writer's grandmother. She died 22 April 1957 in Auburn, Placer County, California, U.S.A.
ii. Nicholas Samuel Singley Jr. was born on 19 Oct. 1873 in Bucksport, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A. He died on 20 Oct. 1873 in Bucksport, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.

iii. Nellie May Singley was born 3 Aug. 1875 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died in 1961 in Baker City, Baker County, Oregon, U.S.A.

iv. Pauline Belle Singley was born 24 Nov. 1876 in Forest Springs, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

v. Lillie Louise Singley was born 17 June 1878 in Forest Springs, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died by drowning on 29 March 1880 at Forest Springs, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

vi. Emma Adalyne Singley was born 4 June 1880 in Boston Ravine, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died 17 Dec. 1932 in Sonora, Tuolumne County, California, U.S.A.

vii. George N. Singley was born 24 March 1882 in Forest Springs, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died 9 Sept. 1882 in Forest Springs, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

viii. Henry Irwin Singley was born 15 Aug. 1884 in Grass Valley, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died 11 July 1952 in Tuolumne County, California, U.S.A.

ix. Alice Irene Singley was born 7 Aug. 1886 in Grass Valley, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died 14 Dec. 1986 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, U.S.A.

Charles Elmer Dunnigan was born about 1863 in Illinois.

Charles Elmer Dunnigan and Nellie Latta were married in 1905. They had no children. Before her second marriage to Elmer Dunnigan, Nellie was using the surnames Cricket or Chritchit. There is no record of Nellie having remarried after Nicholas Singley divorced her for abandoning her family, until Nellie's 1905 marriage to Elmer Dunnigan. Research on this issue is ongoing.

(Continued on Page 14)

**Robert Wallace Latta
and Extended Family**

(Continued from Page 13)

5. Isabelle Latta-3 (Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 7 Nov. 1863 in Grass Valley, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died on 24 Dec. 1934.

Chauncy Howard Litchfield was born in Oct. 1856 in Lathrop, San Joaquin County, California, U.S.A. He died on 24 Dec. 1915 in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California, U.S.A.

Chauncy Howard Litchfield and Isabelle Latta married. They had the following children:

- i. Percy H. Litchfield was born in 1885.
- ii. Asa L. Litchfield was born in 1887.
- iii. Bilworth B. Litchfield was born in 1888.
- iv. D. S. Litchfield was born in 1889.
- v. Albert A. Litchfield was born in 1893.
- vi. Vivian I. Litchfield was born in 1895.
- vii. Ralph C. Litchfield was born in 1897.
- viii. Emma B. Litchfield was born in 1899.

6. William Addison Latta-3 (Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 9 Feb. 1866 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died on 25 May 1944 in Yolo, Yolo County, California, U.S.A.

Harriet Marie Smith was born on 27 Feb. 1870 in Yuba County, California, U.S.A. She died in 1906.

William Addison Latta and Harriet Marie Smith were married on 20 April 1892 in Marysville, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. They had the following children:

- i. Olin Ralph Latta was born on 2 March 1892. He married Elsie F. Dedore Donaldson on 12 Dec. 1917 in Sacramento, California, U.S.A. He died on 24 July 1931.
- ii. Estelle Beatrice Latta was born on 11 Nov. 1894. She married Phillips Frisbie Lewis on 9 May

1925 in Sacramento, California, U.S.A. She died on 28 Feb. 1980 in Alameda County, California, U.S.A.

iii. Harriet Elma Latta was born on 21 April 1896. She died on 18 July 1979 in Contra Costa County, California, U.S.A.

iv. Barbara Latta was born on 2 March 1900. She died about 1905.

v. Gertrude Maude Latta was born on 11 March 1901.

Nellie G. Smith was born on 24 March 1872 in Yuba County, California, U.S.A. She died on 13 Aug. 1940 in Sacramento, California, U.S.A.

William Addison Latta and Nellie G. Smith were married about 1915. They had no children.

7. Lillie Louise Latta-3 (Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 4 April 1867 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died on 4 Aug. 1959 in Covina, Los Angeles County, California, U.S.A.

John O. Houser was born on 11 Nov. 1858 in Illinois, U.S.A. He died on 14 Feb. 1946.

John O. Houser and Lillie Louise Latta were married about 1886 in Stockton North, San Joaquin County, California, U.S.A. They had the following children:

- i. Ethel Houser was born on 24 July 1887. She died in Rowland, Los Angeles County, California, U.S.A.
- ii. Mabel Houser was born in 1890.
- iii. Harold R. Houser was born on 4 April 1896.
- iv. Lillian Houser was born on 30 Dec. 1901.

8. Robert Mengo Latta-3 (Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 10 Sept. 1868 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died on 16 July 1911 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

(Continued on Page 15)

**Robert Wallace Latta
and Extended Family**

(Continued from Page 14)

Notes for Robert Mengo Latta: Robert Mengo Latta died early July 16, 1911 of pneumonia. Widow Mary applied to receive State Aid for the three youngest children, Chester, age 6, Belle, age 8, Edna, age 11 (Kenneth, age 13, was not eligible) "until children grow old enough to help mother." Benefits were \$12 per month.

Mary Stineman was born in Feb. 1875 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. She died on 30 Sept. 1970 in Grass Valley, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

Robert Mengo Latta and Mary Stineman were married on 8 Feb. 1888 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. They had the following children:

i. Esther Latta was born on 29 Jan. 1889 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. She died on 14 Oct. 1946.

ii. Wallace Robert Latta was born on 2 June 1891 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. He died on 9 May 1972 in Aptos, Santa Cruz County, California, U.S.A.

iii. Oscar Ellsworth Latta was born on 7 Jan. 1893 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. He died on 28 May 1903 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

Notes for Oscar Ellsworth Latta: Oscar Ellsworth Latta died of appendicitis.

iv. Marie Anita Latta was born on 4 Dec. 1894 in Wheatland, Yuba County, California, U.S.A. She died on 30 July 1898 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

v. Kenneth J. Latta was born on 2 Aug. 1897 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died in Jan. 1964 in Downieville, Sierra County,

California, U.S.A.

vi. Edna Latta was born on 1 Dec. 1899 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died on 10 Jan. 1974 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

vii. Belle Latta was born on 2 May 1903 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. She died on 30 March 1997 in Grass Valley, Nevada County, California, U.S.A.

viii. Chester S. Latta was born on 15 July 1905 in Nevada City, Nevada County, California, U.S.A. He died on 27 May 1998 in Felton, Santa Cruz County, California, U.S.A.

Generation 4

9. Estelle Beatrice Latta-4 (William Addison-3, Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 11 Nov. 1894. She died on 28 Feb 1980 in Alameda County, California, U.S.A.

Phillips Frisbie Lewis was born on 25 Aug. 1892 in Oakland, Alameda County, California, U.S.A. He died on 24 Feb 1930.

Phillips Frisbie Lewis and Estelle Beatrice Latta were married on 9 May 1925 in Sacramento, California, U.S.A. They had the following children:

i. Phillips F. Lewis was born on 19 Dec. 1927. He died in California, U.S.A.

ii. Mary Beatrice Lewis was born on 21 April 1929.

10. Harriet Elma Latta-4 (William Addison-3, Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 21 April 1896. She died on 18 July 1979 in Contra Costa County, California, U.S.A.

Joe Finis Hackett was born on 2 April 1898. He died in Jan. 1972 in Mendocino County, California, U.S.A.

Joe Finis Hackett and Harriet Elma Latta married. They had the following children:

(Continued on Page 16)

Robert Wallace Latta and Extended Family

(Continued from Page 15)

i. Carol Hackett was born in 1928.

9. Gertrude Maude Latta-4 (William Addison-3, Robert Wallace-2, James-1) was born on 11 March 1901.

George Jessup was born on 11 July 1906. He died on 7 April 1990 in Hemet, Riverside County, California, U.S.A..

George Jessup and Gertrude Maude Latta married. They had the following children:

- i. Dorothy Jessup was born in 1926.
- ii. Elsie Jessup was born in 1932 in Woodland, Yolo County, California, U.S.A.

Fifeshire Lattas

By: Geoffrey Latta, Secretary Historian,
gw1820@hotmail.com

Over half of the surviving birth and marriage records for Lattas in Scotland prior to 1750, come from the single county of Fifeshire, located in eastern Scotland slightly north of Edinburgh.

The Latta records prior to 1750 relate to 32 parishes out of a total of 61 Fifeshire parishes that have surviving pre-1750 records. Thus the name was quite broadly found in Fife, whereas in western Scotland it was more concentrated in a smaller number of parishes (see article in Issue 48 of the Newsletter).

The spelling of the name varied considerably – Lata, Latae, Lataw, Latay, Latey, Lato, Latoe, Latow, Latta, Lattay, Latto, Lattou, Lattow, Latty and Laty are all found.

Of the vital record entries, four parishes each had over 10% of the total entries – Leuchars (13.4%), Kilconquhar (12.4%); Kettle (11.8%) and Largo (10.8%). Thus these four alone account for half of the Fife births and marriages. At the other

end of the spectrum, 12 of the parishes account for only one entry each. Indeed if 6 additional parishes (Collessie, Cupar, Dairsie, Dalgety, Logie and Wemyss) are added to the four above, this group of 10 would account for a hefty 77.4% of all entries.

So where are these 10 parishes? Kilconquhar and Largo are a couple of miles apart in the south of Fifeshire near Largo Bay. Wemyss is about 8 miles to the east of Largo. Collessie, Cupar, Dairsie and Leuchars are essentially in a line about 12 miles across in central northern Fife. Kettle is a few miles south of Collessie and Logie a few miles east of Leuchars. Dalgety is substantially apart from all the other parishes being in the western part of Fife near Dunfermline, which is the second largest city in Fifeshire as well as being the de facto capital of Scotland until the 15th century.

Partly because of its location in eastern Scotland, there is evidence that few Fifers were involved in the plantation of Ulster. Thus the Fifeshire link in the Latta family of Scotland to northern Ireland and then on to the US is very limited. In addition, the spelling of the name which in western Scotland by 1800 had become Latta often became Latto in Fifeshire. If one looks at entries for births and marriages in Fifeshire between 1800-1850, the majority are under the name Latto although Latta still represents a significant minority (nearly 45%). The relative lack of emigration to the United States is also apparent. Among the Latta branches that can trace back to Scotland, only one (Branch 23) can trace back to Fifeshire even though it was the home to so many Latta/Latto families.

It is interesting to contrast the names of Fife Lattas prior to 1750 with those from western Scotland. Of the pre-1750 male Latta births in Ayrshire, Renfrew and Dunbarton (western Scotland), there were 16 John, 12 James, 9 William, 6 Robert, 2 Matthew and one Thomas. In Fifeshire, the names showed a much richer variety – 15 names appear as opposed to only six and the top two names (also John and James) account for only 31% of the total instead of 61% in western Scotland.

(Continued on Page 17)

Fifeshire Lattas

(Continued from Page 16)

While I would be hesitant to draw conclusions from this sharp distinction, it should be seen in the light of Scottish naming conventions which served to perpetuate certain names in families. A tentative conclusion might be that the name had been much more entrenched in Fifeshire across a wider population than in western Scotland.

Among female births, a similar pattern emerges. In western Scotland prior to 1750, there were 9 Jean, 8 Janet, 6 Agnes, 6 Mary, 2 Margaret, 3 Ann, 1 Lillias, 1 Catharine and 1 Elizabeth. In Fifeshire, 16 names were used (as opposed to 9) and the top two (Margaret and Janet) accounted for only 29% of the names as opposed to the top two in western Scotland which provided 46% of the total. As with Lattas from western Scotland, Fifeshire family members began to move to the two major cities of Scotland (Glasgow and Edinburgh) in increasing numbers in the 19th century. For instance, David Latta born in St Andrews, Fife in 1795 married in Glasgow in 1820; James Latta born in Burntisland, Fife in 1833 married in Edinburgh in 1863; Thomas Latta born in Dairsie, Fife in 1801 married in Edinburgh in 1829. However, unlike those from western Scotland, they also moved in significant numbers to the industrializing city of Dundee, north of Fifeshire and to Aberdeen. Typical cases were Andrew Patton Latta born in 1783 in Cameron, Fife who was married and died in Aberdeen and Robert Latta born in 1835 in Forgan, Fife who was married in Dundee in 1856.

Reprints of Issues 1-49 of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter are available at a price of \$4.00 each. Please contact the editor, Ken Mueller, at DocHuer@aol.com, or by mail at 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314.

List of Branch Captains

(Continued from Page 2)

Branch 28: Carol Rini, 208 Alden St., Troy MO 63379, carril37@gmail.com.

Branch 29: Bill Latta, Q359 Co. Rd. 15, Napoleon, OH 43545, billatta@embarqmail.com.

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

Branch 43: Ray Garlick Jr., P. O. Box 227, Coppell, Texas 75019, dfwrgk@hotmail.com.

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

Branch 49: Stanley R. Latta, P.O. Box 998, Alamo-gordo, NM 88311, stanlatta@q.com.

Branch 51: Ken Erdle, 7890 Wexford Ct., Bloomington IN 47408, sasquatsh1@gmail.com.

Calling All Branch Captains

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

A number of Branch Captains have not been heard from for some time. Please contact me or another Officer of our Latta Genealogy Society to let us know how you are doing, what research you are involved with, what fellow branch members have been doing, etc. Some branch captains have been active, whereas some are so very silent.

Preservation of Your Latta History

To preserve your Latta family history for generations to come, we send the Latta Genealogy Newsletter to a number of major libraries, including the Newberry Library in Chicago, the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, the Library of Congress, the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, etc.

Research Queries, Replies and Notes. Send your queries to the editor, Ken Mueller, 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, DocHuer@aol.com.

1. I am looking for John James **Latta** b 2 Feb 1823 Jackson Cty Ga d 25 Feb 1913 in Lamar Cty Texas. He just seems to have appeared with out ancestors! Can anyone help. Linda **Carr**, benlindac@cox.net.

2. Marilyn H. **Terwey** (19). I have been a member for ever and have never seen anything on Branch 19!

3. Marilyn, please send me a copy of your **Latta** Branch 19 information. I will be glad to print it in the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. Ken **Mueller**, editor, DocHuer@aol.com.

4. Patricia **Rowe** (28). I have David **Latta's** Stubbs and Indents from the Revolutionary War which I got from the S.C. State Archives. I would love to get him on the DAR rolls but lack one connection. I wish our Branch Captain could help to coordinate all our information on this Branch.

5. Recently I received this e-mail from Mrs. Jean **Sullivan**. Larry was a member of Latta Branch 1, a distant cousin of my wife Karen, sent me pictures and information on my wife's family, and had written several very fine articles for the Latta Genealogy Newsletter. We will miss him.

Lawrence T. Sullivan

Glasgow, Kentucky. Lawrence **Sullivan**, born December 17, 1932, in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, the son of James and Leila (**Latta**) **Sullivan** died at his home on September 10.

Larry was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War and a graduate of Michigan State University. He had a long journalism career including positions at the Bluffton News-Banner (IN), Ann Arbor News (MI), Newsday (NY), and The Washington Post. In 1993, following 21 years as an editor at The Detroit News, he and his wife left Michigan and retired to Glasgow, Kentucky.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by a son, Frederick, former wife Joy **Damrow**, brothers Richard, Donald, and Keith Edward, and sisters Bettie **Gordon** and Laurie **Parenti**.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Jean **Kirsch**, sons Sean and James (June), daughter Maureen **Brennan** (William), granddaughters Katie, Jaz, Eli, and Cathlin, and great grandsons Brennan and Myles, and one sister, Ann **Thatcher**.

No services are planned at this time. Memorial contributions may be made to BRAWA, Barren River Animal Welfare Association, 175 Trojan Trail, Glasgow KY 42141.

6. In the U.S. Census taken 22 June 1870 in Nevada, Nevada Township and County, California, M593, Roll 75, Dwelling 527, Family 496, Page 291, the R. W. **Latta** family is listed as follows:

R. W. **Latta**, male, white, age 42, born in Ohio, Stage Proprietor.

Sarah A. **Latta**, female, white, age 38, born in New York, Keeping House.

Nellie E. **Latta**, female, white, age 15, born in Michigan, At Home.

Bell M. **Latta**, female, white, age 7, born in California, At Home.

Willie **Latta**, male, white, age 4, born in California, At Home.

Lillie L. **Latta**, female, white, age 3, born in California, At Home.

Menzo **Latta**, male, white, age 2, born in California, At Home.

Nabbie F. **Wing**, female, white, age 64, born in New York, Boarding.

As shown on Page 12 in this Newsletter, Robert Wallace **Latta** and Sarah **Darling** were married in 1858. If Nellie **Latta** is their daughter, then she would have been born before the marriage, which is possible.

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.

29 John M. Latta, P. O. Box 470069, Fort Worth TX 76147.

19 Marilyn H. Terwey, 4309 Wembley Ct., Richardson TX 75070.

1 Perry D. Latta, 2920 Old Troy Pike, Apt. 100, Dayton OH 45404.

50 Nicholas Charles, 666 First Street, Woodland CA 95695-4057.

4. Harriet W. Sacks, Unpublished.

9 James P. Latta, Unpublished.

15 Hallie Rinek, 4939 NW 79th Rd., Gainesville FL 32653-5121.

6 Jeanne H. Larson, 3457 E. Redlands Ave., Fresno CA 93726.

28 Patricia B. Rowe, 1248 Castlegate Dr., Gastonia NC 28054-5795.

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

3 Cheryl M. Larsen, 113 Fort Wayne, Universal City TX 78148.

29 Arnold A. Van Horn, 18075 Laughman Rd., Lore City OH 43755-9737.

Linda A. Carr, 229 Yacht Club Dr. NE, Fort Walton Beach FL 32548-6421.

Harriet M. Latta, C/O Huron Woods, 5361 McAuley Dr., P.O. Box 995, Ann Arbor MI 48106-0995.

5 Margaret J. Hundertmark, W 7489 Honold Rd., Fond Du Lac WI 54937-8648.

33 John P. Latta, 9374 Timber Trail, Pittsburgh PA 15237.

7 Robert Parati, P.O. Box 456, Ashfield MA 01330.

1 Bonnie Henry, Unpublished.

39 Wayne H. W. Latta, 210 Webb Road, Stouffville Ontario, Canada AL4A 7X4.

13 Karen L. Petersen, 12736 N. Shamrock St., Hayden ID 83835.

1, 30 Wilma Chambers, 3006 S. Crysler Ave., Independence MO 64052-3237.

3 Alan Leroy Latta, P.O. Box 21158, Cheyenne WY 82003-7023.

22 Jane Latta Brother, 2025 Prewitt Pike, Mount Sterling KY 40353-9544.

22 Robert M. Hawkins, 520 Audubon Place Ct., Manchester MO 63021.

Family Search International Library, Acquisitions, 50 East North Temple, Room 545, Salt Lake City UT 84150-0005.

The Red Onion Restaurant in 1959

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

My sister, Margorie Jane Latta MacLean (1925-2011), picked up this menu from the Red Onion in Aspen, Colorado while on her 1959 skiing honeymoon trip with her husband, Robert MacLean. She must have been intrigued by Tom Latta's role in the Red Onion. Some of you met Margery at the two Latta Annual Reunions held here in Bellevue, Washington. She lived many years in the house next door to Lattawood Park, named after our parents, Charles Webster Latta and Sophie Henderson Latta. Her picture is below.

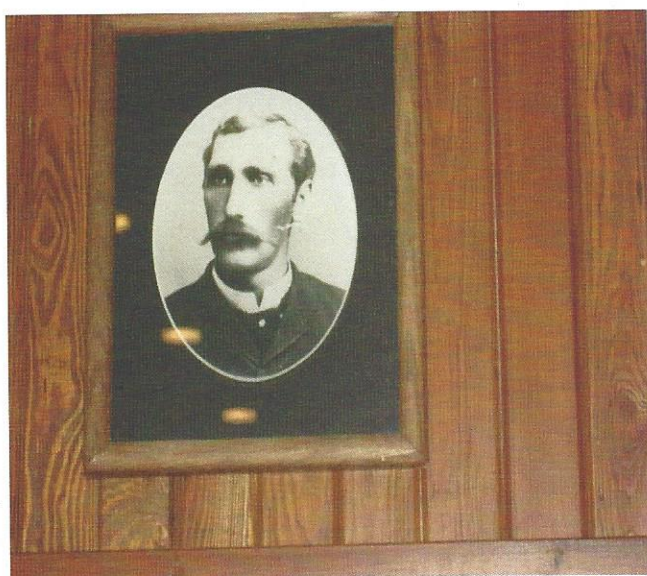
The menus from 1959 are on pages 21 and 22.



Tom Latta of the Red Onion

By: Gary Pokaradi, pokerman@sympatico.ca.

The builder of the Red Onion was Thomas Latta. Thomas Latta, 49, occupation saloonkeeper, his wife Laura, 40, and a stepdaughter Grace, 16, are enumerated in the 1900 Federal Census of Pitkin County, Colorado, at 313 East Hopkins Street, Aspen. Thomas was born in Pennsylvania and his parents in Scotland. Laura was born in England, as were her parents, and Grace was born in Kansas. See Branch 23 for more on his family.



Tom Latta of the Red Onion.
Photo from Wikipedia.

The Red Onion

From Wikipedia.org

The Red Onion is a restaurant located on East Cooper Avenue in Aspen, Colorado, United States. It is the oldest restaurant in the city,[2] housed in a three-story red brick Italianate building dating to the late 19th century. In 1987 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "New Brick-The Brick Saloon", along with other historic properties in the city.[1]

It began as a saloon opened by an early city alderman; at one point its upper floors were reportedly home to a brothel. In its early years it was one of three dining establishments in Aspen. It retains much of its original interior, including a bullet hole in the bar.[3] As the city became a popular ski resort, it hosted musical performances by, among others, Billie Holiday and John Denver. It continued operating under various owners for 115 years until closing for structural renovations for three years in the late 2000s.

The Red Onion is located on the north side of East Cooper, midway between South Galena and South Mill streets. That block of the street is a pedestrian mall, with brick walkways on either side and mature trees on either side of a small tributary of the Roaring Fork River. Tables are often located in front of the restaurant in warmer months.

Around the building, the surrounding neighborhood consists primarily of a mix of historic and modern commercial buildings, most one or two stories high. Rubey Park is to the west, a large open area between South Mill and South Monarch streets. The Wheeler Opera House, an Aspen landmark also listed on the Register, is around the corner at South Mill and East Hyman. A block to the southeast is the base station and gondola of the Aspen Mountain ski area.

The building itself is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story brick structure topped with a roof sloping gently to the north. Its south (front) facade has a three-section glass storefront with wooden dividers. The main entrance is at the east. Above each section is a rectangular transom, eight panes in the larger western section and four in the other two. It is topped with a wood dentilled and modillioned cornice.[4]

Three round-arched windows mark the second story. Their lower sections have one-over-one double-hung sash windows and black wooden sills. Projecting bricks form another modillioned cornice which serves as a springline for the arches, and goes around them.[4]

(Continued on Page 23)

OUR DAILY SKIER'S SPECIAL 1.50

CHICKEN IN THE BASKET, French Fried Potatoes, Salad and Coffee	1.85
SPAGHETTI WITH RICH MEAT SAUCE, Salad and Coffee	1.75

APPETIZERS AND SOUP

Toast of Domestic (Ketovi) Caviar	75	Soup du Jour	25
Westphalian Smoked Ham	85	Clear Turtle Soup	60
Fresh Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail	80	French Onion Soup	35
Smoked Salmon in Oil	65	Chilled Vichyssoise	40
Herring Tidbits in Sour Cream or Wine ...	50	Tomato Juice	25

ENTREES

Includes: Baked Potato with Sour Cream or Butter, Vegetable,
Salad and Beverage

ONE-HALF JUICY HICKORY-SMOKED CHICKEN	2.50
HAM STEAK WITH PINEAPPLE RING	2.50
TWO THICK PORK CHOPS, Fresh Apple Sauce	2.25
VEAL STEAK, Parmesan	1.80
FRESH GROUND SIRLOIN STEAK	1.85
STEAK SANDWICH, Mushroom Sauce	2.00
BREADED VEAL CUTLET, Holstein	2.25
BAKED AUSTRALIAN LOBSTER TAIL, Lemon Butter	3.50
SIX BREADED JUMBO SHRIMPS, Hot Sauce	2.50
RAINBOW TROUT (Boned), Tartare Sauce	2.75

FROM OUR CHARCOAL BROILER

Includes: Baked Potato with Sour Cream or Butter, or French
Fried Potatoes, Salad and Beverage

OUR SPECIAL CLUB STEAK with Mushroom Sauce	2.85
MINUTE SIRLOIN STEAK, Onion Rings or Mushrooms and Vegetable	2.75
SIRLOIN STEAK, New York Cut, Maitre d'Hotel	4.00
T-BONE STEAK, Over one Pound	3.90
FILLET MIGNON, Chasseur	4.25
SHORT CUT SIRLOIN STEAK, Onion Rings	3.50
TWO CHOICE THICK SPRING LAMB CHOPS, Mint Jelly	3.50

Garlic Bread
Per Order 50

French Fried Onion Rings
Per Order 75

DESSERTS

Ice Cream or Sherbet 30 — 1/2 order 20	
Sundaes: Fresh Strawberry or Swiss Chocolate 40—1/2 order 25	
Parfaits: Mint, Kirschwasser, Swiss Chocolate and Strawberry 50	
Peach Melba 50	Pear Helene 50
Pie 25—with Ice Cream 30	
Roquefort Cheese 40	Camembert 40
Merinque Glacee 60	Swiss Gruyere 35
	Baba au Rhum 50

A PETER PAN MENU

COCKTAIL SUGGESTIONS

Bristol Cream Sherry	85	Martini	75
Gibson	75	Daiquiri	75
Manhattan	75	Sandemanns Sherry	70
Dry Sherry (Domestic)	60	Old Fashion	75
Port Sandemanns	60	Whiskey Sour	65

FROM OUR SPECIALLY SELECTED WINE CELLAR**BORDEAUX RED**

Chateau Pontet Canet, Full	5.60
Chateau Pontet Canet, half	2.80
St. Emilion, Full	4.25
Grand Vin De Medoc, full	4.00
Grand Vin de Medoc, Half	2.00
St. Julien, full	4.00
St. Julien, half	2.00

BORDEAUX WHITE

Barsac, full	4.50
Barsac, half	2.50
Graves Extra Fine Dry, full	3.00
Graves Extra Fine Dry, half	2.00
Sauterne, full	3.00
Sauterne, half	2.00

BURGUNDY RED

Pommard, very finest quality, full	8.50
Pommard, very finest quality, half	4.50
Macon, full	4.00
Macon, half	2.20
Beaujolais, full	4.00
Beaujolais, half	2.20
Gervey Chambertin, full	4.25

BURGUNDY WHITE

Chablis Premier	
Cru La Fourchaume, full	5.25
Chablis Premier	
Cru La Fourchaume, half	2.20
Pouilly Fuisse, full	4.30
Pouilly Fuisse, half	2.40

RHONE RED

Chateauneuf-Du-Pape	
A La Bernardine, full	5.00

ITALIAN RED

Barbera, full	4.20
Chianti Mirafiore, full	2.75
Chianti Mirafiore, half	1.75
Bardolino	3.50
Valpolicella	3.50

ROSE

Cruse Rose Premier Cru, full	4.75
Cruse Rose Premier Cru, half	2.85
Lancers Crackling Wine, full	6.50
Lancers Crackling Wine, half	3.25
Tavel, full	5.00
Tavel, half	2.75
Vaselli	3.50

SPARKLING BURGUNDY

Santa Lucia	5.50
Taylor's	6.00
Cruse Sparkling, full	6.50
Cruse Sparkling, half	3.75

RHINE WINES WHITE

Liebfraumilch Guilden Krone, full	4.50
Liebfraumilch Guilden Krone, half	2.40
Niersteiner Domtal, full	4.25
Johannisberger, full	4.75
Johannisberger, half	2.50
Kreuznacher, Steinberger Spaetlese, full	5.20
Schloss Bockelheimer, full	5.25

MOSELLE WHITE

Piesporter Gold Troepfchen, full	5.50
Mosell Bluemchen	5.00
Laubenheimer, full	5.50
Rudesheimer, full	5.75
Zeltinger, full	.40
Zeltinger, half	2.70
Bernkasteler, full	4.75
Bernkasteler, half	2.50

SWISS WHITE

Neuchatel Premier Cru	
De St. Blaise, full	4.00
Neuchatel Premier Cru	
De St. Blaise, half	2.25
Fendent De Sion	4.75

ALSATIAN WHITE

Sylvaner	4.75
----------	------

AMERICAN RED

Inglenook Pinot, full	2.50
Inglenook Pinot, half	1.50
B. V. Burgundy, full	2.00

AMERICAN WHITE

Inglenook Pinot, full	2.50
Inglenook Pinot, half	1.50
I. V. C. Riesling, full	2.20

IMPORTED CHAMPAGNE

Moet & Chandon	14.00
Veuve Cliquot	13.00
Piper Heidsieck	12.00
G. H. Mumm	12.50
Pol Roger	12.00
Gordon Rouge	13.50

DOMESTIC CHAMPAGNE

New York State Taylor	5.50
Cooks Imperial Brut, full	7.00
Cooks Imperial Brut, half	3.25
Cooks Imperial Brut, split	2.00
Chateau Lafayette, full	6.25

YOUR AFTER DINNER CORDIALS

Cognac	80	Cherry Heering	90
Stinger	80	Alexander	1.00
Kirschwasser	75	Grasshopper	1.00
Benedictine	75	Frozen Daiquiri	1.00
B & B	80	Pink Lady	1.00
Grand Marnier	90	Galliano	1.00
Armagnac	90		

The Red Onion

(Continued from Page 20)

At the roofline is another modillioned and dentilled cornice with ornate brackets supporting a broad overhanging eave. In the center is a small pediment with scroll brackets on the side.[5] "1892" in gold lettering is in the entablature, surrounded by more decorations, and "T. LATTA", for the original owner, is below. Finials with spherical tops are on either end.

The side and rear facades are largely unfenestrated. Along the east side, "RED ONION" is written in golden vertical letters. The interior has its original pressed tin ceiling, bar and backbar, and clay tile floor. The latter is similar to that found at another Register-listed Aspen landmark, the Hotel Jerome at Main and Mill.[6] It is believed that the two small Hungarian gypsy figurines over the bar, which still has the bullet hole left from an accidental discharge by a city policeman in 1899,[3] are original as well.[7] In the basement is the entrance to a tunnel that once led to a nearby bank building.[3]

History

First settled in 1879, Aspen grew rapidly during the Colorado Silver Boom of the 1880s; by 1890, it had reached a population of around 10,000. Two years after that, alderman Tom Latta built the unnamed brick structure on East Cooper Avenue and opened a saloon (and possibly a brothel on the upper floors). At that time it was a standalone building, with vacant lots on either side.[8]

It quickly became popular. The early clientele were miners and other local men interested in then-popular sports such as bicycling, boxing and wrestling. It was one of only three places to buy a meal in the city. Known at first as just "the brick saloon" or "the new brick saloon", it was soon referred to as "the red onion", a contemporary colloquialism meaning something rare and unique, similar to what "white elephant" means today.[8] Patrons were served Monongahela rye and Crab Orchard whiskey to accompany their billiards matches.[9]

After the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in response to the Panic of 1893, Aspen's prosperity rapidly faded. Many of its residents left town, and buildings from the boom era fell vacant. Many eventually succumbed to fire and neglect. The Red Onion remained open through a period now referred to as the city's "quiet years". In 1918 it was purchased by Tim Kelleher, who kept it open through Prohibition by serving sandwiches.[9]

Interest in Aspen as the site of a recreational Alpine skiing area began in the late 1930s but was put on hold during World War II. After the conflict, one veteran of the Army's Tenth Mountain Division, which had done some of its early training in the area, returned to Aspen and bought the building from Kelleher in 1946. By the next year it was the only building standing on Cooper Street.[4] During those years, Ernest Schwiebert recalled later, "Aspen was still pretty much a ghost town ... [and] the saloon was clearly the social fulcrum of the town." [10]

The veteran, Tom Litchfield, made the Red Onion the building's formal name and remodeled it. It became a popular place in the growing resort's après-ski scene, and hosted musical performances as well. Billie Holiday gave a notable performance at the bar in the years after this.[7]

A new owner, Werner Kuester, built on this during the 1960s. He added a gourmet restaurant and performance space in a building next door. Many more musicians played the Red Onion during this time, as Aspen became a favored getaway of many Hollywood celebrities. John Denver, who would make Aspen his home and later wrote several songs about the area, was one performer.[7]

In the late 1970s East Cooper Avenue was closed to vehicles and converted into a pedestrian mall. Several different restaurants occupied the space in the early 1980s, including for a time an outlet of the Red Robin hamburger chain.[7] (Kuster sold the Onion in 1979 and currently lives in retirement in Tucson, AZ.) In the 1990s, its front space was converted to retail use, and an awning stood in front of its entrance.[9]

(Continued on Page 24)

The Red Onion

(Continued from Page 23)

After several extensions, the building's owners terminated the restaurant's lease in 2006, and it closed early in the following year.[7] At that time the Red Onion had been serving food and drink for 115 years continuously, making it the oldest such establishment in Aspen. Efforts to reopen it began soon afterwards.

Scott DeGraff, another local restaurateur, assumed the lease and began renovating the interior of the closed building. That work stopped in late 2008, and the following year the lease was terminated as financial difficulties, including liens and lawsuits against DeGraff over unpaid debts, and the slow economy.[11] Other operators were interested, and eventually Jennifer Colosi and her brother Thomas, formerly chef/owner of the Blue Maize, another Aspen restaurant, signed a 15-year lease and finished the renovations, which Jennifer Colosi called "The Red Onion on steroids." [3] It reopened in 2010.[12]

Jennifer Colosi said they had no plans to change the name or use of the building. "Why would we take 100 years of branding and change it?" The menu is a largely Southwestern fare of meat dishes and sandwiches for lunch and dinner, with closing scheduled for 1 a.m. nightly. Breakfast, including dishes the Red Onion had traditionally served such as steak and eggs and chicken and waffles, is available at any time. Thomas Colosi added some of his more successful dishes from the Blue Maize, such as jalapeño poppers, steak diablo and rib eye and lobster rellenos.[12] Late that year the Colosis resumed the Red Onion's musical traditions with a weekly open mike night built around scheduled performances by local musicians.[13]

References

1. "National Register Information System". National Register of Historic Places. National Park Service. 2009-03-13.

2. "Aspen's Summer Season Brings New Restaurants, Art Galleries & Shops" (Press release). Aspen Chamber of Commerce. June 10, 2010. Retrieved May 5, 2011.

3. Cooney, Tim (Midsummer 2010). "The New Old Red Onion". Aspen Sojourner. Retrieved May 5, 2011.

4. Norgren, Barbara (July 13, 1986). "National Register of Historic Places, New Brick—The Brick Saloon". U.S. National Park Service. Retrieved March 4, 2013.

5. Pitkin County". Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Retrieved March 10, 2011.

6. Norgren, Barbara (July 31, 1986). "Historic Resources of Aspen Multiple Resource Area". History Colorado. p. 8. Retrieved May 3, 2011.

7. Havlen, Naomi (November 28, 2006). "Last call for the Red Onion". The Aspen Times. Retrieved May 4, 2011.

8. "About us". The Red Onion. Retrieved May 4, 2011.

9. "#28 The Red Onion". Heritage Aspen. Retrieved May 4, 2011.

10. Schwiebert, Ernest (2007). *Nymphs Volume II: Stoneflies, Caddisflies, and Other Important Insects, Including the Lesser Mayflies*. Augusta, GA: Globe Pequot Press. p. 474. ISBN 978-1-59921-098-8.

11. Lutz, Catherine (July 15, 2009). "Red Onion operator's lease terminated". Aspen Daily News. Retrieved May 5, 2011.

12. Sackariason, Caroline (February 12, 2010). "Brother-sister duo to reopen Aspen's Red Onion". Aspen Times. Retrieved May 5, 2011.

13. "Trenton Allan and the opening acts, at Aspen's Red Onion". Aspen Times. November 21, 2010. Retrieved May 5, 2010.

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike License; additional terms may apply. Wikipedia ® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.



The Red Onion, Aspen, Colorado. Picture from Wikipedia.

Newsletter by E-Mail

By: Ken Mueller, Editor.

If any member wishes to receive our Latta Genealogy Newsletter by e-mail, rather than U. S. Mail, please contact me at DocHuer@aol.com. This would save our Society postage and conserve resources.

2013 Annual Meeting of the Latta Genealogy Society

By: Ken Mueller, President.

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Latta Genealogy Society will be held on Tuesday, 29 October 2013 in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Please RSVP by contacting Mrs. Sue Cox, Vice President of Research, by telephone at 304-695-3460, or by e-mail at suelatteacox@yahoo.com.

2013 Elections of Officers of the Latta Genealogy Society

By: Ken Mueller, DocHuer@aol.com

Office of Treasurer

The current Treasurer, Beryl Redfield, has decided to retire and not run for reelection. The Board of Officers has nominated for the Office of Treasurer Randall Phillips, parting_glass65@yahoo.com. Randall is the incumbent Vice President of Communications. He will be resigning that office to run for Treasurer. The term of office is for two years. As Vice President, Randy monitored E-Bay for Latta items, shepherded our Facebook page, and contributed several articles about his finds. He found and sent to the editor for publication the

Jennie Latta composition, which was never printed publicly until our newsletter's Issue 42, page 6. He also connected the editor with a rare find of Latta postcards, which were printed in Issue 39, page 25. Randy is currently working on article for our newsletter on his Latta Family Branch 4 and their involvement in the War of 1812.

Office of President

The current President, Kenneth Mueller, DocHuer@aol.com, with the support of the Board of Officers, has decided to run for reelection. The term of office is for two years.

I have been the editor of the Latta Genealogy Newsletter since 2002, Issue 16. Since our Society's incorporation I have served as your President. My goal is continue our mission of preserving the genealogical, cultural and historical legacy of the Latta Family. I have answered many e-mails and letters from researchers looking for their Latta heritage. I prepare and distribute your Newsletter three times a year. I work with my fellow Latta Society officers on research projects, encourage our branch captains, and coordinate our Society's activities. I enjoy the challenge and look forward to serving you, our Latta members, for another two years.

How to Vote in the Latta Genealogy Society Election

With every member's newsletter there is a ballot and stamped envelope enclosed. Every current member is eligible to vote. Simply mark your ballot, sign it, and mail it by 1 Nov. 2013 to Mrs. Beryl Redfield, 4281 Winfield Road, Taylorsville, Utah 84123-2344. She will count the ballots and announce in the next newsletter the names of the winning candidates.

Attention Authors:

You may use this page to type in a family story about your Latta ancestors.

Mail your contribution to Ken Mueller, Editor, Latta Genealogy Newsletter,
7400 East Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, or e-mail Doc Huer@aol.com.