

# The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 69

Fall 2019

## Selected War Memories of James W. Latta, Jr., 1918-2009

By William James Latta, [wjlatta65@gmail.com](mailto:wjlatta65@gmail.com)

It seems more than coincidental and perhaps altogether fitting that I would start writing this piece about my uncle on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019. For some time I've wanted to write down a few of the stories he told me about his experiences as a soldier during World War II. As I am older now, I find myself reflecting more on the importance of memories and all that they remind of us of: who we are, those who came before us and all they contributed to the richness of what we have now. And so, chronicling some of his life and writing down these stories will hopefully honor and memorialize the memory of my uncle, James W. Latta Jr. (1918 -2009). He was a proud member of what the author Tom Brokaw appropriately characterized as: "The Greatest Generation." Like many at that time, he was an ordinary American who was called upon by his country to perform extraordinary deeds and did so willingly, humbly, and with a certain fear and courage that most of us will never know. And after almost 5 years in the Army, 3 ½ of which were overseas, he returned home quietly to a nation weary from war and an extremely relieved family. He was seeking only to reacquire what many of us take for granted each day: a safe and secure place to sleep, the reassuring warmth of family and friends, a good job and the hope for a better day.

Named after his father, he was a member of Branch 36 of the Latta family, and the fourth of six children raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan by James W. Latta (1880-1958) and Lulu Pearl (Hickman) Latta (1883-1965). His mother was originally from Jackson, Michigan. Prior to her marriage she modeled and sold fashionable women's hats, working in millinery, as it was known at the time. His father James was originally from Evart, Michigan. Like his father before him (William Latta, 1856-1937) he worked in the lumbering business supporting the furniture industry that defined the early 20<sup>th</sup> century economy of Grand Rapids. He was a lumber inspector and estimator that could walk into a forest, determine the type of trees that grew there and then calculate the board feet they would yield for wood manufacturing. Though I don't have documentation, I recall being told that he worked for a furniture company known as Berkey and Gay in Grand Rapids.

The fourth of six children, James Jr. had three brothers and two sisters: Phillip Dean Latta (1906-1989), MaryAlice Latta-Gallup (1911- 1976), William Hickman Latta (1914-1999), Betty Anne Latta-Bond (1921-2001), and Morton Brasse Latta (1929-1973). And while I know he was close to all of them, he told me on many occasions that he and my dad, William H. Latta, were especially close. Though they were four years apart, as youngsters he told me how they would often compete in sports whether it was playing ball, running track or most anything young boys did at that time. He always told me that he "looked up" to my dad and I suspect that my father always "looked out" for his younger brother as many older brothers do with younger siblings. Uncle James told the story that during the depression, to help the family with money, he and my dad would go house-to-house and offer to clean out the ash hopper from coal burning furnaces. I can't imagine how filthy and difficult it must have been and I don't remember the meager sum they earned but I believe they were diligent and worked hard. He told the story that at one house, in order to gain access to the ash hopper, they had to disassemble various parts of the furnace. They carefully took the disassembled parts and neatly laid them out, in order, on the lawn outside the basement. Much to his alarm, when the owner discovered his furnace in pieces he grew from being flustered to becoming irate with my

(Continued on Page 4)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 2

Fall 2019

## Editorial

With this issue we welcome a new auditor and branch 7 captain, Stan Latta. He is taking over as Auditor, as his father, Everett Michael Latta, is retiring. Our thanks and gratitude to Mike Latta for all of the help that he has given our Latta family.

That brings me to an important point: who will run our Latta Society when Randy Phillips, Sue Cox, Geoffrey Latta and I retire? We need a next generation. If you know someone who wants to be involved, drop me a line. And please share our Newsletter with your family. Finally, I will be glad to e-mail the Newsletter to your relative to get them interested.

## 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:

**Randall Phillips, Treasurer, 41 S. Morrell Ave., Geneva NY 14456 (315) 759-9121**

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>.

Also see us on Facebook at:

[www.Facebook.com/Latta Genealogy Society](http://www.Facebook.com/LattaGenealogySociety).

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

## Table of Contents

**Page 1: James W. Latta, Jr.**

**Page 2: List of Branch Captains**

**Page 3: Treasurer's Report**

**Page 23: George Madison Latta**

**Page 25: 2019 Annual Meeting**

**Page 26: E-mail Addresses Needed**

**Page 26: Our Financial Contributors**

**Page 27: Reprints Available**

**Page 28: DNA and the Paper Trail**

**Page 30: Research Queries**

## 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:

Branch1: Ken Mueller, 7400 East Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, DocHuer@aol.com.

Branch 3: Alan L. Latta, 3615 Monroe Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001-1949, allatta@aol.com.

Branch 4: Randy Phillips, 41 S. Morrell Ave., Geneva NY 14456, parting\_glass65@yahoo.com.

Branch 5: Margaret J. Hundertmark, W7489 Honold Rd., Fond du Lac WI 54935, mjc-mark@c-mark.us.

Branch 7: Stan Latta, 115 Cimmarron Ct., Cary NC 27511, stanlatta@usa.com.

Branch 9: Linda K. Latta Smith, 16300 Cambridge Ct., Bowie MD 20715, lklattasmith@aol.com.

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

Branch 11: Brian Wagnon, 24535 E. Cobbs Corner Rd., Tahlequah OK 74464, neopopmail@gmail.com.

Branch 12: Belinda J. Peterson, Mentone Girl's Secondary College, P. O. Box 52, Mentone, Victoria, Australia 3194, Peterson.belinda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

(Continued on Page 32)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 3

Fall 2019

Latta Genealogy Society  
Treasurer's Report  
February 15, 2020

AUDITOR: Stan Latta, 115 Cimmaron Ct., Cary NC 27511 stanlatta@usa.com.  
TREASURER: Randy Phillips, 41 S. Morrell Ave., Geneva NY 14456 (315) 759-9121  
parting\_glass65@yahoo.com.

Report Period: October 14, 2019 through February 15, 2020.

Beginning balance: \$10,224.86

**Income:**

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| General Fund donations:  | \$534.04 |
| Research Fund Donations: | \$40.00  |
| Pay Pal Donations:       | \$62.51  |

Total Income: \$636.55

**Expenses:**

|                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Hostway website fees                      | \$59.80  |
| Newsletter Issue 68 expense (Ken Mueller) | \$20.24  |
| Newsletter 69 Advance (Ken Mueller)       | \$400.00 |
| Annual Meeting Expenses:                  | \$632.70 |
| Historical Society of Lewiston Donation:  | \$50.00  |
| DNA Project Volunteer Reimbursements:     | \$471.88 |
| Washington State Corporation Renewal:     | \$10.00  |

Total Expenses: \$1,644.62

Ending balance as of Feb. 15, 2020: \$9,216.79

**Included in ending balance:**

Funds allocated for research: \$1,270.50

Funds allocated for DNA: \$4,018.70

The Latta Genealogy Society is a tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) (7) of the Internal Revenue Code. As a 501 (c) (7) organization, donations are not tax deductible.

**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 Your Treasurer: Randall Phillips, 41 S. Morrell Ave., Geneva NY 14456, parting\_glass65@yahoo.com.** Thank you for your generous support!

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# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 4

Fall 2019

## James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 1)

Uncle who was near the parts at the time. When his older brother came out of the basement and saw what was happening, as my uncle describes the story, he took on a rather menacing pose (my dad was always big for his age and athletic) and said something to the effect that if the owner laid a hand on his brother or touched any of the pieces that were carefully arranged, he would: “knock his head off!” I somehow recall that the furnace was eventually returned to its proper functioning form and the two boys were paid for their work, but I doubt they were given a tip or ever invited back!

My uncle told me that he was an average student but he especially loved art in high school (Central High) and ran track. I have found some of his track ribbons and he was clearly more than an average runner! Following high school Uncle James began to look for fulltime work. The Latta family, though not poor was certainly not rich and with six children lived very modestly; a college education was not a family expectation but perhaps more to the point, it wasn't affordable. Though James studied commercial art for two years after high school, he eventually found his way into the “movie theater” business. Joining B&J Theaters Inc. of Grand Rapids, he started with parking cars and worked his way inside the theater learning the various jobs from ticketing to concessions and gained the requisite experience for each. At 22 years he positioned himself to begin preparation for a job that would allow him to select and book various movie releases. This job would be the capstone position to one day owning and running his own theater. The opportunity came late in the year; it was 1940.

In September 1940 the Selective Training and Service Act was passed instituting the first peacetime draft in US history. By this time, Hitler had invaded Poland and the Luftwaffe was regularly bombing London; officials in Washington knew that the threat of a second world war could not be easily dismissed. The act required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. At that time, the term of enlistment was one year. And though I am not certain of his exact reasons, in January 1941 Uncle James enlisted in the Army. I suspect his thinking (perhaps with the understanding of the theater owners), was to complete his one-year of service just prior to the start of his final training period in the theater business. In this way, his education wouldn't be interrupted by the draft. Following a year of service, he could return permanently to the theater and complete his training. Uncle James began his boot camp at Fort Custer in late January 1941. That prior August, Fort Custer was designated as the new permanent home of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division also known as the Red Diamond Division. By November he completed his initial training at the fort and Private First Class James W. Latta Jr. was now part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Records document that the division went on maneuvers in the late spring to Tennessee and then to Louisiana in the summer. I have found pictures taken by my uncle during the unit's time in Tennessee. What I find striking in the black and white photos is the sense of camaraderie among the men as well as the austerity of camp life; shaving out of a helmet and using a jeep's side mirror, eating “chow” out of tin plates while seated on a patch of grass, helping one another string wire and learning to set-up a field switch station, playing cards on a towel laid on the ground near tents, working out of a “field office” which amounted to a makeshift table and chair under a tree, grabbing a cold beer from the PX tent, or taking a bath “au naturel” in the river at Cumberland Springs. It's also noticeable that when in full uniform and gear, the supplies were clearly “left overs” from the First World War: spats, pot helmets, old rifles, and the list goes on. Here was an army of young energetic men who, though now trained and perhaps willing, were ill-equipped at that time to face the machinery of war that was simultaneously building in Europe.

As the months of 1941 began to come to an end, my Uncle tells the story that he was preparing to complete his one-year of service and was looking forward to returning to Grand Rapids by January 1942. He was working on his discharge papers needed to muster out early one December morning. He had left the papers (almost completed) neatly on his bunk. His turn came to join the next group for a shower before the assignments of the day began. While in the shower, he told me that there was a sudden commotion in the main bunkroom and what

(Continued on Page 5)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 5

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 4)



Pvt. 1st Class James W. Latta on leave with sister

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 6

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 5)



James Latta in field uniform: 1941

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 7

Fall 2019

## James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 6)

sounded like gasps of disbelief rose. At this point, one of his friends came running to the shower room and shouted to my uncle that he “could throw away his papers, neither he nor the other men were going anywhere!” It was Sunday morning, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and news was just coming in that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor, it was the day that would “live in Infamy.” By 4:10 the next afternoon the United States declared war on Japan and within 36 hours, also declared the same on Germany.

In February of 1942, Private First Class James W. Latta was “transferred in grade with special rating” to Headquarters and MP Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Brigadier General Courtland Parker Commanding. And on April 1<sup>st</sup> he became Specialist 3<sup>rd</sup> Class beginning duties in the file section. While the records don’t indicate the range of duties he assumed, it is known that he eventually took on the responsibilities of a personnel officer as part of the as part of the division headquarters staff. Also, in April of that year, the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division began heading for New York to board ships for Iceland. Records indicate that by May of 1942, the entire 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was stationed there but the families at home had no idea where the men were sent.

Arriving in Iceland, Uncle James described the climate as hostile at worst and unfriendly at best with an even less welcoming terrain. He referred to the island as frozen rock that smelled like fish most of the time with endless hours of darkness in the winter months (over 20 hours in December) and by June the opposite with over 20 hours of daylight! It seems almost an understatement to say that the Division’s biological clocks and sleep patterns were probably thrown out of whack!

Occupied initially by the British and then the United States, Iceland’s strategic value was its placement in the North Atlantic almost equidistant between Greenland and Norway and northwest of Great Britain. While there the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division built roads, an air base, expanded docks, constructed fuel depots and training facilities, attended winter warfare school, and posted countless hours of coast observation and guard duty. My uncle explained that from here planes and allied ships could be refueled and more easily patrol the North Atlantic, hunt U-boats, and protect the British Isles from German troops. With one exception, he told me that there wasn’t any direct contact with the enemy. The one exception occurred one night when a German bomber approached the island but was spotted by defense installations and shot down. There only survivor was the pilot, who, when eventually brought ashore, was marched by an area where a number of men had assembled to “see the German pilot” on his way to a holding cell. My uncle told me that what struck him about the incident was the way in which the pilot seemed to strut down the street and displayed what amounted to a sense of defiant arrogance looking up in the air away from his captors as if to say, “I am definitely better than you!”

By this time and just about 900 miles to the east, Germany occupied Norway, had ships in the North Atlantic, and aircraft that could reach the island. Among my uncles papers is an 8 ½” X 14” mimeographed news summary on the current status of the war. The summary carried information from as far away as the war in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific, to “German raiders over Britain during the night,” to bombing missions by the British Royal Air Force of industrial targets in Italy and railway lines in Northern France. It also spoke of the war in Egypt:

“...Incidentally both the Italian and German high command admitted today that the British offensive in Egypt was underway. Both the Rome and Berlin communiqués spoke of the British attack as powerful and described the fighting along the Alamein line as bitter.” (Camp Knox Radio Press News 26 October 1942)

(Continued on Page 8)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 8

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 7)



5<sup>th</sup> Signal Company Training to set up a "Field Station"

The intensity of the war was definitely growing. Also, in October of that year Uncle James rank was changed to Tech 3rd Grade with the notation "AG Sec" which I believe meant the adjutant general section. Additionally, he was also attached to the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Within 15 months my uncle explained that the Division moved to England and then Ireland where they began training for the invasion of France. Records show that indeed by August 1943, the 5<sup>th</sup> was sent to Tidworth Barracks, England and two months later to Northern Ireland. However, just prior to this and while still in Iceland, among my uncle's paper is an interesting memorandum labeled, "Restricted HQ US Army Forces" and dated, "23 July 1943." Under the heading, "Somewhere in Iceland," was written:

(Continued on Page 9)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 9

Fall 2019

## James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 8)

“Authority has been received from the War department for individuals to disclose in their private correspondence their location as “Somewhere in Iceland.”

A series of conditions for using this privilege followed. In the margin of the memo is a handwritten note from my uncle, “...*this permission was received less than one month before we left August 5, 1943 - for a year I could not officially state I was in Iceland.*” Reading this I can’t imagine the uncertainty and anxious feelings that my grandparents and the entire family must have had about James’s safety. Since leaving Ft. Custer and US soil they must have received letters from him saying that he was “alright and in training,” but, they never really knew where he was or how close or far away from actual danger. Their only consolation must have been the realization that so many families shared this same, dreadful feeling.

By this time, the command had changed to Major General Stafford Leroy Irwin. My uncle told me that he and the men liked the man and said he was fair, thoughtful, and disciplined. Not meaning any disrespect and I believe said with some amount of affection, my uncle always referred to him as “Red” and said the other men did the same (perhaps he had red hair). While in England, my uncle told me the training became more serious and there was an unspoken mood or knowing sense among the men that the war was much closer now. And while I suspect that a certain element of fear may have crept in, Uncle James said that he and the men concentrated harder on their training, focused their attention on assisting the British with shoreline defense, and tried to bank as much sleep as possible!

The stay in England was brief and by October the division was moved to Northern Ireland and set up camp near the Mourne Mountains. The training once again intensified and tension among the men grew higher. They



James W. Latta, Jr., taken in Trafalgar Square, London, England 1943

(Continued on Page 10)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 10

Fall 2019

## James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 9)

now knew they were preparing for an invasion of Europe and their next major move, when it came, would be to a battleground. Uncle James said that their training efforts were focused on improving rifle and small arms skills on the range, operating larger artillery, learning the types of both allied and enemy vehicles and equipment they would encounter, attacking fortified positions, mounting river crossings and of course, physical conditioning. Uncle James said that during this time, very high performance expectations and standards were set for the men. Interestingly, again among his papers is a memo dated, "10<sup>th</sup> February 1944" and labeled, "Restricted Headquarters Special Troops 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division." The memo announced the award of the Good Conduct Medal to 126 men, James W. Latta Jr., now a "Tec 3" among them.

The Fifth Infantry Division was still in Ireland when D-Day occurred on June 6, 1944. My uncle remembered that the men listened intently and read any news source they could to learn what was happening. Their turn would not come until July. Records kept by my uncle indicate the on July 2<sup>nd</sup> they were "sealed off" from the surrounding towns and villages and restricted to camp. Within days and in the rain, they headed for Belfast where they boarded "transports." Records show that the Division moved south through the Irish Sea joining a larger convoy and moved to the English Channel and then proceeded across toward France. From this point on, my uncle didn't talk much about the journey except that he fortunately never suffered from seasickness as many of the men did. And although unspoken, I can only imagine that the mood must have been very somber and quiet. As the ships approached the shore, he told me that much like the men on June 6, his unit climbed down rope ladders, boarded a landing craft and moved closer into Utah Sugar Red Beach. Unlike many in the Division who landed directly on the beach or on a steel ramp that extended into the ocean, on July 9<sup>th</sup> his transport stopped short and they jumped into waist high water and waded in. Efforts were already well underway to clean up the beach after the initial assault 33 days prior. My uncle described the beach as littered with burned out trucks, jeeps, tanks and smaller items such as helmets, parts of rifles, backpacks, other gear, and uniform pieces, a significant amount of which was unrecognizable. He said the obstructions placed by the German Army were still visible, wooden beams and tripod-crossed pieces of metal rails. He told me that in wet boots and other gear, he marched about 20 miles inland where his unit met up with others in the Division. The Division had just been assigned to First Army and the V Corps. Records also corroborated my uncle's memory that the 5<sup>th</sup> assembled in the area of Montebourg, France, and in fact the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, my uncle's unit, hiked 20 miles inland from Utah Beach.

After landing in Normandy and with the exception of just a few stories, not unlike most men who returned from war, as I was growing up, my uncle did not talk very much about what he had seen or experienced. It was only in his later years, and when he came to live near us so that we could provide care and support, that he began to talk more about it. I remember asking him about his interest in seeing the movie, Saving Private Ryan. I told him that my dad and I watched it because dad, who was 84 years at the time, wanted to better understand what his brother "went through." My uncle's reply was very straightforward and he simply said, "No, he hadn't seen it, he lived it and that was enough."

As an aside to this story, my father, William H. Latta (1914-1999) worked for Ford Motor Company during the war. He was never drafted and my uncle told me it was because he was "more important to the war effort at home." Surprisingly, as I look back, I never asked my dad why he hadn't been drafted. I believe it was because from my earliest memories, I somehow understood that dad had been involved with helping Ford in Detroit, Michigan convert automotive plants to war production.

(Continued on Page 11)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 11

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 10)

While this narrative is primarily about my uncle's experiences during the war, for perspective, it's important that the Division's movements be briefly chronicled to give context and to gain an understanding of the breadth and extent of the territory they covered between July 1944 and August 1945. Historical records, other write-ups specifically for the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, my uncle's papers and pictures he took show that the 5<sup>th</sup> moved through France, into Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and eventually Austria and Czechoslovakia. It's remarkable to realize that between early July when they landed in Normandy and early December of 1944 (just about 150 days) the Division moved approximately 700 miles through France. Initial enemy engagements included the area around St. Lo and Caumont. The 5<sup>th</sup> did not fight directly in the town of St. Lo, but the surrounding area as they passed southeast and fought as they moved toward Vidouville, becoming involved in a major engagement at this location. And at this point I must relate a story of how my understanding of the war would no longer simply be something I "knew" about, but a very real and deep emotional response, realizing the gravity of the war.

In the fall of 2007, Uncle James, now 88 years, wheelchair bound and residing in an assisted living center, expressed an interest in watching the now famous Ken Burns documentary, The War. Covering both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, the series views WWII from selected US communities, the perspective of everyday Americans on the home front and soldiers in the field, not from the pulpits of politicians or generals. My uncle was particularly interested in watching the series and we agreed to do so together. It was the evening of September 26, 2007, Wednesday, and the series had just covered the June 1944 invasion of France. Some time was spent on describing the difficulty that the allies encountered moving inland both due to the unexpected terrain (hedgerows) but also, how German armored units had dug in around the towns of Sainte Mere Eglise and St. Lo effectively stopping the allied advance. It was now mid-July 1944 and by this time the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division had landed and was also trying to move east into France. And although Uncle James held administrative duties with the headquarters staff, it's important to note that he was also a trained infantryman and spent his share of time in combat. Back to the TV series we were watching, the narrator was now describing film footage showing US soldiers near the town of St. Lo. Troops were moving around farm buildings and taking cover, as the sound of bullets was clearly audible. At that same moment my uncle suddenly sat up very straight in his wheelchair and pointed at the TV and in an excited and exasperated voice said: "I remember that building, I was there, that's where I was!" Simultaneously he strained to look carefully at the TV as though he was trying to identify someone – perhaps see himself.

He told me that the Germans had pinned them down at that location and they couldn't move. I asked him what happened so that they could eventually advance? He told me that a "thousand planes" were brought in to bomb the Germans and create an opening. And here was the moment of shock, my uncle no sooner put a period on his sentence when the TV narrator said: "and the Allies call in hundreds of planes to bomb a lane for the Allies to move through." Coincidental? Perhaps – but, at that very moment I began to feel a sudden shock and realization that my uncle really was there. It's not that I ever doubted him (because I didn't), I had seen his pictures, discharge papers, other mementos he had collected from those years. But, until that moment, seeing him recognize the buildings and accurately recount what was happening, they were just things and stories I "knew." It was just a sense of knowledge without emotion, as one might objectively know a fact. However, at that moment they became something more, something very real and it was as though a switch had been thrown releasing a flood of emotion that brought my uncle's experiences to life, something I hadn't experienced until that instant.

By early August 1944 the Division was assigned to XXth Corps of the Third Army commanded by the legendary and colorful General George S. Patton. They moved on to battles at Angers, then northeast to Chartres and on to Fontainebleau and Montereau just south of Paris. Following the battle of Chartres, a little known fact is that the commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, General Irwin, knew that his commander, General Patton held a certain interest in luxury cars. It so happened that one such vehicle had been "acquired" from Nazi officials following the battle of Chartres. A

(Continued on Page 12)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 12

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 11)



AG Section France 1944: James W. Latta, Jr., in top row with pipe.

(Continued on Page 13)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 13

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 12)



Near St. Lo, France, 1944

black Cadillac had come to the attention of General Irwin and he in turn asked my uncle and another soldier to deliver the vehicle to General Patton. Prior to the delivery, General Irwin dictated a letter to my uncle who typed the following (and kept a copy!):

Headquarters 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
APO #5, U.S. Army  
20 August 1944

Lt Gen George S. Patton, Jr.

HQ Third U.S. Army

APO #403, U.S. Army

Dear General Patton:

It has come to our attention unofficially that you desire an automobile for your official use. We are sending you a Cadillac which was captured south of Chartres, France, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Major Birdsong commanding. Colonel Yuill, the Regimental commander, turned the car over to me to be sent to you, and I take pleasure in delivering it to you, hoping that it will be what you want.

The Division is in the highest of spirits from its recent successes, and it is a Division, which is closest to Paris. I wish you would let us take the city.

Sincerely, S. Leroy Irwin, Major General Commanding

The letter never mentions the color of the car but my uncle clearly recalls it being a “gleaming black.” It’s also noteworthy and interesting that Gen. Irwin uses the opportunity to request permission to “take

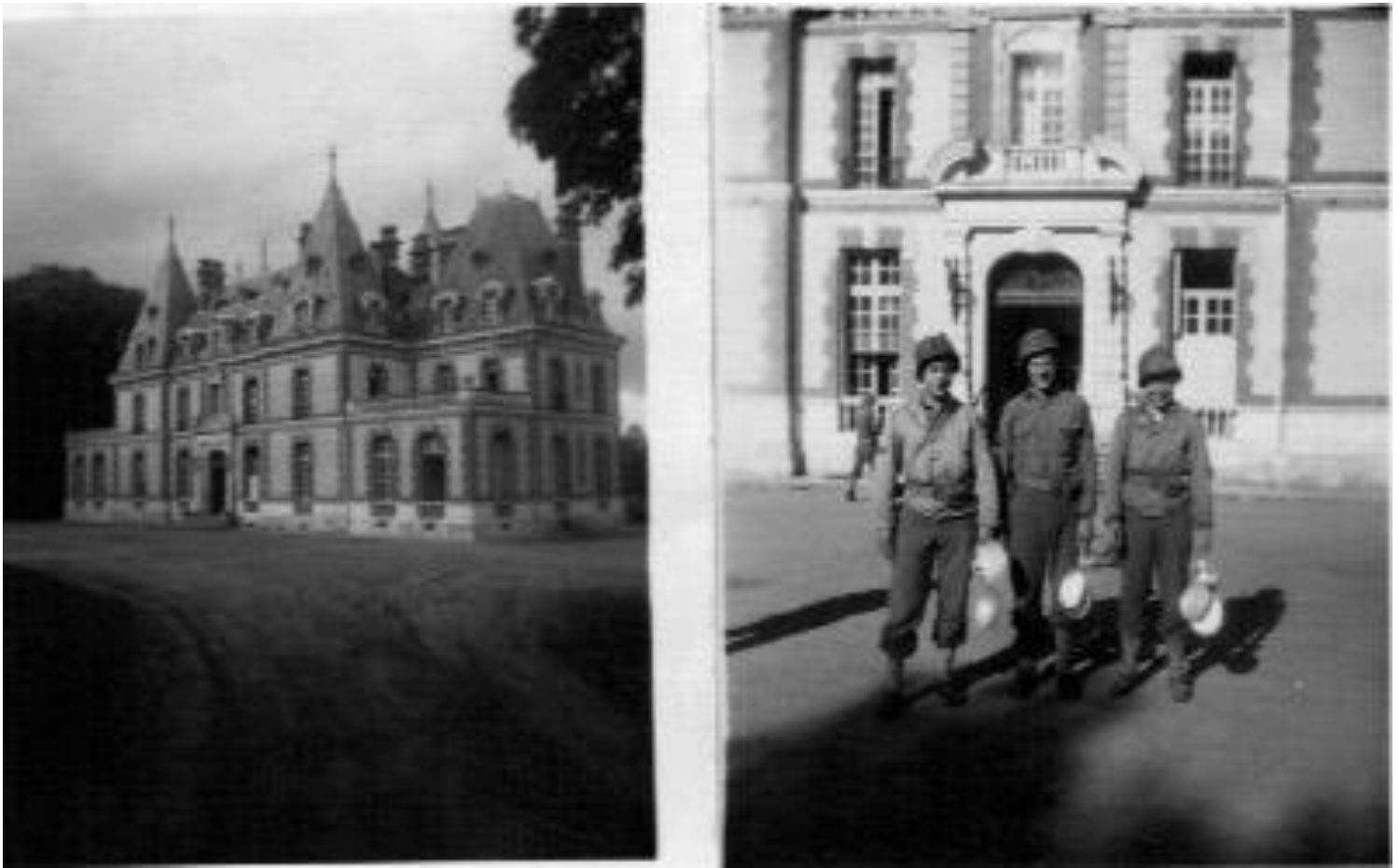
(Continued on Page 14)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 14

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 13)



Just outside of Chartre, France. 5<sup>th</sup> Division HQ set up offices in this chateau. Friends of James W. Latta, Jr., part of AG Section.

Paris.” I wondered if in fact that was the primary intent of the letter and the gift of the car was only a ruse to request permission to move into Paris. Finally, the fact that my uncle privately kept a carbon copy of this letter was probably a violation of Army regulations! It turned out that it wasn’t the only carbon he retained as General Patton dictated a letter to him following the delivery of the car:

Headquarters

Third United States Army

Office of the Commanding general

APO 403

21 August 1944

Continued on Page 15)

### James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 14)

My Dear Red:

You were very generous indeed to send me the lovely automobile captured by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment under Major Birdsong. Please express to him and Colonel Yuill my appreciation. It will take a car as fast as that to catch up to you, which I hope to do shortly.

I am deeply appreciative and full of admiration for the magnificent work you and the division have done. I'm sorry that existing orders do not permit you to consummate your ambition of being the first to enter Paris, but we probably will be the first to enter Berlin.

With renewed thanks and expressions of regard to you and the division, I am,

Most sincerely, s/ G.S. Patton, Jr., Lieut. General, U.S. Army Commanding

As history tells us, initial entry into Paris was reserved for the French Army forces that arrived in the city on August 24, three days after the "car letter" from Gen. Patton to Gen Irwin. Their entry, with the support of the Third Army, caused German forces to surrender on August 25<sup>th</sup> finally ending the Nazi occupation. My uncle told me that within days the 5<sup>th</sup> Division entered the city and he remembers children running up to him and fellow soldiers asking for chocolate and "fromage," the French word for cheese. The GI's were prepared for the occasion and my uncle explained that to the delight of the children (and I suspect the soldiers as well), they willingly gave away all that they had.

Passing through Paris, the Division moved northeast engaging the enemy at Reims and then moved due east through the Argonne Forest and over the Meuse River where they reached Verdun. Moving more quickly than supplies could keep up, the Division had to wait for 5 days for resupply (especially gasoline) and couldn't advance. With fresh supplies, towards the end of the first week in September, they successfully crossed the Moselle River and began to advance toward Metz. In the span of just over two months, the Division moved from the beachhead in Normandy to the eastern boarder of France just south of Luxembourg. Earning the well-deserved reputation of moving very quickly, my uncle told me the story of how this also got them into trouble one night. As they were advancing, he told the story of how the column moved too far out and away from of their own front lines. This was apparently discovered in the early morning hours just before dawn and at the discovery, the column quickly turned around and began to move back to the safety of their line. However, dawn quickly came and with it, German planes, Messerschmitts, that began to strafe the column. Uncle James was riding with the other soldiers in the back of a troop carrier at the time of the attack. As the planes began to descend, passing through a farm, my uncle and the other men noticed what they thought was an open root cellar. To avoid the fighter plane's machine guns, they all jumped head first from the truck to the opening and the hoped for safety of the root cellar. But the cellar wasn't open! What they thought was an opening had only been the closed cellar doors that were weathered and grey. In the panic of the moment, they only "appeared" to be open. He told me they all hit with a terrific thud and dazed, they rolled over at the very moment the German plane flew by, and could see the pilot laughing at them!

When the Division finally reached the outskirts of Metz, they found the town heavily fortified with an inner and outer ring of 22 forts that surrounded the town. The most notable was Ft. Driant that housed 100 and 150mm gun emplacements. And due to the temporary halt because of the supply shortages near Verdun, the Germans had time to concentrate their forces and reinforce Metz. As quickly as the 5<sup>th</sup> Division had moved across France, it was here that their progress stalled and success came in only fits and starts. The battle began towards the end of September and while a majority of the area was taken by November, it wasn't until early December that the last of the German forces surrendered. My uncle remembers that at the end of the over two month siege, as the soldiers surrendered, a majority were very dirty and looked emaciated, they wore poorly fitting and worn uniforms, and all appeared exhausted, dejected and frightened. At first he said he wasn't prepared for how badly they looked but on reflection said that these men had been cut off from supplies for over two months and endured almost constant shelling during that time.

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 16

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 15)



5<sup>th</sup> AG Sec In route to Chambley, France just southwest of Metz



AG Section 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division passing through Paris in route to Verdun from Chartres, early September 1944

After Metz fell the Division began its move into Germany. Capturing the town of Lauterbach the Division successfully moved to the Saar River. The last of the Division's regiments finally moved out of Metz by the second week of December and all of the combat teams of the 5<sup>th</sup> began to assemble near the vicinity of the river. My uncle said that as plans were made to move further into Germany, the Division enjoyed a brief period of rest. Practically, they were stalled because bad weather had set in with rain, snow, and fog. It was about this time that my uncle received what amounted to a 2 1/4" x 3 3/4" piece of paper resembling the size of a business card. I found this "card" among his papers. The left margin is adorned in color with a string of Holly and the first letter of the writing on both sides is in bold red with old English script. On one side was written:

(Continued on Page 17)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 17

Fall 2019

## James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 16)

Headquarters Third United States Army

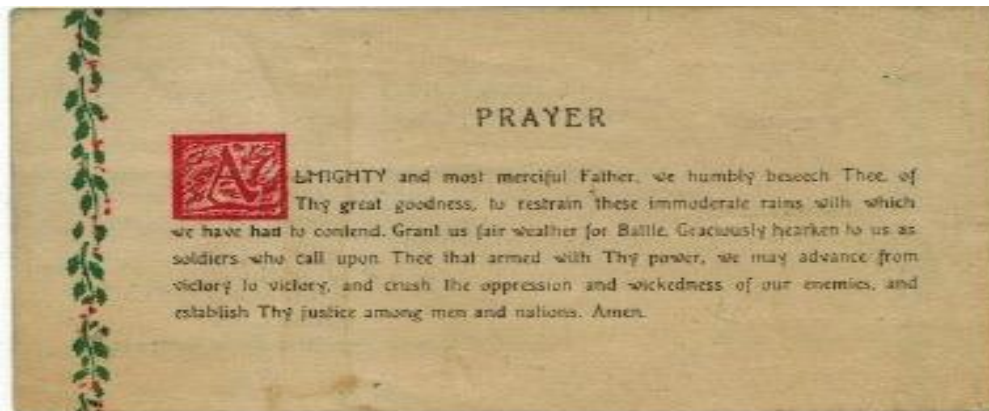
To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessing rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day.

Signed – G.S. Patton Jr. Lieutenant General, Commanding, Third United States Army.

On the reverse side was written the now famous “weather prayer” as originally requested by the general and composed by his chaplain, Msgr. James H. O'Neill on December 8<sup>th</sup> 1944. With the general's approval and direction, 250,000 copies were printed and distributed to the men between December 12-14, 1944. This is the copy my uncle received:

*Almighty God and most merciful father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously harken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.*

Being a man of faith, I'm certain that my uncle recited the prayer a number of times; it was after all, important enough for him to keep it among his records.



It was now mid-December and despite their planning, the 5<sup>th</sup> quickly learned that the Germans had plans of their own. The now famous Ardennes Offensive or “The Battle of the Bulge,” began in the Ardennes Forest in Luxembourg. On December 20<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> Division was ordered to move 100 miles northwest within 24 hours and attack the southern flank of the “Bulge” near Luxembourg. The rapid response of the Third Army and the 5<sup>th</sup> Division in particular has become legendary and was nothing short of amazing. I asked my uncle how they moved so quickly. He told me that they jumped on and hung off anything that would move: tanks, trucks, jeeps, tractors, other motorized equipment and sometimes horses! He said no one slept and fought the snow and cold all of the way. When they arrived, in those same harsh conditions, the Division almost immediately went into battle. As miraculous as this was, it's even harder to imagine how they survived the ordeal.

(Continued on Page 18)

### James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 17)



James W. Latta Jr. on Guard Duty at the Royal Castle of Luxembourg,  
January 1945

They not only survived but we now know that the allies repulsed the “Bulge,” rescued American troops that had been encircled by the Germans, and crossed the Saar River by late January 1945. My uncle never spoke much about “The Bulge” other than to say the fighting was constant, difficult, and carried out in conditions of bitter cold, snow, rain, and mud...a lot of mud! Again, although part of the headquarters staff, as a trained infantryman he spent his share of time on guard duty and the front line as men were rotated on and off. He told me that while on the line one night, he was near to a young man that was a “general’s son.” My uncle remembers that the young man always acted as though he had something to “prove,” perhaps to his father. That night, while on the line, a sniper’s bullet caught him in the helmet instantly killing him. My uncle told me how terrible he felt as the young man died right next to him.

Following the “Bulge,” the 5<sup>th</sup> moved eastward across the Sauer, Kyll, and Moselle Rivers and reached the Rhine River in late March. Crossing the Rhine, late that same month they took Frankfurt before being ordered to move north to join other allied forces in attacking what is known as the “Ruhr Pocket.” Three German divisions became trapped here as they tried to move further into Germany. Following fierce fighting, by April 18, 1945 the German armies surrendered and the 5<sup>th</sup> Division was ordered to move further east. At this time General Irwin was promoted to command XII corps and Major General Albert E. Brown took over the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. A copy of a newsletter labeled Diamond Dust and dated 22 April 1945 and further noted as, “Somewhere in Germany,” was among my uncle’s papers. Named for the division, The Diamond Dust was a periodic newsletter circulated among the men (as often as printing was possible) to keep them informed of news and progress on the war. The bottom of the page carried the following footer printed in all caps: “PASS THIS ON AFTER READING BUT DO NOT ALLOW TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.” The 2-sided 8 ½ x 14 mimeographed newsletter began with the following message from the General:

### James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 18)

#### General Irwin's Message to the Division

I am leaving the division today for another command. It is a blow to me to be separated from the unit whose fortunes I have shared since the last days of Iceland. We have seen much since then, and have made more than a little history. I cannot adequately express the pride and admiration I feel for the division. It is more than a great division – it is a magnificent one. The skill and courage of its officers and men have carried the division to such fame that its exploits are known throughout our country. You have done a wonderful job and will continue to do so.

To every man in the division my best wishes for luck, happiness, and an early victory that will permit you to see again the homes you have left so long ago.

Interestingly, in the same newsletter there is news about Russian and American troop movement on the western front, a somewhat humorous story about an effort to round up horses left behind in the Ruhr pocket area abandoned by German horse drawn vehicles, baseball scores from back home, and the following story that clearly places a fine point on the deadly action in the Ruhr pocket:

In a last “Heil Hitler” action, Lt. Gen. Joachim von Kortzfleisch, second in command to Field Marshall Model of Army Group B, met his death yesterday when killed by tankers of the 737<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. Details are not yet available, but the first report of the action was that two jeeps of the 737<sup>th</sup> were making a routine patrol check when they decided to investigate a certain house. As they approached, four men came bursting out the front door, firing burp guns as they ran. Leading them was the German general, firing a burp gun. He killed one of the tankers, but was in turn promptly killed by a Springfield rifle bullet, and riddled by MG and tommy-gun and 37mm canister fire from two light tanks which rolled up behind the jeeps. His clothes were all that held him together.

I find the phrase, “...Details are not yet available...” to be ironic given the graphic description that followed! It's perhaps also important to note that just the day prior, the German commander, Field Marshall Model, who is mentioned in the article, committed suicide after being denounced by Hitler for surrendering his troops to the American forces at the Ruhr Pocket and was charged by the Russians for war crimes. Frustration with the Allies closing in was clearly being felt not only in Berlin.

Following action at the Ruhr Pocket, by the end of April the 5<sup>th</sup> Division moved over 300 miles further east and arrived in Regen, Germany near the Austrian and Czechoslovakia borders. With orders to remove German troops that had retreated to the area, they began their task and encountered what history describes as light resistance. While in Czechoslovakia, on the morning of May 7 at approximately 8:30, word began to circulate through the Division to cease fighting – an armistice had been reached. History records that later that day at 2:41pm in Reims, France, the town taken by the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division just over seven months earlier, the German High Command signed an “unconditional surrender.”

With the ending of fighting, and until about mid-June, the 5th Division occupied a number of areas in the German state of Bavaria eventually being relieved by the 83rd Infantry Division. My uncle's section was located in Vilshofen, which is located along the Danube River just west of Czechoslovakia and north of the Austrian border. In a summary of orders found among his papers at that time and labeled “Restricted,” dated June 3, 1945, a listing of personnel reassignments and promotions is found, among them and under the heading, “To Be Technical Sergeant” is listed the name: James W. Latta.

Following their occupation duties in Bavaria, my uncle told me that the Division was moved to the town of Bad Homburg just north of Frankfurt. Despite the ending of fighting in Germany, he told me there was still a certain tension and anxiousness among the men. They were now being told they were being

### James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 19)



James W. Latta, Jr., Following VE Day, Vilshofen, Germany

reassembled for deployment to the Pacific theater of war. My uncle however, along with a number of other men, knew that due to his length of service, he had long since earned the required number of “points” to be kept out of that conflict. After his initial enlistment in January of 1941 and 3 ½ years overseas, he would finally be able to return home. And fortunately for the other men who had not earned the requisite number of points, they were never sent to the Pacific after all. By the time preparations were made for the 5<sup>th</sup> Division to deploy in early August, the first atomic bombs had been dropped on Japan and the war in the Pacific ended.

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1945 Technical Sergeant James White Latta Jr. began his journey home. I found another small business card sized printed document among his papers with the following:

This is to certify that T/Sgt James W. Latta having defeated the Axis powers in Europe, has been flown from France to Africa on the first leg of the journey home in a Flying Fortress on the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group – Fame’s Favored Few — the oldest bomber group in Europe. He is now a member of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Group Short Snorter Club. Duration of flight 5 hours. 24 August 1945.

There is also a cryptic note printed in my uncle’s handwriting that outlines a very circuitous route back to the states:

Left Marseilles at 8:00am 24 Aug, arrived Casablanca 1:00pm. Left Casa at 11:30pm 25 Aug arrived Dakar at 9:00pm. Left Dakar at 10:00pm arrived Natal at 7:05am 26 Aug. Left Natal at 6:00am 27 Aug arrived Belam at 11:30am. Left Belam at 1:00pm arrived Georgetown B.G. (British Guyana) at 5:45pm. Left Georgetown at 6:30pm 27 Aug arrived Borinquen 12:10am 28 Aug. Left Borinquen at 1:30am 28 Aug arrived Miami at 5:30am.

After 3 ½ years and four days of travel, T/Sgt James W. Latta Jr., now 27 years old, set foot back on US soil. Following, my uncle and fellow soldiers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry were sent north to Indiantown Gap Military Reservation and on September 5<sup>th</sup>, received their separation papers. I am quite certain that it was not long after that he boarded a bus and headed for his home in Grand Rapids, Michigan. My dad told me that when James finally arrived, as much of the family as possible assembled to meet him. My grandfather and grandmother could not stop hugging their son. There were tears of joy and tears of thankfulness shared by all. My dad remembers that when it came to his turn to hug his “little brother” that he was amazed at how lean and strong he was. Dad said James could have “picked up a ton of bricks and thrown them a city block.” Another vivid

### James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 20)

memory was that for the first few weeks, James slept on the floor of the house as it took some time to get used to a bed with a soft mattress. And though he never said so, I think the quiet and silence of the city at night must have required some “getting used to” as the sounds of war began to hopefully fade.

I don’t think that the awful sights and sounds of war ever entirely fade. And I can’t begin to know or fully appreciate the adjustment my uncle must have gone through after he returned home. I do know he was very proud of his service. But, he did tell me that the drive, energy and ambition he had before he enlisted, left him after the war. He said was very tired at first and preferred quiet activity. I’m sure he also carried a mixture of thankfulness and wonder at why he came through the war physically unhurt, when so many didn’t. A search of the records for the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and Headquarters of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, show that there were over 7,000 casualties of killed, wounded, missing, or captured. Across the entire division the number rose to almost 26,400. A June 16, 1945 copy of the newsletter Diamond Dust put this in perspective when it said, “...the (entire) division turned over completely once in killed and wounded.”

Following the war, my uncle never married and chose to live at home and care for his aging parents as well as a younger brother. The youngest of the family, my uncle Morton Brasse Latta (1929 – 1973), was cognitively disabled at birth. Though fairly high functioning, he would require adult care and supervision throughout his life and Uncle James, chose to fulfill this role as the health of his parents failed. He never returned the movie theater business but opened a Hallmark Card shop on Monroe Street in Grand Rapids. As a youngster, perhaps 6 or 7 years old, I remember visiting my grandparents and seeing my uncle at the shop. I recall that this is also when I first became aware that he was a soldier and had fought during the war. I would sit on his lap and he would blow smoke rings from his pipe and show me patches from his uniform, no doubt to keep me entertained while my dad and mom visited quietly with grandma and grandpa.

I believe the shop operated until the early 1960’s when it closed with the decline of business in the area. Following the death of their mother, Lulu Pearl Hickman Latta (1883-1965) he and Uncle Mort (as I called him) then went to the Orlando, Florida area where James tried (unsuccessfully) to open another Hallmark Shop. Following the death of his brother in 1973, he returned to the Grand Rapids area and took on a janitorial/maintenance role for the Wyoming, Michigan public schools. Working in the elementary school, he told me that he particularly liked the joy and enthusiasm of the kids and that it: “made his days that much brighter.” He retired from the school system and moved north to Sault Ste. Marie where he pursued his passion for fly-fishing. He also studied watercolor painting, something that had been left behind as an interest before the war.

He eventually returned to the Kentwood, Grand Rapids, Michigan area and pursued his interest in watercolor painting becoming quite accomplished particularly with the serenity of flowers and pastoral scenes. His works were shown in galleries in Saugatuck and displayed in businesses throughout the Grand Rapids area. A number of us as surviving family members have some of his works.

In 2004, I had the honor to escort my uncle, who was now 86 years old, to Washington DC for the dedication of the World War II memorial. The memorial was dedicated in late May that year and for four days, the Smithsonian set up WWII themed exhibitions on the national mall. There were also reunion locations on the mall for all of the units and branches of service. When we attended the reunion tent for the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Uncle James noticeably lit up and found himself in conversation with other veterans who compared notes with men that, although they may not have known each other personally, they all shared a deeply personal experience. There was talk of their commander “Red” and lots of: “do you remember when?” And: “did you know so-in-so?” and: “I’ll never forget the time when, or wet-cold feet,” and of course: “the food,” which was no doubt variable at best. My uncle was wearing a jacket that day and it proudly bore the symbol of the Red

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 22

Fall 2019

James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 21)



Former T/Sgt James W. Latta, Jr., (white ball cap) telling his story to an interested family at the Michigan Pillar, WWII Memorial. And at the dedication event: James W. Latta Jr. and his nephew, William James Latta, May 29, 2004.

Diamond Division. As we left the area a number of strangers would walk up to my uncle and put out their hand to shake his saying simply, "Thank you for your service." This seemed to surprise and humble him but I know he was genuinely if not modestly pleased. We sat through the dedication on that Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and sitting among veterans and their families, you could quickly sense the feeling of connectedness and camaraderie among the veterans. My uncle, who always seemed to be somewhat reticent or restrained around new people, quickly struck up a conversation with other men who were sitting close by. They began to share the units they were from and recount stories of an experience that only they could fully know and acknowledge with a nod of their head. The words they spoke carried a depth of understanding that only they knew and the rest of us, who never experienced war, could only appreciate.

Following the dedication we visited the memorial and took pictures, especially by the pillar dedicated for soldiers from Michigan. After we returned home I began to think that perhaps the experience helped to bring some closure to the war years for my uncle. He never climbed the ranks of the military nor sought to, and his career following the war was modest at best. But I think that as he looked back, those 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  years in the army were the most important in his life and he knew that ordinary men and women, just like him, had done extraordinary things. Moreover, I think he also knew that he fulfilled a profoundly important part in helping to guarantee the freedoms many of us enjoy and sometimes take for granted today.

In the last years of his life, Uncle James came to live near my family so that we could care for the one person, who in many ways, had always cared about us. He joined us for outings and holidays and took immense pleasure in seeing his great nephews build a foundation for their own careers. He was particularly interested and proud of our oldest son Bill, who went on to become an artist in New York City, and I think lived somewhat vicariously through him as he attended art college and then began work for an art studio in the city. And our youngest always had a special place in his heart. Chris's middle name is James and my wife and I intentionally named him after my uncle. For a school project Chris spent hours interviewing his great uncle about his war years and I know he deeply cherished that time. They also shared a mutual passion for the outdoors talking often about the adventures they had. I think to spark an interest and to honor their time together; Uncle James passed his fly-fishing gear on to Chris.

In the early morning hours of May 16, 2009, James W. Latta Jr. died peacefully in his sleep. And as though he was now returning to where it all began, on Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and with military honors, his remains

(Continued on Page 23)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 23

Fall 2019

## James W. Latta, Jr. (Continued from Page 22)

were interred at Fort Custer National Cemetery. His records reflected: James W. Latta Jr., Technical Sergeant, Third Army, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, Headquarters and MP Company, and 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Qualified Sharpshooter with Carbine, Marksman with Rifle and Pistol. Served: Iceland, England, Ireland, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Received: 4 Citations, Five Bronze Service Stars and a Letter of Commendation.

An ordinary American who gave extraordinary service.

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## George Madison Latta, Branch 17

By Sue Lattea Cox, Branch 17 Captain, suelatteacox@yahoo.com.

My sister Charlene and I were recently looking over the information that we had on our 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, George Madison Latta. George's granddaughter, Alma Shackelford, told me that he died and was brought back to Lewis County, West Virginia in a wagon from a good distance. She told this story to me and my father back in the late 1980s before her death.

Now, Charlene and I have been trying to track down more information on George Madison Latta's death. There was a story passed around the family that one of our relatives was a riverboat gambler, and that he was killed and his body found in a barrel. My Dad's brother, Branson "Bunt" Lattea told this story to family members. No one knew where he got the story, and my Dad said that his father, James Earl Lattea, didn't tell the story. One of my aunts had attached the story to George Madison Latta; and there is no factual information about it.

Tracking George's life has been an adventure from the start. George was born on April 4, 1822 in Huntingdon County, PA, the son of John Latta and Annie Hockenberry. John and Annie moved to Marion County, West Virginia (then Virginia) about 1832 after John Latta, Sr.'s death. John and Annie moved on to Monroe County, Ohio, but George had married Christiana Haught around 1846. Their oldest son, Nathaniel was born Nov. 28, 1847 in Marion County.

George and Christiana are listed in the 1850 census for Marion County as George Latty, age 28, Christiana A. J. Latty, age 31, William E. Latty (Christiana's son William Ellis Haught) age 13, Nathaniel Latty, age 2, and Mary V. Latta, age 1.

Christiana Haught had one son, William Ellis Haught, before her marriage to George. William Ellis Haught died on December 27, 1862 of typhoid fever while in the Union Army Hospital in West Union, WV. He was buried in West Union, but moved to the Grafton National Cemetery in Grafton, WV when it opened. George and Christiana had 8 children: Nathaniel, Mary Virginia, Anna Elizabeth, Catherine Ellen, Clarissa, Alcinda, Vancrisco (who died as an infant in 1858), and Stephen M. (who later went by James C. Roney). Stephen was born on December 14, 1859 in Doddridge County, WV. George must have left the family at the time, because Stephen's birth was recorded by Lory Roney (later Christiana's second husband). George may have left in search of work. Alma Shackelford told us a story about him looking for work along the Ohio River. He ran across some men floating logs down the river. They hired him to help them. When they got further down the river, the authorities came to arrest them. The other men fled and left George with the logs. George was sent to prison. Alma stated that George (her grandfather) "got out" of prison. When we asked her if he was released, she said, "No, he got out." We assumed that he escaped. We have not been able to find a record of this arrest or what prison he was sent to.

(Continued on Page 24)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 24

Fall 2019

## George Madison Latta (Continued from Page 23)

The next record recently found for George Madison Latta was his Civil War record. George M. Latta joined the Confederate Army, C. F. Johnston's Company, Virginia Artillery (Capt. J. W. Wyatt's Company B, Poague's Battalion of Artillery) on July 28, 1863. The record states that he enlisted in Richmond, by Capt. Coke. I researched Capt. Coke of Richmond and found that he was in charge of recruiting for the Confederate Army out of Richmond, and that he had been drafting men up to the age of 45 because of the high number of deserters. Men were deserting because they were being poorly fed and because their families needed help at home. We are uncertain where George joined the Confederate Army, or why. The next record found for him in Folder 3 stated that he deserted on August 19, 1863 at Madison Station (Madison, AL). The record stated that he was born in Huntingdon County, PA and his occupation was listed as "shoemaker." He was 41 years of age, 5 foot, 5 ½ inches tall, with fair complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. This record was found on the desertion roll of rebel deserters within the Department of West Virginia, headquarters in Clarksburg, WV Oct. 31, 1863. Evidently, after three weeks, George decided the army life was not for him.

The next record found for George was a criminal record that we found while doing research back in the 1990s in Washington County, Ohio. One of my Dad's sisters was working on the family tree with me at the time. We were trying to track down evidence of the logging story that Alma told us. I sent a request to the West Virginia Penitentiary before they closed, and they replied that they had no record of George being in prison there. We decided to go to the courthouse in Wood County, WV and in Washington County, OH to see if we could find any record of George being arrested. We found nothing in Wood County, WV, but did find an arrest record for a different incident in Washington County, OH. George appeared in court in February of 1864 and plead guilty of stealing "one pistol commonly called a revolver of the value of twenty dollars and one pair of the value of one dollar and fifty cents of the money goods chattel and property of Samuel Lyon" on October 9, 1863. George was "confined in the jail of the county and fed on bread and water only for five days and pay the cost of the prosecution."

The next record found for George was his marriage on September 1, 1864 in Marion County, WV to Permilia Snider. His last name is now spelled "Lattea." He and Permilia had four children, John F Lattea, Sydnia Alice (Alma Shackelford's mother), George William Lattea, and Sarah Jane Lattea. The 1870 census for Harrison County, WV lists George M. Lattea, age 45, miner, Permilia J. Lattea, age 28, John F. Lattea, age 5, and Sydnia A. Lattea, age 1. Another story handed down in the family was that George Latta and his son, Nathan Latta, worked in the coal mines in Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia, and that an area where they mined was called "Latta Heading." No records have been found for anything called "Latta Heading."

In the 1880 census, George Lattea is found in Southwest District, Doddridge County, WV. George is listed as a farm laborer, age 57, Permilla J. Lattea, age 40, John F. Lattea, age 14, Sidna A. Lattea, age 11, George W. Lattea, age 8, and Sarah J. Lattea, age 5.

There was no 1890 census found (the census records burned), and in 1900 "Jane Lattie", age 43 is listed as "widowed" in the household of her daughter, Sarah Jane Fidler, in Troy, Gilmer County, West Virginia.

George supposedly died on March 9, 1892 or October 3, 1892. Searches on Ancestry.com and in Newspapers.com have not listed any results for George's death. By taking a second look for more information online we were able to find George's Civil War record, which gave his occupation and physical description. Perhaps when more newspapers are put online, we can find other information. Never stop looking at your research. You never know what will turn up.

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## 2019 Meeting of the Latta Genealogy Society

By: Kathleen Latta, Branch 16 Captain, lattakj@telusplanet.net.

The Annual Meeting for the Latta Genealogy Society was held Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 07:30 EST in the conference room at the Comfort Inn and Suites located in Niagara Falls, New York. Minutes recorded by Kathy Latta Br. 16.

Present at the Meeting:

Randall (Randy) Phillips, Treasurer chaired the meeting and is an avid Br. 4 researcher and has participated in a Family Tree DNA One Surname Project as a DNA Donor.

Everett Michael (Mike) Latta, Br. 7 researcher and participant in the Family Tree Latta Surname Project.

Kathleen (Kathy) Latta, Family Tree DNA Group Administrator for the Latta Surname Project, Br. 16 researcher and participant in the Family Tree DNA Project.

Ken Mueller, President and Editor of the Latta Genealogy Society, Br. 1 researcher attending the meeting via cellular phone.

Guest, soon to be member of the Latta Genealogy Society, Marie V. Poinan, from the Greece Historical Society, who acts in a volunteer capacity as a researcher in that Society, with a strong interest and knowledge base of some Branch 4 ancestors that have left a recognized mark in the region where the meeting was held. Marie has offered to help with some projects as she and time allow, and will submit an article for the next newsletter.

Randy Phillips called the meeting to order.

### Succession

Concerns for acquiring successional candidates for several key roles in the society was brought forward and produced a good round of discussions. Some ideas seem quite viable such as:

- a) Promoting participation in small projects to encourage interest development.  
Encouragement to familiarize younger family members with what we do by giving out email copies of the Newsletter. Encourage the sharing via email the newsletter with cousins, siblings etc. We already have the existence of several types of email lists which need to be cross checked to ensure we are not missing interested participants that we have not heard from in a long time.
- b) Seasonal Greeting Cards to thank financial contributor's, with the hope of asking them to volunteer family members to receive a year of the Newsletter via email. The motion was called by Randy Phillips to develop a Seasonal Greeting and Thank You Card. The motion was seconded by Mike Latta and the motion carried.
- c) Rewarding those volunteers that have helped Ken with his recent big project that developed into a Newsletter article with a year's subscription to the newsletter.

Randy and Ken are going to compare and check their mailing lists to see if there are interested members falling through the cracks because we have not heard from them in quite some time. Kathy Latta also suggested the email list for DNA Donors could be used.

### Ancestry DNA Site

Mike Latta brought up the topic that we pay for Ken's subscription to Ancestry.com (due each August). This site has been an invaluable resource for Ken as Editor of the newsletter. Ken used this tool extensively in researching and verifying facts that developed into a usable news article. He has done this many times to benefit the research in all branches. It was moved by Kathy Latta and seconded by Mike Latta that the Latta Genealogy Society pay annually for Ken's subscription to the Ancestry site. Motion was carried.

Mike Latta also asked if it would be something the board could consider for our Historian Geoffrey

## 2019 Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 25)

Latta. He could probably find the International Ancestry package to be useful. Randy made note to bring this before the board.

Randy Phillips motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Mike Latta seconded. The motion was passed.

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## E-Mail Addresses Needed

To help spark an interest in our Latta Genealogy Society in the next generations, please send me the e-mail addresses of relatives that you think might be interested in our Latta family history. I will send them an e-mail copy of our Latta Genealogy Newsletter for a year or two. I also encourage you to send me the stories of your Latta families, as that will spark their interest. You can reach me at Ken Mueller, DocHuer@aol.com.

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## Our Financial Contributors

**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.**

- 6 Robert J. Latta, M.D., 1396 Rubio Lane, San Luis Obispo CA 93405.
- 3 Eugene C. Latta, 5107 Wedgefield Rd., Granbury TX 76049.
- 50 Nicholas Charles, 666 First St., Woodland CA 95695-4057.
- 5 Margaret Hundretmark, W7489 Honold Rd., Fon Du Lac WI 54937-8648.
- 22 Kim L. Latta, 830 Emmett St., Burlington IA 52601-1947.
- 9 James Patrick Latta, 1785 North Apple Dr., Delta CO 81416.
- 11 Diane Latta Davila, 5513 Sicily Ct., Bakersfield CA 93308.
- 28 Linda Latta Carr, 229 Yacht Club Dr., Fort Walton Beach FL 32548-6421.
- 4 Richard Crawley, 254 Fleetwood Lane, Elk Grove Village IL 60007-1811.
- 3 Jeanne Larson, 3457 E. Redlands Ave., Fresno CA 93726-5862.
- 8 Alexander Duie Latta, 110 W. Ashbridge St., West Chester PA 19380.
- 8 Ellen Ann Latta Eckman, 217W. Sickie St., Kennett Square PA 19348.
- 9 Lyla Latta Richard, 15501 Persimmon Creek Rd., Jones OK 73049.
- 7 Larry D. Draughton, 1709 E. Kael St., Mesa AZ 85203.
- 28 Glenna Kinard, 204 Redbay Rd., Elgin SC 29045-8650.
- 31 William B. Latta, Jr., 1723 Ridgecrest Dr., Boise ID 83712-6604.
- 8 William James Latta, Sr., 515 Church Rd., Phoenixville PA 19460-2132.
- 4 Frederic John Latta, 1200 Shepherds Lane, Oxford MI 48371.
- 13 Marilyn Macneall, 2020 Coral Crescent, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7P 3K5.
- 7 Jean Mitrovich, 13506 Corapeake Place, Chesterfield VA 23838.
- 17 Betty J. Kitchen, 8455 Meadow Dr., Brownsburg IN 46112.

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 27

Fall 2019

2019 Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 26)



Photo taken inside the Historical Association of Lewiston location, which is a former church built in 1835. Left to Right: Tom Collister, Curator of the Historical Society of Lewiston, Mike Latta, Branch 7, Kathy Latta, Branch 16, and Randy Phillips, Branch 4. Tom Collister did not attend the Annual Meeting, but graciously allowed us to tour their location on a day it was closed.

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## Reprints Available

Reprints of Issues 1-68 of The Latta Genealogy Newsletter are available. The cost is \$5.00 per issue. If interested, please contact the editor, Ken Mueller, [DocHuer@aol.com](mailto:DocHuer@aol.com).

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# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 28

Fall 2019

## The Balance Between DNA and the Paper Trail

By: Kathleen Latta, Branch 16, lattakj@telusplanet.net.

In order to have DNA help us in our pursuit of Latta genealogy it is necessary to see how the paper trail jives with what we see in the DNA genealogical record. I have prepared a table of DNA Donors who share some DNA Match's. Unfortunately I discovered a sixth DNA Match after I had prepared the table. This individual will be in a single column by themselves.

Using a male Latta descendant from Branch 16 to make comparisons against has several advantages. Branch 16 has an extensive transition period where many left at various generational levels but there are still Latta members we have visited on the Latta home acquired in 1862. This was a transition away from Bready, Taughboyne, St. Johnston and Londonderry areas to different areas around the world.

My father Alex. L. Latta, Jr., (FG75) had been visiting the Irish and Scottish environs at least 18 times over a 25 year period. He mentioned about the Family Bible having several pages torn out. He visited many graveyards taking note of information on stelae. He also visited the Gilliland's at Brooke Hall where he was given a key piece of information.

From the Gilliland Family Records: William Latta, of Castleforward Estate, DOB 17\_\_, had six children:

- (1) John Latta
- (2) Alexander Latta, of Bready, and father of Margaret Gilliland
- (3) James Latta Daughter
  - #1 Daughter
  - #2 Daughter
  - #3 Daughter

I believe this William Latta has been accidentally left out of the Branch 16 file and it might be these unknown sisters who are being portrayed in some of the DNA genealogy. The son's John (FG 2), Alexander (FG 3) and James (FG 17) should appear under the name William not John (FG 1). This would help to make the dates jive with the DNA genealogy. I would welcome some discussion on these time lines. So I will present the tables with the matches so that discussions can begin. I mention at this time that Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), has a restrictive clause regarding the publishing of names of their patrons. They stipulate that anytime a name of a match is used a consent from that match must be presented each and every time. For this reason I am only using initials.

DNA Donor RK 6th Gen. William Robinson m. Ann Latta, reside at Burt, County Tyrone, Ireland  
5th Generation Robinson, McBride  
4th Generation Robinson, Porter  
3rd Generation Robinson, Scott  
Private Grandparents  
Private Parents  
DNA Donor RK

It is unfortunate but none of the Matches has a Family Tree entered at Family Tree DNA. I can perhaps write to them and present something in the next newsletter. However one can clearly see that there is a tie between these sets of DNA Donors. I will be emailing this report to them and will ask them if they have any documentation, additions or corrections.

(Continued on Page 29)

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, Page 29

Fall 2019

## The Balance Between DNA and the Paper Trail (Continued from Page 28)

Family Tree's for DNA Comparison: Branch's 1, 4, 16, 31 and Descendant from Marriage Book Carrington

| DNA Donor<br>Branch 16b          | DNA Donor SR<br>Marriage Book Latta/Carrington<br>2-4th Cousin<br>46 cM – LB 26 | DNA Donor<br>Branch 4 MP<br>4 + Remote<br>50 cM – LB 12                                                                                                                                                    | DNA Donor<br>Branch 1 AJD<br>5 + Remote<br>40 cM – LB 8                                                                                | DNA Donor<br>Branch 31 SZ<br>5 + Remote<br>30 cM – LB 9 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| FG 1: John 1657<br>m. Mary Steen |                                                                                 | 9th Generation<br>Speculated by DNA Donor lists<br>James Melyne Latta m. Elizabeth<br>Dunlap<br>*8th Generation speculated by DNA<br>Donor lists this James as James<br>Latta m. to Mary McCalla Br 8 FG 2 | 9th Generation<br>Speculation by DNA Donor lists<br>James Melyne Latta<br>Br 8 FG 1 m. Mary Alison<br>James M. Latta                   |                                                         |
| FG 2: John                       |                                                                                 | 8th Generation<br>FG 1 James, wife not listed in LGS<br>database*                                                                                                                                          | *8th Generation<br>Speculation by DNA Donor lists wife<br>as Elizabeth Catherine Jane Taylor,<br>Elizabeth is listed in Marriage Books |                                                         |
|                                  |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 8th Generation FG 2<br>William Latta m. Katherine Jane<br>Taylor                                                                       |                                                         |
|                                  |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 7th Generation FG 3<br>John Saml. Latta m.<br>Margaret J. Potter                                                                       |                                                         |
|                                  |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 6th Generation<br>Jane M. Latta FG 97 (seen as<br>Margaret Jane) m. Henry<br>McLaughlin                                                | 6th Generation FG<br>Seth Sparkman m. Hebecca Latta     |
|                                  |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5th Generation<br>James McLaughlin m. Nancy Losell<br>Kelly/McLaughlin                                                                 | 5th Generation Sparkman/Oakley                          |
|                                  |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 4th Generation<br>Longmire/Kelly<br>Private Grandparents<br>Private Parents                                                            | 4th Generation<br>Sparkman/McConico                     |
|                                  |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | DNA Donor AJD                                                                                                                          | DNA Donor SZ                                            |

Table of Six DNA Donors and Shared Matches:

|     | Br. 16b | SR | MP | AJD | SZ | RK |
|-----|---------|----|----|-----|----|----|
| JLD | Y       | Y  | Y  |     |    |    |
| DI  | Y       | Y  |    | Y   |    | Y  |
| SS  | Y       | Y  | Y  |     |    |    |
| W-H | Y       | Y  | Y  |     |    |    |

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### Research Queries, Replies and Notes.

1. This would be on Branch 15, Orange County, North Carolina to Mooreseville, Indiana. I have figured out recently a common mistake in this branch between two people named Joseph Latta both having wives names Sarah. Since they were born only 10 years apart and come from the same family tree, it is easy to see why the confusion came to be. I hope that how I have written it below will be easy to understand but please let me know if there is any confusion. This information can be verified in both wills of Joseph Latta in 1824 and Sara Cabe Latta in 1861. For Joseph H. Latta and Sarah Chambers Latta, there are birth, death, census records and wills that verify this information. Please let me know if you don't have access to them, I can send them.

As it turns out Joseph Hastings Latta b. 1794 is the nephew of Joseph Latta b. 1785. Below is the record. If you have any questions please let me know.

Joseph Latta b. 20 Dec 1785 d. 1824

#### ***Son of John Latta 1734-1824***

Married Sara Cabe b.1785 d. 1861 Daughter of Congressman John Cabe (McCabe) 1752-1818.

Children:

John Cabe Latta b. 1816

Elizabeth Latta b. 1819

Caroline Latta b. 1821

Nancy Latta

Mary Latta

Joseph Hastings Latta b. 20 July 1794 d. 1894

#### ***Son of Thomas Latta 1767-1841 Grandson of John Latta 1734-1824***

Married Sarah Chambers b. 1800 d. Aft. 1880

Children:

James Chambers Latta b. 1819 d.1902

Sarah C Latta b. 1826. D. 1916

Mary Ann Latta b. 1828 d. 1918

Nancy Latta b. 1832 d. 1876 m. Ray

Irene Lucinda Latta b. 1834 m. Dillon

William Latta b.1837 d. 1864

Oliver Latta b. 1843

Ellen Latta b. Aft. 1843

On trees from Ancestry it is common that the two families are blended together and I have also found that on your site also. I have always had a question mark on this line in my tree because I found contradicting information on births and deaths. Recently I decided to take it up again and have been able to uncover the mystery. Please let me know if you need more documentation. Thank you so much for your response. Cathy Edwards, catlyn426@me.com.

2. My name is Leslie Allison. I am new to genealogy. I'm seeking any information you may be able to share regarding the Allisons. I read your post about the shipwreck a while back and it is intriguing! You mention a James Allison married to Mary, from Cecil Co. MD, and we believe he is the brother of my oldest known direct ancestor, Thomas Allison, and two other brothers, Andrew and Robert. All four of these men were early settlers in Anson/Rowan/Iredell County, NC in 1748-1752. James settled on Third Creek and Andrew, Thomas and Robert settled on Fourth Creek. Thomas was born in No. Ireland in 1722; he married Magdalene Simonton in PA in 1747-1748 in PA. Andrew married Magdalene's sister Ann Simonton.

We do not know: Who were the parents of James, Andrew, Thomas and Robert? Where in No. Ireland

## Research Queries, Replies and Notes (Continued from Page 30)

did they come from? When did they come? Where exactly did they arrive, and where did they settle in the PA/MD region? Your post is of great interest as it points to possible Ulster locations (Lough Swilly) and years of emigration (1733-35, 1738), as well as specific PA locations.

We had thought for a while that it was possible that the parents of James, Andrew, Thomas and Robert were James Allison and Rebecca Howard Allison, but the wills of James and Rebecca do not mention a Thomas, so this is unlikely. This James Allison (married to Rebecca Howard) was the brother of William Allison married to Grizzel Rhea [Wray]. You mention that William Latta married Agnes Rhea, and that her brother William Rhea emigrated together with Rev. James Latta and Mary Allison Latta.

James and Rebecca Allison had a daughter Jean who married a Mr. Watt, and a daughter Margaret who married a Mr. Bowman. The Watt and Bowman families were also early settlers on Fourth Creek with James, Andrew, Thomas and Robert.

You mention that Mary Allison Latta was the sister of Francis Allison; do you know if they were related to brothers James (m. Rebecca) & William (m. Grizzel)? It does seem as though these groups of families (Allison-Latta-Rhea from Ulster and Allison-Watt-Bowman from PA/MD) knew each other.

Recently I received DNA test results, and one of my distant matches is a Latta! A different distant match does not have that name but references the Latta name in their surnames list. There is also a Ewing match, a Preston match, and numerous Patton and Graham matches. These DNA results made me recall your shipwreck post, and motivates this contact with you.

Also on early on Fourth Creek (Yadkin & Catawba Rivers; in Anson/Rowan/Iredell Co., NC) was a **Potts** family and a **Stevenson** family; I noticed there was Mary (Potts) Nixon in one branch, and the Stevenson name was were also mentioned somewhere.

For a list of many of the early Fourth Creek Settlers, see here: <http://www.fortdobbs.org/history/#settlement>. We have documented marriages between the Fourth Creek Allisons and the **Houston** and **Knox** families; I noticed there was a Latta marriage to a (1<sup>st</sup> wife) Houston and (2<sup>nd</sup> wife) Knox. The Allison Cemetery (1795) in what is now Statesville, NC, has Houston gravestones.

We conjecture that prior to Ulster in Ireland we came from Ayrshire/Ayreshire and Lanarkshire in Scotland. This is not documented. Again, my thanks to you for facilitating this effort. I would very much appreciate any information you are able to share, or if you are able to direct me to someone with additional information. Thank you for reading this! Best regards, Leslie Allison, Winston-Salem, NC, [allisonlk.prof@gmail.com](mailto:allisonlk.prof@gmail.com).

3. I enjoyed your article on Frank Latta in the Summer 2019 Latta Genealogy Newsletter. Commander Frank D. Latta USN, Commanding Officer of the WWII submarine USS LAGARTO, was my cousin. If you'll permit me, I have a couple of suggestions for fine tuning your story. First, BAYA was certainly not disabled by the attack of HATSUTAKA on the night of May 2, as she conducted an attack on the same convoy the next day. This would have been impossible with any breach of her pressure hull, as by gunfire. I didn't hear the story from Ben Jarvis, but it seems likely that the machine gun fire from HATSUTAKA might have penetrated the outer "fairwater" shell surrounding the pressure hull, but not the pressure hull itself. That would have sent her home immediately.

In addition, it was probably not possible that HAWKBILL and Captain Scanland knew of the sinking of LAGARTO as you suggest. The identities of U. S. vessel losses were closely guarded secrets and wouldn't have been broadcast to other vessels baring some extraordinary circumstances. In addition, the identity of IJN HATSUTAKA was not known until Japanese naval records revealed it after the war. So as attractive as might be the story of HAWKBILL immediately chasing down LAGARTO'S attacker and avenging her, it is likely

# LATTA GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue 68, Page 32

Fall 2019

## Research Queries, Replies and Notes (Continued from Page 31)

only fiction. The details of the actual sinking by HAWKBILL, however, are very consistent with published reports (except for the part about Scanland achieving it in the buff; that doesn't show up anywhere that I've seen). Just in case your interest in LAGARTO'S loss continues to take you to more research, I offer the following sources, each of which mentions it:

1. History of United States Naval Operations in World War II, Samuel Eliot Morison, v. XIII, 1959, p.287.
2. United States Submarine Operations in World War II, Theodore Roscoe, 1949, p. 477.
3. Silent Victory, The U. S. Submarine War Against Japan, Clay Blair, Jr., 1975, pp. 497-498.

All of these are interesting reading but the original sources for each account is the same, the logbooks of the boats involved and Japanese naval records.

One other note I'd like to add which you may not be aware of is that Frank's son Mike rode the boat with his dad from Manitowoc down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. He showed me a picture taken during the trip, and told me that his acceptance by the crew clearly reflected their respect and fondness for his father.

Another note that might interest you is that there was actually a fourth test to be admitted to submarine school at New London, one that I've always felt tells its own story of the submarine service. Long combat deployments meant, as you've suggested, that crew members were closeted in very tight quarters with many others under very trying circumstances for long periods. The fourth test therefore was psychological; the candidate had to be successfully evaluated for sociability. Nut jobs and extreme introverts need not apply.

Once again, thanks for your piece on Frank Latta. He deserves to be remembered, and I can't think of a better place to remember him than among his family. John Morse Latta, Branch 29, JohnLatta@att.net.

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## List of Branch Captains

(Continued from Page 2)

Branch 13: Gary Pokoradi, 11 Glenayr St., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L9C 7C1, pokerman@sympatico.ca.

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Branches 17&43&46: Sue Lattea Cox, 6 Woodhill Ave., Salem WV 26426, suelatteacox@yahoo.com.

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

Branch 22: Robert M. Hawkins, 749 Ridgeside Dr., Apt. B, Ballwin MO 63021, Bobhawk507@att.net.

Branch 27/47: David Hart, dlhart9491@gmail.com.

Branch 28: Carol Rini, 3585 Ontario St., Columbus OH 43224, carri137@gmail.com.

Branch 29: Bill Latta, 140 Northcrest Dr., Apt. 34, Napoleon OH 43545, billlatta8@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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