

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 78

Fall 2022

Assistants Needed

By: Kenneth Mueller, Editor, DocHuer@aol.com

In the 1970s there was a Latta Genealogical Newsletter. When the editor, John Latta, died, no one stepped forward to continue, and the newsletter stopped. In 2002, when our first editor, Paul Calhoun, became terminally ill, he asked several people to help. I was the only one who volunteered. So far, I am still here, but I will join our ancestors sooner or later. To continue our Newsletter, we need volunteers to step forward. An assistant editor could learn the ropes, so to speak, and be ready when I retire. The same thing goes for an Assistant Treasurer, Vice President, Historian, Auditor and branch captain. Without further help, our Society and its mission will be in jeopardy. Do you want our Society and Newsletter to continue?

If you personally cannot help, maybe you know someone who could help. It could be a son, daughter, grandchild, nephew, niece, in law, etc. Please try to interest them in our family heritage. Anyone who wants to learn can e-mail me, or any officer. Your help is appreciated.

William Robertson Latta of Branch 1

By: Cheryl Sue Cox, Vice President, suelatteacox@yahoo.com

William Robertson Latta, the oldest of nine children of Andrew Latta and Jennette Robertson, was born on December 27, 1798 in Pennsylvania. The family moved to Kentucky and then on to Ohio. William married Mary Jane Miner, daughter of Robert Minor and Martha Skeen, in Jefferson County, Indiana on February 22, 1821. To this marriage, ten children were supposedly born, but the names of only four have been found to date: David S. Latta, born 1824; Mary Jane Latta Meranda, born 1834; Sarah F. Latta, born 1835; and William Thomas Latta, born 1836.

William's wife, Mary Jane Miner Latta, died about 1838, and William later married Rebecca S. Taylor on December 23, 1840 in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. To this marriage, at least four children were born: Maria Elizabeth Latta, born 1844; George Taylor Latta, born 1845; Richard E. Latta, born 1849; and

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Editorial

In order for our Newsletter and Society to continue, we need new faces from the younger generation. Otherwise we will fade away sooner or later.

Also in this issue we have the second installment of the family history of John Donald Latta. We also have in this issue the stories of William Robertson Latta, William H. Latta and Eugene R. Latta. I hope also to include your Latta family story, as everyone's Latta family story is important. When you send me your Latta family stories, you are saving them for future generations. Your children and grandchildren will thank you.

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. Members of the Latta Genealogy Society, a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Washington, fund it.

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

Please send your membership donations to:

Randall Phillips, Treasurer, 1012 Varela St., Apt. 1, Key West FL 33040, (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: DocHuer@aol.com**

Please send family group sheets, pedigrees, and computer files to your branch captain.

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Revised List of Branch Captains

Another goal of our Latta Genealogy Society 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 Cox, Coordinator of Branch Captains and VP, suelatteacox@yahoo.com, Branch 17. Our website contains the following as the duties of a branch captain:

Collect, organize and share information for their respective branch.

Start a computer file with the information collected for the branch. A GEDCOM is not necessary.

Coordinate research to provide documentation contained in the computer file.

Share information with other members of the branch.

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Latta Genealogy Society Treasurer's Report Nov. 28, 2022

AUDITOR: Stan Latta, 115 Cimmaron Ct., Cary NC 27511 stanlatta@usa.com.

TREASURER: Randy Phillips, 1012 Varela St, Apt. 1, Key West FL 33040 (315) 759-9121
parting_glass65@yahoo.com.

Report Period: June 16, 2022 through November 28, 2022

Beginning balance: \$7179.06

Income:

General Fund donations: \$100.00

Total Income: \$100.00

Expenses:

Hostway website fees	\$77.25
Issue 77 expense	\$215.54
Newsletter 78 advance	\$400.00
Ancestry.com Renewal	\$250.02
Document Shipping Cost	\$44.98
Bank Fee	\$35.00

Total Expenses: \$1022.79

Ending balance as of Nov. 28, 2022: \$6256.27

Included in ending balance:

Funds allocated for research: \$1,590.50

Funds allocated for DNA: \$4,188.70

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, 1012 Valerla, Apt. 1, Key West FL 33040, parting_glass65@yahoo.com. Thank you for your generous support!

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William Robertson Latta (Continued from Page 1)

Alice Rebecca Latta Peelle, born 1850.

In the 1850 Census, William and his family are listed in North Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. William lists that he was born in Pennsylvania.

William Latta died on July 15, 1879 and is buried in the Albright Cemetery, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana. He shares a tombstone with his son, Richard E. Latta, who died on December 7, 1873. William's son, David S. Latta, is also buried in the cemetery, along with his wife and several of his children.

William Latta's daughter, Alice Rebecca Latta married Jesse E. Pelle on September 6, 1871 in Indiana. They joined the Quaker church and on the Quaker records family card for Jesse E. Peelle and Alice R. Peelle, it states that she is the daughter of William Latta of N. Madison, Indiana. It is here that the family history gets interesting. The Kokomo Tribune newspaper published an article on Sunday, June 12, 1988 titled "Lincoln lore sewn up in quilt" which traced a family quilt made by William's wife Rebecca and her daughter, Mary through the family. The article stated that: "In 1865, after President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train passed through Indianapolis, restaurateur William Latta bought some of the black bunting that had been wrapped barber pole style around the columns of the Indiana Statehouse. His wife and her daughter, Mary, placed the black mourning cloth, along with some red, green plaid and pink fabric, into a log cabin style quilt." Each strip of the barn raising pattern log cabin quilt is folded under so that the stitching is hidden. The back of the quilt is red and black striped material. The quilt is in good shape, with the exception of the fading of the pink fabric. The quilt had been kept in a plastic zippered bag in a cedar chest, and was only taken out on occasion. The articles goes on to say that the quilt was being featured in an exhibit at the Kokomo High School in a display titled "From Necessity to Art: a Century of Hoosier Quilts." At that time, the quilt was owned by family member Gregg Townsend. Gregg stated that he received the quilt from his aunt, Ina Peelle Shrock, who received it from her mother Alice Rebecca Peelle. The article stated that Alice had received the quilt from her mother and stepsister, Mary. The article said that exact family history was not known, and it was believed that Alice Peelle was William Latta's daughter, and that Mary was the daughter of Mrs. Latta (our research shows that Mary Jane Latta Meranda, who was born in 1834 to William and his first wife, may have been the Mary referenced in the article, making her Alice's half-sister). None of the census records for William Latta list him as owning a restaurant, but a search in the 1865 Indianapolis City Directory on page 98 shows that he was a partner in an "eating house and grocery" located at 113 S. Illinois, called "Latta & Meranda." The line above this lists "Latta, Wm. R. (L. & Meranda) res. 113 S. Illinois. William Latta and his daughter, Mary Jane Latta Meranda (and possibly her husband) were running a restaurant and grocery store. The newspaper article also stated that Gregg Townsend was very interested in history, and he enjoyed looking at old family photographs with Ina Shrock, and hearing about the quilt and other family memorabilia. He also stated that the family kept a two-tined fork with a wooden handle that had a note attached to it, written in Ina's handwriting, stating that Abraham Lincoln had used the fork when he dined at William Latta's restaurant in Indianapolis.

[Editor's Note: If you have more information on this Latta family, please forward it to the editor at DocHuer@aol.com.]

William H. Latta, Branch 1, Number 248

Accidental Death or Suicide?

By: Cheryl Sue Cox, Vice President, suelatteacox@yahoo.com

“William H. Latta, age 60, attorney for the Indianapolis Street Railway Company, was killed instantly at about 9 o’clock Wednesday night at a crossing north of Carmel, when he was struck by a southbound Monon passenger train.” So read the account of the death of William H. Latta in The Noblesville Ledger, Noblesville, Indiana, on Thursday, June 13, 1929. William H. Latta was the son of William Warren Latta and his first wife, Harriet M. Jackson.

William Latta graduated from Ligonier High School, and married Carrie Hunt on June 24, 1895. She was a celebrated writer and wrote serial stories. Mr. Latta was a graduate of DePauw University, an instructor in that institution for many years and later a member of the board of trustees. Newspapers articles concerning his death stated that he was well known in the area and unusually polite in his trials in court and was held in high regard by the lawyers and others who knew him.

The events of the days leading up to the death of William H. Latta were reported in the numerous newspaper articles concerning the accident, the coroner’s report, and the inevitable court hearings held concerning his estate. On the day of his death, Mr. Latta was traveling to Shortridge High School for commencement exercises in a rental automobile, when he telegraphed his sister-in-law, Mrs. Agness Calbert, and stated that he could not attend the exercises because his automobile broke down at Plainfield. When questions arose as to why Mr. Latta was traveling on the back roads instead of the state highway, Mr. Latta’s brother-in-law, Mr. Hunt, stated that Mr. Latta preferred to travel the side roads as he liked to drive slowly and view the country through which he was passing, and that back-road driving was a sort of hobby with him.

William H. Latta’s first wife, Carrie Hunt had died two years before his accident. His fiancé, Miss Margaret Emma Sander, stated that they met aboard the steamship Ansonia, on which they were returning from Europe in August 1927. She stated that she had driven to Indianapolis with Latta on Sunday, June 9th and stayed until Monday, when she returned to her home in Fort Wayne. She said that was the last time she saw him, although they had talked over long distance telephone on Tuesday. They were to have met in New York on Saturday, June 15, and were to have been married on Monday and sail on the steamship Aquitania, on which ship Latta had already booked passage. Miss Sander was a pianist from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Miss Sander was 41 years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Sander of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mr. Latta already had an apartment furnished at the Marott Hotel at Indianapolis, where he and his intended bride expected to make their home upon their return from Europe. Mr. Latta was considered very wealthy and had made several gifts to the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis.

William Latta’s body was mangled, and the machine was carried several hundred feet down the track by the train, which is said to be one of the fastest on the Monon road. It was a through train from Chicago to Indianapolis. Latta’s left leg and arm were broken, skull and chest crushed and there were a number of other cuts and bruises about the body. Coroner Frank Evans ordered the body picked up and taken to the O. W. Nutt undertaking parlors at Carmel and it was later taken to the funeral home of Flanner and Buchannon at Indianapolis. Mr. Latta was survived by two brothers-in-law, John and George Hunt. Mr. Latta had been

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William H. Latta (Continued from Page 5)

making his home at the Claypool hotel since the death of his wife.

At the inquest held at the office of County Coroner Frank Evans, Arthur M. Holmes and Jack Nowling, engineer and fireman of the Monon train No. 31 which struck the automobile, stated that when they first saw the car, the train was about five car lengths from the crossing. The train was traveling at about 45 mph, but they were able to slow to about 40 mph before they struck the automobile. They stated that Mr. Latta was looking out of the automobile window on the left side of the car, apparently not realizing that he had stopped on the tracks. Frank Alfred of Carmel, an employee of the Indiana Bell Telephone Company of Indianapolis, testified that he was returning home the night of the crash and that he saw the automobile on the tracks 400 feet ahead of him, with neither headlights nor taillights burning. Another witness, Miss Virginia Brooks of Carmel, testified that she was sitting in an automobile at the Carmel Wesleyan Church when she heard the crash and testified that she saw no lights at any place in the direction of the scene before the crash took place.

The autopsy was made in the interest of the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, a company interested in the life insurance and accident policies carried by Mr. Latta. The accident insurance companies had a large amount of money at stake and as their policies only cover in the case of accidental death, they protested payment of \$85,000 in insurance, claiming that Latta's death was due to suicide and that circumstances of the death indicate a scheme to defraud. They also alleged that Latta made false answers in applying for insurance. Miss Ander, Latta's fiancée, was made the beneficiary of \$40,000 of accident insurance. Policies in which Miss Sander was name beneficiary were carried with the United States Casualty Company and Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, \$20,000 with each. The \$10,000 balance of a \$30,000 policy carried with the Hartford Company was to go to DePauw University of Greencastle, of which Latta was a graduate and trustee. Other beneficiaries were relatives of Mrs. Carrie Latta, who died several years prior. They were two nephews and a niece.

William Latta also owned 650 shares in the Hoosier Casualty Company valued at \$50,000 and 666 2-3 shares in the Mid-West Insurance Company, valued at \$25,000. There was a \$9,000 note against the Mid-West Insurance Company stock, and the funeral home where Mrs. Latta's funeral was held also filed a claim for monies owned to them for her funeral. Another claim was filed for the rental car that was demolished in the accident. Newspaper accounts further stated that Mr. Latta had borrowed \$9,000 from the bank and at the time of his death, that amount had not been repaid. A record of Mr. Latta's bank account was read to the jury in the legal action filed, and stated that at one time, Mr. Latta had a large amount of money on deposit, but it had dwindled to practically nothing previous to his death.

The Will of Mr. Latta was filed at Indianapolis the Monday following his death and contained unusual provisions. Miss Sander, his fiancé, was to receive $\frac{1}{4}$ of the estate, after certain bequests were carried out. Two nephews and DePauw University were to have the other three-fourths of the estate. The Will created a trust fund for various purposes to run for 200 years, the total amount at that time to be \$160,000,000. The various purposes set out in the will include the Carrie Hunt Latta Memorial Library in memory of his wife, the Indianapolis Conservatory of Music, the Art Institute, for DePauw University, and for the creation of the Latta University, to be created when money became available in 150 years. Then Ligonier, his old home, was to get

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William H. Latta (Continued from Page 6)

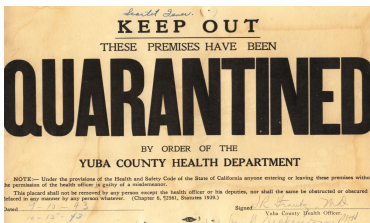
\$6,000.000 in 200 years. Present gifts of \$10,000 were supposed to create the great funds in coming years, if the world stilled exists and such purposes as provided in the will were still worthwhile.

After conducting an examination of witnesses for over a week, the coroner determined that Mr. Latta died as a result of being struck by the train, but he could not determine if the death was accidental. Final court hearings in the matter ruled that W. H. Latta did not commit suicide, and ordered the insurance companies to pay the proceeds, including interest, which had accumulated in the two years that it took to rule on the matter.

John Donald Latta, The Story of His Family and His Life August, 1908, to October, 1988, By his wife, Flossie Witt Latta & Their children.

By: Margaret Hundretmark, Branch 5, mjc-mark@cmark.us.
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In a couple of days both girls began to show the scarlet coloring and a faint rash. Immediately that dreaded sign went up on our door.



Gwen was not so sick, but it settled in one of her kidneys. Margaret was not so fortunate as it went into a gland in her neck and heart. The gland was so swollen that it was out past her shoulder. The doctor came every other day, and the county nurse came on odd days. "Margaret was critically ill and Don was not there to help me. Sulpha was quite new and it was the only medicine that helped her, and bring the swelling down. As soon as it was taken away from her the gland would swell up again. The doctor was quite concerned as there had never been a child that young given such huge doses over that length of time. He called the manufactures and explained the situation and with their advice, came to the conclusion there were no alternative.

"Don was on maneuvers so was out of town most of the time. When in camp he could come home but could not go near the girls or go past the door to their room. The weather was hot especially in the girl's room

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John Donald Latta (Continued from Page 7)

as I couldn't open a window or turn on a fan as the girls were not to be in a draft. I was six months pregnant and sat and rocked the girls. Yes, I took scarlet fever too but the doctor was watching me carefully so I had a mild case. "We were quarantined for six weeks. Dorothy Conn who lived next door, did all out grocery shopping, brought in medicines or whatever was needed. I sent my parents, Arthur and Maude Witt, letters but they were afraid to open them because they might have carried germs. They had once heard that someone had taken scarlet fever from unpacking a trunk in the attic of someone who had died of scarlet fever. So, my mother baked my letters before she would open them.

"The housekeeper of the Salvation Army couple went to a doctor and was diagnosed with a strep throat. Because the health authorities were trying to find the person who had carried the scarlet fever germ, our doctor was notified immediately. She must have sneezed or licked the spoons of my girls to give them the germ. "The first of Sept. came and Gwen sat on her bed and watched her friends going to school. She was too sick to show regrets but I'm certain they were there. We were told that Gwen's kidney probably would not mature unless it was needed. Today the doctors can find no difference. Margaret wasn't so fortunate. For years one could detect the small indent in her neck where the gland had been. She was left with a diseased heart. I'm not certain but the doctors say the damage is in a heart muscle and a valve or so. She manages very well but tires easily. She ignores it as much as possible and works very hard. I'm proud of her.

"Finally life settled down to a normal pace. Don and I went to the officers club quite often. Don had received his majority on May 18 of that year. Col. Triplet, Don's commanding officer suggested to Don one night that he take me home before I dropped the baby on the dance floor. The middle of Nov. the 13th Armored was scheduled to go to Bend, Oregon for maneuvers. We weren't concerned as they would return before my due date. Bend, Oregon is on the edge of the Willamette National Forest. Walter Winchell had a Sunday evening program on radio. At the closing of his program, he casually said, 'What armored division is sunning itself in northern Calif.?'

On December 8, 1943, Don was sent to Camp Bowie, Texas.

"We were surprised when we learned that the 13th was being sent to Camp Bowie in Brownwood, Texas. They were to leave on Dec. 8 and our baby was due on the 12th. We wrote to Mother Latta asking for her help. Bless her. She left Mary and Dad Latta in Chicago, got on the bus and was in Marysville just before Christmas. The girls and I finished the Christmas shopping and bought a nice tree. We decorated it beautifully and were so proud of it. We must have picked the oldest one as it started losing needles immediately. The falling needles sounded like rain. By Christmas there were very few needles left on the tree." Gwen remembers, "Margaret and I received Raggedy Ann and Beloved Belinda dolls along with a doll highchair for Christmas. When the Christmas tree lost all its needles, we used the only vacuum cleaner we had, a push-pull. We made a game of trying to clean them up."

"I went to the doctor on Dec. 24 and he told me it wouldn't be long now. He was invited to a Christmas Eve party but assured me he would only take one drink. I also was invited to a party and I wanted to go the worst way. But giving it a second thought I was afraid labor might start, water break or something

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embarrassing thing might happen. I did go into labor about 2:00A.M. but I didn't want to call Dorothy Conn to take me to the hospital. Besides, I did not want to leave the girls and not see them open their gifts. By 6:A.M. I couldn't wait any longer. Our baby boy was born about 9A.M.. He weighed 7lbs 4oz. I named him John Wellmann. I can't remember how we notified Don but he telegraphed back that the package had arrived safely. I felt so sorry for Mother Latta. Dad Latta had sent her a small bottle of her favorite perfume. When it arrived the cap had come off and the expensive perfume had all leaked out. At that time Ada Latta's mother, Hazel Weissbrenner, had died of cancer. Mother L. was very busy while I was gone. She made each of the girls a beautiful two piece suit and their first pair of slacks." Gwen remembers, "Children were not allowed on the maternity ward. We stood outside the hospital with Grandma Latta and Mom came to the window so we could wave to each other.



John Wellman Latta, born December 25, 1943, 8:37 a.m., at City General Hospital in Yuba City, Sutter County, California, to Don and Flossie. We lived at 1429 Sampson Street, Marysville, California.

"I did mention Dorothy Conn. Her husband was Don's commanding officer. Dorothy had had surgery so was unable to leave when her husband, Bob, did. Besides, she was having an affair with her doctor, who was also my doctor. With a puppy and a new baby, I was up about all hours of the night. I was concerned and asked why he came so often at night. I was shocked by Dorothy's answer. How naïve can one be. So 1943 came to an end."

"The Saga continues through 1944. Mother Latta returned to Chicago and the three children and I continued on. John was thriving, Gwen was in school and Margaret was busy with her puppy and friends. The puppy was growing and seemed to be mostly legs. The dog would walk to the bus stop with Gwen and when the bus came, he would come back home. This particular morning he slammed into the front door. Margaret opened the door and the dog was having a seizure. About noon, Margaret was playing outside with him and he bit her on the cheek-just below the eye. I called the vet, and he said for us to bring the dog in immediately and I must take Margaret to the doctor as this was one of the worst places for a dog bite. The doctor said he would stay in touch with the vet. A week passed and the dog continued to have an occasional seizure so he presumed he had rabies. The doctor had to order medicine from San Francisco. Time was running out and shots had to be started immediately. The medication arrived at midnight so the doctor called and I was to bring her in immediately. I bundled the three kids in the car and off we went. Margaret was given the first injections of 36. They were to

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be put in around her navel. By the time she had six injections, the vet decided the dog was not rabid. The shots were stopped and we took the dog home although the vet said that we should get rid of the dog as it would never be worthwhile.

"How does one get rid of a child's pet? I did it a sneaky way. I called the dog pound and explained the dog would be tied outside and the family would be away. When we returned the dog was gone. The girls and friends hunted for the dog for days. I never told Gwen until she was a grown woman. I don't know if she has forgiven me yet." Margaret still remembers calling and calling that dog and being sad it was gone.

"The first of April, Dorothy Conn and I decided it was time we joined the men in Texas. I made plans to go one day ahead of her and stop in Lancaster, Calif. to visit with a niece of Dad Latta's - Zella and Chester Scott..

The evening before we were to leave, we were hit by a bad hailstorm. By morning the hail was 6" on the ground. By noon we were on our way. I had purchased a new invention - disposable diapers.

"We arrived in Lancaster and stopped to enquire as to how to find the Scott's ranch. I was about 20 miles west of town. When we arrived, Chester was working in the field and a neighbor woman had come in to cook dinner for us. Zella and Chester's daughter, Bunny, had come for a visit. Zella had gotten theater tickets so she and Bunny were gone. No arrangements had been made for us for sleeping. The girls and I slept in one bed and I emptied a dresser drawer and made a bed for John. The next morning we met the family. When I was ready to feed John, his formula had soured, so I had to start over. By noon we were in Lancaster to meet Dorothy and her son Bobby to begin our journey to Texas.

"I had packed the car so tight, the space between the front and back seat was full so the girls had that large area. When it was time to feed John, I had his bottle warm between my legs. Gwen would feed him and I'd put him on his stomach across my knees to burp him. When I changed his diaper, I'd just toss it out the window.

"All went well until we got to the mountains in Globe, Arizona. The mountains were high, the road very narrow and we met a carnival in the inside lane. I was on the outside lane, no guardrails and a drop of a few thousand feet. The carnival was coming down the middle of the road. I kept my hand on the horn as I really didn't want my family and car going off that embankment. We were all very frightened but we made it- a few prayers helped." Gwen told me she could look straight down just out of her window." Flossie reminisces, "I was honking the whole way. Every time there looked like there was going to be a curve or corner, boy, I really laid on that horn to let them know I was there.

"When we got to El Paso, Texas, Dorothy's car was having trouble. We decided to go into Mexico for a couple of hours. It sounded like a good idea until the authorities told me that I'd have to completely unpack the car. I called Don at the camp in Brownwood to tell him we were coming in the next day. He said, 'Oh, you can't, it's over 500 miles'. I told him I'd be there and I was.

"He hadn't found us a place to live so we stayed with Russel and Ola Hitchcock and daughter, Janet. We were there for several days. One day I heard about a place for rent, called and got a wrong number. The woman said she would have a place to rent in a few days, out by the lake. I took it. We stayed with the Hitchcock's for the rest of that month. They were very good to us.

"The lake was beautiful. We were on sort of a peninsula and there were bushes and cactus all around us

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There were fishermen all over, sleeping under the shrubs, cactus and just everywhere. We were not especially afraid. Gwen had already learned to swim when she was two years old. She swam like she knew where she was going. I use to throw objects off the end of the dock into the water and she had to dive for them. The house was just junk, though. When it rained, we had to keep moving furniture because it was coming through the roof all over.” Gwen remembers that, “Us children and Mom shared one bed when Dad was not there. When Dad visited, they drew a blanket across the room to give themselves some privacy.” Flossie says, “We did finally get a house, another 2 bedroom. One bedroom had bunk beds in it.

“Don was in tanks. He was ambidextrous. He could shoot left or right-handed and was able to teach the left-handed men how to shoot. He was also able to teach the men how to drive a tank left-handed.”

On April 27, 1940, Don was called to arms in the Army and was to be at Ft. Knox, Kentucky by February 11, 1941. He was 31 year old. Don entered the Army Cavalry, which became the Infantry. He then went into the 13th Armored Division. His service number was 0334797. Don trained at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and received the rank of Captain on July 6, 1942. September 5, 1942 he was sent to Camp Beale, California in the 13th Armored Division. On May 18, 1943 he earned the rank of Major. He was transferred to Camp Bowie, Texas on December 17, 1943 and then to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas for Command and General Staff School from August 19 to October 21, 1944.

Chronological Record of Active Military Service of John Donald Latta:

17 Jun 1937-30 Jun 1937	Plans and Training Office	2 nd Lt	Cav.
Dec 1938-31 Aug 1939	Junior Officer-CCC	1 st Lt	Cav.
2 July 1940-25 July 1940	Platoon leader	1 st Lt	CMTC
1 Feb 1941-May 1941	Student-Instructor train	1 st Lt	Armd Tng. Ctr., Ft Knox
May 1941-Feb 1942	Platoon Leader	1 st Lt	Armd Tng. Ctr.
Feb 1942-Sep 1942	Co. Commander	Captain	Armd Tng. Ctr.
Sept 1942-Dec 1942	Co. Commander	Captain	16 th Armd Inf Battalion of 13 th Armd Div.
Dec 1942-Mar 1943	S2	Major	16 th Armd Inf Battalion of 13 th Armd Div.
Mar 1943-Apr 1944	S3	Major	Armd Inf. Battalion.
Apr 1944-July 1945	Ex. Officer	Major	Armd Inf. Battalion.
Jul 1945-10 Sept 1945	Ex. Officer	Major	Military Gov't. Det.

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John Donald Latta (Continued from Page 11)

Flossie says, "In August Don was sent to Command and General Staff School in Leavenworth, Kansas for 8 weeks. We rented an old, old house on Pottawatomie St. Just a beautiful house, everybody was envious. It was furnished and next door to us was a bakery. They had a little boy who Gwen played with. The family lived above the bakery and the children played on the flat roof. They would go down to the bakery and his parents would give them a cookie.

"One Sunday afternoon, Gwen fell off the roof. She must have fallen 20 feet into the cement basement entry well. We had company and Don felt Gwen was all right. Our company felt she should see a doctor. But she was OK." Gwen says, "Dad saw me fall while watching from the dining room window. There was an old stable at the back of the property of our house and he had to go through that and into the back yard of the bakery to get to me. He gathered me up and rushed me back to the house. I remember feeling safe then. I had to keep my left arm in a sling for several days and acted like, 'poor me'."

Flossie says, "Don had orders to go overseas so he took the kids and me home to Mom and Dad's farm [Arthur and Maude Witt]. We rented a house in Paris, Illinois, but we couldn't vacate the people renting there, housing was so scarce. We did everything including getting a lawyer. We just couldn't get them out of that house so we had to stay at the farm."

From Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, Don was sent back to Camp Bowie, Texas from October 1944 to January 17, 1945.

Flossie says, "On Thanksgiving, at the farm, I decided to go back to Texas. I stuck the 3 kids back in the car and we took off for Texas. We stopped at Gardner Williams' house overnight. He was Mother Latta's brother. They had no children. So, when her husband was coming home, she told the girls and me to go into the bedroom. She sat in the rocking chair holding John. Her husband came home and here was his wife with a baby in her arms. The next morning she wanted to try out a new muffin recipe for breakfast. Then I started out for Texas once again, with some muffins to munch on. "We got into Texarkana and it was raining like everything. I got a motel. It had an open slot for the car. I went to put the car in there and it hit a puddle of water and slipped. Boy, did I put a dent in the fender. I talked with Don that night. He said, 'Oh, don't worry about the car. That is the least of our worries'. The next day we went on down to Plano, Texas. Then I cut across to Brownwood. "The house that we had rented before was vacated that day. The man who had been living there had a mistress. He took her to her train and his wife came in on that same train. We happily moved back into the little house.

Margaret says, "While in Texas, Gwen and I were taking turns riding on the back fender of a bicycle that my father was pedaling. I was about 3 years old and Gwen was 5. Gwen went first. On my turn, Dad took a corner very sharply, I became unbalanced, my foot went into the spokes and my heel was badly cut. Dad carried me into the house with blood dripping all over, very upset over what he had done. Mom sat me on the rim of the sink and cleaned it out. "I also had a painted turtle that I played with quite a bit. One day, it escaped in the house. Mom wouldn't walk around at night afraid she would step on it. We searched high and low. I remember even taking our couch apart as under the cushions there was a storage area. Weeks later, it came crawling out of the heater vent. It had probably crawled into a hiding place to hibernate."

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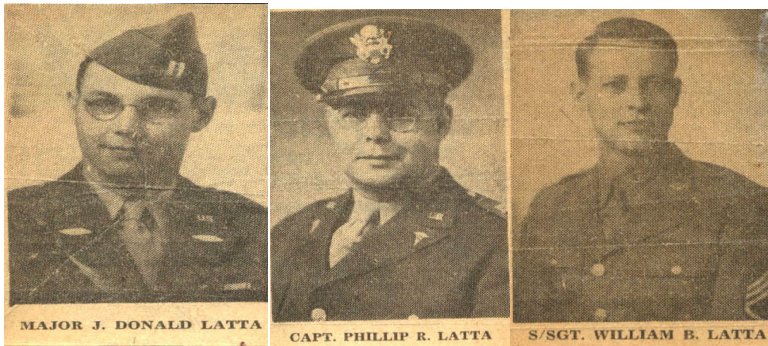
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John Donald Latta (Continued from Page 12)

"I think Mr. McCullough was higher ranking than Don, who was a Major. Don outranked his boss, Hitchcock, who was lazy. He didn't push like Don did. I had said something to his wife about it. She said, Oh, no, you are wrong". So I realized Hitchcock had not gotten a promotion and Don did. After New Years, we moved back to Mom and Dad's farm."

Don's departure date for overseas was January 17, 1945. His commanding officer was General Wogan, under General Patton in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns.

Under General Patton, Don and his crew were tank personnel. He told Flossie, "Don't tell me about our enemy. Our men were just as cruel. I saw our men shoot a civilian for no reason at all except to shoot. Don't believe them when they tell how cruel other people are because our men were just as cruel."



Three Latta brothers in the U. S. Armed Forces: Major J. Donald Latta, Capt. Phillip R. Latta, and Staff Sgt. William B. Latta. They were the sons of Samuel Wellman Latta (1876-1947) and Mary William.

Don and 3 of his men were in a foxhole that was taking heavy fire. Don told them, "follow me out." They didn't or couldn't and when he went back, all were dead.

Don also remembered, "A German soldier came around a corner as he approached. I saw immediately that it was a child and told him to drop his gun and run 'rouse'. I couldn't shoot him. I brought that gun back with me and my son, Roger, has it in safe keeping at this time." Don was recognized for his kindness to the German people. The Germans were starving. He purchased a set of sterling silver tableware for 8 people from a castle owner who needed the money to feed himself and his family." Gwen says, "For a long time, Mom had the receipt for the silverware just to prove that it was not stolen. That silverware is still in the family."

Flossie says, "I was living in Broadlands in a little old house with no heat and no running water. Dad [Arthur Witt] "came up from the farm and we were in a cesspool because everything was backing up on us. He came up a lot because of his grandchildren. I couldn't buy a stove; you couldn't buy anything. I did buy a little coal burner about so high and when you got that going, it was red hot. I was scared to death because John was walking and he could fall in it. He never did. I then got a kerosene heater. The town people felt sorry for us. We were so cold. So, they brought in an old heater and hooked it up in the living room. The rest of the house was still so cold that John and I moved into the little bedroom with the girls. I slept with one of them and John had his crib. I have never been so cold in my life as I was in that little house."

Margaret says, "Living in Broadlands, was Mom's sister, Erma Wood, her husband Ray and daughter, my

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John Donald Latta (Continued from Page 13)

cousin Nancy. Mom wanted to be near her family while Dad was gone. Mom's parent's, Arthur and Maude Witt's, farm was just about 20 miles to the south near Brocton. Gwendolyn went to second grade in Broadlands. We lived beside a railroad track and our Cocker Spaniel, Penny, would lie between the tracks as the sun heated the stone bed. One day a train went right over her and she got a very bad gash on her head. Mom dissolved aspirin and put it in the wound and she survived. I have an idea Penny never did that again. She still chased cars though and never learned not to even though she had many close calls." Flossie says, "We spent a lot of time at Erma and Ray's. In fact we lived there when Don was traveling home."

WWII ended May 8, 1945. Don was held overseas to be in the Army of Occupation. He returned to the United States October 9, 1945. He was awarded the EAME ribbon with 2 bronze stars and the American Defense Combat Infantry Badge.

Flossie says, "Don was held for the Army of Occupation. He didn't come home with his group. I didn't know where he was. Dad Latta called me and said they had received a telegram from Don saying that he was held back for the Army of Occupation. 'He's ok', he said. What Don had sent me didn't come through. He wasn't there too long. He did learn quite a bit of German because he was working with them directly, now. He was no longer in tanks. He was to keep the peace. When the Army found out that he had 3 children, they said he had to go home. So he came home in time for our anniversary on October 16th. He looked wonderful. One trunk never got home with him and that had the gifts that he had for us. Don did bring quite a bit of silver but he had the sales slips for everything. He never stole it."

Gwen remembers, "Our Dad was to be held in Germany to participate in the Army of Occupation and we were to go there to live. Mom had started packing when she heard his orders were changed and he came home, 5 months after the end of the war."

Flossie says, "Don came back from the war an angry man. When that anger was directed at his family, he was always sorry and very loving afterwards, asking forgiveness. He was an enigma to his family. In the last few years of his life, he relived the war in nightmares. When he started flailing around in his sleep, I would jump out of bed so I wouldn't get hurt."

Don's separation from active duty was at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, October 12, 1945 and given leave until January 14, 1946. On September 17, 1946, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel. On July 15, 1957, Don was transferred from Infantry Branch to Judge Advocate General's Corps. And on January 27, 1970, Don was "*Honorably retired from the United States Army*". His promotion to Colonel was in the mail when he retired but had not reached him. The Army received his retirement first and they cancelled the promotion.

"We met Don at his parents' house in Chicago," Flossie says, "He knew he had lost a lot of his law. He saw this ad at Callaghan & Co. It was for revising and writing law books: Illinois statutes and Michigan laws. He would have to go through the books and take out the old laws and put the new ones in. He thought that would be a good place to start until he relearned enough law to start practicing."

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John Donald Latta (Continued from Page 14)

Margaret remembers, "After the war, in 1945 and 1946, we all lived with Grandma and Grandpa Latta. They had an apartment in Chicago at 5059 N Winchester that had three bedrooms, plus a living room, dining, room, kitchen, with one bath. My Grandpa and Grandma used the front bedroom, my parents and John and I slept in the second bedroom off the dining room. Gwen slept in a tiny room off the kitchen, probably a maid's room. My Aunt Mary, a much younger sibling of Dad's slept in the pantry when she was home. Gwen went on with 2nd grade while living at Grandma Latta's apartment."

Gwen says, "Grandpa Latta had had a heart attack and was bedridden. We were forbidden to go into his room; but I did whenever I could manage it. I'd cuddle in bed with him and he'd tell me stories. The ones I remember were about the Indian wars and the scary Indian Chiefs. If Grandma opened his door, I'd roll off the bed and hide under it until she went away. He loved our secret.

"All my friends thought I was so lucky to have that maid's room all by myself. It had a window onto the back landing. At the time, there was a mass child murderer on the loose with all the gory details. I knew, but wasn't supposed to. The adults would stop talking about it if any of us children came near. Because of that, I wasn't able to talk to them about it. I was so scared and had horrible nightmares. I still remember some of them. I'd wake up screaming and Mom would come in and rub my back to help me back to sleep. For most of my young life, I was never sure I'd live through the night. I'd say, 'see you in the morning' and whisper, 'I hope'."

To be continued in Issue 79.

Eugene Ran Latta

By: Cindy Stiene, Branch 15, Note 3, lmsjfs@gmail.com

I may have a lost Latta for you! There is a Eugene Ran Latta born about 1853/54 in Indiana who was a ward of John F. McDevitt, formerly of Lagrange County, Indiana. This person and his guardian / uncle resided in Madison County, Alabama from about 1872-1902, when his immediate family moved to Memphis, Tennessee and settled there. What led me to Branch 1 just now is that John McDevitt was a brother to Julia Ann McDevitt, the wife of Milton Miller Latta of Branch 1 (1822-1899), and lived next door to the Johnstone Latta family in 1850. While serving as guardian ad litem for Eugene, John paid Eugene a settlement of \$1100 from the estate of his sister, Martha McDevitt Krichbaum/Crickbaum/Kreighbaum (d. 1858), possibly passing her portion of her father's estate to Eugene. There are also a couple of property transactions between Indiana and Alabama between Eugene and his uncle, John & wife Loretta McDevitt. If you look in the 1860 U. S. Census of LaGrange County, Indiana, in the household of Rubin McDevitt (another brother) there is a "Regean" Latta age 7 in the household and they were living next door to John F. McDevitt.

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Eugene Ran Latta (Continued from Page 15)

According to Ancestry.com, Martha McDevitt married Joseph Kreighbaum on 14 Sept. 1856 in LaGrange County, Indiana. Find a Grave memorial number 19551661 is for Martha McDevitt Krichbaum. She was born in Indiana in 1836, and died in 1858 in LaGrange County, Indiana. Martha is buried in the Eden Cemetery, Topeka, LaGrange County, Indiana. She is in row 36, lot 1, s/w Isaac, Mary, and Patrick McDevitt. Martha was the daughter of Isaac McDevitt (1795-1851) and Mary Ann Henrietta Lakin (1797-1843), and the wife of Joseph Krichbaum. Martha's siblings are listed as Mary Ann McDevitt Lohrei, John McDevitt, Patrick McDevitt, Rebecca McDevitt Darlington, and Henrietta McDevitt McClure.

Eugene R. Latta married L. O. Ramsley on 28 June 1876 in Madison County, Alabama. They are listed in the U. S. Census of Huntsville, Ward 2, Madison County, Alabama taken 4 June 1880, family 91, Enumeration District 232. Eugene R. Latta is listed as a married, white, male, age 26, born in Indiana. His wife Lou Q. is married, white, female, age 20, born in Kentucky. Daughter Ella P. is single, white, female, age 2, born in Alabama. Son Eugene A. is single, white, male, age 2/12, born in March in Alabama. Mother in law Juliet B. Ramsey(sic) is widowed, white, female, age 60, born in Kentucky. They are also listed in the U. S. Census for Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama taken 14 June 1900, family 242, enumeration district 101, as follows: Eugene R. Latta, Head, white, male, age 46, married 24 years, born March 1854 in Iowa. Lou Latta, his wife, is white, female, age 40, married 24 years, born March 1860 in Kentucky, and has 3 children, all living. Arthur Latta, son, is white, male, single, age 20, born March 1880 in Alabama. Son in law Chas. S. Coburn, is white, male, married 1 year, age 24, born Sept. 1875 in Georgia. Daughter Pearl is white, female, married 1 year, age 22, born June 1877 in Alabama. Nephew Chas. C. Coburn is white, male, single, age 3/12, born Feb. 1900 in Alabama.

There are actually two houses associated with E. R. Latta in Huntsville, Alabama. One was built in 1877, and the other one was built in 1885. They are on the same street a few doors down from each other, 125 and 129 Walker Avenue. Both of these properties were built and sold by E. R. and Lou Latta. These house still stand today, and are part of the historic district of Huntsville, Alabama.

Business note for Eugene R. Latta: He was a partner in a planing mill in Huntsville that appears to be formerly owned by John F. McDevitt who had a wooden blinds and shade business. Whether Eugene inherited the business or bought it from his uncle is unknown at the moment. He later left the planing business and went into the grocery business after his family move to Memphis.

Lula Q. Ramsley Latta is listed in Find a Grave as memorial 201046271. She was born March 1860 in Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky, and died 5 July 1905 in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. Lula is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. The family members listed here are Eugene R. Latta, Spouse, 1854-1929, and Pearl Ella Latta Coburn, child, 1877-1954.

After Lulu's death, Eugene Latta married his second wife, Mrs. Ella Mae McKenzie Buchanan in Mississippi County, Arkansas in 1912 and continued to reside in Memphis, Tennessee until his death in 1929.

Find a Grave memorial number 44054752 is for Eugene R. Latta. He was born in March 1854 in Indiana, and died 23 April 1929 in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. He is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. Eugene's spouse is listed as Lula Q. Ramsley Latta (1860-1905). Their child is listed as Pearl Ella Latta Coburn (1877-1954). Eugene's death certificate did not name his parents.

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Eugene Ran Latta (Continued from Page 15)

Pearl Etta Latta married Charles S. Coburn on 29 Jan. 1899 in Madison County, Alabama. Pearl's death certificate states that she was born 9 June 1877, and died 9 Dec. 1954 in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. Her parents are listed as Lula O. and E. R. Latta.

Arthur E. Latta, the son of Lula and Eugene R. Latta, married Theresa Green on 26 Dec. 1906 in Shelby County, Tennessee. Arthur had his obituary published on 23 Sept. 1908 in the Morning Mercury, Huntsville, Alabama. It states:

"Former Huntsville Boy Dies at Jonesboro, Ark. Jonesboro, Ark., September 22. Arthur Latta, alias Smith of Memphis, who has worked for the Ohio Handle Factory as a watchman for some time, died here Monday night. Latta was stricken on the street, and for a while it was thought he was dead, but he rallied and was carried to his home on North Culberson street. Later he went to work, but was persuaded by his wife to come home, she telling him he was not able to work. Soon after reaching his house, he laid down and in three minutes was dead. Latta had been known as Smith all during his residence here, and after his death his real name was told to the police by his wife, she giving as a reason that about a year ago, while living in Memphis, he had trouble with a saloonkeeper, and not wishing that his identity or whereabouts be known, he came here, going under an assumed name. The men for whom he has been working gave him a good name, saying that at all times he performed his work well, and they were much surprised that he had been in trouble and was under an assumed name. Latta's father arrived today from Memphis and took the remains to Memphis for burial. Young Latta was the son of Eugene R. Latta, who lives at 1693 Euclid avenue Memphis."

The date for the only criminal record found for Arthur Latta was set 13 days before his wedding to Theresa Green. I have to wonder if the two events are related, since I have not found any Theresa Green in the current sources for Memphis so far. The hunt continues.

Laura Coles, the daughter of Lulu and Eugene R. Latta, had her obituary published in the Shreveport Journal on 3 Dec. 1960. It states:

"Magnolia, Ark. Mrs. Laura Coles died last night at the home of her daughter Mrs. Imon Bruce at Southern State College. She was born in Huntsville, Ala. Survivors include her daughter and three grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Sudbury Funeral Home in Halls, Tenn."

The death certificate for Laura Latta Coles states that she was born 30 Aug. 1882 in Huntsville, Alabama, and died 2 Dec. 1960 in Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas. Laura's parents were listed as Eugene R. Latta and Louise Ramsey.

There is one other connection. A James and Elizabeth Latta lived next door to Isaac McDevitt in the 1850 U. S. Census of LaGrange County, Indiana.

Eugene Latta and his family have bothered me for several years given they have no known connection to my branch of Lattas (Note 3, branches 15 and 31), who moved to Limestone and Madison Counties, Alabama from Orange County, North Carolina in 1817. Hopefully he is now with the correct branch and can be counted!

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Research Queries, Replies and Notes

Please send your queries and notes to the editor, Ken Mueller, 7400 E. Mule Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314, DocHuer@aol.com.

1. The James Latta in the 1850 U. S. Census of LaGrange County, Indiana, is James Latta (1796-1855) of Branch 1. He is an ancestor of my wife Karen. See The Latta Genealogy Newsletter, Issue 73, Spring 2021, page 7. I looked over the list of his sons, and there are four sons of James Latta who were unmarried circa 1853. They are Samuel Lemon Latta (1830-1905), James Johnston Latta (1832-1894), Jabez Elbert Latta (1836-1874), and Eden Reeder Latta (1839-1915). Note that Martha McDevitt was born about 1836, and Eugene R. Latta was born in March 1854. A lot of DNA research would have to be done to connect Eugene to his biological father.

I think that Martha McDevitt (1836-1858) is the mother of Eugene R. Latta (1854-1929) and she bore Eugene out of wedlock. After Martha's death in 1858, it would be possible that her husband, Joseph Krichbaum, would not wish to care for the child, and Eugene went to live with his mother's family. Once of age, Eugene would not want to live in Indiana, where many people would know that he was born out of wedlock. So Eugene went south to Alabama and Tennessee. It is my hope that we hear from descendants of Eugene's daughters, Laura and Pearl. Thank you, Ken Mueller, Branch 1 Captain, DocHuer@aol.com.

2. My 3x great granddad was Robert Latta 1805 – 1882, married to Janet McCaul Lindsay. He left for Australia on the Peerless in 1863. I am hoping for some information on two different aspects of his life. I would be to get more information on his children that went to Australia with him - William, David and Jane and John who had gone over before them. I would be to sort out his parentage and siblings. I have his parents as John Latta (1779) and Mary Woods (1780). Although Robert's year of birth fits date wise, he has siblings with birth years earlier than his that would make their parents young children at the times of their birth. David Latta (married to Elizabeth Cochrane) has a birth year of 1784. I can't make sense of this person and have tried deleting date of birth to see if hints come up but comes as the same. Teresa McTaggart, tessandfin2000@yahoo.co.uk.

3. Hi Teresa, this is what I have on your queries:

Robert Latta and Janet Lindsay had 7 children, and as you know three stayed in Scotland and four went with them to Australia. The three who stayed were Agnes (1829-1919) who married John Thomson and died in Kilmarnock, Mary (1831-1908) who married James Gibson and died in Edinburgh, and Robert (1841-1928) who married Margaret Brown in 1861 in Kilmarnock and died in Kilmarnock. The four who went to Australia were John (1834-1911) who married Ann McMillan in Broulee, New South Wales in 1862 and died in Milton, New South Wales, William (1843-1934) who married Elizabeth Backhouse in Broulee in 1867 and died in Bateman's Bay, New South Wales, David (1846-1901) who was single and died in Milton and Jane (or Jean) (1851-1943) who married Charles Evans Thistleton in 1874 in Ulladulla, New South Wales.

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Research Queries, Replies and Notes (Continued from Page 18)

John Latta and Mary Wood(s) had four children for whom I have records. In addition to Robert, there was John (1798-1882) who married Margaret Gibson in Kilmarnock in 1830 and died in Kilmarnock, William born in 1802 and Alexander born in 1812. There are no further records for the last two which makes me suspect they died young. I do not associate David Latta born 1784 with John Latta and Mary Woods. I don't have a record of his parents. Please let me know if you want anything further on this. Geoffrey Latta, gwl820@hotmail.com.

3. **Latta Family Origins.** This website is designed to provide information on the Latta and Latto names and genealogy for Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland, and to a limited degree for Australia and New Zealand. The information on this site is regularly updated as new information becomes available. www.lattafamilyorigins.org. Geoffrey Latta, gwl820@hotmail.com.

4. The editor invites all readers to send in their queries and notes to be printed here.

5. 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 email copy of our Latta Genealogy Newsletter for free for a year. I also encourage you to send me the stories of your Latta families, as that will spark their interest. I send our Newsletter to several major libraries to save your story for future generations. You can reach me at Ken Mueller, DocHuer@aol.com.

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, MD, 1396 Rubio Lane, San Luis Obispo CA 93405.

4 Randy Phillips, 1012 Varela Street, Apartment 1, Key West FL 33040.

7 Jean Mitrovich, 15306 Corapeake Place, Chesterfield VA 23838.

4 Richard P. Latta, 783 West Carpenter Avenue, Reedley CA 93654.

William A. Latta, 2802 Burnaby Park Loop SE, Olympia WA 98501.

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Our New High Speed Scanner

The LGS board approved the purchase of a high-speed scanner for digitizing and copying documents, photos, and other items. The scanner handles regular 8.5 x 11 sized paper, legal sized documents, such as D.A.R. applications, and smaller, irregular sized items. This now allows us to digitize any size quantity of documents in a very short time. It also allows us to preserve and share documents with other Latta genealogists and family.

If any LGS member has documents that pertain to the Latta family that they would like to share, they can be sent to Randy Phillips, Treasurer, for scanning. We will return the originals along with a digital copy. The documents will also be shared with Ken Mueller, Editor, for publication as permissible. If you have any questions please call or e-mail Randy Phillips, 315-759-9121, parting_glass65@yahoo.com.

Latta Genealogy Society: Minutes of the Annual Meeting

By: Geoffrey Latta, Secretary Historian, gwl820@hotmail.com

The annual meeting of the Latta Genealogy Society was held virtually on Thursday July 21, 2022 at 8.00 p.m. EST. In attendance were Ken Mueller, President; Sue Cox, Vice-President Research; Stan Latta, Auditor and Geoffrey Latta, Secretary-Historian.

There was a discussion on the need to attract additional volunteers from a younger generation to help run the Society. Although appeals for help have been made, the response has been very limited. The need is both at the officer and Branch Captain level.

It was agreed that we should make it less onerous to become a Branch Captain and should communicate that starting a GEDCOM is not required and that the position would not have to be a long-term commitment. For the officer positions it was agreed that in a future issue of the Newsletter, the front page should be devoted to an appeal for volunteers to step forward to provide back up in the key roles. The appeal should make it clear that without further help the continued existence of the Society could be in jeopardy.

Where possible it was agreed that potential volunteers should be contacted by e-mail.

There was a discussion on whether the Society needed a dissolution plan but it was agreed that this would be premature pending the attempt to involve a wider group of people in running the Society.

It was agreed that those members who received a physical copy of the Newsletter but who had not contributed to the Society for the last five years would receive a note with the next issue telling them that it would be the last they receive unless they make a contribution.

It was also agreed that anyone who expresses interest in the Society but is not initially willing to pay should receive one complimentary issue. The hope is that once they see the nature of the material they will be willing to contribute. It was agreed that members in countries outside the United States should be contacted

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 20)

to ask if they could identify family contacts who might join the Society and to ask them to contact such people. Sue Cox volunteered to assist with the Society's Facebook page once Randy Phillips, Treasurer, as administrator of the page, provides her access to this.

There is some money available in the Society's DNA project. It was agreed that we should tell members who have not participated that there is financial support available if they are willing to participate and to make the same offer to those who have undertaken a test but who might be willing to upgrade to a higher-level DNA test.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m. EST.

Branch Captains (Continued from Page 2)

Information about living persons may only be shared with the permission of that person.

Submit updates for the website to the Branch Captain Coordinator.

Perform other duties as assigned by the Branch Captain Coordinator.

Act as an advisor to the Branch Captain Coordinator.

Periodically write reports for the Newsletter. You can send me as much or as little information as you want, and I will get it updated as soon as I can and published to the website and or newsletter.

Some Branch Captains have not been heard from in quite some time. This will be followed up.

Sue Lattea Cox, Branch Coordinator and Web Master, suelatteacox@yahoo.com.

Here is a revised list of our branch captains, with names and addresses:

Branch 1: Ken Mueller, 7400 East Mule Circle, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, DocHuer@aol.com. I am also your editor.

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

Branch 4: Randy Phillips, 1012 Varela St., Apt. 1, Key West FL 33040, parting_glass65@yahoo.com. Randy is also the Treasurer.

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Branch Captains (Continued from Page 20)

Branch 7: Stan Latta, 115 Cimmaron Ct., Cary NC 27511, stanlatta@usa.com. Stan is also the Auditor.

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

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

Branch 16: Kathleen J. Latta, 268 Knottwood Road North, NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6K 1Y4, lattakj@telusplanet.net.

Branches 17&29&43&46: Sue Lattea Cox, 6 Woodhill Ave., Salem WV 26426, suelatteacox@yahoo.com. Sue is also the Vice-President and Webmaster.

Branch 20: Vicky McCain, 1216 West Elm Street Kokomo, IN 46901, vlmccain51@yahoo.com, assistant Kathy Smith.

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

Branch 33: Erica Couchman, pikoboogirl@yahoo.com.

Branch 37: William Beckett, beckettwilliam50@gmail.com.

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.

If you do not see your branch here, please consider volunteering.

Note to the branch captains: If possible, please consider asking a Latta family member to be an assistant branch captain. Is there a son, daughter, nephew, niece, grandchild, in law, etc. who would like to help?
