

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Issue 8

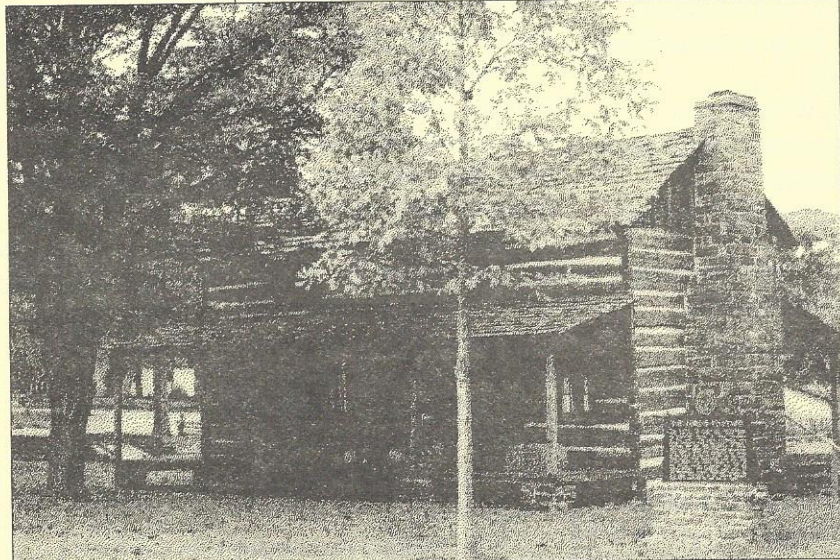
Autumn 1998

Branch 9

50th Latta reunion at The Lord's Vineyard

From the *Prairie Grove (AR) Enterprise*
June 18, 1998

An estimated 300 people attended the 50th anniversary of the Latta family reunion held Sunday afternoon at the Latta Barn in Prairie Grove's Battlefield Park. The reunion was held for the descendants of Tom and Dolly Latta, who lived in the Honey Hollow community, south of Morrow.



The John Latta House in Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in Arkansas. The barn where the reunion is held is barely visible in the background.

While a family reunion is a big event in any family, organizers of the Latta 50th Reunion pulled out all the stops. History books, a videotape and commemorative tee shirts, glass mugs, coffee cups and calendar were available for sale. The historical information was also available on floppy disks. The family publishes a genealogy newsletter three times each year and maintain a website with the address of <http://www.latta.org>.

The video, "The Journey Home", was produced by Charla Reed. It contains an account of Tom's great uncle, John Latta, when he settled in the community later to be known as Vineyard, which is between Evansville and Morrow. John Latta did not know at the time the land he was moving his family to on the edge of the Arkansas and Oklahoma border was one that would be dominated for many years by outlaws. Another family member, Robert

Boyd, was a cobbler in Cane Hill and sold shoes to many people, including Frank and Jesse James.

The video also includes history of John's brother, Samuel, who also settled in the area.

John Latta built the original home site in the community. The home was taken down and relocated in Battlefield Park, where it stands on display today. The Latta Barn, where the reunion was held, was also built by John Latta. He also built a corn mill, a blacksmith shop, a church and other buildings in the Vineyard Community. He wanted to build a self-contained community, family members explained.

Latta had the first post office in Washington County and they also had a stagecoach stop.

The original Cane Hill College, a Presbyterian College, was formed in the Latta House, then moved to Cane Hill when the college was constructed and later became College of the Ozarks.

The reunion featured singing, prayers, plenty of food and, most importantly, fellowship and an opportunity to visit with family members traveling from several states.

Youngest daughter

Lillian Latta Loftin, the youngest daughter of Tom and Dolly Latta, remembered her early family life and explained how the family has been able to continue the reunions for 50 years.

(Continued on page 6)

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Editorial**Use 'em or lose 'em**

Much has happened in the life of *The Latta Genealogy Newsletter* this year. The redesigned web page is attracting much attention (329 hits in August), and the "Index to Lattas" is now a searchable database (if you haven't visited the page recently, put down the newsletter and go there at once) and the entire text of Robert H. Latta's "Memorandum Book" has been added. The LATTA-L mail list was instituted, and we've reprinted "volume one" of the newsletter for the benefit of those who missed it first time around.

Now, we need you to take advantage of these innovations. Of course, summer has traditionally been a slow season for genealogy, but now with fall in the air, perhaps you can turn your attention to ordering that set of reprints, and sending an e-mail to maillist@latta.org for an automated reply that explains how it all works.

Don't forget about our Library Project whereby readers endow a newsletter subscription for their favorite library or society.

And now, good readers, prepare to "spring into fall."

George P. Latta**Notes from the Quagmire**

George is swamped. Recently he's been besieged with inquiries about "when is the information I sent you going to show up in the Branches?"

Much of the information George receives is not ready to be typed into the branches, either because it's not legible, or it's disjointed ("my gg-grandfather...my niece's cousin...my father's brother...my ggg-uncle-in-law" rather than sequential), or it's lacking documentation. In any of these circumstances, the info goes into the "Need Days/Years to Decipher" pile.

Frequently George has to respond to the sender asking for clarification or additional information, and no response is forthcoming. These files are sitting in another pile, waiting for answers.

Meanwhile, George is hard at work looking at potential connections between branches (several have already been connected) and determining when "new" information warrants being called a "branch" (such as 50 and 51).

Please keep in mind that George is just one person, and has only ten fingers. Too, there have long been rumors that George has a secret life, away from genealogy, to which he disappears occasionally, sometimes for hours on end.

It's hardly an exaggeration to say that Latta research has come as far in the past two years as it did in the previous fifty-odd (since Robert H. Latta's demise).

So, if the information you submitted has not yet seen the light of day, we humbly request you ask yourself these few questions:

[1] Have I sent my family information to George (in a legible, organized, readable format)?

[2] Did I submit sufficient documentation to warrant changing or adding to whatever's already there?

[3] Did I get a response from George asking for more info?...Did I send it?

[4] Did the *&%^@! forget about me?

If it's [4], then the company line is that he's moved and left no forwarding address. Otherwise, if [1] through [3] applies, then the solution should be apparent.

We hope you know how grateful we are for all the help, support and information you've shared, and that you know we are pedaling as fast as we know how to keep up.

The Latta Genealogy Newsletter

Published approximately thrice annually

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

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

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

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

Our man in Scotland

Alex Latto writes:

Imagine my surprise on reading Issue 6 and seeing a "Kent" name (i.e., a name I recognised). The Tom Latta saga showed Colin LATTA who married Mary MUIR (in my records Colin LATTA + Mary MOUR, the old spelling).

I confess that I have done no real investigation on the Dalgety LATTAs because they were not in my direct line, although I believe they go back to a common ancestor with me in the 16th or 17th century. My 5-great grandfather had a brother Colin, born 1762 in Largo, about 15-20 miles east of Dalgety. Dalgety is on the south coast of the county of Fife, between Kirkcaldy and Dumfermline.

If any other readers can supply details of LATTA ancestors born in Scotland, I will follow up to see if I can connect them back to those who lived here. The more detail, the more chance of success.

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The Slovakian Connection

Anna Latta Owens writes:

There are many Lattas in the Ruthenian section of Eastern Europe. My mother's maiden name and my grandmother's maiden name was Latta, as well as their married name. The cemetery in the village of Pcoline, in Slovakia, tells the same story. My family's origins were in that part of Austro-Hungary, then Czechoslovakia and now Slovakia.

Some years ago I met a man from Ohio named Marion Latta who had family from Scotland. I got the impression that he knew the connection with the Ruthenian Lattas.

A relative who believes the name Latta to be of Italian origin was informed by the Dean of the Italian Department at Georgetown University that the rough translation of "Latta" is "tin." She states there are a number of Italian names in Slovakia where you would least expect them.

A member of the "Latta clan confirmed that a few Italian families moved to the eastern part of Austro-Hungary (today part of eastern Slovakia) with a nobleman who decided to settle there in the early 1600's. One of the butlers was named Latta. It seems that he or his children were very prolific because the name has become a very common one in the area.

The nobleman settled in Snina and had his castle there. The structure is still standing and was and may still be used as an agricultural college.

Anna Latta Owens
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alo17@mail.wdn.com

Kentucky burials

Bonnie Peifer writes:

We are on a 3 month genealogy research tour and are presently staying with friends in western KY, Graves County.

Yesterday our friends took us to two local cemeteries where Lattas are buried. They are not mine, but I wonder what branch they belong to and if anyone is looking for them. Can you tell me which branch?

They are:

Alexander R. Latta	b. 22 Jan 1825,	d. 21 Apr 1908
Mary A. Latta	b. 15 May 1829,	d. 30 Dec 1905
Wayne F. Latta	b. 1896,	d. 1980
Ava S. Latta	b. 1902,	d. 1977
Wayne F. Latta, Jr.	b. 1928,	d. 1944

All the above are buried in the Beauregard Cemetery, Graves Co, KY. This is an old Confederate cemetery with a large stone commemorating the Confederate soldiers who died on this site in the Civil War. There was a Beauregard Camp at this location with some tombstones predating the Civil War. It is near the Bayou de Chine Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was founded 1828 as a log church, now a beautiful white frame church, and still in use.

The other cemetery was the Water Valley Cemetery, also in Graves Co, KY with more recent burials as follows:

Roy Graves	b. 21 Aug 1891	d. 25 Jan 1931
Myrtle Graves	b. 4 Mar 1893	d. 29 Jun 1988
Gilson D. Graves	b. 17 Oct 1893	d. 26 Dec 1966
Clemmie Edwards Latta	b. 1896	d. 1941
May Hill Latta	b. 24 Sep 1909	d. 11 Jul 1994

There are streets named Latta here. Also still some Latta families living here.

That's it—maybe this will help someone.

Bonnie Peifer - obpeifer@juno.com

From the archives of The Latta Family Newsletter

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ORANGE COUNTY, N. C. -- CEMETERIES

During the depression of the 1930's the WPA (Works Projects Administration) copied tombstone inscriptions from many cemeteries throughout the country. The following inscriptions were extracted by John W. Latta, Jr., from a collection of "Miscellaneous Papers" at the Orange County Court House, Hillsborough, N. C.

LATTA CEMETERY

A rural cemetery, located at Hillsborough, N.C.

Worker: A. K. Summerlin dated: April 30, 1937

Name	Born	Died	Remarks
Greene, Ed. W.	4-7-1869	3-25-1893	
Greene, Joe A.	3-23-1807	12-16-1888	
Latta, Anderson	9-25-1807	4-20-1887	
Latta, Annie K.	7-9-1880	3-22-1887	
Latta, Charlie L.	6-10-1877	5-17-1921	
Latta, Elizabeth	2-15-1817	9-8-1878	Wife of Anderson Latta
Latta, Gallie F.	10-21-1844	3-23-1897	Wife of J.G. Latta
Latta, Giles A.	7-21-1852	8-15-1927	
Latta, Infant	(not given)	(not given)	Child of Anderson and Elizabeth Latta
Latta, Infant	(not given)	(not given)	Child of Anderson and Elizabeth Latta
Latta, James G.	10-18-1840	9-23-1918	
Latta, Lottie M.	4-22-1881	10-8-1898	
Latta, Martha H.	6-12-1858	4-16-1929	
Latta, Sarah H.	9-18-1850	5-29-1851	
May, Mildred M.	4-30-1843	6-2-1900	

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CEMETERY

This is a rural cemetery located at Hillsborough, N.C.

Worker: H. O. Summey dated: 1940

Latta, John, Jr.	May 21, 1779	June 20, 1818	Aged, 39 years
Latta, Jno Senior	May 1, 1754	July 13, 1824	
Latta, Joseph	Dec 29, 1784	May 13, 1824	Aged, 29 years
Latta, Susanna	---	July 3, 1792	

(Editor's Note: There are two lists for St. Mary's Church Cemetery. The second list, compiled by A. K. Summerlin and dated April 30, 1937, omitted the entry for Susanna. The Editor has visited this cemetery and verified the first three inscriptions but was unable to locate a marker for Susanna. The remarks shown above for John, Jr. and Joseph were omitted by both Mr. Summerlin and Mr. Summey but added by the Editor after his examination of the stones. Note that the age cited for Joseph does not agree with the date given. The Editor has not been able to locate the Latta Cemetery and therefore, has not verified the inscriptions.)

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JOHN LATTA OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Compiled by John W. Latta, Jr.

From the records of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Land Office, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Recorded in Book C, Vol. 105, page 244;

A survey of 170 acres of land in Hempfield Township, Lancaster County. Surveyed April 18th 1798 to Daniel Deniston. Survey returned 1st August 1784. "But now in the possession of John Latta" and bounded by the land of Elizabeth Moore, David Mosselman, Sam Robinson, James Mayes and divided from David Hays's by the Chickasawlong Creek.

Warrant No. 15(L) Lancaster County.

For 170 acres of land (as described in the survey above) to John Latta, dated 4th August 1784.

Recorded in Book A, Vol. 12, pages 144-145.

A patent for 170 acres of land (as described in the survey above), issued to John Latta, recorded the 21st day of August 1784.

John Latta is included in the names of all the taxables who were listed in the Hempfield township assessment list for 1758. (See Ellis, Franklin and Evans, Samuel. HISTORY OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. Philadelphia, Everts & Peck. 1883, p. 870).

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Will Book B, Vol. 1, Page 609:

Will of John Latta dated 16th day of April 1768.

"my well beloved wife Margaret . . . minor children, viz. Jean and Joseph . . . my son Alexander . . . my son John Latta's heirs and children . . . my son Thomas . . . my grandson John Latta, son to Thomas . . . Robert the son of David Latta, my grandson . . . my daughter Jean . . . my youngest son Joseph . . . my two step-sons Samuel and William Ross". Executors: wife Margaret and son Thomas. Witness: Alex Scott, Ephraim Moore, John Hayes. Probate: 29 April 1768.

Lancaster County, Penn., Miscellaneous Book, 1768-1772, pp. 152-153: "At an ORPHAN'S COURT held . . . 23rd of November 1769 . . . Margaret Latta and Thos. Latta Executors of the Last Will & Testament of John Latta deceased produced to the Court the Account of their Administration . . . a Balance in their Hands of \$362.10.9 to be distributed as the will of the Testator directs; Which the court after deducting twenty seven Shillings the Expenses of this Court allows and approves of and it appearing from the Executors that there is still an unsettled account between them and a certain Samuel Ross now deceased Intestate on which said Samuel's Estate no Administration has been granted. It is ordered that on Credit for the Sums justly paid by Executors aforesaid Shall have remaining in their Hands. THE COURT appoints Robert Hays of Rapho Township Guardian over the Estate of Joseph Latta one of the Minor Children of John Latta of Hempfield Township deceased under the age of fourteen years, during the Minority of the said Joseph Latta."

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HEADS OF FAMILIES: POPULATION CENSUS 1790				
Free white males of 16 yrs & upwards, including heads of families		Free white males under 16 years		
Head of Family		Free white females incl. heads of fam's.		
		All other free persons		
		Slaves		
		Jurisdiction		
Later (widow)		1	2	
Latta, James		4	3	4
Latta, Moses		1	1	3
Latta, Samuel		4	3	3
Latta, William		1	1	5
Latta, Alex ^r		1	1	2
Latta, James		5	2	3
Latta, John		4	2	2
Latta, John		1	2	1
Latta, Moses		1	2	6
Latta, Thomas		3	8	1
Latta, William		3	6	5
Late, Leonard		2	4	2
Late, Michael		4	3	3
Latta, James, Jr.		1	1	3
Latta, James, Sr.		1	1	3
Latta, John, Jr.		1	1	3
Latta, John, Sr.		1	1	3
Latta, Joseph		1	1	5
Latta, Thomas		4	3	6
Latter, Jas		1	6	2
Latta, David		1	2	1
Latta, John		1	1	3
Latta, Jno		1	1	1
Latta, Thomas		1	1	3
Latta, Thomas		1	1	3

NOTE: The records for Orange County, N.C. have been destroyed. The names shown above were reconstructed from available tax lists. The records for the state of Virginia have been destroyed; a supplement list compiled from tax records estimated to be about two-thirds of the state, do not reflect any Latta families. The records for the state of New Jersey have been destroyed, as have the records for the state of Kentucky, and no supplemental lists were searched for these two states. The records for the states of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were searched, but no Latta families were located, nor any variations of the name. (Abstracted by John W. Latta, Jr.)

Latta Family Newsletter, published quarterly. Editor/Publisher: John W. Latta, Jr., 4805 N. Seventh St., Arlington, Va., 22203. Associates: Editor: Danny R. Latta, 6922 Stonebrook Lane, Alexandria, Va., 22306.

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BENJAMIN F. LATTA

Benjamin F. Latta was born 6 Oct. 1837, in Hickman Co., Ky., the son of John and Mary (Adlet) Latta. He died in Hickman Co., Ky. Feb. 1875. On 2 Jan. 1861 he was married to:

Mrs. Mattie A. Mitchell Morris who was born 31 July 1838 in Caldwell Co., Ky. She died 23 Jan. 1908 in Chicago, Ill. and was returned to Hickman Co. to be buried at Mount Zion grave yard beside her husband.

Their children:

Ada Latta, born 1 Nov. 1861. Married Albert Ruter in Cuthery, Okla.

Thomas Benton Latta, born 16 Nov. 1862. Married Emma Ynez Bird 9 Dec. 1893. Died Aug. 1950. Children: William Cleo, Rupert Rodney, Warren Hyland, Rosemond, Clois Byrd, Thomas Gladstone, Mary Emma, Pearl Ray, and Irene Lucile.

Ruth Latta, born 24 Feb. 1865. Married Tilsen B. Johnson of Clinton, Ky. and moved to New York City, N.Y.

Lyn Latta, born 26 Feb. 1867. Married Martha "Mattie" Kennedy.

Children: Ruth, Lynn H., Fred, Edith, Elsie, Evelyn, Albert, and Dorothy.

(Contributed by Mr. Lynn H. Latta, 431 Indio Drive, Pismo Beach, Cal. 93449, and is based on correspondence from William Cleo Latta of Crutchfield, Ky., dated 19 May 1915 to Robert H. Latta of Denver, Colo., and a Family Group Listing compiled by Mary Emma Latta Pittman, dated 28 April 1974).

THE FEDERAL CENSUS

The Federal Census has been taken every ten years since 1790 as directed by the Constitution of the United States. These records offer the genealogist one of the best sources of information available.

For the years 1790 thru 1840, only the head of the household was identified by name. All other members of the household were enumerated by sex and age group. Beginning in 1850, all members of the household were identified by name. The official census year is 1 June thru 31 May. Beginning in 1880, the census takers were instructed not to list the names of those who were born after 1 June of the census year.

Census schedules thru 1900—except for 1890 which was destroyed by fire, with only a few fragments surviving—are available for public inspection and it shall be the policy of this publication to abstract and publish as many as we can find.

For reasons too numerous to try to itemize here, these schedules contain many errors. For example, on page 11 the family of Eugene R. Latta includes one Chas. C. Coburn who is shown in the "Relationship" column as "N" (presumably meaning Nephew). An analysis of the other individuals—especially the relationship, age and marriage data for Charles and Pearl Coburn—suggests that Chas. C. was the grandson of Eugene H. Latta. Regardless of the possibilities of error, the census schedules remain an extremely valuable tool for the genealogist.

As a service to our readers, either member of the Newsletter staff will be happy to obtain a xerox copy of the original census schedule for anyone who so desires. The cost will be 45¢ per page plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. Copies are made on sheets 15" x 21". The exact size of the printed image varies, being slightly smaller. The quality of the copy is dependent upon the condition of the original.

The census schedules for the states of Alabama and Arkansas were abstracted by Danny R. Latta and Connie McD. Latta; Arizona was abstracted by John W. Latta, Jr.

The articles on this page are reprinted exactly as they appeared in The Latta Family Newsletter.

Our thanks to Danny R. Latta and the late John W. Latta, Jr.

Marion Latta Fawl**The Research Room**

We have one brave person in our family who is not afraid of water or in getting her feet soaked. Her name is Virginia Curulla of Seattle, WA. She found a copy of the "Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester County, SC, 1799-1859", which was compiled by Brent H. Holcomb and Elmer O. Parker (1980). This gem is printed by A Press, Inc., Greenville, SC. It was standing on a library shelf of the Seattle Genealogical Society and may be available in like facilities near you.

Within these pages she found the family of FRANK FORREST LATTA. At least a part of the family moved to Maury Co., TN, then to Cane Hill near Prairie Grove, AR in 1833. It mentions many family members, including a list of communicants as of 17 Jan 1775. John Latta is listed as an Elder in 1770. This book also contains other early records including a cemetery roster, 1762-1979.

Virginia Curulla's address is: 9050 Meridian Pl. No., Seattle, WA 98103-4153, or e-mail, vcurulla@cks.ssd.k12.wa.us, and Fax (206) 320-0882.

The first of these columns advised the use of State Archives to find bounty lands granted to a forefather. The National Archives does not have land records for the original 13 states, Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas or Hawaii. They do have bounty land warrant files, donation land entry files, homestead application files, and private land claim files that relate to settlers in public land states.

The process for obtaining anything from the National Archives is basically the same. For instance, you write a letter requesting John Doe's bounty land grant awarded in Virginia after 1780 for western lands. The Archives will send you a set of forms that have been printed for this, and only this, purpose. You fill out the forms and return them. The Archives will make a search and if they find the requested information, they will send a form telling you this and how much it will cost for the

duplication. You send the fee to them, usually \$10.00, and wait. The process may be speeded if you are willing to give them your credit card number. The use and abuse of credit card numbers obtained illegally has made many credit card holders think twice before putting their personal numbers on papers that will be filed and available to any prying eye. It is up to you.

If you happen to live near one of the eleven regional offices of the National Archives, it would avail you to pay a visit to the center and obtain the free order form needed for the item you are wanting. Each of these offices preserves material pertaining to their region and doesn't always have the records you

need. For instance, the PACIFIC SIERRA REGION office at San Bruno, CA will have all the census reports on microfilm for Northern California, Nevada (except Clark Co.), Hawaii and the Pacific Ocean area for the years numerated up to and including 1920. You may even find original tract books, survey plats, land entry case files, etc., pertaining to that region.

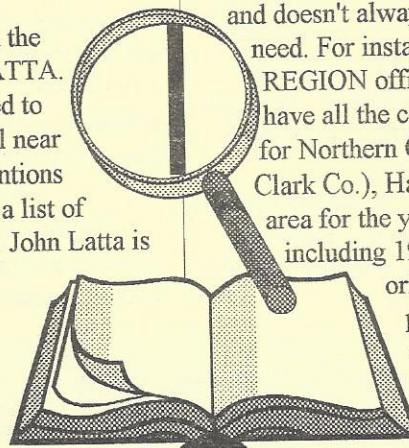
The serious genealogist may want to send an inquiry to the National Archives about their periodic educational programs. Some of the programs are basic genealogy using the Archives, but can become very technical. These programs also inform you about what is now available on microfilm and other recent acquisitions of the Archives. For information, write, stating your personal interests, to the EDUCATION BRANCH (NEEE), NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON, DC 20408.

Your regional archives also conducts educational programs of interest to genealogists. Check with your regional office about these programs and also their regional volunteer programs. If you volunteer, you will be within an arm's length of all that information you have wanted. Think about it.

Marion welcomes your questions, suggestions for future columns or research tips you'd like to share. Write to her at:

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*If you
volunteer,
you will be
within an
arm's length
of all that
information
you have
wanted.*



50th reunion at The Lord's Vineyard

(Continued from page 1)

"We were a very close knit family," Loftin said. "After my parents died, we decided to keep (the reunion) going."

Another family member said the reunion had continued due to the efforts of Loftin, Neal Reed, David Latta and many others through the years.

Loftin said her mom and dad were devout Christians and they taught their children to live right, to be honest and passed on "the great heritage of working people."

She said her father did not tolerate dishonesty and when asked what happened if a family member lied, she said she knew better than to try it.

Loftin said she remembered churning butter once and her mother heard her say "gee," which promptly resulted in her receiving a spanking. The parents of children today likely wish their children only used the word "gee."

Loftin remembered working in her family's apple orchard and drying a hundred bushels of apples each day during harvest. But she said her job was mainly helping her mother with chores. There were nine children in her family, but one died at only six weeks old, she said.

Loftin lives in Lincoln with her husband of 57 years, Clyde.

Oldest Granddaughter

Grace Baugh, the oldest granddaughter of

Tom and Dolly Latta said her grandparents were the "greatest people in the world."

When family and friends would visit her grandmother's house, no matter how many people there were, grandmother would always feed them, Baugh remembered. They gathered in wagons and stayed for the night, with many often sleeping on the floor.

Baugh remembered attending school in a little one-room schoolhouse in Vineyard and she said there was only one teacher and the students did not have individual seats, but rather sat on split log seats.

Times were tough in those days and no one had any money, but they never thought about it. She said they had their family and their devotion to God, which is what really matters most.

She remembered going to church and to school in a horse-drawn wagon, riding about an hour each way.

Others remembered

Wilma Copely, Leland Latta's daughter, remembered those in the family who were unable to attend this year's reunion because they

passed away over the past year, including her daughter, who died of cancer. She read a tribute to them and said they were now in a better place.

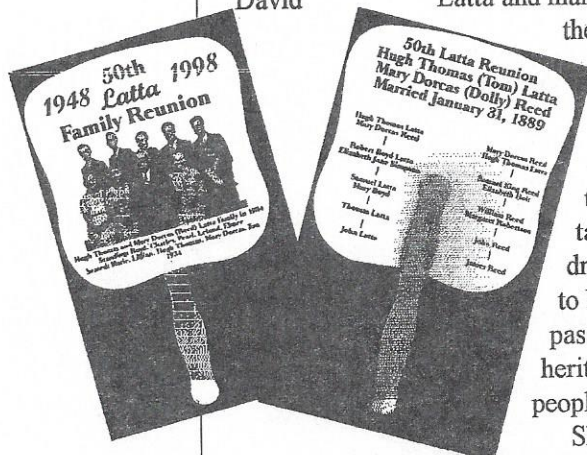
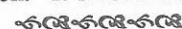
"Heaven and earth are closer than we thought," she said.

Reunion locations

Neal Reed, whose mother, Marie, was Tom Latta's daughter, said the first reunions were held in Tom and Dolly Latta's home. The reunions were then moved to the Legion Hut in Lincoln. After the Latta House was moved to the Battlefield Park, they eventually moved them

there.

Reed said the family plans to continue the reunion tradition. "It's not a time to quit now."



The Latta House

The John Latta log home was originally built in 1834. The building housed the Vineyard Post Office until it was moved to Evansville in 1836. By 1860 the Latta farm boasted numerous outbuildings including a springhouse, a smokehouse, and a cellar. Today the house and outbuildings offer visitors to Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park a vivid reflection of the family and community life of the early Arkansas settlers.

For more about Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, and the Latta House, visit this web site:
http://www.gorp.com/gorp/location/ar/parks/prair_gr.htm

Lord's Vineyard: the book

The book originally written by F. F. Latta in 1940 called "The Lord's Vineyard" has now been updated three times. It originally was primarily about John Latta (Samuel's brother) and the descendants of John and Jane, although their families lived only about a mile apart. It had several pages about Samuel Latta and some of his descendants' activities.

The book was updated in 1970 by my Aunt Lillian Loftin and Uncle Boyd Latta to include a lot more pictures and information about Samuel's family, and especially of Samuel's grandson, Hugh Thomas Latta. This section added about 80 pages.

The book is a gold mine of information and very interesting, too. The book is in the hands of John and Samuel's descendants and can be obtained through the Washington County Historical Society at Fayetteville, AR.

As of June 1998 the Latta book was updated with as much information as we have received commemorating the 50th Tom and Dolly Latta Family Reunion and the book is currently available by contacting David L. Latta, 18901 N Skylight Mt, Cane Hill, AR 72717, (501) 848-3510

Latta Plantation hits the web

Historic Latta Plantation, located 12 miles outside Charlotte, NC, has just opened a new WWW site. Its URL is

<http://www.lattaplantation.org>

It isn't sophisticated yet, but it will get there eventually. I'm the webmaster, the designer, the photographer, the go-fer, etc.

(I also conduct tours at the Plantation every Sunday.) I am learning as I go. I hope to have a clickable map out there and let folks that cannot visit the plantation in person visit it through the Web.

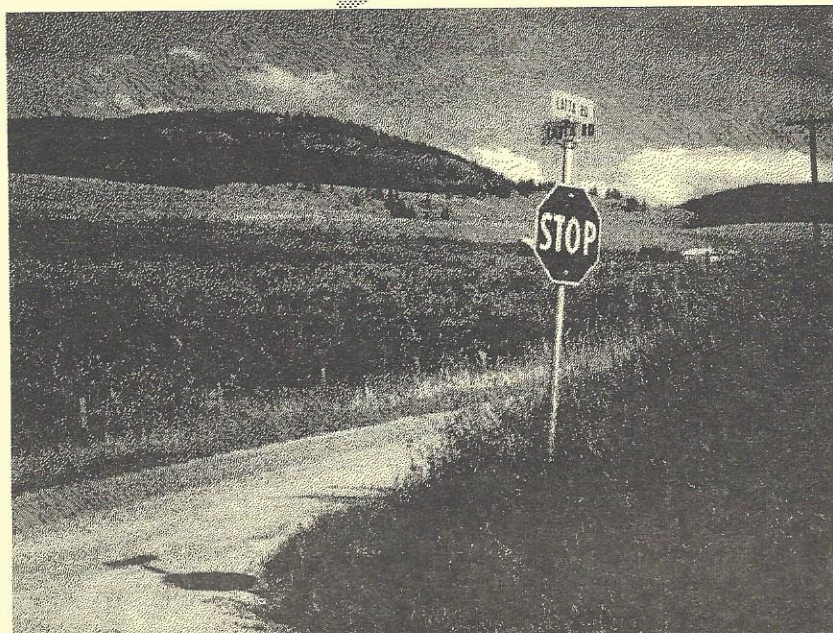
I do have a lot more material to add, but I am so excited to get anything up and running that I wanted to let you folks know about it.

I will advertise it to the various search engines, but I am waiting to pretty it up first.

Thanks for your time.

-- Sue Carr

Where in the world?



First-person account (Branch 4)**Railroad telegrapher: "The Erie Years"***Continued from Issue 7*

About this time the Allegheny Division (formerly Western Division) put in a block system its entire length from Hornelsville (now Hornell) to Salamanca. Their block stations were located about the same distance apart, two stories high, with all windows on three sides. At Friendship there was a very long passing-siding running east from the station, and here the blocks were closer together than usual. They put one just west of depot at west end of siding at Friendship Tower and another one at the other end of the switch about one mile east of the depot.

I had become capable to handle a telegraph job. The freight agent paid \$37.50 a month, and an operator paid \$40 and one had to work only twelve hours a day, seven days a week. Half of that time was at night. All the block stations operated on split tricks, one operator working from noon to midnight, the other from midnight to noon. The morning trick was considered the best as it allowed one to take in any show or other attractions that always take place in the evening. The operator that has been the longest on the job had his choice. In this case, I, being the youngest, went to work at noon until midnight. The operator who has been the one opposite me, a Richard Enright, many nights would stick me by not showing up on time – sometimes several hours late. I finally had to report him, which caused me more trouble as he tried to make it as hard for me as he could. He turned out to be an unusual character. At this time my wife's mother was operating a boarding house, and he was one of the boarders. One morning one of the girls working there discovered that her pocket book was missing, and strangely enough when Enright went off duty the next noon, he had prepared a notice of the loss already made to post in the Post Office. The question was how did he know of the loss while he was away from midnight to noon? It was no question for me, for among the ashes from the stove in the tower, I discovered the metal frame of the lost purse. He was transferred to Olean, NY, and while there delivered a political speech before a Democratic meeting that got a lot of praise, but instead of his own production, he had committed to memory one of Dave Hill's speeches (a leading New York politician). Later he secured a position as telegrapher in the New York City Police Department and in some way got into the good graces of Mayor Hylan, who appointed him Police Commissioner of the city. He became one of the big Tammany Hall politicians.

I began as telegraph operator at S. P. Tower, one mile east of the Friendship depot on November 1, 1892. The only thing out of the ordinary that happened during my stay at this point was one night about 9 p.m. passenger train #1

going west was about due and I had given them a clear block, when I heard a big smash and realized that something serious had happened. I immediately dropped the semaphore and grabbed the red lantern and stopped the train just in time to save a lot of trouble.

As I stated before, this passing siding was very long and a freight train going east took this switch at its west end, but in coming down the grade from Cuba Summit, the train had broken in two, without the train crew knowing it. The front end came to the end of the switch and made the proper stop, but when the rear end of the train struck, the force was so great that it smashed several cars, throwing them into the main track. One of these was a large gasoline tank car, spilling gasoline over the track only a short distance from the passenger engine. It also ran down the bank and nearly surrounded a residence. There was a lot of hustling to prevent a fire getting started. At this exciting accident I made a simple mistake that any telegraph operator would enjoy. The train master was there in charge of clearing up the wreck, and his office sent him a message (which I will always remember) "Look for Post on 84." I took this over to him and he said "what the —" and went back to my office to find out what it was. The message should have been Look out for HOSE instead of POST. 84 was an eastbound freight train that threw off a length of hose to use in handling the spilled gasoline. In the Morse code the letter H has four dots, letter P has five dots. The letter T is a short dash, the letter E a short dot. The other letters being the same it is easy to see how this happened.

On this division the two mentions Tip Top and Cuba Summits, with their heavy grades, compelled the running of two sets of Engine pushers. This made an unusual number of train orders to be issued, making a lot more telegraph work along the territory of these summits. In the days of my first station work as baggage master, they used only brass checks on leather straps for all local services. Each station having its own name. Each station as soon as receiving so many checks, sent them into Division headquarters, and they were distributed to the other stations. Thus each station being supplied.

Early in 1893, I got leave of absence to attend the Chicago World's Fair. Mrs. Latta, her mother Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Robinson, and I made a jolly trip, taking large lunch baskets, as traffic was very heavy. Sleepers and dining cars were out of the question unless you had reservations. While in Chicago, we stopped at Mrs. Graham's brother's widow, Mrs. Lucian Scott. I think that we were there about ten days.

When we got back to Friendship they were, or had, made a big change in the block towers. They moved the

(Continued on page 12)

Queries

Send your queries to the editor, Paul H. Calhoun, 736 Grant St, Port Clinton OH 43452-2149 (paul@latta.org)

FORD LATTA REED	Polly Reed FORD married Isaac Shultz LATTA on 7 Nov. 1820 in Geneva, NY. Was she the widow of a mister FORD, or was FORD her maiden name? She named a son Josiah Reed LATTA, which leads me to suspect that REED was the maiden name. Any help? —Sharon Mountford smountford@earthlink.net
FARRELL FERRELL LATIMER LATTA SNODGRASS WARDEN	It seems the LATTA family is inextricably intertwined with the FERRELLs. I'm sure about Wm. LATTA, married Martha WARDEN (br. 41) in Stark Co, OH. Martha's niece, Sarah Ellen WARDEN married Lorin FERRELL. I'm wondering if anyone can help me with the following: Which Clara FERRELL did Albert Francis LATTA (br. 30) marry? Which George W. FERRELL did Susan LATTA (Br. 1) marry? Ann Louise LATTA (Br. 1) married Mansfield FARRELL. Who are his parents? David LATTA (br. 17) married Rachael SNODGRASS. SNODGRASSes married WARDENs. Catherine LATTA (br. 16) married Lorne LATIMER. LATIMERs married WARDENs and FERRELLs. There are as well, Charles Bruce FERRELL, and Bruce FERRELL (Br. 9). My brother is also Bruce FERRELL (born 1932). Can anyone help with any of this? —Florence Ferrell Cannariato, 9206 Hilari Way, Orangevale CA 95662, Cannari@Pacbell.net
NUGENT	I am trying to find some information on Jim NUGENT (1870's) "Rocky Mountain Jim" I think he may have been a relative. I found an article in a travel book that refers to him: <i>A Curious Life for a Lady—The Story of Isabella Bird</i> . —Deirdre Nugent, 13 Milton Road, Flat 2, Highgate, London N6 5QD, England, D.Nugent@mdx.ac.uk
CAGLE LATTA WATKINS	I am looking for info on Franklin LATTA in branch #28. He md Julia CAGLE in 1848 according to LDS files. They went to Arkansas and settled in Polk Co, AR. Mary Frances his daughter went to MO along with various family members after 1870. She md in Newton Co, MO, William Jasper WATKINS. They went to Oregon and eventually settled in the area of Salem. Mary Frances LATTA is my gggrandmother. Would love to hear from anyone working on this line or branch 28. —Darla J. Powell, 122 Batholomew, Sterlington LA 71280, dlpowell@iamerica.net
LATTA	I have a bone disorder called <i>Osteogenesis Imperfecta</i> . I am getting married next year and it is important that I learn whether this disorder runs in my family. My father, Everett LATTA, was born and raised in McComb OH. Grandpa's name was Ernie LATTA. Any information about my LATTA ancestors, or about <i>Osteogenesis Imperfecta</i> would be greatly appreciated. —Karen Latta, PO Box 154, McComb OH 45858, KML1959@aol.com
DYER HIGGINS LATTA (Branch 7) UTLEY	Seek info on Scarlett LATTA (Branch 7, family 25), his first wife, Margaret HIGGINS, second wife, Mary UTLEY, their children and ancestors. Their son Thomas (b. 23 Feb 1851) married 29 Dec 1875 Annie J. DYER. They resided in Smith Mills KY. —Judith A. Brumm, 405 Birchwood Dr., Garland, TX 75043, brumm@flash.net



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Financial report

from 1 May through 31 August 1998

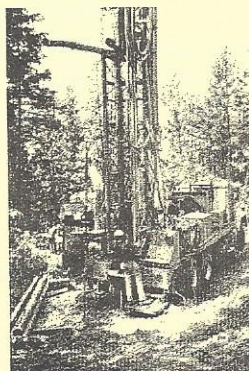
PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$634.52
Receipts	
Subscription contributions	\$811.00
Reprint contributions	94.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$905.50
Expenditures	
Foreign Exchange Fees	\$ 5.54
Postage	289.00
Printing (includes Vol. 1)	911.00
Supplies	191.00
Web Services	79.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1476.34
BALANCE ON HAND	\$ 63.68

Estimated cost to print and mail Issue 8: \$572.48

Like father like son and...

Dolores J. Latta writes:

Our sons Mark and Kirk are the fourth generation in the water well drilling and pump business in this area. People often remark here in eastern Iowa that when they hear the name "Latta" they think of water.



If the scenery doesn't resemble eastern Iowa, it's because of what we call "literary license"

Necrology

Dorothy Ruhmann

We have received word from her daughter that charter subscriber and newsletter contributor Dorothy B. Ruhmann of Portland TX departed this life on 24 February 1998.

Dorothy was a member of Latta Branch 5, and, though a medically challenged octogenarian, was an avid genealogist with a wealth of information.

We will certainly miss her.

Emily Brock

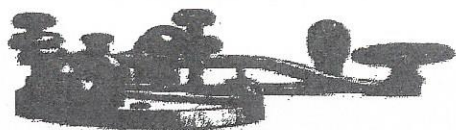
Emily Augusta Latta Brock was ten years old when her beloved "Pop-pop" was killed in the line of duty as a Camden, SC, police officer. She lived to see her grandfather, Robert Albertus "Uncle Bob" Latta, recognized for his heroism (see the article in Issue 5, also on our web site).

Emily is the third-great-granddaughter of James Latta (Branch 12) of Historic Latta Plantation in Huntersville, NC.

She died on 28 June 1998 at the age of 87 and was preceded in death by her husband William B. Brock, her father Albertus Leslie Latta and her mother Violet Hook Latta. A son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, a brother, cousins, nieces and nephews survive.

Railroad telegrapher: "The Erie Years"*(Continued from page 8)*

S. P. Tower up just east of the depot and had done away entirely with the F. R. Tower. I was in hopes of getting one of the F. R. tricks, but both Ed Handy and Elmer Wilkins were older in the service than I. They gave me White House Tower located between Cuba and Hinsdale, about half way. This was certainly a secluded spot—woods close on the back side, highway crossing about a quarter of a mile west, the front facing way below the old abandoned Genesee Valley Canal, just part of one farm house visible from the tower. The only person I saw was the trackwalker once in a while. The operator working opposite me lived in Cuba and I and my wife boarded in Hinsdale with Dr. and Mrs. Henry Vincent, Mrs. Vincent being my wife's cousin. I worked the day trick, which because of its location they could not work the usual half-and-half. The Cuba man would come to work on train #1, due about 9:30 P.M., which slacked up enough for him to get off and for me to get on for Hinsdale. In the morning we would reverse the act—I going from Hinsdale on train #6 at 8:30 a.m. They would slack off enough for me to get off and the other operator to get on for Cuba. We never saw each other only to say hello as we always met in the rush of the change. While here, I had a good chance for nature study. Right back of the tower at the edge of the woods was an open space that was the general meeting place of crows. Several times I witnessed them go through the same performance that has always been a mystery to me. They would form a large, almost perfect, circle, and one crow would hop around in the center cawing, and then some of the others would make a reply, or even several at a time. It seemed as if they were playing a game, or holding a meeting. I have often wondered what they were really doing, but it is beyond me. Another interesting act to me was one day I heard the baying of foxhounds in the distance, heading toward me. Right in front of the tower, only a short distance away, coming out of the woods into the open, was a big fine looking fox who, coming up to a crooked rail fence, jumped up on the fence and ran back along it for some distance. Pretty soon he jumped off the fence and ran back in the same direction that the dogs were coming. Did that fox know enough to fool the dogs?

To be concluded next issue.**Note 2 (recently added)**

1 WILLIAM (1) LATTA,

Born: est: 1860-80. Died: ?????. Married: _____ McCullough, Date: ?????. Place ?.

Child;

2 SAMUEL (2) Born: est 1896 Died: 1969

2 SAMUEL (2) LATTA,

William (1)

Born: est: 1896 Died: 1969. Lived in Philadelphia, PA. Married: Helen Barrett.

Children;

3 SAMUEL (3)

4 MARY (3) Born: ???? Died: ???? Never married.

5 FRANCIS (3) Born: ???? Died: ?????. Married: Dolores Christy and had 4 children.

3 SAMUEL (3) LATTA,

Samuel (2) William (1)

Born: Feb. 1, 1926. Died: April 2, 1998. Always lived in Phila. PA. Married: Dorothy Mahon, She was Born: Aug. 16, 19??.

Children;

6 SAMUEL (4)

7 CHARLOTTE (4) Born: 1948. Married: James Pyduck (Now Divorced)

One child; Janine. Born: 1973.

8 GREGORY (4)

9 DOROTHY (4) Born: 1963. Married: Joseph Fox. One child Joseph Jr. Born: 1987.

10 DANIEL (4) Born 1967.

6 SAMUEL (4) LATTA,

Samuel (3) Samuel (2) William (1)

Born: 1949. Married: Kathleen Gray, 1972. She was born in 1950.

Child;

11 DANIELLE (5) Born 1980

8 GREGORY (4) LATTA,

Samuel (3) Samuel (2) William (1)

Born: Nov. 17, 1959, Place: Philadelphia, PA.

Married: Terri Novotny, April 9, 1988. She was Born: June 14, 1960.

Child;

12 BRIAN (5) Born: July 20, 1995

The information came from the records of Terri Latta, wife of 8 Greg (4) Latta, E-Mail= boxercrow@webtv.net

If anyone has more information or can make a tie to a Branch please drop me a line.

George P. Latta

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E-Mail= George@Latta.org