

Collection: LATTA FAMILY PAPERS  
1818-1956  
Granville Co. (N.C.)  
Durham Co. (N.C.)

P.C. 1954.1-5

**Physical Description:** 342 items including manuscript and printed agricultural papers, memorandum books, tradesmen's circulars, blueprints of plats of survey, and miscellaneous printed material.

**Acquisition:** Gift, Mrs. Kathryn Latta, Durham, N.C., 2006

**Description:** This small collection is made up of papers that appear to be random survivors representative of the lives of three generations of a Latta family residing in Granville and Durham counties, N.C.: (1) Thomas Latta (1800-1885); (2) George Simpson Latta (1856-1927); and (3) Jackson Thomas Latta (1891-1961).

The papers of Thomas Latta of Granville County range in date from 1818 to 1885 and include not only materials relating to his farming operations, but include 1848-1849 accounts of his blacksmith shop as well. Only a few of the papers relate to the education of his children, and these are limited to bills for sending them to a subscription school in his neighborhood during the Civil War years. A substantial number of the papers concern aspects of his spiritual and intellectual life. Among the latter are secular songs and poems composed by him before he fell under a religious conviction of his fallen spiritual state in the summer of 1833, and other poems and songs composed after he had "an experience of Divine Grace" on August 28 of that year. Admitted to membership in the Primitive Baptist Church meeting at Mount Lebanon in Granville County, Latta was briefly licensed to preach by the congregation (but was never regularly ordained), and was sent by the church as their delegate to annual meetings of the Country-Line [Primitive] Baptist Association several times in the 1840s. The collection includes a manuscript copy of the rules of church government adopted by New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in 1823, Latta's spiritual diary for the years 1833 and 1834, notes of permission from two slaveowners allowing a slave to join the churches at Coggins Meeting House (1839) and at Mount Lebanon (1845), printed minutes of the Country-Line [Primitive] Baptist Association for the five years from 1841 to 1845, sixty-seven issues of the fortnightly periodical, The Primitive Baptist, published at Tarboro, N.C., between 1838 and 1844, and a 43-page pamphlet by Thomas J. Bazemore of Cornucopia, Georgia, entitled The Footsteps of the Flock, printed at Wilson, N.C., in 1877 by Zion's Landmark Printing Company.

The papers of his son, George Simpson Latta, range in date from 1880 to 1929, and relate almost altogether to his farming operations in the vicinity of Berea, Granville County. In addition to some tenants' accounts from the 1890s and sporadic records of various crops and products of Latta's farm, the collection includes Latta's farm diary for the year 1880 in which he made almost daily entries of farming activities. The diary includes a few veterinary recipes. The bulk of the papers relating to fertilizers in Latta's papers date from the years 1901 to 1903, during which he was agent for the Petersburg, Va., chemical fertilizer firm of William H. Camp. Some circulars and advertizing brochures are included among the fertilizer papers. In addition to an 1881 patent for a combined agricultural fork and rake invented by Latta, and a 1903 patent for improvements in farm plows, the patent papers include a 1903 listing by the Washington, D.C., firm of patent lawyers, C. A. Snow & Co., of approximately 300 North Carolinians on whose behalf the firm acted.

There is but a smattering of papers from the life of Jackson Thomas Latta, long time superintendent of the Durham, N.C., city garage. Most of them are plats of survey of land belonging to him and his wife, Annie Pickett Latta, though there are a few materials relating to the organization in 1926 of the Durham Citizens Hotel Corporation, and the reorganization of the National Bank of Durham during the height of the depression in 1935.

Four newspapers belonging to this group of papers have been transferred to the Newspaper Collection: (1) Zion's Landmark (Wilson, N.C.), Nov. 1, 1885; (2) Zion's Landmark (Wilson, N.C.), Oct. 15, 1886; (3) undated Supplement (issued at the end of June 1903) to The Public Ledger (Oxford, N.C.); and (4) Atkinson's Saturday Evening Post (Philadelphia), Dec. 20, 1834.

#### INVENTORY

- PC.1954.1. Thomas Latta Papers, 1818-1885)  
Bills and Receipts, 1833-1883  
Blacksmith Accounts, 1848-1849  
Blalock Family Vital Records, 1741-1895  
Estate--Blalock, Rebecca, 1853  
Estate--Latta, Thomas, 1885  
Farm Accounts [1846-1864], 1865-1874  
Freedmen's Marriage License Fee, 1866  
Land Lease, 1847  
Miscellaneous  
Money Paid and Received, 1835-1844  
Primitive Baptist Church, 1818-1877  
Promissory Notes, 1831-1867  
School (Subscription), 1861-1866  
Slave Hire, 1850-1866  
Songs and Poems, 1829-1833, n.d.  
Tax Receipts, 1839-1884  
Tobacco Sales, 1855; 1878  
Wheat Sales, 1860

INVENTORY, continued

PC.1954.2. George Simpson Latta Papers, 1880-1929.

Agriculture--Statistical Methods, 1895  
Bills and Receipts, 1886-1902  
Estate--Latta, George Simpson, 1929  
Farm Diary, 1880  
Farm Petty Accounts, 1889-1899  
Fertilizer, 1895; 1901-1903  
Ginseng, 1900  
Granvestone, 1896  
Patents, 1881-1903  
Miscellaneous  
Poems, 1890, n.d.  
Poultry and Eggs Sold, 1895-1898  
Primitive Baptist Church, 1892, 1899  
School Fund, 1892  
Swine Pedigrees, 1918  
Tax Receipts, 1893-1896  
Tenant Farmers [1889-1899]  
Tobacco Sales, 1883-1896  
Wool Prices Current, 1884  
Wheat and Corn Ground, 1901

PC.1954.3. Jackson Thomas Latta Papers, 1923-1956

Durham Citizens Hotel Corporation, 1926  
Meadows Family Vital Records, 1819-1962  
Miscellaneous, 1926-1956  
Mortgage Deeds, 1938-1939  
National Bank of Durham--Reorganization, 1935  
Newspaper Clippings, n.d.  
Plats of Survey (Chapel Hill Road Property), 1943  
Plats of Survey (Lakewood Park Property), 1923, 1939  
Plats of Survey (Pickett Property), 1935-1936

PC.1954.4. The Primitive Baptist  
[Vol. 3-7], 1838-1842

PC.1954.5. The Primitive Baptist  
[Vol. 8-9], 1843-1844

FINDING MEDIA

Main entry cards

Subject cards

Agricultural implements  
Agriculture--Statistical methods  
Blacksmiths  
Blalock family  
Blalock, Rebecca, 1775-1851  
Christian life  
Coggins Primitive Baptist Church (Granville Co., N.C.)  
Country-Line [Primitive] Baptist Association

FINDING MEDIA, continued

Subject cards, continued

Durham Citizens Hotel Corporation  
Family farms--Finances  
Family farms--Management  
Farms--see also Family farms  
Fertilizers  
Freedmen  
Ginseng  
Hymns  
Latta, George Simpson, 1856-1927  
Latta, Jackson Thomas, 1891-1961  
Latta, Thomas, 1800-1885  
Meadows family  
Mount Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church (Granville Co., N.C.)  
National Bank of Durham  
New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church (Granville Co., N.C.)  
Ohio Improved White Chester Swine  
Patents  
Plows  
Poetry  
Poetry--see also Religious poetry--American  
Poultry--Marketing  
Primitive Baptists  
Rakes  
Religious poetry--American  
Schools  
Songs  
Spiritual journals  
Swine breeders  
Tenant farmers  
Tobacco--Marketing  
Wheat--Marketing  
William H. Camp (Petersburg, Va.)  
Veterinary medicine  
Geographic cards  
Granville Co. (N.C.)  
Durham Co. (N.C.)

Arrangement and description by G. Stevenson, March 10, 2006