

Lattin and Stevens Family Collection

2010.060

Sycamore History Museum
Sycamore, IL 60178

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Amanda Smothers

Title: Lattin and Stevens Family Collection

Date Span: c. 1876-1977

Physical Description: One linear ft. (one box)

Language Note: Materials entirely in English

Administrative Information

Restrictions: Unrestricted access.

Related Collections: Newspaper clippings, letters, insurance policies, and banking and real estate documents are filed under "Carlos Lattin." In addition, books written by Frank Everett Stevens are housed in the Archives library, including *Black Hawk War* and *Life of Stephen Arnold Douglas*. Museum documents and objects related to the family are located in the Museum collection: oil painting of Carlos Lattin's log cabin (Herbert Conner), large photographs/pictures of Carlos and Nancy Lattin and of their home on Somonauk, a Christmas card, a framed article titled "The Lincoln Home," Lincoln Muster Roll prints (2 pages), a hand-bound volume of the DeKalb Chronicle, and land certificates. Links to digitized versions of several boxed photographs (of Carlos, Ella, and Sadie Lattin, as well as Frank Stevens) are included after this collection's "Container List" under the heading "Related Items."

Acquisition Information: Gift, 2010.

Preferred Citation: Lattin and Stevens family collection, Archives and Records, Sycamore History Museum.

Collection Description

Biographical / Historical Note

Carlos Lattin (1813-1876) was born in Redding, Fairfield, CT to Abner Lattin, who was born in Newtown, Fairfield, CT on August 14, 1778 and died in 1855 in Genoa, IL, and Sarah Bennett who was born on January 3, 1777 and died September 29, 1846. Abner's parents were Jacob Lattin (1739-1820) and Buler Wetmore (1749-1817), and he had five siblings: Abiud, Bethel, Anna, Mercy, and Alethea. Abner's father, Jacob, was born in Stratford, CT in 1739 to Benjamin Lattin (1702-1760) and Mary Barlow (1706-?) and died in Stratford in 1820. Jacob had nine siblings: Phebe, Lois, Mary, Sarah, Mercy, David, Benjamin, Job, and Luke. Abner and Sarah had nine children (one daughter and eight sons): Delia, George Lattimore, Nelson, William, Bennett, David, Carlos, Wesley, and Delasen. The Lattin family line can be traced back to Thomas Letten, born in Salford, England on April 16, 1570 and died in 1640. His youngest son with Collyas Pearce, Richard, was born in Concord, Massachusetts in 1609 and died in New York in 1674. Richard is the Lattin (Letten) from whom Carlos Lattin descended. He had two siblings, Cicelie (1612-1647) and John Thomas (1607-?).

Carlos Lattin was the first permanent settler and one of the founding members of Sycamore, IL. Carlos built the first log cabin (no longer standing) in Sycamore, then called Orange, in 1835 just north of what is now 307 W. State St. (Stomp Shoes). His family lived in the cabin until he built a brick house on West High Street in 1844-46, which was demolished in 1937 by its owners, Norman Spong and Ruth Orr, who put the lot up for sale after the house was leveled. In 1854, Carlos built a house in the Greek Revival style, which is still standing at 305 Somonauk. Carlos was a farmer and a lumber and grain dealer, as well as serving as DeKalb County Treasurer and a correspondent for Chicago's first newspaper, the *Chicago Democrat*. He passed away on April 20, 1876 in Genoa, IL and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Sycamore. Carlos's wife, Nancy (Cartwright) Lattin (August, 9, 1820-March 1, 1901), was born in Pirington, Monroe, New York and died in Sycamore, IL.

Carlos and Nancy had a daughter, Sarah "Sadie" Adella Lattin (1861-), as well as six other children: Carlos Orlando, Charles Wesley, Ellen Dellora, Jesse Leander, John Wesley, and Marion Ella. His daughter Sadie Lattin married Frank Everett Stevens on October 15, 1878 and eventually inherited the family home on Somonauk Street in Sycamore, IL. Sadie and Frank had one daughter, Grace Lattin Stevens, born July 4, 1882. Grace wed Charles Gordon Hicks (b. 1885 in England) on August 7, 1911. Grace and Charles (aka Gordon) had two children, Sara Lattin (1914-?) and Gordon Thomas. Their son, Gordon, was born in the Sycamore Hospital in 1921. Gordon's son, Bruce Hicks, donated his family collection to the Sycamore History Museum in 2010.

Sadie Lattin Stevens maintained a travelogue of her journey west from Chicago, IL in 1902. Sadie travelled by train through Denver, CO, and then by wagon through some switchbacks above Denver. After that, she travelled to Salt Lake City, UT and arrived in Oakland, CA. From there, she journeyed to Los Angeles, CA. She sailed to and from Catalina Island on a glass-bottomed boat, and subsequently journeyed by train through El Paso, TX to New Orleans, LA, and finally from New Orleans back to Chicago.

Sadie's husband, Frank Everett Stevens, was born in Dixon, IL on January 5, 1856 to John and Mary Sophia (LaPorte) Stevens. After his father died, Frank's mother put him through public schools, and he worked at local factories during the summers until he was 19. Frank then became

and deputy circuit clerk under clerk Jonathan N. Hyde from August of 1871 until April of 1875. Then, Frank found a discarded letter in Hyde's wastebasket from General E. F. Dutton of Sycamore requesting that Hyde send him a deputy to replace the former deputy who recently purchased the abstract office for DeKalb County. The next day, Frank interviewed for and secured the position and left for Sycamore. He served the position under two subsequent clerks, Cox and Dustin, and read law, becoming a lawyer in 1877.

In 1881-2, Frank relocated to Huron, South Dakota where he became county treasurer and established the Beadle County Bank, which became the Beadle County National Bank, of which he was (successively) cashier, vice president, and president. When six more banks opened, the banking business became restrictive and Frank moved to Chicago to open a broker's office in 1890, in which profession he remained until his "retirement" to Sycamore in 1907. Once he moved back to Sycamore, Frank became a newspaperman (he established and edited the *Weekly Citizen* in 1910), the mayor of Sycamore during the Great Depression, and he also kept a journal containing newspaper articles and campaign memorabilia that chronicled his unsuccessful Senate run in 1914.

A noted historian who belonged to the State and Chicago Historical Societies including the Illinois State Historical Society (which he joined at its inception in 1899-1900 and of which he became a vice-president, a role he served until his death), Frank authored a biography of Stephen Douglas entitled *Life of Stephen Arnold Douglas* (1923/24), *A Forgotten Hero: General James Dougherty Henry* (1934), and his last historical writing, *Hazelwood, its Master and its Coterie* (1939), all for the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. He also wrote the books *Black Hawk War* (1903) and *Wakefield's History of the Black Hawk War* (1907) by invitation of the Caxton Club of Chicago, a private social guild and bibliographic society, as well as the two-volume *History of Lee County, Illinois* (1914). In 1932, Frank and Sadie relocated to Springfield, IL for his new job as the head of the War Records Division in the Adjutant General's office. As a testament to Frank E. Stevens's character, in his obituary in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, Paul M. Angle (1939) notes:

"Frank E. Stevens was happy in his work during these last few years of his life, and he was happy in his surroundings. He liked Springfield. He liked association with his old friend "Bert" Fay, the custodian of the Lincoln Monument; he found pleasure in the companion-ship of the members of the Collectors' Club; he reveled in the library facilities which the state capital afforded. He would have been incredulous had anyone ever told him that newcomers often found Springfield a cold, in-different city. In his deep, essential modesty he never realized that Springfield was a friendly city because he himself possessed one of the greatest of all gifts - the capacity of arousing almost universal affection."

Frank died on October 16, 1939 at the age of 83 of myocardial failure, bronchial pneumonia, and arteriosclerosis due to prostatic hypertrophy, according to his death certificate. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Sycamore, IL. Upon his death, Frank had accumulated over three thousand books and five thousand pieces of memorabilia in his library according to his great-grandson, Bruce Hicks.

Capt. John Stevens (1831-1862), Frank's father, was a Major in Regiment 46 of the Illinois State Militia. He was mortally wounded in the Hornet's Nest at the Battle of Shiloh on Sunday, April 3, 1862. He was shot in the leg but was forced to suffer his injuries on the battlefield under cover of a tree until Union forces gained the field. He did not receive medical attention until Tuesday, April 5 at a hospital. His leg was amputated below the knee. John died on Sunday, April 10, 1862 on a steamboat headed for Savannah, GA. When the surgeon told him he would not survive, John reportedly said, "Tell my wife and little children that I made my peace with God and to meet me in Heaven." His son Frank was just six years old when John died. Prior to his military duty, Capt. Stevens was an attorney in his hometown, Dixon, IL, and he served as the County Superintendent of Schools from 1853-54. He was also the High Priest of the Royal Arch Templars of Dixon and campaigned for Lincoln in 1860.

John Stevens was born to William Stevens (1812-1890) and Ruhama Ayres (1803-1856; b. New York) in Shirley Township, PA on February 22, 1831. William, a Master Mason, was a politically active man. He served as a district U.S. Marshall and Justice of the Peace. The family moved from Pennsylvania to Dixon when John was ten years old. John married Mary Sophie LaPorte (1834-1918; b. New York)--daughter of Narcis LaPorte (1802-1883) and Minerva (Gardner) LaPorte (1807-1893)--in Dixon, and they had two sons, Frank (1856-1939) and his brother Leon L. Stevens (1862-?). Mary Sophie LaPorte's mother, Minerva, was born in New York and her father, Narcis, was born in Canada. Minerva and Narcis married in 1827 and had eleven children, three sons and eight daughters.

According to the 1880 Census, Leon Stevens worked at the Grist Mill when he was 18 (before he was married). Leon married Ella L. O'Connor (b. May 12, 1861) on December 26, 1883, but she died shortly thereafter on April 11, 1885 at the age of 23. Their daughter, Ella Belle, was born Feb. 9, 1885 in South Dakota and died on Jan. 27, 1890 while on a visit to the West; she had been living with her grandmother in South Dakota. Mother and daughter are both buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Almond, Allegany County, NY. Leon Stevens remarried to Nellie E. Tibbetts (1866-1936) of Preston, MN on Sept. 21, 1887 in Fillmore, MN. (They later divorced, and Nellie remarried to George Douglas Moore in April of 1897.)

Sources:

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<http://books.google.com/books?id=GSTmB1yRuKMC&lpg=PP1&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Bruce Hicks, personal communication, July 2010.

Benjamin Lattin (1702-1760), Retrieved from
http://records.ancestry.com/Benjamin_Lattin_records.ashx?pid=24036919

Carlos Lattin (1813-1876), Retrieved from
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Ella L. O'Connor, *Genung, Ganong, Ganung genealogy: A history of the descendents of Jean Guenon of Flushing, Long Island*, No. 712, p. 92. Retrieved from
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Jacob Lattin (1739-1820), Retrieved from
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Lee County Historical Society (1892). 1982 Portrait and Biographical Record of Lee County. *Biography of Major John Stevens*, 431. Retrieved from
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Leon L. Stevens in household of Mary S. Stevens (Dixon, Lee, Illinois), *United States Census, 1880* Retrieved from <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MXVZ-NR7>

Leon L. Stevens, 1887, *Minnesota County Marriages, 1860-1949, index and images*, Film no. 1316805, Digital folder no. 4539641, Image no. 489. Retrieved from
<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X25L-NMF>

Obituary: Minerva (Gardner) LaPorte. *Lee County Times*, August 18, 1883. Retrieved from
http://dekalb.ilgenweb.net/OBITs/OB_LA001.htm.

Mary Barlow (1706-Unknown), Retrieved from
http://records.ancestry.com/Mary_Barlow_records.ashx?pid=33072856

Minerva Laport in household of Narcis Laport (Paw Paw, De Kalb, Illinois). *United States Census, 1880* Retrieved from <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MXJC-JB3>.

Nancy Cartwright (1820-1901), Retrieved from http://records.ancestry.com/Nancy_Cartwright_records.ashx?pid=3958753
Narcis Laport (Paw Paw, De Kalb, Illinois). *United States Census, 1880*. Retrieved from <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MXJC-JBS>.

Nellie E. Tibbetts, *Minnesota County Marriages, 1860-1949, index and images*, Film no. 1316806, Digital folder no. 4539642, Image no. 139. Retrieved from <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X25P-5LH>

Richard Lattin (1609-1674), Retrieved from http://records.ancestry.com/Richard_Lattin_records.ashx?pid=35595735
Stevens, Frank E. (1914). History of Lee County, Illinois (Vol. 2). *Frank Everett Stevens: Son of John Stevens* (pp.368-69). Retrieved from <http://archive.org/stream/historyofleecoun02stev#page/368/mode/2up/search/frank+stevens>

Sycamore Historic District, National Register of Historic Places. Informational Poster on SW corner of Elm and Somonauk Sts., Sycamore, Illinois.
Various newspaper clippings located in Sycamore History Museum's "Carlos Lattin" file in Archives.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of photographs of Frank and Sadie (Lattin) Stevens; their granddaughter Sarah Hicks; Sadie's mother, Nancy Cartwright Lattin; Uncle Wesley Lattin; and others. There are two glass plate negatives of the Lincoln Muster Roll, one broken and one intact. Also included in the collection is correspondence between Sarah Hicks and Forrest Sweet amongst others, a travelogue written by Sadie Lattin Stevens, and miscellaneous items regarding the family.

Arrangement Note:

Organized by subject and type.

Container List

Sadie Lattin Stevens Photographs

Sadie Lattin Stevens, infant granddaughter Sarah Hicks 1914 [2010.060.11a](#)

Sadie Lattin Stevens, infant granddaughter Sarah Hicks 1914 [2010.060.11b](#)

Sadie Lattin Stevens (young girl) n.d.	2010.060.17a
Sadie Lattin Stevens (young woman) n.d.	2010.060.17b
Sadie Lattin Stevens (young woman) n.d.	2010.060.17c
Sadie Lattin Stevens, granddaughter Sarah Hicks 1914	2010.060.17d (2 copies)
Sadie Lattin Stevens August 1943	2010.060.17e
Sadie Lattin Stevens n.d.	2010.060.17f
Sadie Lattin Stevens October 22, 187(?)6	2010.060.17h
Sadie Lattin Stevens n.d.	2010.060.17i
Sadie Lattin Stevens 1902	2010.060.17j
Sadie Lattin Stevens 1902	2010.060.21
Frank E. Stevens Photographs	
Charles Lattin (Sadie's brother, Carlos's son) Chicago, IL n.d.	2010.060.10a
Charles Lattin (Sadie's brother, Carlos's son) n.d.	2010.060.10b
Charles Gordon Hicks, Grace Laporte Stevens Hicks, Sadie Lattin Stevens, unidentified woman, Frank Everett Stevens, (front, center) Gordon Thomas Hicks (b. 1921), Sarah Lattin Hicks (b. 1914) Sycamore, IL July 8, 1923	2010.060.12

60 th Anniversary, Frank and Sadie Stevens n.d.	2010.060.14
Frank and Sadie Stevens n.d.	2010.060.15a
Sadie Stevens n.d.	2010.060.15b
Frank Stevens n.d.	2010.060.15c
Three Generations of Stevens: Sadie Stevens, Sarah Hicks, Grace Hicks c. late 1910's	2010.060.16
Governor Henry Horner, Frank Stevens n.d.	2010.060.19
Frank Stevens (young boy) Dixon, IL n.d.	2010.060.41a
Frank Stevens (young boy) Sterling, IL n.d.	2010.060.41b
Frank Stevens (young man) n.d.	2010.060.41c
Frank Stevens (young man) Dixon, IL n.d.	2010.060.41d
Frank Stevens (young man) Dixon, IL n.d.	2010.060.41e
Frank Stevens (young man) n.d.	2010.060.41f
Frank Stevens Sycamore, IL n.d.	2010.060.41g

Frank Stevens n.d.	2010.060.41h
Frank Stevens n.d.	2010.060.41i
Frank Stevens Sycamore, IL n.d.	2010.060.41j
Frank Stevens n.d.	2010.060.41k
Frank Stevens n.d.	2010.060.41l
Frank Stevens “Make Sherman President” n.d.	2010.060.41m
Frank Stevens La Sallier’s Cabin marker Dixon, IL n.d.	2010.060.41n
Frank Stevens and Unidentified man 1937	2010.060.47
“Heavenly blue morning glories” on the side of the cabin built by Carlos Lattin 1937	2010.060.48
A corner of the “new house” 1937	2010.060.49
“Heavenly blue morning glories in Back of Cabin” Cabin built by Carlos Lattin 1937	2010.060.50
“--- house in background” 1937	2010.060.51
“The old cabin” built by Carlos Lattin 1937	2010.060.52

- Photograph taken "From the window"
1937 [2010.060.53](#)
- "Barn from the lily pond"
1937 [2010.060.54](#)
- "The old barn"
1937 [2010.060.55](#)

Nancy Cartwright Lattin Photographs

- Nancy Cartwright Lattin
n.d. [2010.060.13a](#)
- Nancy Cartwright Lattin
Sycamore, IL
n.d. [2010.060.13b](#)
- Nancy Cartwright Lattin
Sycamore, IL
n.d. [2010.060.13c](#)

Frank Stevens Miscellaneous Family Photographs

- Uncle Wesley Lattin [2010.060.10c](#)
- Frank Stevens, granddaughter Sarah Hicks
1914 [2010.060.11c](#)
- Olive Sterling and unidentified woman
n.d. [2010.060.17g](#)
- Two unidentified girls
n.d. [2010.060.18](#)
- Grace LaPorte Stevens Hicks (left), and Chelsea Sanford
Sycamore, IL
August 1899 [2010.060.20](#)
- Frank and Sadie Stevens
Sycamore, IL
August 1899 [2010.060.42a](#)
- Frank Stevens (back left), Ed A Morse (back right).
John V. Eustace, Jr. (front left), Fred L. Shaw (front right)
Dixon, IL [2010.060.42b](#)

60th Anniversary, Frank and Sadie Stevens,
Two unidentified women
c. October 15, 1938 [2010.060.42c](#)

60th Anniversary, Frank and Sadie Stevens
c. October 15, 1938 [2010.060.42d](#)

Blackhawk Statue by Lorado Taft
Oregon, IL [2010.060.42e](#)

Lorado Taft
Inscribed to Frank E. Stevens, signed by Lorado Taft
n.d. [2010.060.42f](#)

Stevens Correspondence

Letter Re: National Bank & Trust Safekeeping Certificate
May 10, 1951 [2010.060.30](#)

Thank You Letter Re: "Lincoln Muster Roll"
David A. Jonah, Brown U. Librarian, to Sarah Hicks
May 22, 1951 [2010.060.31](#)

Letter of Inquiry Re: Lincoln Muster Roll
Sarah Hicks (unsigned) to Forest H. Sweet
December 2, 1959 [2010.060.32](#)

Letter Re: Lincoln Muster Roll
Sarah Hicks to Forest H. Sweet
January 21, 1960 [2010.060.33](#)

Letter Re: Lincoln Muster Roll
Forest H. Sweet to Sarah Hicks (2 sides)
(last page in [2010.060.34b](#))
January 11, 1960 [2010.060.34a](#) [\(side 2\)](#)

Last page of Letter ([2010.060.34a](#); [side 2](#))
Re: Lincoln Muster Roll
Forest H. Sweet to Sarah Hicks
January 11, 1960 [2010.060.34b](#)

Letter Re: Lincoln Muster Roll
Forest H. Sweet to Sarah Hicks
January 30, 1960 [2010.060.35a](#)

Letter Re: Autographed Book by Frank E. Stevens [2010.060.35b](#)
On Reverse Side of [2010.060.35a](#)
Sarah Hicks (unsigned) to Forest H. Sweet
June 13, 1960

Letter Re: Death (Cancer) of Forest H. Sweet [2010.060.36](#) [\(side 2\)](#)
Signed "M.K.S." (widow), and Note for Sale of Lincoln
Muster Roll dictated to M.K.S. by her husband, Forest H. Sweet
1961 (later than April 2)

Letter Re: Copy of Photograph of Frank E. Stevens [2010.060.44a](#)
Officer Donald W. Ehrler, Sycamore Police, to
Gordon T. Hicks
September 26, 1977

Envelope [2010.060.44b](#)
Addressed to Gordon T. Hicks
Postmarked Sep 26, 1977

Stevens Family

Memorial Day Program [2010.060.40](#)
Orator: Frank E. Stevens
May 30, 1911

Publisher Description of [2010.060.41](#)
The Black Hawk War by Frank E. Stevens
n.d.

Envelope with Return Address of Gordon Hicks [2010.060.43](#)
Sycamore, IL
n.d.

Stevens Glass Plate Negatives

Glass Plate Negative of Lincoln Muster Roll [2010.060.37a](#)
(in tact)

Glass Plate Negative of Lincoln Muster Roll [2010.060.37b](#)
(broken)

Stevens Box Journal

Sadie Lattin Stevens Travelogue [2010.060.45](#) [\(p.2\)](#) [\(p.3\)](#) [\(p.4\)](#)
Journal made by Pettibone, Satwell & C. Stationers,
Printers and Blank Book Makers,

178 Monroe Street, Chicago
January 20, 1902-April 5, 1902

Frank Stevens Scrapbook

Newspaper clippings 2010.060.27
Subjects include: Frank and Sadie Stevens obituaries,
anniversary and birthday announcements,
and numerous other articles; also included (unscanned) are
newspaper articles not directly mentioning the family and
an untitled newspaper article (unknown author)

Related Items

Lattin Boxed Photographs

Mother's Day Motto Graph [2010.107.05](#) [\(side 2\)](#)
"To Mother, From Jane & Harley"
May 10, 1925

Boxed Framed Photo of Frank Stevens as a Small Boy [2010.060.29](#)
n.d.

Boxed Framed Photo of Carlos Lattin [2010.060.22](#)
n.d.

Boxed Framed Photo of Ella and Sadie Lattin as Children [2010.060.23](#)
n.d.

Boxed Framed Photo of Sadie Lattin as a Baby [2010.060.24](#)
n.d.