

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## MEMORIES BY CHARLES H. ST. CLAIR

In last week's column I devoted the space to excerpts from a diary written by Charles H. St. Clair in 1858. He was a son of Charls Northrup St. Clair and Elmira Baldwin Turrell who were married June 10, 1833. As mentioned last week, they lived in the old "Parker Place" of the Albion Eagle Harber Road near the Erie Canal guard gates just west of Albion.

Now it just so happens that my Lattin ancestors were their closest neighbors living in the old brick house just across the canal. In fact, there is even a very distant relationship to these people.

Some time in 1883 or later, after the St. Clairs had celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, Carles H. St. Clarir wrote down some memories which have been preserved. Of particular interest to me are the references to my ancestry and George M. Pullman. In 1859 Mr. St. Clair moved south and after 1872 settled in Morgan City, La. where he was writing from. Some excerpts follow:

"...The Mrs. William H. Lattin who helped give the 50th Anniversary Party to Mr. & Mrs. C.N. St. Clair, husband was first cousin to Mrs. St. Clair. Their mothers werè sisters. Mary Wood (Wright) and Elizaneth Wood (Turrell), their parents were Abraham Wood and Marie Ledoux.

Mary's Daughter Mary (Polly) married Joseph A. Lattin, whose farm adjoined the St. Clair farm at Albion, N.Y.

They had 7 boys and 2 girls. The eldest girl married Col. WM. Lount of Tenn. and died young. The second daughter Naomi, a beautiful girl was courted by Geo. Pullman, then a poor young man of Albion. His suite was rejected by the parents but not by Naomi. Then Col. Lount appears and was reputed to be very wealthy, he urged his suit, was accepted by the parents and Naomi finally consented to their demands. She married him and left at once for the south. She lived a short time and died after giving birth to a girl, which she called Naomi.

Col. Lount died in a few years leaving the orphan nothing while George Pullman is a millionaire, so much for the blindness of parents."

Let me interject here. I just love tthis comment "... so much for the blindness of parents." I too, think my great, great, grandparents should have backed off pressing her to marry Col. Lount. It also goes to show that people don't really change much over time. The orphan was raised by the Elijha Lattin Family as Mollie L. Lattin (1860-1941).



Mr. St. Clair continues: "I remember Joseph A. Lattin had a brother living near Pleasant Valley, his name was William. He had beautiful twin daughters. The names of the children of Joseph A. Lattin were: William Homes Lattin, Joseph, John Henry, Elijha, Bartlett, Nathanel, and Lount. Daughters were Sarah and Naomi (1831-1867). John and Elijha married sisters, their names were Billings. Bartlett married Miss Anderson. Elijha's wife was named Clara." They lived in the Town of Gaines on Rt. 104 and Lattin Rd.

There was also an eighth brother named Abraham who drowned in the canal in 1839 at the age of five years. The youngest of all the children was Lount named for his brother-in-law who first married the oldest child Sarah. Unusual to say the least! I guess my great-great grandparents were really hung up on Col. Lount.. With a little more stock in Pullman, history might have been different.

Our mid-1850's photographic portrait is of Naomi Lattin when she was being courted by George M. Pullman.