

LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 2

November, 1989

76 Trombones and One Linnell

Through a curious neighborhood coincidence of long ago, one of our own has come to be memorialized in that favorite musical comedy, "The Music Man." The story of how it happened has been passed on to us by Dan McConnell, the great great grandson of Thomas Jefferson Linnell (118,241,18)*

It happens that a granddaughter of old Thomas was Cora Tofflemire who lived in Mason City, Iowa during the latter part of the 19th century. It happens also that she lived near the family of Meredith Wilson who would someday create the tuneful musical about a music man's arrival at, and exploitation of, a place called River City, Iowa.

Furthermore Cora was a piano teacher and young Meredith took lessons from her. Family legend has it that Cora became the prototype for Marian who is the piano teacher/librarian, the heroine of the film.

Wilson, however, must have resonated to the musical sound of the name "Tofflemire" for he also wrote a

character part into the scenario for a certain Ethel Tofflemire who pumps a player piano and dances as a Grecian Urn in one of the film's most hilarious scenes.

The real Cora, whatever she did to inspire Wilson, remains virtually unknown to us. She never married and is identified to us only as 118,241,182,1 p.209*. Still she may be remembered as the woman who inspired the part of beautiful Marian in "The Music Man" and bore a name that lent whimsy to this favorite show.

* Code numbers and page references identify genealogical information in the book, *The Descendants of Robert Linnell*, abbreviated henceforth as *D.R.L.*

Linnell Kin Buried in Andersonville National Historic Cemetery

Virgil G. Linnell, 118,241,55, p.167 *D.R.L.* died 11 or 17 November, 1864 of scurvy and starvation at the Confederate prison, Andersonville, Georgia according to National Archives records found this spring. The National Cemetery has confirmed that he is now registered as one of the almost 13,000 prisoners who died there during their Civil War imprisonment. The movie based on the book *Andersonville* by MacKinlay Kantor as well as the book itself give vivid descriptions of this prison camp, but it takes a visit to the National Historic Site and Cemetery to bring to reality the conditions that led to death among those who were prisoners of war there.

Virgil G. Linnell enlisted at Enfield, Maine on 31 Dec. 1863 in Company E, 1st Maine Cavalry of the Maine Volunteers. He had also served in the Mexican War. His marriage certificate to Esther C. Buck of Norwich, CT was dated 14 Oct 1850 and was registered at Providence, Rhode Island. Virgil was then 31 years old, a stone cutter, and Esther

Steering Committee Sets Membership Dues

Our freshly incorporated Family Association now has new membership standards and an annual dues schedule. Life memberships, a real bargain when you count up your years, are set at \$125. For those who prefer to pay their dues annually, the cost is \$10 per person and \$20 per couple.

Bylaws define eligibility for membership as those who are descendants of Robert Linnell, their spouses and other family members 18 years of age or older. The need for dues payments is crucial as our meagre treasury was established from voluntary gifts and unspent funds from the 1988 reunion; and this stash is no longer adequate for continuing expenses of the Newsletter publication, postage, legal fees for our incorporated status, and sundry other expenses.

All the cousins are therefore urged to send in their membership dues as soon as possible, mailing the application form on page 3 to Althea Tremewan, 9048 Taylor St. NE, Blaine, MN 55434-3368!

We've Become a Corporation

At last, after legal tangles, delays and struggles with the red tape of bureaucracy, The Linnell Family Association has been duly incorporated in the state of Maryland. This significant step allows for reduced postal rates, an identified bank account, collection of dues, and certain tax breaks.

We are incorporated as a not-for-profit (you can say that again) family association.

In these early years we have relied on a less formal structure and on the helpful service of two successive treasurers to pace us through our early financial steps. We are grateful to Virgil Linnell, our first treasurer and to Althea Tremewan who is currently serving as our financial officer.

22. Two sons, Adolph and William B., as well as the widow were granted U.S. Government pensions. Esther was remarried on 24 May 1865 to Joseph Haskell of Lincoln, Maine.

The impact of the Civil War on families is illustrated by the fact that three of Virgil's nephews also died as a result of the war. Charles E. Linnell, p.166 *D.R.L.* died of typhoid fever 24 March 1864 in a hospital in Washington, D.C. His brother Virgil A. Linnell died of small pox contracted while nursing him. George Marquis, p. 167 *D.R.L.*, was killed in battle near Petersburg, VA on 18 June 1864. Such stories can be repeated in other branches of the family as well.

Children of Adolph and William B. Linnell are listed on p. 173 *D.R.L.* but we have no further information about this family. Can any member help?

The Linnell Family Association

The purposes of the Association are to promote fellowship among the Linnell family members through reunions and publication of "The Linnell Family Newsletter" and to preserve the records of the family.

Steering committee 1988-1991

Chair Dr. Larry and Pam Linnell
RFD 1, Box 160, Dexter, ME 04930

Comptroller-Treasurer
Althea Tremewan
9048 Taylor St. NE, Blaine MN 55434-3368

Reunion 1991
Bonnie and Roger Hansen
548 Manor Dr. NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

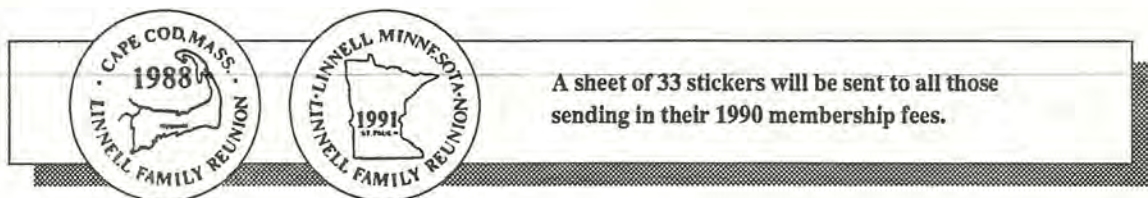
Computerization of Data
Eric and Joan Linnell
359 Lofts Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940

Historian & Newsletter Editor
Rachel L. and J.C. Wynn
5663 Columbia Rd., Apt. 102, Columbia, MD 21044

Into the Computer

Those Cape Cod Linnells of the 17th century would never have imagined that their descendants would be registered electronically in a computer system. But owing to an urgent recommendation that grew out from the 1988 Reunion, this project is well on the way to fulfillment. Eric and Joan Linnell report that data on Robert Linnell's descendants, through the sixth generation, have now been entered into the Family Roots system of their computer.

When the job is completed, it will enable us to secure print-outs of the ancestry of anyone in the lineage. This turns out to be a boon to those seeking Mayflower antecedents, historical data for the D.A.R. or lost relatives. In addition Eric and Joan have created our master address list of all known living descendants of Robert. Their data base system allows for geographical sorting, membership and much more. One current use of the computer list is the printing of the address labels for the very Newsletter you hold in your hand. But keeping the file up to date requires the help of all cousins! There were 60 returns of undeliverable Newsletters the previous issue. Please do keep Newsletter editors Rachel and J.C. Wynn informed of your changes of address.



Our Founding Members

The following persons who attended the Linnell Family Reunion on June 23,24,25, 1988 at the Sheraton Hyannis Hotel are enrolled as founding members of the Linnell Family Association. They constituted the organizing membership for the first year of the Association's life.

Ainsworth, Maryan and family
Anderson, Carol
Baum, Linda
Beldo, Marjorie
Blader, Muriel
Blais, Lesley L. and family
Borland, Martha and family
Bymes, Ruth Linnell
Chace, Alan B. and family
Covey, Charles A. and family
Cowan, Nancy and family
Davies, Anita
Elliott, Ladoska and family
England, Mary Jo and family
Esler, Linnell and family
Ferguson, James and family
Faucher, Louise and family
Gilbertson, Lorraine and family
Greenlaw, Ray and family
Hansen, Bonnie and family

Harms, Judith and family
Johnson, Brenda and family
Kincaid, Norman and family
Kinney, Cheryl
Leith, Linda and family
Linnell, Albert and family
Linnell, Andrew and family
Linnell, Arthur T. and family
Linnell, Arthur W. and family
Linnell, Bob and family
Linnell, Carol and family
Linnell, Clifton and family
Linnell, Daryl and family
Linnell, Dennis and family
Linnell, Eric and family
Linnell, Jack and family
Linnell, Janna
Linnell, J. Scott and family
Linnell, John C. and family
Linnell, Larry and family

Linnell, Larry
Linnell, Laura
Linnell, Lee
Linnell, Melvin G. and family
Linnell, Orrell E.
Linnell, Paul Sr. and family
Linnell, Paul H.
Linnell, Richard and family
Linnell, Ted and family
Linnell, Virgil E. and family
Linnell, Zenos and family
Long, Loie Ann
Mammarella, Randa
McConnell, Dan and family
McConnell, David and family
Nelson, Betty and family
O'Neil, Mildred
Patel, Margaret
Peterson, Carole
Peterson, Mildred

Powers, Jean L. and family
Quinn, Howard
Smith, Gail L. and family
Spelde, Judy and family
Townsend, Ellsworth and family
Townsend, Nina L.
Tremewan, Althea
Warren, Jacquelyn
Warren, Joanna
Westerwick, Barrie and family
Wills, Carolyn
Wilson, Pauline and family
Wisner, Joanna
Woodworth, Rita and family
Wynn, Mark and family
Wynn, Rachel and family
Yoder, Sandra

Recent Deaths, Births and Marriages

Deaths

Kaufman, Marvin on 22 Oct. 1986

husband of Nina Heilig Kaufman, p.238 *D.R.L.*

Schluender, Patrick on 23 March 1988

husband of Penny Jean Soderlund McLean, p.258 *D.R.L.*

Johnson, Donna on 2 May 1989, p.276 *D.R.L.*

Peterson, Mildred on 3 November 1989

wife of George Peterson

her first husband was Robert Linnell p.236 *D.R.L.*

Births

Justin Thomas Labelle b. 20 April 1989

son of Teresa (McLean) and Joseph LaBelle p. 258 *D.R.L.*

Stefani Teresa Schluender b. 21 Sept. 1988

dau. of Penny (McLean) and Patrick Schluender p.258 *D.R.L.*

Kyle Thomas Young b. 18 March 1988

son of Christine (Heilig) and Alan Young p.239 *D.R.L.*

Jacob McDowell Harper b. 27 Feb. 1988

son of Ronna (Heilig) and Christopher Harper p. 239 *D.R.L.*

Marriages

Jeffrey Curtis Linnell, son of Verne & Ethel Linnell p.230 *D.R.L.*

to Lynne McLean, dau. of Dixie (Soderlund) & David McLean

p.258 *D.R.L.* on 30 July 1988

Addition and Corrections Packets

Although information concerning vital statistics for two years previous can be published in The Newsletter, space does not permit bringing family lines up to date here. Instead such information is printed in the "Additions and Corrections" packets. Three packets are now available for 1987, 1988, and 1989, augmenting data in the book *The Descendants of Robert Linnell*. Packets are published in June of each year and are available at cost (\$2.00) from Rachel Linnell Wynn 5663 Columbia Rd., Apt. 102, Columbia, MD 21044.

Merry
Christmas



THE LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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