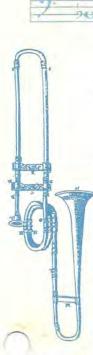
# LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 2

November, 1989



#### 76 Trombones and One Linnell 125 nes

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.

# **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.

# Linnell Kin Buried in Andersonville National Historic Cemetery

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?

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 isoners 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

# 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

CAPE

CODMASS

FAMILY

# 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.

A sheet of 33 stickers will be sent to all those sending in their 1990 membership fees.

## **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

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HIT-LINNIELL 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

### **Minnesota Linnells Practice a Reunion**

ifty-eight Linnells representing 27 families from the Upper Midwest sathered on September 2 and 3, 1989 to get acquainted and to generate plans for the 1991 Linnell Reunion at St. Paul, MN. Bonnie and Roger Hansen, who planned and promoted the event, are the chairpersons for the national reunion scheduled for June 21,22,23, 1991 on the campus of Northwestern College in St. Paul. (Do save these dates and note them right now on your calendar of future events!)

The program of the September 2-3 weekend included a huge picnic gathering on Saturday at Locke Park in Fridley, MN and a brunch on Sunday at The Seasons Restaurant in Coon Rapids, MN. These events brought together close cousins as well as distant cousins, and those who know each other as well as newly acquainted relatives. All who attended were descended from Samuel (118,24) and Joseph (118,241) Linnell of Belgrade, Maine, p. 160 *D.R.L.*. And in addition all but one were descended from Samuel (118,241,1) Linnell, Joseph's oldest son, who lived out his life on Grindstone Island, NY in the St. Lawrence River (p.193 *D.R.L.*) One person who attended was Althea Tremewan, who is descended from Samuel's brother Sturgis who remained in Maine through his lifetime. The stories of the pioneer descendants of this part of the Linnell family will be celebrated in the 1991 Linnell Family Reunion.

Enthusiastic support for the 1991 Reunion was expressed. A number have already volunteered to help and will be meeting in the next few months for more detailed planning. We thank them. Bonnie and Roger Hansen welcome offers of help from other cousins as well.

#### Lisa Linnell, Debater

At the March tournament in Lincoln-Douglas debates held at Duluth East High School, Minnesota, Lisa Linnell, daughter of Jay Lee and Carolyn Linnell p.246 *D.R.L.*, qualified for national individual competition of the National Forensic League. The national competition was held at Golden, Colorado in June. Lisa had set a record as a distinguished debater several years previously. In 1987 Lisa was champion debater for the state of Minnesota, taking a first place in the state competition. This year Lisa is a freshman at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota and majoring in business and economics.

### Another Colorful Character in the Clan

When Linnells gather for their 1991 reunion at St. Paul, they will be tramping around the territory of I. E. Linnell (Earl) who lived in the area a century ago.

This colorful character must have been a prodigious worker as well as an effective politician. At one and the same time, when he lived in Becker County c. 1890, he held the offices of (1) Town Clerk (2) Deputy Sheriff of Carsonville Township and (3) Postmaster of the Osage Post Office.

As Postmaster, Earl Linnell kept the Osage Post Office open from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily except Sunday. But mail in and out of Osage was not daily. It went east some 10 miles to Park Rapids on Tueday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and mail was brought into Osage from Park Rapids the same days at 11 a.m. Mail to the west went to Detroit, MN on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and mail came from Detroit to Osage on Thursday and Saturday.

I.E. Linnell also enjoyed owning fine horses. *The Osage Blade* in 1890 reported "I.E. Linnell rejoices in the ownership of a brand new thoroughbred colt of the Putnam breed. It is a fine colt and no mistake Earl."

In April, 1891 The Osage Blade had copied an article from The Detroit (MN) Free Press with editorial comment about quality horses. It asserted "I.E. Linnell, of Osage is in town this week with his standardbred trotting stallion 'Stock Cief' 13444. This horse is a very handsome fellow and excited admiration from all who have seen him. He is a brown color, stands about 16 hands high and has trotted in 2:47 without any training. Mr. Linnell is entitled to considerable credit for bringing such a splendid horse into the county, and it is to be hoped that the farmer[s] will embrace the opportunity to improve their stock. When the farmers awaken to the fact that it does not cost any more to raise first-class horses than it does common ones they will make money raising horses."

> Readers are invited to send in such items of family interest for inclusion in the Newsletter.

**Membership Registration** 

	First	Maiden Name	Last	
Address_			Phone	
Spouse				
	Please check type of membership	Single Life Time \$125.00	Year Amo	ount
		Single Couple \$10.00 \$20.00	e YearAmo	ount
	Please make all checks p. Mail to: Althe	ayable to the Linnell Family A a Tremewan	ssociation, Inc.	
	9048	<b>Taylor St. NE Blaine, MN 554</b>	34-3368	

Eligibility "A descendant of Robert Linnell or family member 18 years of age or older"

#### **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.







THE LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER 5663 Columbia Rd., Apt. 102, Columbia, MD 21044



Laurie Linnell 2551 East Harmony Mesa, AZ 85234

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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