

LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6 No. 2

November, 1994

REUNION 1994 IN REVIEW

Family reunions are always a pleasure...seeing cousins, big and small, aunts and uncles, grandparents...we never seem to see enough. But, this melding together of cousins at the 1994 Linnell Family Association Reunion III was a truly moving experience.

There were two cousins who hadn't seen each other for 30 years, cousins who hadn't seen each other since the 1988 reunion, cousins who'd been to all three reunions, and cousins who came for the first time. All hugging and talking at once. What fun!

The rain came down in sheets on Friday, but it didn't dampen our spirits. The picnic was relocated to the dining room where we had a lovely meal and renewed acquaintances. Happiness prevailed as we trooped back to the family room for more togetherness.

Saturday's breakfast was followed by the annual business meeting (which nearly ended in a riot, as reported elsewhere in this letter), and stories of early Granville told to us by Granville Historian, Mr. Chessman.

After lunch we visited the Linnell Farm, where we were charmed by the 1825 architecture and Ron and Susan Davis and their children, the present owners. The Pioneer Cemetery was also visited, where considerable restoration has been carried out, and more will be needed. An arts and crafts sale took place in the village, and the museums were open for our enjoyment.

Saturday evening's program, "A Family Album," featured slides of early Linnells and stories about the individuals or events pictured on the screen. Story scripts were contributed by the following cousins: Marge Attleson, James Linnell, Bruce Mac Gunnigle, Jack Linnell, Ruth Byrnes, Zenos Linnell, Dossie Elliott, Dan McConnell, Kay Swedberg, Kathy Metcalf, Rachel Wynn, and Dick Linnell. Reading and presenting these stories were cousins Mark Wynn, Robert "Bob" Linnell, Robert S. Linnell, Althea Tremewan, Ruth Byrnes, Donald Swanton, Dossie Elliott, Dan McConnell, Kay Swedberg, Robert Cummings, Ruby Patel, Emily Borland, Elisabeth Wynn, Glenn Roberts, Dru Linnell, and Dick Linnell. Pam Linnell Dimmlich, as host narrator, introduced each segment. The story told of the Linnell migration as we spread from Cape Cod to all parts of the continent. The pictures from Rachel's

book and the narration helped to connect us to one another. Our Linnell story is also the story of our country.

After Sunday's breakfast, we re-assembled for services at The First Presbyterian Church, erected in 1861, on the site of the original one founded in 1805, in which Joseph Linnell (he came from Granville, MA) worshiped. We were introduced to the congregation and, when asked to rise, caused a swoosh as we did so and a gasp as the congregation noted our number. We were thrilled by this experience, too.

After this, we were homeward bound, and looking forward to our next reunion back in Cape Cod in 1997. See you there!

CHAIRMAN DICK LINNELL'S DESK

Our Linnell Family Association continues to grow and change. The purpose of the organization remains the same, but the players change. At our third reunion in Granville, the make-up of the steering committee (board) made some subtle changes. Our newsletter editors are Jim and Kay Swedberg, and Rachel is now the historian. Jack and Barbara Linnell and Connie Gates are making plans for the 1997 reunion. Note these changes and direct information, ideas, or suggestions to these people. Also, as of this newsletter, I will be keeping the mailing list up to date. Any address changes may be sent to me.

Your steering committee will be sending out a survey with the 1995 membership notice. This survey will help us plan for future reunions. I urge all of you to fill out and return this survey. The steering committee decided, also, to waive the 1997 reunion registration fee. (The 1994 fee was \$35 for single and \$70 for a family.) Those qualified for this waiver will not be charged a reunion registration fee. Looking forward to CAPE COD in 1997.



BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Dick Linnell opened the triennial business meeting with a review of the past three year's accomplishments.

The association has become financially sound, membership has increased, the board and the reunion committee met between annual meetings, and association funds covered the cost of publishing Rachel's new book.

A motion was made and carried that we dispense with the reading of secretary Ladoska Elliott's minutes (1991 annual meeting and two more board meetings).

The treasurer's report was accepted and a three year budget of \$6,500 was adopted for the operation of the association, including the next reunion.

Dick Linnell presented Life Membership Pins to all life members in attendance. Those who were unable to attend will receive them by mail.

Rachel Linnell Wynn gave a report on the publication of her new family book. She also read the 1991-94 Necrology, and offered a prayer.

Al Linnell reported on the 1994 reunion, followed by Jack Linnell's report on the 1997 reunion plans for meeting on Cape Cod June 27-29, 1997.

Jack Linnell presented the slate of officers to serve until the next reunion in 1997. The slate was unanimously endorsed.

At this point a riot broke out at the rear of the room (see related story). The meeting adjourned in confusion.

LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

On September 1, 1994, there was \$742.26 in checking and \$776.83 in savings, for a total of \$1,519.09. Estimated expenses are \$400-\$500 for newsletter mailing, plus an additional mailing for membership and interest survey, plus \$200 for DRL book shipment postage.

Considering the rather low (but quality) turnout at the Granville Reunion, I think we're doing fairly well. Food and lodging expenses at the reunion were based on a minimum of participants which we were obligated to pay even though our attendance was less than the guarantee. The temporary expenditure of Association funds to cover the cost of the DRL book will be returned as book sales increase.

Our sole financial support comes from you, the members of the Linnell Family Association. Newsletters are sent to 500-600 addresses and of those, approximately 25% send their contribution for annual dues. Members in good standing, Life members, and those whose dues are paid for the three years including 1995-1997, will pay no registration fee for the 1997 reunion. Plan for Cape Cod. Judy Spelde, Linnell Association Treasurer

A FRIENDLY (?) TAKEOVER

This is to inform those of you who were not in attendance at our 1994 reunion that something happened there that was quite shocking! A near riot broke out when a group of scallawags forced themselves into the room where the family was holding their important business meeting. Dressed in clothing quite unbecoming and carrying signs that spelled out the word "SOILD," they took over from our glorious leader in an attempt to steal the family's thunder as well as the treasury!

Well...you can imagine the uproar! But they finally wound down and order was restored. It was revealed that these interlopers were actually the spouses of those worthy, by birth only, members of the Linnell Family Association. Each one of the aforementioned rascals carried one letter on his sign and "SOILD" was spelled out letter by letter. Well, you can judge for yourselves the types of people the Linnells have married. They had difficulty in spelling the simplist of words. "SOLID" was the word they labored to display.

The buffoons were finally quieted and left the room, but not without a final note. Well, it was actually several notes, as they sang their group song, and not too well we might mention, as they were hurried from the room. The worst of it is that there has been a rumor involving the husband of one of our most noted family members. We're talking about J.C. Wynn here, husband of Rachel, and we refuse to believe this

THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

THE PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO PROMOTE FELLOWSHIP AMONG THE LINNELL FAMILY MEMBERS THROUGH REUNIONS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER AND TO PRESERVE THE RECORDS OF THE FAMILY.

STEERING COMMITTEE 1994-1997

CHAIRMAN	DICK LINNELL	PO BOX 95
	815-789-4668	ORANGEVILLE, IL 61060
VICE CHAIRMAN	ROBERT S. LINNELL	2930 N. WENAS RD.
	509-697-6047	SELAH, WA 98942
SECRETARY	CAROL ANDERSON	RT 2 PARKLAND VILLAGE
	715-284-9816	BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615
	WI 54615	
TREASURER	JUDY SPELDE	208 VISTA DR.
	208-765-4600	COEUR D'ALENE,
		ID 83814
HISTORIAN	RACHEL L. WYNN	717 MAIDEN CHOICE LN
		#523
	410-242-5760	CATONSVILLE, MD 21228
COMPUTERIZATION	GLEN ROBERTS	7007 46TH PLACE N.
OF DATA	616-471-1810	CRYSTAL, MN 55428
NEWSLETTER	JIM & KAY SWEDBERG	2727 SUNRISE PT. RD.
EDITORS	505-522-1966	LAS CRUCES, NM 88011
REUNION 1997	JACK LINNELL	615 EAST AVE.
	401-725-2927	PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
	CONNIE GATES	RFD 1, Box 518
	608-942-5533	NORTHWOOD, NH 03261

gentleman could even consider such subversive action! Well, we just thought you ought to know.

THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL

Throughout the weekend of the Granville Reunion, the new edition of our family history was celebrated. Preordered copies of THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL were distributed in the Family Room of Chapman Hall and autographed by Rachel Wynn. On Saturday evening a celebration highlighted family stories and pictures included in the book, an indication of the variety and depth of our ancestors' experiences. The enthusiasm for the publication, now in beautiful navy blue hardcover embossed in gold lettering with firm binding, clear type, and additional pictures, generated immediate sales of 31 additional copies. In the first six months of publication, two-fifths of the copies have been sold. All of the costs of publication have been paid, and all future sales now will pay back the Linnell Family Association for the advance funds that supported the project.

Orders for THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL are already being placed for Christmas giving. One Linnell wrote, "I want our children to know about our family history. It is all so clearly and wonderfully written here and will give us opportunities to talk about the other stories we remember, too." Another wrote, "I know my father will enjoy hours of looking through this book and finding names and stories to recall. It is a real keepsake."

Indeed, gifts of this book are a great way to affirm our family heritage. Here we can point to our own place in Linnell history marked by our own identification number. Here we can trace the part played by the Linnell family in the history of our country. For Christmas or birthdays, or just to affirm our love of family, this is a book for giving and owning.

The Steering Committee of the Linnell Association does not anticipate publishing this material again, so order your copies now. Send orders to Rachel Linnell Wynn, 717 Maiden Choice Ln #523, Catonsville, MD 21228. Cost: \$35.00 per copy, post paid. Send checks payable to the Linnell Family Association. Be sure to include the addresses for mailing.

Gift books have been given to several libraries and historical associations. This may be something you would like to do also in locations where your Linnell ancestors have lived. The Steering Committee is interested in keeping a list of these gifts to help others wishing to place our family history where it would be available to others. Books have been placed by: The Gateway Press in the Library of Congress; by the Linnell Family Association with the Davis Family, Granville, Ohio, in gratitude for their hospitality at the time of the reunion; by Carol and Ian Halsema at the Granville, Ohio Historical Museum; by Ruby Patel in the New York City Public Library; by Dick and Dru Linnell

in the Black River Falls, Wisconsin, Public Library; and by Kay and Jim Swedberg with the Clayton, New York, historian and museum.

ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

Deaths

James Ward Anderson 118,241,112,874 on 30 Mar. 1994
Mildred (Linnell) Doxtater 118,241,142,223 on 1 Dec. 1991 in Gary, IN
Marguerite Marie (Linnell) Fishel 118,241,142,221 on 22 Mar. 1991 in Fairfield, Iowa
Opal (Linnell) Gutzman 11a,b15,515,8 in 1992
Marjorie (Barker) Henderson 117,7-10-2,121,3 on 17 Oct. 1990
Richard Barker Henderson 117,7-10-2,121,33 in 1993
Floyd John Linnell 118,241,231,43 on 12 June 1994 in Minneapolis, MN
Lloyd Guy Linnell 118,241,116,98 on 1 June 1994 in Black River Falls, WI
Reath (Smith) Linnell wife of Foster Linnell (dec.) 118,241,116,54 on 28 June 1991
William Robert Linnell 118,241,142,315 on 9 Mar. 1994
Louise (Linnell) Short 118,241,142,224 on 26 Oct. 1993
Iris (Linnell) Soderbeck 118,241,145,83 on 21 May 1994
Marvin Soderlund husband of Marvel M. (Linnell) 118,241,116,541 on 3 Apr. 1994
Easton Taylor 11a,b12,72-10,5 on 24 May 1990
Harriet (Morris) Whitney wife of Charles Whitney 118,241,21-11,12 on 13 Dec. 1988

Births

Tyler Jessica Augustine b. 20 Dec. 1988, and Hayden Drew Augustine b. 19 Sep. 1992 to Darcy (Soderbeck) 118,241,145,832,1 and Douglas Augustine
Abbie Katherine Linnell b. 27 Apr. 1991 to Patrick 118,241,142,227,8 and Alice (Albrecht) Linnell
Katie Linnell b. 6 June 1994 to William 118,241,116,983 and Nancy Linnell at Missoula, MT
Katherine Adelle Meier and Eva Gabriella Meier, twin daughters, b. 15 Aug. 1994 to Pamela (Tonkin) 118,552,151,221 and Giovanni Meier in CT.
Vanessa Reel b. 27 Sep. 1994 to Aaron 11a,b15,515,642,1 and Saranette Reel at Provo, UT.
Joree Alison Rempel-Weiss b. 10 May 1989 to Alan 11a,b15,515,222,1 and Renae (Rempel) Weiss
Clancey Lee Soderbeck b. 19 Nov. 1993 to Wade 118,241,145,832,3 and Shanell (Hunt) Soderbeck
Matthew William Stevens b. 5 May 1993 to Charlotte (Dillenback) 118,241,121,213,2 and William Stevens
Paul John Vennes-Tremewan b. 13 June 1985 to David Tremewah 118,241,231,435,1 and Kathy Vennes at Minneapolis, MN

Marriages

Charlotte Dillenback 118,241,121,213,2 m. William Stevens 20 Apr. 1991
Lisa Dillenback 118,241,121,213,2 m. Daniel Flak 8 Oct. 1988
Charles J. Linnell 118,241,142,227,41 m. Elizabeth Mitchell 10 Feb. 1991
Andrea Nicola 118,241,142,22-10,4 m. Thomas Meyer 28 May 1994
Sharon Payne 11a,b15,515,222 m. Donald A Waknin 15 Apr. 1989
Aaron Edward Reel 11a,b15,515,642,1 m. Saranette Sotomayor 28 Mar. 1994
Wade Soderbeck 118,241,145,832,3 m. Shanell Hunt 19 Sep. 1992
Alan Dean Weiss m. Renae Rempel 1989, div. 1993

THE LINNELL FAMILY
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
Dick Linnell
PO Box 95
Orangeville, IL 61060

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LINNELL VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE

Two unedited video tapes of the 1994 Granville Reunion are now available. Tape #1, "A Family Album," is a two hour tape of the Saturday evening program. This tape tells the story of the Linnell migration from the Cape westward using slides narrated by Linnell cousins. The cost is \$4.50. Tape #2, "The Granville Linnells," features Dr. Wally Chessman, Granville's Historian, telling us about early Granville. It also contains the Linnell Family Association annual meeting and the Linnell Family takeover attempt by non-Linnell upstarts. Cost is \$4.50. Another tape available, "We Are Linnells," joins Linnells in rural Minnesota at the Linnell School Reunion, visits the Linnell Cemetery, and sees the membership recognize Abigail Linnell. Go behind the scenes and meet the Linnells at the 1991 Reunion. Watch as J.C. and Rachel are interviewed about the publication of THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL. Cost is \$17.00. Available also are five tapes of the 1991 Reunion at \$20.00 each. All of these tapes will enhance the story, the records, and the recollection of the family. Order your copies today. Send your orders to Dick Linnell at P.O. Box 95, Orangeville, IL 61060.

ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO GROW

At the Granville Reunion, life members of the association were presented with a Linnell Family Association "Life Membership Pin." Should you wish to wear one of these fine pins and further promote our family association, send your check for \$125.00 to treasurer, Judy Spelde, and receive not only the Life Membership Pin, but mementos of the Granville Reunion.

MISS THE REUNION?

Wish you had been able to come? You can still avail yourselves of some of the delightful (someone described them that way) mementos the rest of us took home.

T-shirts with the Granville, Massachusetts and Ohio maps plus date are available in medium, large, and extra large at \$8.00. Placemats depicting Granville scenes and Linnell history, plus the story and picture of the circa 1825 home built by Elkanah Linnell may be purchased at 4/\$5.00. These are laminated and will last forever! Reunion pins cost \$3.00. We've found that friends who drop in for coffee immediately start reading and asking questions about the mats and think they're real neat. Send your order, along with a check to cover same, to Dick Linnell at P.O. Box 95, Orangeville, IL 61060.