

LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 1

February 1995

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

To greet you in 1995,
the following,
quoted from Olga Carlile,
says it all!

in 1995

Think freely. Practice patience.
Smile often. Savor special moments.
Live God's message.

Make new friends. Rediscover old ones.
Tell those that you love that you do. Feel deeply.

Forget trouble. Forgive an enemy. Hope.

Grow. Be crazy. Count your blessings. Observe miracles. Make them happen. Discard worry.
Give. Give in. Trust enough to take. Pick some daisies. Share them. Keep a promise. Look for
rainbows. Gaze at stars. See beauty everywhere. Work hard. Be wise. Try to understand. Take
time for people. Make time for yourself. Laugh heartily. Spread joy. Take a chance. Reach
out. Let someone in. Slow down. Be soft sometimes. Celebrate life. Believe in yourself.
Trust others. See a sunrise. Listen to rain. Reminisce.

Cry when you need to. Trust life. Have faith. Enjoy. Wonder. Comfort a friend. Have good
ideas. Learn. Make some mistakes. Learn from them. Explore the unknown. Hug a kid.

Be Alive!

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.

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INTRODUCING THE BOARD MEMBERS

Over the next couple of newsletters we will be introducing the Linnell Family Association Board members. Should you have any comments about the association or stories for the newsletter, contact any of them. We want to make our association represent the Linnell family.

RACHEL LINNELL WYNN

An Objective,
Unbiased
Description
By Her Husband



When you look back over her history, you may well agree that Rachel could never have escaped her destiny to become the historian for the Linnell Family Association. Her father, the Rev. Edward Payson Linnell, although aware of only a score of relatives in the U.S.A., nonetheless had a vision. That vision was to gather together those few Linnell cousins to organize them into a Linnell family organization. And his only sibling, Mary Belle Linnell, had long labored over genealogical records, tracing forbears who had descended from that 1638 emigre from England, Robert Linnell. The deep interest this brother and sister had in Linnell lore could but influence Rachel's curiosity. Yet

neither Edward Payson nor Mary lived long enough to see the Linnell Family Association founded nor The Descendants of Robert Linnell published. Those developments were left for someone else to facilitate.

Obviously supplied with the appropriate genes for the role, Rachel also had the interest. She picked up the lead of her father and the research of her aunt and then advanced their once visionary plans. She based her genealogical research on her aunt's data about the family's history, tracing ancestors through court records, cemetery gravestones, and the National Archives. Writing hundreds of letters, she discovered more Linnells than her father had ever supposed were in existence. Poring through yellowed documents she documented branches of the clan her aunt had not known about. As it happened, this compelling interest in a family association and its history called into play a peculiar complex of characteristics long developed along specific channels in Rachel's personality.

To begin with, Rachel is a doer! Ever loaded with projects and projections, her calendar is replete with deadlines, tasks, and causes. She is by nature an active participant in the interests that attract her attention. Decisive in her work, exacting in self discipline, she is prompt with deadlines, faithful to schedules. For her a near sacred standard is "Do it now." The result! she gets things done.

And Rachel gets involved. As one who prepares painstakingly, she sets out her program logically, delineates the steps sequentially, then invests her energy in the work required. In her writing, she proceeds from a careful outline. In her addresses, she follows a prepared manuscript. In her organizing, she negotiates with careful forethought. Her reputation as a graduate student, as a teacher, and as a guidance counselor was that she worked with attention to detail. One of her university professors had confided, "Please let Rachel know that she isn't expected to read every single reference in the course bibliography." Yet that careful planning made a difference when she was president of the board of trustees in a church with an endowment of four million dollars, or when she chaired the directors of a large pre-school child care center, or those occasions when she has been coordinator of more committees than this paper can contain. Deep investment of herself and her energies is a characteristic her family know well and her friends admire.

It's hardly necessary, therefore, to add that she is a conscientious planner. Gifted with an orderly mind, she thinks in logical sequence, and she took to historical research with enthusiasm, graduating from college with honors in history. It is then hardly

surprising that all three of her children are now professionally engaged in research and teaching. With such a penchant for intellectual inquiry, Rachel has become a devotee of her computer, an avid reader in numerous fields, and has belonged to two book discussion clubs at a time.

Such a character has an inbuilt penchant for organization. Whether serving as the president of a women's association or directing a task group in her residents' council, as she presently does, Rachel's ability to coordinate scattered elements and bring them into common purpose is an advantage. It's a personal gift that she invests in club work, neighborhood groups, home decoration, or hospitality.

Along with so many cousins in the Linnell connection, Rachel possesses wide interests, and they grow no fewer as the years go by. She regularly attends symphony concerts, visits art museums, views films. She has traveled widely through much of North America and the Caribbean, also visiting Europe, Asia, South America, and for four months resided in South Africa as a participant in a leader exchange program with the U.S.A. Skilled in handiwork, her products include draperies she has woven on her loom, piles of beautifully knitted sweaters, a quilt she completed a year ago, flowers she has nurtured, and photographs that grace our walls. But not least appreciated by her family and guests is her culinary prowess; put simply, she is a splendid cook.

These interests, skills, and traits combine in her as personal characteristics do in anyone, to make a congruent individual. What brings them together into wholeness is a notable capacity to love. Her loving nature, bequeathed to her from her childhood home, is known and reciprocated by family and friends. Later her graduate work in counseling reinforced this interest in persons and their life stories. Many have been beneficiaries of such a person: coworkers, neighbors, colleagues in organizations, and unfortunate folks in need. A capacity for love and a deep faith in God permeate Rachel's life and habits to a depth that inform her activity and inspire her doing.

Now at 76, she reviews tasks completed and looks into others only recently begun. These she is passing on to others, content to watch family members and associates continue good causes.

DICK AND DRU LINNELL

Dick Linnell, Association Chairperson, and his wife Dru reside in rural Orangeville, IL. They live in a lovely 1848 home they restored just ten miles south of Monroe, WI.



Dick retired from education a couple of times, the most recent being 1992. Presently he works as a consultant for a company that writes training programs for both industry and education. Dru hopes to continue writing and keeps the home fires

burning. All of their immediate family live within a couple hours of their home so they do see the family frequently.

Dick and Dru's first contact with Rachel and J.C. was in 1981 and has grown into a love of not only them, but genealogy as well. They have attended all the national reunions and several regional gatherings and look forward to the '97 reunion on Cape Cod. Dick is serving his second term as association chairperson. As family members travel around the country they are to please remember, the door of their home is always open!

JIM AND KAY SWEDBERG

Jim and Kay Swedberg recently took over preparing the *Linnell Newsletter* for publication. Four years ago they returned to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where they were married 38 years ago. This is the last of 24 moves, and they are happy to be back. If your travels bring you to "The Land of Enchantment," please drop by for a visit. A little warning might even promise a meal or two! Except for a few hot days in summer and a few sandstorms in the spring, it is an ideal place to live. Thousands of retired Californians and New Yorkers who have moved here can't be wrong!



Jim and Kay have four daughters, four sons-in-law, and four grandchildren. There must be something magical about the number four! Kay's parents and brothers live in Hawaii. You can see that visiting the relatives takes Jim and Kay in many directions. They're looking forward to the next Linnell reunion so all the daughters and their families will be together again in one location!

ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

Births

Nicholas Andres DeLaCanal b. 21 Sep. 1993 to Shirley (Stoudenmire) 118,552,151,213,2 and Pablo DeLaCanal

Zachery William Linnell b. 25 Aug. 1994 to Andrew C. 118,241,533,324,3 and Janice B. Linnell

Fred Sinclair IV b. 19 Sep. 1993 to Kathryn A. (Smith) 118,731,921,142 and Fred Sinclair III at Willamantic, CT.

Danielle Avery Smith b. 9 Nov. 1992 to Thomas M. 118,731,921,143 and Eileen (Avery) Smith at Willimantic, CT

Marriage

Rodney D. Linnell, Jr 118,241,169,221 son of Rodney D. and Bonnie Linnell to Conie Jean Palmer on 29 Jan. 1994

Deaths

David Nelson husband of Betty J. (Gilbertson) 118,241,116,921 on 4 Dec. 1994 Wisconsin Philina (Swan) McGunigle wife of Charles F. McGunigle, deceased, 11a,b12,611,411 on 17 Dec. 1994 Catonsville, MD

Correction

Richard Barker Henderson 117,7-10-2,121,33 d. 22 Feb. 1992



THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION BOWL

Created by Orrell Linnell of Oxford, Maine, the Linnell Family Association Bowl is a fifteen inch diameter, eight inch deep sculpted bowl made of mahogany and inlaid with varied woods around the circumference. This beautiful creation arrived at the apartment of Rachel Linnell Wynn in May 1994 with Orrell's story of its production. He had made it for the 1991 reunion but had not been able to attend the event. Knowing that he would not be able to come to the 1994 reunion either, he had changed the date on the bowl and sent it to Rachel. The beauty of the bowl made it

seem most appropriate to be used for recognition of persons who give much time and effort to the development of our Linnell Family Association. Orrell gave permission for this to be done. At the 1994 Reunion this Linnell Family Association bowl was passed from Rachel to Dick Linnell who, as Chairman, has energized the Association this past three years. A brass plate was created to be placed on the bottom of the bowl with the following inscription:

**Created by Orrell Linnell
for the Linnell Family Association**

Awarded

1994 to Rachel Linnell Wynn

1994 to Richard Linnell

The bowl will be passed to another person who has helped the Association to move along in its goals when that becomes evident.

Woodworking has been a special skill of Orrell's for many years. When family members were asked to bring examples of crafts and other creations to the 1988 Linnell Family Reunion at Cape Cod, Orrell brought his beautiful reproduction of the famous Liberty Bell at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Orrell Linnell was the 17th person to answer Rachel's original request for Linnell family information in 1980. Not only did he fill out the questionnaire, but he led her to his sister Dorothy Johnson who had compiled information about their branch of the family. Dorothy provided many pages of data and continued to keep their line up to date until her death in 1993.

It was in 1982 that JC and Rachel visited Orrell and Lottie in the house Orrell was building just across the road from the Linnell homestead. The new house had many proofs of Orrell's woodworking skills in its interior and exterior details fashioned from his fully equipped wood shop. In 1983 Orrell suffered a heart attack and in 1984 Lottie died, taking much of the joy out of this place. But Orrell's craftsman skills have provided some healing energy for these days. And the generous gift of Orrell's work in the Linnell Association bowl will carry a continuing relationship of this family through years ahead.

The barn of the homestead across the road still bears the Linnell name. For three generations the family farm grew apples for shipment to England, later broiler chickens for the market, and still later, cucumbers for the pickling industry. It is a gracious area surrounded by forests and mountains, an area that has been home to several generations of the Linnell family.



MUSIC IN THE LINNELL FAMILY

In an earlier newsletter we were introduced to the Toffelmire family and Meridith Wilson. By reading and hearing about Linnells we have discovered that music played a big part in many of our ancestors' lives. Ladoska Linnell Elliott tells about the weekly barn dances held at Lafayette Linnell's farm. Marvel Linnell Soderlund played piano for their band. It would be great to hear more about this group. Bonnie and Roger Hansen have information about a band that Bonnie's uncle had. It would be great to hear more about this group. Dick Linnell has a picture of Chester John Linnell holding a fiddle. His son William also played the fiddle, and Dick has heard stories that he was quite a dancer. Peter Maroni Linnell, brother of William, had a dance hall on the second story of his store in Mineral Center, MN. It would be great to hear more about this place. Anyone with stories (and photos, if available) about these or any other Linnell family musicians, let your newsletter editors know about them. Send in your stories to share with the family!

SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION

Dick Linnell continues to seek information about the following ancestors of his family line or any of their descendants. All of these individuals were with the James J. Strang Mormon group on Beaver Island. Any information about them would be most welcomed. Write to Dick at P.O. Box 95, Orangeville, IL 61060.



Rodney Linnell	118,241,111
Judson Linnell	118,241,113
Sarah Ann Linnell Hickey	118,241,114
Libius Linnell	118,241,115
Eunice Linnell See	118,241,19

REUNION SURVEY



If you haven't filled out and returned the Reunion Survey, please do so today. Mail the survey along with your membership check to Judy Spelde, Treasurer, 208 Vista Drive, Coeur d'alene,

ID 83814.

LAZIEST AMONG THE LAZY

An early Linnell called the "laziest among the lazy," was one Elisha Linnell. On page 242 of *The Descendants of Robert Linnell*, Rachel tells the beginning of this story. The following is the rest of the story as written by and quoted from Amos Otis, *Genealogical Notes of Barnstable Families*, Vol. 2, pages 160-161.

"Elisha, one of the sons of (Jabel 118,7) born Oct. 20, 1740, was the laziest among the lazy, and he took no offense when reproved for his slothful and vagrant habits. If such notoriety be an honor, Elisha would have undisputed claim to be called the champion of the lazy. He was courteous in his address, had a ready command of language, and there was always a spice of humor in his conversation. He was not a mean beggar, he would not receive a mean gift, or one that involved any effort on his part. He assumed that he had a right to beg, and that it was the duty of the more wealthy to give." As illustrations of his character and manner I select the following from many amusing stories told of him:

Nearly sixty years ago, when I was a child, Elisha called at my father's house. Addressing my father, he said, "I have no corn in my house, I pray that, out of your great abundance, you will give me only half a bushel." My father, knowing Elisha's character and habits, said, "I am busy today, if you will go to the crib and shell it yourself you may take only half a bushel." Quoth Elisha, "I will go a leetle further, and if I do not get it ready shelled I will call on my return and shell it." He did not call on his return.

This anecdote is often told, and illustrates his indolent habits. The following shows his independent manner of soliciting charity:

He asked the late Capt. Nathan Hallet to give him some codfish. Capt. Hallet had just bought a quintal for his own use that were sunburnt in curing, and though they would break easy, and therefore unfit to send to market, were nice and good. He gave Elisha several. Elisha knew that Capt. Hallet was using the same in his family, and he could not refuse to receive them. However, before leaving the yard he dropped them beside the fence.

Capt. Hallet told the story. A little time after, someone asked Elisha if it was true. "Yes," said Elisha, "it is true. Do you think I will eat broken fish for Capt. Hallet? I want the best. I have poor fish enough at home."

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MEMBERSHIP

It is not too late to send your 1995 LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION membership to the Association Treasurer Judy Spelde. Better yet, send Judy \$125.00 and receive a LINNELL ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBER PIN, some 1994 reunion memorabilia, and a waiver of the registration fee for the 1997 reunion on Cape Cod. What a deal!

LINNELL WALLPAPER

Has anyone contacted Coast-to-Coast for the Linnell wallpaper? Is so, drop us a line and let us know the results.

**DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!
WHEN THEY ARE GONE, THERE
WILL BE NO MORE! THE
DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL
IS STILL AVAILABLE, BUT NOT
FOR LONG!**

Send your orders to Rachel today. You'll want a copy for yourself, each of your children, and each of your grandchildren. And how about a copy for your city or town's local library?