



**SOME "NOTES" FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

by Jerry Linnell, Chairperson



Hello from your Nation's Capital:

As I look forward to a music-filled Linnell Family reunion in 2000, many of my favorite old songs encourage me to also relish the warm and festive times of the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. You will agree with me, I believe, that many of us will take a "Sentimental Journey" during the next month or so. And we may even hear a cousin or two exclaim: "Happy Days Are Here Again." Since the next edition of the newsletter will not be printed until next February, Pat and I extend to you greetings for a "White Christmas" and Happy New Year. With the new millennium around the corner, we will perhaps hear the New Year's Eve celebration "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

With music and relaxation on our minds, Pat and I took the "Long, Long Trail A'Winding" on another wonderful trip back to Minnesota this past summer, where we watched "Red Sails in the Sunset" on our trek across country -- up through Michigan and into Canada, arriving in Minnesota and Pike Lake for a wonderful music outing with "That Old Gang of Mine" (ours). It gave me such pleasure to remember my father as I played "Elmer's Tune" on my accordion, with Marvel Soderlund at the piano and many of my favorite cousins harmonizing in the background. While spending a few nice days on the lake, alone with "My Wild Irish Rose" -- I mean Pat, of course -- it was easy to "Let The Rest of the World Go By." Don't you agree, there simply is nothing better than "The Green, Green Grass of Home."

Earlier in the year, we spent time in Alexandria Bay, NY, helping to plan our

upcoming 2000 reunion. During a break in the action, so to speak, some of the board members were found "Cruising Down the River" to see some of the sites that all who attend the reunion may enjoy. I know that family members in "Far Away Places" are already making plans to attend the festivities, some by plane, others by car and camper, and many by bus. Surely a cousin or two will come from "Beautiful Ohio." Now, Pine Tree Resort is definitely not on "Galway Bay," of

course, but you could very well get the feeling you were on "Moonlight Bay."

Just think of the few days you can spend with many of your favorite cousins reciting old and collecting new "Memories." "Now Is The Hour" to take a look at your calendar and circle June 23, 24, and 25, 2000. We will

have much more planning information for you in the upcoming issues of the newsletter.

"Loving You," Chairman Jerry Linnell P.S. If there is a song or two you know and would like to sing, play, or hear at the reunion "In the Good Old Summer Time," find the music, bring it along, and you can enjoy it just about "Anytime" that weekend.



**What's Inside?**

◆ REUNION REGISTRATION	Page 2
◆ PINE TREE RESORT RATES	Page 2
◆ FAMILY RECORDS ADDITIONS	Page 2
◆ REUNION 2000	Page 3
◆ BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL	Page 4
◆ NEWS FROM OUR COUSINS	Page 5
◆ LINNELL ON LINE	Page 5
◆ GRINDSTONE ISLAND HISTORY	Page 6
◆ ASSOCIATION OFFICERS	Page 7





## REGISTRATION FOR THE LINNELL FAMILY REUNION

Reunion registration is a two-step process:

### 1. Register with Association

Fill out the registration card that will be mailed in January and send it to Judy Spelde, Association Treasurer

### 2. Make Lodging Reservations

If you plan to stay at Pine Tree Point, make your reservations directly with them and be sure to specify Linnell Family Reunion

Pine Tree Point Resort  
P.O. Box 99  
Alexandria Bay, N. Y. 13607  
315-482-9911  
888-746-3229 toll free  
315-482-5210 fax

If you plan to stay somewhere else be sure to make your reservations early so you will not be disappointed.



## Additions to the Family Records

### Births

None reported

### Marriages

Descendants of Robert Linnell, page 403

118,241,11,878,1

Jennifer Joy Spelde

m. Derek G. Orkney

### Deaths

None reported

## Pine Tree Resort Rate Packages

Pine Tree Resort has offered us various packages including room and board (taxes and gratuities) for those staying Friday only, Saturday only, or Friday and Saturday nights. Per person adult\* rates are as follows:

Friday (including reception, continental breakfast, and lunch):

Single occupancy	\$132.00
Double occupancy	\$92.00
Triple occupancy	\$78.00
Quad occupancy	\$72.00

Saturday (including dinner, continental breakfast):

Single occupancy	\$134.50
Double occupancy	\$94.50
Triple occupancy	\$80.50
Quad occupancy	\$74.50

Both days (including reception, 2 continental breakfasts, lunch, dinner):

Single occupancy	\$266.50
Double occupancy	\$186.50 ←
Triple occupancy	\$158.50
Quad occupancy	\$146.50

\*Special rates for children 11 and under: \$19.75 per night or \$39.00 for two nights.

Rooms of various types are reserved on a first come - first served basis.

Cot charge \$10.00/night (limited availability). Sunday night is offered at \$85.00 plus tax and gratuity per person.

For those not staying at the Pine Tree Resort, the per person food costs, including tax and gratuity are:

Reception	\$10.00
Breakfast	\$9.00
Lunch	\$12.00
Banquet	\$29.00

(A special children's meal at reduced price will be available for the Banquet.)

Meal tickets may be purchased at the Pine Tree Resort in advance of the meals.

111 735 (View Room)  
\$150.00



## **COME ONE COME ALL! REUNION 2000 AT ALEXANDRIA BAY**

The last issue of the Linnell Family Newsletter provided details about some of the fun places to go and sites to visit in the Alexandria Bay area during our June 2000 Reunion. That should get you thinking about making plans for a great family holiday along the banks of the Saint Lawrence River. NOW it's time to consider making reservations for rooms at our center of activities, the Pine Tree Point Resort. It's a great location right on the water, and across from the majestic Boldt Castle. Downtown Alexandria Bay is a five-minute car ride - or a nice walk. Boat cruises, fishing, swimming, and shopping - all are easily accessible. The rooms vary in size, proximity to the main lodge, and availability of river view. They will be booked for us on a first come first served basis. Larger rooms or suites for families are limited, so if you want this kind of accommodation, please book in advance.

Please specify that you are part of the "Linnell Family Reunion" so that you can be properly registered with our package deal. As you will see in the registration information here, there are various rates depending on whether you are planning to stay Friday, Saturday, or both nights. There are special

rates for children aged 11 and under, and there is the possibility of adding a cot in a room for a child. The reduced rate for children also includes special "children friendly" meals.

For those who are planning to go camping in any of the area's fine camp grounds, or to stay elsewhere, there will be individual meal tickets for breakfast, lunch and the banquet dinner, which can be purchased at a desk near the dining room entrance.

Watch for breaking news about other events at Pine Tree Point. The new sister facility called Edgewood is nearby and has various distractions for children including horse trail rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, and carriage and wagon rides along the river. Pine Tree Point and Edgewood may also have a newly refurbished boat for ferrying visitors to Boldt Castle. In addition to these activities, Uncle Sam Boat Tours will offer a special rate for their tours of the St. Lawrence River: for groups of 20 or more the price for a 2 1/4 hour trip is \$11.00 for adults and \$5.50 for children. We would have to sign up in advance for this, so think about going and we'll provide more information about signing up in the next newsletter.

For more information about the Pine Tree Inn Resort, visit their web page at: <http://www.1000islands.com/pinetree/>

**WATCH FOR YOUR LINNELL  
REUNION 2000  
REGISTRATION CARD  
IN A SPECIAL MAILING  
JANUARY, 2000**



# THREE GENERATIONS OF BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL

by Gertrude Peterson Linnell  
continued from August 1999

*Gertrude Peterson Linnell concludes her reminiscences about her one room school in Mineral Center, MN. (Mineral Center can be found on very detailed Minnesota maps.)*

## Still Bad

We had a male teacher who wasn't beyond whipping the students. He loved to lace you good and proper with a willow switch, taken from a tree which grew in back of the school. Part of our punishment was to go out and get our own willow switch, which really laced you around the legs. How that stung!

One day Arnold did some heinous thing which merited this type of punishment. The teacher looked over the top of his glasses and said, "All right, Arnold, you go out and cut yourself a switch so I can punish you." Arnold went out and came back with the sorriest looking scrubby branch that ever there was.

The teacher took one whack at the floor and the switch was so rotten it fell into a million pieces. Then he said, "This won't do. Get me a real switch."

I think Arnold made about three trips before he came back with a satisfactory willow switch. The teacher was a very serious man, but I think even he could see the humor in the situation. Then he took Arnold out to the entryway to give him his switching. Of course, Arnold made the loudest noises as if he were being murdered.

## The Visitor

The school grounds were in my great uncle's pasture. He had a barn on the upper part of the pasture, which was enclosed with a fence. He had some goats and most of them stayed put in the old red barn up on the hill. It

was about a block from the school, but it was still part of the school grounds.

He had one old goat that was very belligerent. He would come down and check on us every day to see how things were going. The boys used to wrestle him the way people wrestled bulls in the old western days. They would hold something in front of him to torment him.

This goat was not averse to visiting the school if the door was open. He would walk down the aisles and the kids would stick out their feet and try to trip him. They tried to irritate him just to cause a commotion. One day he came in and checked us out. We had a big water crock and he was nuzzling the button that controlled the bubbler. He got to poking around and dumped the wastewater pail into which the wastewater drained. The teacher called on the boys to get the goat out of the building before he wrecked everything. Of course the boys had a field day wrestling him down. Then he would jump up again. He was a belligerent old fella. He didn't take any nonsense from anybody. But he never seemed to get angry. I think he enjoyed being wrestled as much as the boys did. But that wasn't the end of his visits. He came back many times.



**"Ok, rookie, jump on. I'll send your tailbone to goat heaven! Did you learn the word 'nemesis' in school today? Hop on."**



## The Town That Was, Isn't

Times were very tough in 1934 and I considered myself very lucky to be able to go back to that little school to teach. I was teaching there when the government decided to enlarge the reservation. They bought up the property of the people who lived in Mineral Center and added it to the Grand Portage Indian Reservation. This happened in 1937. I was the last teacher.

Have I succeeded in making my beloved Birchwood School, gone these many years, come alive once again, with clanging bell and active children rushing in the door ready to begin their day? Or maybe it has brought to mind a mental picture of your own rural school and the happy days spent there. I truly hope my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will know a little more about what made the person they call "Mom, Nana, and Gran-nan" into the 85 year old Senior Citizen they know today!

*After completing teachers training, Gertrude returned to Birchwood and taught there from 1935 to 1937. All told Gertrude taught for thirty-four years.*

*The Editor thanks Gurtrude Linnell for sharing her school day memories.*



## NEWS FROM OUR COUSINS

TV News, October 22, 1999

Kevin Olin stars in "Evolution's Child" with Heidi Swedberg ("Seinfeld") and Taylor Nichols. Congratulations to Heidi 118,241,185,824, p. 435 DRL.

John Linnell of "They Might Be Giants" 118,241,154,123 DRL noted on National Birthday List 12 June 1999, 40 years old.

## LINNELL ON LINE

We're on the Web! Our new Web site ([http://LinnellFamily tripod.com](http://LinnellFamily.tripod.com))

is off and running. It brings into focus important information about who we are, where we come from, what we are accomplishing, and what the future holds.

Andrew Linnell, 117,612,123,223, has accomplished it for us with suggestions from Mark Wynn, 117,612,123,211.



We are most grateful to Andrew for his hours of work to accomplish this task and for his considerable knowledge of how to put it all together. The Linnell Family Association indicated at their last reunion that they were ready for this step in letting people know who we are and inviting others to join us. Now this is accomplished.

The Index on the web site indicates all that has been placed there:

- \* About the Linnell Family Association
- \* Reunion 2000
- \* Newsletter
- \* Tracing the Family Tree
- \* Order The Descendants of Robert Linnell
- \* Membership
- \* Other Family Web Sites
- \* Photo Album

All of these sites have a wealth of information that we hope will attract other Linnells who may add information linking them to our base. This offers opportunities for cousins to add new information expanding our data with Linnell lines not fully developed.

We hope to add another section on our site for those seeking information about ancestors that we have not found. This will keep us alert to other branches to add to our Linnell Family Tree.

Check out our web site and let Andrew know of any additional sections you would like to see included. Let Andrew know of your appreciation at his e-mail: [linnell@top.monad.net](mailto:linnell@top.monad.net).



# Some Grindstone Island History

Excerpts from a family history by  
Robert Cummings

## *Editor's Note*

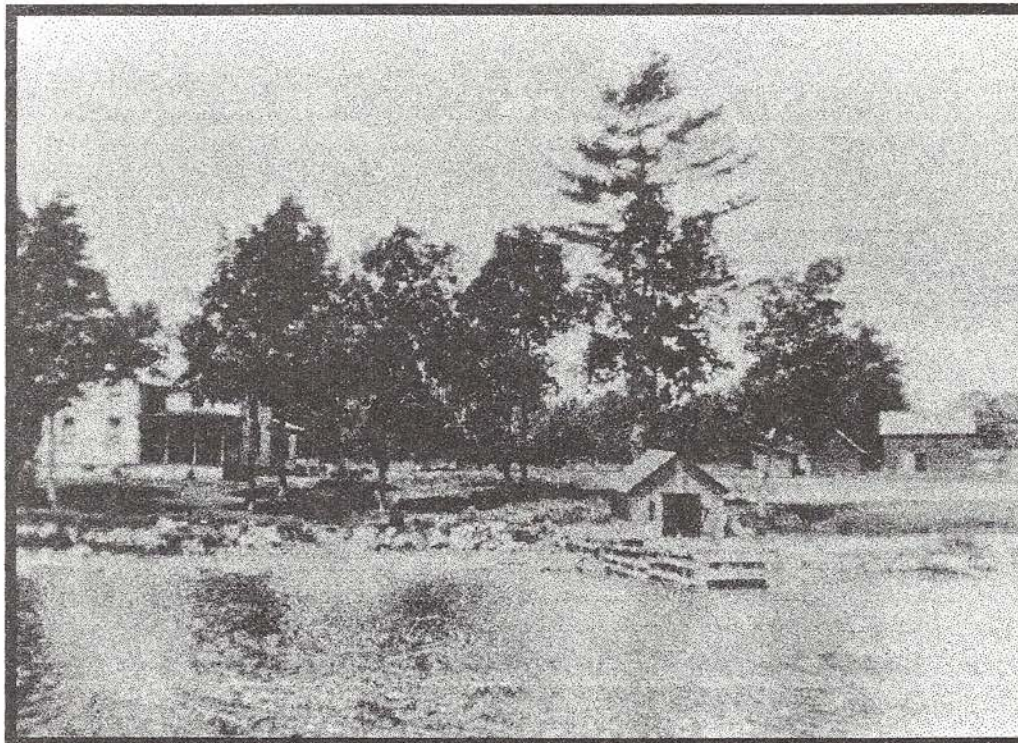
*Robert Cummings sent me a portion of his family history many years ago. It is, of course, addressed to his grandchildren. As a descendant of Samuel Linnel of Grindstone Island he has many interesting insights to that area. It seems appropriate to me to publish some of them in the series of newsletters which precede the 2000 Reunion. We start this series with his introduction and with the physical description of Grindstone Island.*

## INTRODUCTION

I shall type off the material to help all of you grandchildren better understand the place where some of your "important" forefathers came from: the Linnells, Cummings, Robinsons, and the dozen other family connections we have.

## LOCATION AND SURFACE

Grindstone, once known as Gore Island, is one of the largest of the Thousand Island group being about six miles long and three miles in the wider parts. It has about 5300 acres of land. The island is located in the middle of the St. Lawrence River, about 18 miles from Lake Ontario, Howe Island to the west, Wollesley Island to the east, Navy group to the north and Eagle Wing group to the south in latitude 44 north longitude 77 west. The depth of water around the island is from 2 to 140 feet. The surface of the island is hilly. The hills extending the long axis of the land rising to a height of 80 feet above the river and 320 feet above level. The rocks are of quartz granite, gneiss (a laminated or foliated metamorphic rock, corresponding in composition to granite or some other feldspathic or plutonic rock), sandstone, and conglomerate. All show the action of the glaciers. The rocks along the shores are gouged out in hollows and ridges. Pockets of sand and gravel are found on the easterly side of the ledges, showing that the glacier was moving in a southeasterly direction.



The Linnell-Cummings farm located on Cummings Point. I recall this boathouse and small dock. An ice-break-up destroyed it. The Linnell log cabin was located directly behind this one. My father remembers it well. His sister, Caroline, died shortly after birth and his grandmother was sick and couldn't get to the house. So my father carried his little sister over to let her see the body - in a shoe box.



This section of the continent is one of the most deeply eroded and shows the results of heat and pressure in broken rocks and shattered ledges.

Many bays with deep water give good anchorage and protection to small boats.

At the head of the bay are large marshes with small streams draining into them, their source being in the many springs around on the island.

Between the ledges is much level land which is deep and very fertile, for the raising of good crops of grain, hay, corn, and gardens, while the ledges, mostly covered with timber, make excellent pasturage for cattle, sheep, and goats.

Among the rocks found are iron ore on the south side near Aunt Jane's Bay, and granite on the north side and in the middle of the island. Sandstone is on the south side of Grindstone Point, where Aaron Cummings now owns. A streak of conglomerate rocks extend from the Cement Point to Aunt Jane's Bay.

On the south side of the Base Line Road on the back end of what is known as the John Murdoch farm was an operation to open a mine, looking for precious metals. It has an opening extending about 50 feet into the side of a hill or ledge. Also on the top of the hill an attempt was made to dig down to the end of the side opening. This opening is in a marble-like rock, of a crystal formation called quartz, but not of much value. Small nuggets of lead have been found as well as traces of silver.

Mr. Thomas Flynn, a settler on the Island, spent some time in California panning for gold and had some success. He is said to have made the opening while looking for a mine nearer home as his land was next to the Murdock property.

Several granite quarries are on the Island, which will be in a later sketch of occupations.

*In the next newsletter we will continue this series with a description of the early settlers of Grindstone Island.*

## 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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#### REUNION 2000

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Send order form and payment to:

Rachel L. Wynn  
717 Maiden Choice Lane #523  
Catonsville, MD 21228

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

**Linnell Family Association**

Please register me as a member of the Linnell Family Association in the following category:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Life Time (\$125.00)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Single Annual (\$15.00 a year)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Couple Annual (\$25.00 a year)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed

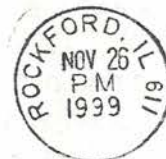
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**LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
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