

# LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 4

November 2002

## From Our Chairman

Dear Cousins:

I have been in such political shock since the elections that it has been most difficult to sit down at this computer and find much to be upbeat about here in the Nation's Capital. Somehow you will have to help me get out of the doldrums – no, not by telling me to give up the fight and become a Republican, because that will never happen, but a sympathy card might help. The thought of having all three branches of our government under the same fat old elephant is just about more than this Minnesota man can handle; my shoulders are nowhere near the size of Paul Bunyan's.

However, on a much happier note, I am so very pleased that there was to be found in Uncle Sam's delivery this past week the newly developed scholarship fund mailing. You have to be proud of three people who were so very instrumental in putting together this milestone event. Norm Linnell, Maryan Ainsworth, and Barrie Westerwick are to be applauded for their efforts to finally put this scholarship program into writing and getting it out to all of our members. Dick Linnell was so helpful, as always, in getting it to print and in the mail so very close to our November 1<sup>st</sup> target. Now it will be up to all of you to see to it that any and all of your family members who are eligible will put pen in hand, after doing a little study of their present or past Linnell family ancestry, and write in some detail about that special person about whom they

have learned some interesting details. Remember, these essays have to be postmarked no later than January 1st.

There are just a couple of financial matters that I think should be brought to your attention. As you can see from the scholarship mailing, there was included a donation sheet to give you the opportunity to in some way help us to continue this scholarship program and assure its growth, with the thought that someday we might be able to either increase the size of the money award or the number of scholarships the association will be enabled to award. Then there is the yearly dues appeal the steering committee makes to everyone. Why not become a lifetime member or give a year's membership as a stocking stuffer at Christmas. Fortunately, we have been able to hold the yearly dues to a very small sum, but it is important that we all do our fair share to keep the ledger in the black. And I would be remiss if I did not mention the cemetery restoration fund. Cousin Bob Linnell tells me that efforts are underway to complete the next marker replacement at Cape Cod sometime next year.

Of course, as you all know by now, I am sure, the 2003 LFA reunion will be the last weekend in June in Black River Falls, WI. There will be a special packet, with a considerable amount of information about the area and the Arrowhead Lodge, sent to each member on the mailing list. I hope you will soon be making that special phone call to your immediate family members to block off that weekend on the calendar so that we might again enjoy a wonderful weekend together. I am especially excited that Barclay Anderson has agreed to head up the first association golf outing on Saturday afternoon of

*(Chairman, Continued on page 5)*

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# The Linnell Coat of Arms

By Mark Wynn ~ Ellicott City, Maryland

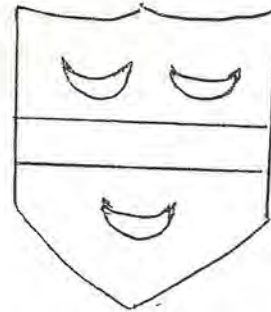
A search of heraldry books or internet web sites will easily yield several Linnell family coats of arms, many of them quite interesting and of old origin. This article is written to provide information about the earliest known Linnell coat of arms. The whole idea of heraldry, including family coats of arms and crests is of obscure origins. One theory is that they came with William the Conqueror to England at the time of the Norman invasion in the year 1066. William himself was of Viking extraction, and there is no evidence that he personally had a coat of arms, but he had many Flemish troops with his force, and there is some speculation that the leaders of these troops had their own heraldry devices that subsequently evolved into coats of arms.

The earliest well-documented coat of arms is found at the grave of a French knight related to Henry I of England, and dated about 1155. It appears that the notion of heraldry caught the attention and interest of the upper classes of England and the rest of Europe between the years 1120 and 1150, and soon every upper class family wanted to have their own coat of arms, much like modern businessmen carry a business card. During the twelfth century, coats of arms were placed onto shields, and knights carried these designs into battle as a means of decoration, family pride, and a means of identification.

The early coat of arms designs of the twelfth century were relatively simple, with a few basic design elements arranged onto the shield in a few possible combinations. Among these design elements are the colors, partition methods, and designs. Colors took on meaning according to tradition. For example, gold was called "or" and implied the virtue of faith. Silver, called "argent," meant innocence, while blue was named "azure" and referred to loyalty. The partition methods included fess, which refers to a band across the middle of the shield. Other partition designs include the quarterly, which is a cross that divides the shield into four parts, and the bend, which is a diagonal

band. Designs added to the basic shield partition included the sun, the moon, and all sorts of beasts. In addition, crests over the top of the shield, and mottoes added to the bottom became popular over

the years. The earliest coats of arms, in the twelfth century, used only a few design devices, and it was common for shields of different and entirely unrelated families to have shields that were



confusingly similar or even identical. The English crown was asked to arbitrate several cases where families had identical coats of arms.

The earliest known Linnell coat of arms is referred to in the book "The History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton" by George Baker, published in parts between 1822 and 1841. This book, generously made known to us by our correspondent John Linnell of Lincolnshire, England, refers to the earliest information about the origins of the Linnell family, which evidently was of Norman or French origin, and settled in Kislingsbury. In the early days, the family spelled its name as Lunell or sometimes as Luvell. It is widely believed that these Lunells are the ancestors of the Linnell family, although early records are scarce and the connection is not firmly documented. However, the direct link of the early Lunell family and the later Linnells is well accepted. According to the Baker's book, the Lunell arms are described as "Azure, a fess argent between three crescents or." Thus, the arms are blue, with a band across the middle colored silver, with three moon shaped gold crescents on the shield. (see illustration) There is no motto or crest described with the coat of arms. The

*(Linnell Coat of Arms, Continued on page 5)*

## Almena Legion celebrates 80 years, honors members

Submitted by Jerry Gutzman ~ Solana Beach, California

As published in the Norton Daily Telegram ~ Norton, Kansas ~ April 2002

The Paul D. Linnell American Legion Post No. 266 in Almena celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and honored 50-year members during a recent Sunday dinner and program at the Post Home in downtown Almena.

The Almena American Legion Post was chartered in 1922. It was named in honor of Paul d. Linnell, who was the first veteran from Almena killed in World War I.

Paul E. Linnell Sr., a nephew of the Post's namesake, and his wife, Ida, Lebanon, Oregon, were special guests. Other guests were Violet Volgamore, Norton, and her son Dale and wife Phyllis, from Almena.

Receiving certificates for 50-year continuous membership in the Almena American Legion Post were Joe McFarland and Vernon D. Roberts. Dean Wilnerd, post adjutant, made the presentation to Joe and Vernon.

Helmi Moody and Adelia Wilnerd received 50-year continuous membership certificates from Elda Schalansky, Auxiliary president.

The present post home

was dedicated on April 25, 1948 during the sixth District Convention in Norton. Keith Sebelius was commander and Mae Baker was Auxiliary president. Not until that time did the post have a permanent home.

Paul E. Linnell made a special presentation to the post of his uncle's Purple Heart, World War I victory medal and 89<sup>th</sup> Division patch.

Nephew Paul also served America as a soldier in World War II. He received his purple heart in 1998, 54 years after being wounded a left for dead on Christmas Day, 1944.

On Dec. 14, Sgt. Linnell and Company C, 209<sup>th</sup> Infantry arrived in LaHarve, France. From there they went to Brussels, Belgium and on to Manhay. On Dec. 23, his company was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division which was moving south to Belle Haie. That was where the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Panzer Company of the German Army trapped them.

Company C was ordered to attack along both sides of the road but was unable to do so.

American soldiers were being shot to pieces. On Christmas Day, Sgt. Linnell was wounded and left for dead.

The Germans later found him unconscious in a half-track and took him as a prisoner of war. In March 1945, members of the 99<sup>th</sup> Division found and rescued the group of prisoners that included Sgt. Linnell. Soon after, he was given a medical discharge.

Paul had been listed as killed in action. He was the only survivor from his platoon. For years he

wondered how he had become a POW. It wasn't until four decades later, when he attended a reunion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division in Seattle, that he learned what had happened. He met Vic Post, the runner for his platoon's lieutenant, who had been killed in the ambush in Belle Haie. He had listed Paul as killed in action.

A year after meeting with Post, Paul met Sylvester Lombardo, the sergeant who had loaded him into the half-track in which he awoke a POW.



**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**—Dean Wilnerd, left, adjutant of the Paul D. Linnell American Legion Post 266, Almena, accepts for the post medals and division patch from Paul E. Linnell in memory of his uncle for whom the post is named.

The medals are his uncle's Purple Heart and World War I victory medal. The patch is from the 89<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which was his uncle's division.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Letters to the Editor



July 6, 2002 (email)

Dear Pam:

Recently I contacted Dossie Elliott regarding the Paul D. Linnell American Legion Post in Almena, Kansas. They are in the process of a fund raising project and we would like to open it up to anyone of the Linnell family that would like to contribute. Of course I do not know if there are other Linnell posts but he is honored as one of the first casualties in World War I. The Linnells on the West coast, direct descendants of Paul Linnell, will contribute and anyone is certainly requested to give and their name will be listed on a plaque on the wall in the building. This building is on Main Street and is a pillar of the community and possibly the Linnell Association would like to give something and this would be prominently displayed. I believe this would certainly be a nice gesture and possibly you could put something in the Linnell News. I am sending you the article of Paul Linnell Jr., and his visit back to the Legion on Memorial Day. I was also there and they do need monies to keep the building going. It is used

by seniors, funeral

luncheons and of course veterans activities. Dean Wilnerd heads up the post at this time. If you did need any additional information contact him. All contributions go to him and are deposited with a fund at the First State bank, Almena, Kansas 67622....

Hope to hear from you,

Jerry Gutzman

Solana Beach, California

October 16, 2002

Dear Pam,

I was in Almena, KS about a month ago and talked to the adjutant of the Paul D. Linnell Legion Post #266. He informed he had received \$900.00 for the post. He said it would little more than pay the insurance on the building.

The man the post is named after is my uncle, my mother's brother.

Yours truly,

Lloyd R. Boatman

Akron, Colorado

## History of the Paul D. Linnell

### American Legion Post #266 in Almena, Kansas

Submitted by Jerry Gutzman ~ Solana Beach, California

The earliest record of the Post shows membership starting in 1922. At that time the Post was #112. The original charter was lost in a fire. The Legion Post was named in Honor of Paul D. Linnell who was the first killed in World War I from the Almena area.

Paul D. Linnell, son of Mr. And Mrs. L. S. Linnell was born near Almena, Kansas, May 18, 1890, and grew to young manhood here. He was called to the service of his country March 22, 1918.

He was trained at Camp Funston with the 89<sup>th</sup> Division in the M.G.Co.356<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

He was married on May 11, 1918 to Miss Daisy

Wolfe and left Funston for overseas duty on May 22, 1918.

He has killed in action in the St. Michiel defensive sector of France on September 22, 1918, at the age of 28 years, 4 months and 4 days.

The second charter was issued in 1932.

Meetings ere conducted in various meting rooms in the community. Mentioned was the I.O.O.F. Hall, the congregational church parlor, rooms above the Muilenburg Grocery Store and the City Hall.

In June 1947 the Post purchased a brick business

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*(From Our Chairman, Continued from page 1)*

that weekend. Make sure you put your crying towel in your bag.

Last but not least, I send to each and every one of you my heartfelt holiday greetings. "May the good Lord bless and keep you til we meet again."

~Jerry Linnell

*(The Linnell Coat of Arms, Continued from page 2)*

relative simplicity of this design is typical of the earliest coats of arms, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and makes it likely that the design is of ancient origin.

John Linnell notes that the Lunell family was linked by marriage with the Shuckburgh family near Kislbury, about 14 miles away in Warwickshire. The ancient church of St. Lawrence is found about a mile from the town of Shuckburgh, and displays the Lunell family coat of arms among the other coats of arms associated with the Shuckburgh family. The Lunell arms are displayed there in an old stained glass window, along with the heraldry of some related families. The coat of arms has gold instead of silver fess, or band across the middle. The exact year of this window is unclear, but of great antiquity, possibly sometime in the 1400s or before. Thus, the earliest known Linnell coat of arms is found from old times, well documented, and giving evidence of the local importance of the Lunell family in the period after the Norman conquest of England up to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

*(Almena Legion celebrates..., Continued from page 3)*

"I had no memory of being wounded," says Paul. "I had a head wound and was probably very bloody. Lombardo leaded me into the half-track because it was thought the Germans could take care of me quicker. I came to with Germans all around."

Paul is still not certain how he was knocked unconscious but, because of a scar on his head, he believes he was hit by shrapnel. He didn't receive a Purple Heart for his wound and never expected to. Until, in 1993, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion started working on it.

Paul said that his family moved from Almena to Oregon when he was nine or ten years of age.

Paul became of member of the Almena American Legion Post two years ago.

*(History..., Continued from page 4)*

building of two stories and a basement for \$2,500.00 as a compromise between an asking price of \$10,000.00 and an offering price of \$1,750.00.

The problem of money was met by sponsoring a car drawing and a dance, which netted \$4,000.00. Various other money making projects, thousands of work hours and after much "blood, sweat and tears" plus \$7,000.00 donated by the 148 members, the Post Home was dedicated on April 25, 1948. The building was dedicated to the service of the community, the state and nation, and as a lasting memorial to those who have served to preserve this great nation.

The Post is still in operation but is suffering the demise of many of the World War II veterans who seem to be the working force of the Post. The 2002 membership was 65 members. Quite a number of these members live in other states, but remain faithful to the Post.

#### FROM THE EDITOR

Are there any aspiring Linnell Family Association newsletter editors out there? I've decided it is necessary for me to leap one less hurdle in life and will be finishing my term on the LFA Steering Committee at the reunion in June 2003. Contact me or any member of the steering committee if you are interested in taking on the job or would like to know what the job entails. I send my regards to all during this holiday season and look forward to seeing many of you in Black River Falls in June!



~ Pam

*(Additions to Family Records, Continued from page 6)*

**William Richard (Dick) Linnell (118,241,169,23 pg 364)** 1 Dec 1921 - 4 Nov. 2001

buried in Anchorage, Alaska

**Rodney Donald (Jr) (118,241,169,221,1 pg 432) & Camie Jean Linnell children:**

**Karlee Jean Linnell** b. 14 Nov 1995 in San Angelo, TX

**Mackenzie Nicole Linnell** b. 11 Nov 1996 in San Angelo, TX

**Garrett Lucas Linnell** b. 23 Oct 2000 in Las Vegas, NV

**Phoebe Ann Linnell (118,241,169,221,3 pg 432)** married William Charles Reed 22 June 2000 in The Dalles, OR

**ADDITIONS TO  
FAMILY RECORD****Marriages, Births**

**Cody Stevenson** born 12 Sept 2002 to Brian and Aimee (Reel; 11a,b15,515,642,3 pg 236 RDL) Stevenson.

**Thelma Heilig (Spellman, McCluskey) Va** (118,241,145,-10-5 pg 360 & 383 RDL) died 2002. Survived by her husband Chester Va.

**Rita May Linnell Woodworth** (117,7-10- pg 137 & 146 RDL) died 12 Sept 2002 just 89th birthday. Survived by her brothers, O. Leroy Linnell, and her children, Malcolm and

**Beverly Pearl Cummings O'Kay** (118,241,116,558,2 pg 377 & 416 RDL) died 15 July 2002 in NY. Her brother reports that they are one of the Grindstone Island cousins.

**Gerald "Jerry" Malner** died 23 Sept 2002 in Arizona of a heart attack. Jerry was married to Jean Marie Linnell (118,241,116,543 pg 405 RDL)

Bobbie Bockovich sent some updates for her family:  
**Gideon Richard Silence** (118,241,116,558,12 pg 449) married Sara Jean Koenke 25 Aug. 2001. They live in Mundelin IL.

**Rhodelle Rance Bockovich** (118,241,116,558,2 pg 406) married James Ray Allman 12 Jan 2001 and have a son, Jacob Rouis Allman born 8 Nov 2000. They live near Monet, MO.

**Randy Ralph Bockovich** (118,241,116,558,3 pg 406) married Nicole Ann and they have two sons, Corey Steven b. 17 Mar 1999 and Tristen Richard b. 22 Nov 2000. They live in Duluth, MN.

**Ryan Rolf Bockovich** (118,241,116,558,4 pg 406) married Jeni Lee Goodreau 1 Sept 2001. They live in Duluth, MN.

Rod Linnell has also updated his family:

**Donald L. Linnell** (118,241,169,22 pg 364 & 387) 14 July 1923 - 23 April 1999 buried in Hermiston, OR

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**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION &  
RENEWAL**

**Linnell Family Association**

Register me as a    new (or)    renewing  
of the Linnell Family Association in the  
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