



2009 LFA Reunion in Rockford, IL

By Dan McConnell

Please reserve the last weekend in June 2009 for the next Linnell Family Reunion, which will be held in the Rockford, Illinois area — the site of many homes and farms of pioneering Linnells who came from New York, Maine, and Massachusetts in the mid 1800's. Within 300 miles of this site are more Linnells than anywhere else in the United States, so we expect a very good turnout. Please mark your calendars now, and plan to spend a wonderful weekend with your Linnell cousins.

Attractions nearby to Rockford include the Midway Village, the old name for Rockford — an excellent pioneer living museum in the form of a pioneer village of the 1860's era, with shops, farms, church, stores, jail, homes, etc. They provide tour guides who give entertaining and informative talks about what life was like in those days. Since many Linnells were pioneers in this period, including Thomas Jefferson Linnell, whose farm is nearby, the Midway Village should be of great interest to the family. In addition, the famous Clock Tower Museum, the Belvidere Cemetery with many Linnell graves, and the Belvidere Historical Museum, with many artifacts from the period, including an 1858 map showing the farms of Thomas Jefferson Linnell, Jonas Tofflemire, whose son John Tofflemire married Amy Linnell and, and Isaac Sewell, whose son Sutton married Maryette Linnell, both daughters of Thomas Jeferson Linnell. The Tofflemires moved to Mason City Iowa, where their daughter Cora was Meridith Wilson's piano teacher and was the prototype for Marian the Librarian in the Music Man.

In the next few months we will be finalizing our choice of hotels, and will be booking a group reservations at the Midway Village. We will provide further updates in upcoming editions of the Linnell Family Newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE

2009 LFA Reunion in Rockford, IL1
Discovering Our Linnell History In England1
Letter From The Chairman2
Application for Scholarship Award3
Generous Gift to LFA Gravestone Fund4
Linnell Family Necrology6
Steering Committee List7
Family Website7
Eagle Wing Prints7
From the Editors7

Discovering Our Linnell History In England

By Lori Linnell

In August 2005, just a week before our older daughter's wedding my husband, Tom, was laid off after 26 years at Honeywell. All plans went on hold. We didn't know if he would be able to have vacation time if he started a new job. We didn't know if we would be able to afford a trip. We didn't even know if we would still be living in Arizona. So for months we put our lives on hold including our planned trip to the 2006 Linnell Family Reunion in Cape Cod.

Then after nine months of unemployment we decide to take a last-minute trip to Europe. With a new job Tom knew he would probably have to start out with minimal vacation time. It seemed like the right time. Tom spent several days on the internet looking for last minute deals and finally put a trip together which included England, France and Germany. The itinerary included the typical tourist sights and several genealogical sites in all three countries.

On the last day of our trip we took the train to a couple towns in Kent where our ancestors had lived. We got back to London in the late afternoon and with little information decided to try and find Union Street in Southwark, where John Lothrop's church was supposed to have met. Robert Linnell was one of John Lothrop's followers. The Borough

Continued on page 3

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c/o Jerry Linnell

Linnell Family Association Newsletter

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

[] Single Life Time — \$125.00 flat fee

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Letter From The Chairman

By Jerry Linnell

Greetings from Washington, D.C. By the time you, my cousins, affix your eyes on this newsletter and this article, Halloween and Thanksgiving will be happenings in our memories – all good, I hope – and some of you will have been doing some Christmas shopping, much of it in preparation for joyous family get-togethers. Oh, what fun that always is. Yes, it takes a little extra effort, but you can bet it too will be another arrow in your covey of unforgettable. I know mine will be extra special with all that goes on in our Nation's Capital. It is a very colorful and wondrous time here in the hub of politics.

Now for some reminders:

Scholarship applications can be mailed in at anytime between now and March 31. Tell all in your family that the sooner the writing, the easier the application process. And remember, too, that our scholarship is now up to \$1,000. I know that such a sum can surely be used to purchase books for a semester, for instance, or maybe a meal plan.

The upcoming year is the planning session time – usually in May – for our next family reunion – 2009 – in Illinois. I know that June 2009 is a long way off but now is when you should be talking to members of your immediate family in preparation to attend this awesome event. As you well know, the more the merrier is the name of the game and on behalf of the steering committee I want to assure you that we look forward to seeing you and collecting more info and memorabilia from and for our Linnell Family Association.

Also, don't forget that our special projects funds – scholarship and gravestone restoration – are looking for any contributions, large or small, that you might wish to make to further the cause.

One other subject, if I might. I know a lot of you travel during different times throughout the year and it would be helpful in mailing expense if you would please contact your local post office with a forwarding address so that the newsletter can be then shipped to the correct address dur-

ing your absence from home, so to speak. By the way, let us hear from you about wishing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. It is an interesting subject with many facets and we want to hear from you. A letter to the editors would be great.

And, as always, we look forward to receiving anything in the way of new or old – very old – news you might like to share with your fellow cousins throughout the country. Hint: Remember to ask mom or dad, grandma or grandpa, about as much of the family history as they remember it; you will never regret that you did. Then you can use the information perhaps for a family scrap book or even to suggest to someone writing a scholarship entry that there is more than enough information to send in in the way of a scholarship application. And here I might encourage you to have on the back of any old family pictures the names of the people shown in the photo. Darn, how I hate looking at pictures of my near family and note that I or someone else failed to name the time and place and the people in the picture.

And finally, don't forget your dues payments. It is never too late to send in a few dollars in order to continue your membership.

And finally, finally, if you are looking for a great family gift to give to that special brother or sister, husband or wife, grandma or grandpa, there is the always ever-popular and well received "Descendants of Robert Linnell" compilation done by Rachel Wynn which is available by contacting our Treasurer Scott Linnell, It's a heckuva buy for, what. \$35.

No, now really and truly, this is the last "finally." As always, here's wishing you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your travels be safe and your family encounters even better than you expected. Give everyone a kiss, a hardy hug – yes, the men also – and an "I love you" so that warm feeling is something that stays with you throughout the year.

Discovering Our Linnell History In England Continued from page 1



of Southwark is situated just south of the Old London Bridge on the Thames River. John Lothrop and his dissenters held church on Union Street in this part of London for a time. When we got off the Tube, London's subway, we walked up to the corner and looked down Union Street hoping to find a church or a place where we might find out more about John Lothrop's group.

Just then a gentleman came up to us and asked if he could help us. I told him we were looking for a church or remnant of the church John Lothrop had founded. This gentleman happened to be the caretaker of the cemetery down the block of a different church but was quite familiar with John Lothrop and his group. He then pointed to a gate across the way and told me that is where the church once was. There is a sign on the wall behind

the gate that says "Chapel Yard". This was the sight where in 1623 John Lothrop took over the parish of dissenters in Southwark from Rev. Henry Jacobs.

The gentleman, George Washington, (yes, his name was George Washington) told me that one of the biggest reasons the group broke away from the Church of England was that the dissenters believed in Baptism by immersion. While the term dissenter can be used to represent many denominations it is mostly refers to two groups that broke away from the Church of England; the Presbyterians and the Independents. The latter were also called Congregationalists. This group first formed in 1592 in Islington but less than a year later they were surprised at a meeting they were holding in the woods and fifty-six were taken prisoner

and twenty two of them were sent to jail in London, of which seventeen were persecuted and ended up dying of prison plague or condemned to die. What few remained organized again in Southwark and a group of them left for American in 1620. We know them as the people of the Mayflower.

Mr. Washington spoke with us for a few minutes and then walked with us over to the gate. We took pictures and he told us to go to the library where there was a booklet for sale concerning the church. It happened that the library in Southwark was just around the corner. He walked us to the library, showed us the publication, handed us his card bid goodbye. After purchasing the publication from the librarian she then suggested we go around to the back of the building where the historical publications were stored. Once there we found three librarians who not only helped us to find more information but gave us their thoughts and theories on the subject.

The librarians told us that many churches of the area wanted to be associated with the famous John Lothrop's church or those of the Mayflower. This seemed to be true as I read in several books of churches and leaders who tried to tie themselves in with John Lothrop's Church. During this period of time several different groups had formed. These historians all felt that when John Lothrop left for America he took most all of his followers and the church no longer existed. We know Robert Linnell did not come over immediately with John Lothrop so there may have been a few who remained. It

Continued on page 4

is possible a man named Henry Jessey became the Pastor of the few remaining members of John Lothrop's church, including Robert Linnell. In 1671, some of Henry Jessey's life was published and he claimed that Mr. Lothrop's church had been destitute for a short time. New groups of dissenters formed in later years but they were not part of John Lothrop's group. They were new groups of dissenters.

Henry Jacobs was Pastor of this church in Southwark until 1622 when he went to America. He later returned to London and died there in 1624. He was succeeded in the pastorate by John Lothrop. John Lothrop's wife was Hannah Howse. This may have been where Robert Linnell met his wife Penninah. Hannah and Penninah were sisters and daughters of John Howse and Alice Lloyd. Their father John was the Rector of Eastwell in the County of Kent. In the Linnell Family Newsletter, Volume 17, Issue 4 dated November 2005, Dan McConnell wrote an excellent article about Robert Linnell and his association with John Lothrop. I recommend re-reading this article for more information about our illustrious ancestor.

I wondered somewhat about the place behind the gate that George Washington pointed out to us. I don't believe there was a church as we know because the group met in secret. I pointed this out to the small group of historical librarians and they assured me that while it may not have been a large typical church it was the place where our Robert Linnell probably met to worship. On April 22,,

Continued on page 6

2008 Linnell Family Association Scholarship

We are pleased to invite Linnell family students to apply for award of the Linnell Family Association Scholarship Fund. The Linnell Scholarship Fund was established in 2000 with a donation of \$500 and has continued to grow since then.



Last Year's Scholarship Winner,
Matthew Roberts of Plano, TX.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any high school senior or current student of a college or an accredited higher education program, who is a descendant of Robert Linnell, is eligible to apply for the scholarship. Student applicants are asked to write an essay of not less than 1000 words, nor more than 2,500 words in length, which should be typed and double-spaced. The essay should involve Linnell family history or current positive influences of the Linnell family. One winning essay will be selected this year for the scholarship award of \$1000.

HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY?

Students should mail their original essay along with: the LFASF Scholarship Application form; two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher of the applicant and one from a member of the applicant's community); and a current academic transcript. Please visit: <http://linnellfamily.home.comcast.net/> for complete rules and further information about applying for the scholarship award.

WHEN ARE ESSAYS AND APPLICATIONS DUE?

Students wishing to enter their essay for the LFASF award must have their application and accompanying essay sent by March 31, 2007.

HOW ARE THE ESSAYS JUDGED?

The Linnell Family Association Scholarship Fund Administration Committee (LFASFAC) has been established and will oversee the selection and judging of all prospective scholarship award recipients.

QUESTIONS?

Contact any LFASFAC member, via email, with your questions.

Norman Linnell, nblinnell@aol.com

Maryan Ainsworth, maryan.ainsworth@metmuseum.org

Barrie Westerwick, eandb1@juno.com

HOW TO SEND STUDENT ESSAYS AND APPLICATIONS:

Send original essay and application to: Pam Linnell, P.O. Box 408, Roendale, NY 12472

Send to the following address a copy of the original essay, but with your name and address removed, to: Barrie Westerwick, 11 Allocco Drive, Holmdel, NJ 07733

Application for Scholarship Award

Name of Applicant: _____

LFA genealogical identification number, if known: _____

Home Address: _____

Applicant's Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Name of Parent(s) _____

Current Age: _____

Current School: _____

School Address: _____

Current Grade: _____ Is this a College or University? _____

Will you be attending this school during the 2007-2008 school year? YES NO

If not, give the name of the school you will be attending (High School seniors without this information yet can notify the LFASFAC at a later date, to be announced).

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Name, address and title of 2 people writing letters of recommendation for student:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Include a current academic transcript, two letters of recommendation and your original essay.

Applicant Signature: _____

1632, the group was meeting at the home of a member, Humphrey Barnet, when it was raided and forty-two of the worshippers were sent to jail. We don't know if Robert was arrested. We do know Penninah was arrested as there is record that she was called before the King's court and refused to renounce her belief and association with John Lothrop's church.

John Lothrop survived two years in jail but his wife Hannah died while he was in prison. His orphaned children made a petition to King Charles and the king released John Lothrop on the condition that he is exiled from the country. John and his group left London in 1634 arriving in Boston with about thirty members. The group settled in Scituate in the Plymouth Colony, but friction developed over church discipline and the distribution of land. In June 1639 the group accepted an offer of land in Mattakeese, now the town of Barnstable. Once they arrived there in October of 1639 the held a celebration known as the Sacrament of Communion at a site known as Sacrament Rock. Here they used the ancient pewter vessels which had been brought with them from Southwark. This site is located today on route 6A.

Why Robert did not leave London with John Lothrop and his group in 1634 is unknown. It may have been that Robert too had just lost his first wife. Robert Linnell, his children and his new wife Penninah, sister-in-law of John Lothrop, arrived and joined the group in 1638. They would have first joined the group in Scituate. The next year they followed with the group to Barnstable where they made their home. It was here, like the Pilgrims before them, they were allowed to worship in peace as they chose.

After spending an hour or so discussing the dissenters of Southwark, combing over very old book and making copies, we decided to let them close the place. With a couple hours left of light, we took a double decker bus and the "Tube" all the way across London to take pictures of us crossing the famous Abby Road. Two months after returning home Tom got an offer of employment we felt would be good for us. We put our house up for sale, got rid of years of collected stuff and moved to Chula Visa, California. We are now seven miles from the ocean, seven miles south of San Diego and seven miles from the border of Mexico. The weather here can't be beat and we feel fortunate being able to actually live in one of our favorite vacation spots.

Generous Gift to LFA Gravestone Fund

By Scott Linnell

Kay and Jim Swedberg have made a generous gift to the LFA Gravestone Fund. Kay writes:

"This money has come to me as memorial money for Elsie Thompson, Norman Thompson, and Tommy Thompson. I took their remains to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where they were laid to rest June 5, 2007, between Elsie's two sisters, Sadie Linnell and Marian Linnell Gerber. Elsie and Norman are my parents and Tommy my oldest brother. Norman died in 2002, Elsie in 2004, and Tommy in 2006. Their wishes were to be together in Grand Forks."

Linnell Family Necrology

Marriages, Births & Deaths

Thomas Lynn Thompson 118,241,185,81 died 25 Nov 2006 in Las Cruces, NM at age 73 and 10 months. He is at rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, Grand Forks, ND with his mother and father.

Jessica Joan Linnell 118,241,142,315,11 married Roy Daniel Roybal on 12 Aug 2005 in Sedona, AZ i. Alex Chase Roybal born 10 Dec 2003 in Mesa, AZ

Meghan Elizabeth Linnell 118,241,142,315,12 married Bryce Jay Nielson on 18 May 2007 in La Jolla, CA

Wesley Ray Stevenson 11a,b15,515,642,31 born on 12 June 2007 to Aimee (Reel) & Brandon Stevenson

THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION Steering Committee 2006-2009

The purposes of the Association are to promote fellowship among Linnell Family members through reunions, the publication of the Linnell Family Newsletter, and the preservation of family records.

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Family Website

Mark Wynn maintains our LFA website. Please visit to find up-to-date news and information. The website address is:

<http://linnellfamily.home.comcast.net/>

Eagle Wing Prints

To order a limited edition print of the Eagle Wing, please send us your name, full mailing address and \$30 to LFA Treasurer, Scott Linnell.

Linnell Family Records

Recent additions to the Linnell Family records can be found at our website.

From the Editors

We invite you to share your stories with our cousins around the globe! Submissions are preferred via email. Please include the text of the article in the body of the email. All pictures should be high-quality JPGs. If you are unable to submit via email, please send regular post to the editors, Heather or Katie Linnell.

We apologize for the delay in the arrival of the Fall 2007 edition of the LFA Newsletter.