



Elizabeth Sunde Wins 2008 LFA Scholarship!

By Barrie Westerwick



Congratulations to our 2008 Linnell Family Association Scholarship winner, Elizabeth Sunde (118, 241, 116, 231, 333), of Merrill, WI. Elizabeth's winning essay, "I Thought I Knew", was selected from a pool of outstanding essays submitted this year. Elizabeth is not only an exceptional student she has also been actively involved in many activities in her high school, church and community. Some examples of her many interests include volunteering for the 4-H, the Lincoln County Humane Society, the Merrill Christian Women's group, her school choir, forensics and Math League. This well-rounded high school senior is also a talented singer and has been involved in school musicals. Elizabeth will be attending the University of Minnesota, Morris in the fall. The following is an excerpt from Elizabeth's essay. Congratulations again, Elizabeth!

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in the manner of their marriage engagement and the ordeal that followed in Barnstable. However, the disappointment did not last too long. I realized that they were human beings, not some great deities because they were published in a book, which quickly helped put all of the following stories that I read into perspective.

Another thing that captivated me was the consistent faith in God that our Family has maintained throughout the centuries. Our family has always been solidly rooted in their faith, tracing back to Plymouth. Just as with the other Pilgrims, Robert Linnell felt so compelled by his faith, that he left London, England to escape the tyrannical persecution of the Puritans so that he could worship freely in the New World. Throughout the generations, and even know in our family, I see the same passionate devotion to the same God whom Robert Linnell worshipped nearly 400 years later...

Despite my previous belief of knowing all that I could concerning the Linnell family, this essay brought everything into a new perspective for me. However cliché it may sound, this paper has been a journey for me, and I am still astounded by everything that our family has experienced. I love hearing the stories my relatives tell me, and I cannot wait until I am the one passing the personal accounts on to my children and grandchildren. Moreover, I cannot wait for the Illinois reunion now that I know more about our family and our history. Who knows, I might even read 'Rachel's book' again... just for the fun of it."



"I believe that every person tends to believe that their ancestors were perfect, the heroes of the generation: flawless and wonderful human beings. In spite of this, it is rarely ever true. I realized I had adopted these ideals. Needless to say, it was highly disappointing when one of the first things I read was about David Lynnett and Hannah Shelley and their irresponsible choice

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c/o Jerry Linnell

Linnell Family Association Newsletter

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## Letter From The Chairman

By Jerry Linnell

As I am sure many of you know, now is that time on the calendar of events that we are encouraged to run down to the precinct to cast our ballot for the presidential candidate of our choice. Of course, as almost all of you know, I am a very proud Democrat and especially so at this time as our party is putting up two minorities to achieve the ultimate goal of the presidency. At this time it looks as if it is neck and neck between Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama for the Democrats and John McCain – a very fine man in his own way and one who knows very well how to cross over the line to achieve unity among the parties – on the Republican side. I only mention this as I think it is so important that all of the Linnell family cousins should be out and about to support the candidate of their choice and enjoy the hard-fought-for privilege of voting.

It is also that time of the year when members of the steering committee will be traveling to the Rockford area of Illinois to plan the LFA reunion of 2009. There are many stories of Linnell descendants traveling the upper tier of the country in the late 1800s and early 1900s to settle in the states to the west of New England. It will be most fun to learn about when and who were attracted to northern Illinois and surrounding environs. As I will say many times over the next 16 or so months, now is the time to be thinking about enticing many of your immediate family to attend their own smaller family reunion in the midst of the full LFA reunion that will take place the last weekend in June — 26, 27 and 28 — 2009.

Also, please don't forget to send in your 2008 dues. It is important that we keep our membership up and accountable so we might continue the many aspects of achievement of the LFA – the scholarship fund, the cemetery restoration fund, the newsletter, the reunion, etc etc.

One last plea: You – yes, you – are asked by the steering committee to please volunteer a few hours of your time a month to help us in our continuing efforts to make the LFA a viable part of our family history. Every reunion there is need to get people to volunteer for those vacant positions on the steering committee. For example, I agreed to be chair of the steering committee at the last reunion, promising you that I would be gone after this tenure. Therefore, we will have to have some volunteers to carry on the direction of the various activities of the LFA.

## Linnell Family Necrology

Marriages, Births & Deaths

**Edward (Sonny) Manson Gates** (11a,b12,753,13S) died at the age of 83 on 29 Jan 2007. He was the second husband of Connie Linnell Ambrose Gates. Sonny was a WWII veteran, photographer, wood worker and craftsman.

**Patricia Alice Ambrose Goodwin** (11a,b12,753,133) died at the age of 53 on 13 Oct. 2004. Patricia was a naturalist and artisan.

**Bridget Elizabeth Ambrose** (11a,b12,753,132,1) married Steven Roy on 16 June 2007 at York Harbor, ME. Bridget is the daughter of Bob & Liz Ambrose.

**Velma Irene Lough Sedivy** (11a,b15,515,93) married Don Graybeal on 16 June 2007 in Salem, OR.

**Aaron Edward Reel** (11a,b15,515,642,1) married Stephanie Meldrum on 26 Sept. 2007 in Salt Lake City, UT at the LDS Temple.

**Wesley Ray Stevenson** (11a,b15,515,642,33) (correcting previous information listing him as the first child)

**Nalani Rai Reel** (11a,b15,515,643,11) born 30 Nov. 2007 to Toby & Valerie Reel.

**Megan Martaun (Reel)** (11a,b15,515,643,2) & Anthony Warner i. Layne Gannon Warner b. 17 Oct. 2004 ii. Lawson Dean Warner b. 6 Dec 2006 (correcting the numbering of the children)

**Jesse David Fouts** (11a,b15,515,644,23) born 23 Feb 2008 to Donaca (Wilson) & Mark Fouts

**Doris Orlayne Anderson** (118,241,112,871) died at the age of 83 on 28 Sept. 2007 in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Services will be held in Grand Marais, MN.

**John Wesley Linnell** (118,314,762,1) died 9 May 2007 in Providence, RI

**Peter Russell Gower** (118,314,762,112) born 26 Aug. 2007 in Providence, RI to Kristen (Linnell) & David Gower. Grandson to John W. & Barbara C. Linnell.

**Please send photos along with the Birth, Marriage and Death announcements care of Pam Dittus.**

## Funds Status

By Scott Linnell

Our Linnell Family Association funds continue to nourish its good work. The General Fund maintained a healthy balance during 2007, finishing the year above \$6,000. A strong position now helps us weather the year before a reunion, when the General Fund typically shrinks. Membership dues payments totaling \$775 buoyed us during 2007. Sales of our marvelous publication, The Descendants of Robert Linnell, as well as additional Eagle Wing prints, supplemented this income by amounts of \$296 and \$190, respectively. See the enclosed balance sheet for more details.

The Scholarship Fund likewise sustained a robust balance. It ended 2007 at \$4,555, marking the second year in a row that it finished above \$4,000. Generous contributions from LFA members ensured ample endowment for the transition in 2008 from \$500 to \$1,000 scholarship awards. Recent contributors are recognized below.

### Rachel Linnell Wynn, Historian Society (\$1 to \$49)

Eva Spurlin, Martha and Robert Borland

### Captain Ebenezer Harding Linnell Society (\$100 to \$249)

Jerry Linnell

**Numerous contributions this past year to the Gravestone Fund permitted the LFA to initiate restoration of the Samuel Linnell gravestone. The contributors were:**

Jim and Kay Swedberg, Lori Linnell (via purchase of Photo CD), Robert L. Cummings, Eva Spurlin

Eva Spurlin included a note with her gift, in which she challenges all LFA members to join her in contributing to this effort to restore the aging markers of our ancestors.

## Family Website

Mark Wynn maintains our LFA website. Please visit to find up-to-date news, information and recent additions to the Linnell Family records. The website address is:

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

## 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.

## 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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