



LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Rachel Linnell Wynn, Founder and Historian Emeritus

Volume 24 • Issue 2 • May 2009

Do You Know What Time It Is ?

By Dan McConnell



No, it's not Howdy Dowdy time or time to fertilize the lawn. It's time to complete your registration form and make your plans to travel to the Linnell Family Association Reunion at the Holiday Inn in Rockford, IL June 26–28.

Come join us in Rockford and visit some of the vacation attractions in Northern Illinois, the site of our 2009 Reunion.

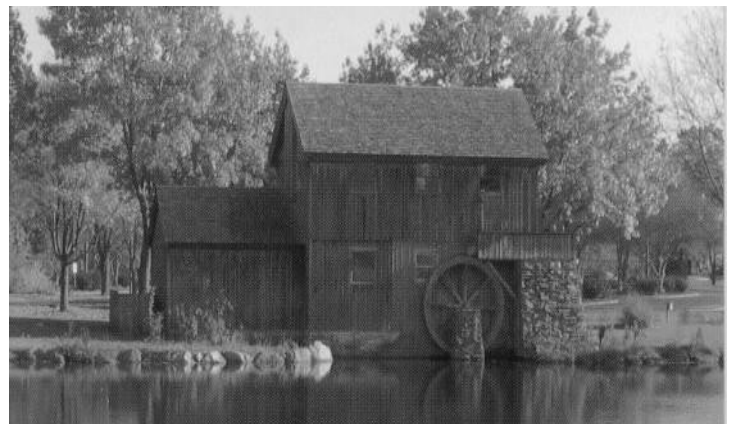
When our Linnell families came to the Rock River Valley in Northern Illinois in the 1840's to settle the town of Midway, later to be called Rockford, they found a beautiful wooded valley surrounded by some of the finest farmland in the nation. Ever since, Rockford has been known as the Forest City.



Today, this area has bountiful attractions for vacationers, including recreation of all kinds, arts and entertainment, and fine restaurants. A few minutes from the Holiday Inn, our reunion headquarters, is Magic Waters, one of the largest water parks in the country; and some of the finest golf courses in the state including the highly rated Aldeen public course.

You can visit The Midway Village Museum, an actual pioneer village with working farm, mill, stores, shops, church, and homes, all authentic from the pioneer period. The entertaining guided tour recreates the sights and sounds of our pioneering Linnell's everyday lives.

Also nearby is Rock Cut State Park with miles of bike and hiking trails in a natural environment, walking paths along the river, some of the finest museums (Burpee Museum of Natural History with Jane the T-Rex), botanical gardens (Klehm Arboretum), and the Rockford Art Museum, one of the best in the Midwest. Good restaurants abound including the Hoffman House next to the Holiday Inn, and several steak, Italian, and Swedish restaurants. The latter two denoting the ethnic heritage of many later settlers.



Attractions in Rockford continued on Page 6

Letter From The Chairman

By Jerry Linnell



Hello Cousins!

Greetings from the Nation's Capitol. The flowers are in full bloom in the neighborhoods surrounding this picturesque building, and it is just a beautiful sight to behold. I am sure it is going to be much like that in Rockford, IL, where many of us will meet at the triennial LFA reunion. You are probably wondering whether it is too late to make that call to the Holiday Inn (800-383-7829) or email them at dthomas@rockhospitality.com to make your reservations! **NO IT ISN'T.**

I can truthfully tell you that unless you do so, we are not going to have the turnout that we want to have in order to make this reunion a big success. Our registration numbers are down and we ask that you take a second look at your plans for the weekend of June 26–28 and maybe squeeze in a visit. Dan McConnell has been writing much about the area and its historical significance to you. We will have much for you to do in the 3-day weekend, but also there will be time for you to go out and explore Linnell history on your own.

For your own information, the Holiday Inn in Rockford is on Rte. 20, just off Exit 63 on Interstate 90-51. It is:

- 75 minutes from Chicago O'Hare (with a very reasonably priced bus service door to door),
- 2 hours from Bloomington,
- 2 hours from Iowa;
- 30 minutes from Beloit;
- 75 minutes from Madison;
- 90 minutes from Milwaukee, and
- 6 hours from Minneapolis-St. Paul.

If it does not work out for you to be at the reunion all weekend, plan to drop in for Saturday, which is when most of the planned activities will be taking place. As you will see upon reading this newsletter, we have again included the registration form for you. Just let us know

you are coming hand in hand with your mom, your dad, your grandmother or grandfather, making it a mini-reunion with your direct descendants. WOW, that would be awesome – for all of us.

More information about Rockford and its environs can be found at www.gorockford.com and info@gorockford.com.

Oh, yes, a reminder: While you are packing your clothing for the trip, *grab some family memorabilia to share with us, be it pictures, letters, maps, writings, newspaper clippings, paintings, hand-made items, etc.* We want to have a nice display of family, family, family.

While I am at it, we will be making some decisions at our business meeting on Saturday morning. So please mull over these questions before arriving. They are not in any special order:

- ◆ Do we continue to send newsletters to non-dues paying members? (Note, we only had 20 who did pay this year).
- ◆ Should we put the quarterly printing of the newsletter on the web site and omit the hard copy newsletter all together?
- ◆ Should the LFA continue to hold its reunion every 3 years or, instead, make it every 4 years or every 5 years?
- ◆ Where should we hold the next reunion?
- ◆ Who will be the new chair of the LFA?
- ◆ Should we increase the amount of the scholarship? As a footnote to this, we had the largest number of applicants this year. May I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of these scholars on their efforts. I think it bodes well for the future of our organization.

Well, since there is much more for you to read in this edition, I will close. Here is wishing you a wonderful summer and happy travels – all the way to Rockford and the LINNELL FAMILY REUNION.

“76 Trombones” and the Linnell Clan rocks in Rockford!

Meredith Wilson, the composer of the music and lyrics for The Music Man, was taught piano by Cora Tofflemire. Just who is Cora Tofflemire?...Well, one of our relatives from Rockford!

The Linnells of the Rockford area come from the large families of Samuel and his brother, Thomas Jefferson Linnell who settled in Rockford in 1845. The pictures below were taken in the period between 1860 and 1930. These families can be found in the book, "Descendents of Robert Linnell" pages 336 to 350.

Samuel Linnell settled in the pioneer village of Rockford and his brother, Thomas Jefferson Linnell farmed nearby in western Boone County, located on the eastside of Rockford, where our reunion is being held. Many of his children stayed and lived in the area. Maps will be available at the reunion to locate these farms and the Belvidere cemetery, where many Linnells are buried. They lived the pioneer experience. Come join us and relive it together.



John and Amy Linnell Tofflemire - Cora Tofflemire is at the piano.



Thomas Jefferson Linnell



Thomas Jefferson Linnell farm near Rockford



Linnells, Thornes, Sewells and McConnells in Belvidere Park

The Linnell Family Association 2009 REUNION!

Holiday Inn, 7550 East State Street,

Rockford, Illinois

June 26-28, 2009

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 26

- 3:00-8:00 pm Registration
- 6:30 pm Reception and Fellowship

Saturday, June 27

- 8:00-9:30 pm Continental Breakfast
- 9:30-11:30 am LFA Meeting
- 11:30 am Planned Activities & Free Time
Self-guided tours of Linnell farms, homes, cemetery, etc.
- 2:00-3:00 pm Guided Tour of Pioneer Village
- 6:00 pm Cocktail Hour
- 7:00 pm Dinner and Featured Speaker

Sunday, June 27

- 8:00-9:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 9:30-10:30 am Wrap-up & Plans for Next Reunion

Rev. Dr. John Charles Wynn (1920-2009)

Rev. Dr. John Charles Wynn, known fondly by the Linnell Family as J.C., the beloved husband of Rachel Linnell Wynn, died on March 31, 2009 at the Charles-town Retirement Community, Catonsville, MD. Rachel Linnell Wynn, founder of our Linnell Family Association and Historian Emeritus, and J.C. had been married for 65 years

J.C. and Rachel started the Linnell Family Newsletter and were its editors for a number of years, with the first issue published March 1989. As an act of endearment, in a February 1995 newsletter issue, J.C. wrote an article about Rachel as one of the first Board Members of the LFA. The article was titled, *Rachel Linnell Wynn, An Objective, Unbiased Description By Her Husband.*

Sunday morning worship services were led by J.C. at most of the Linnell Family Reunions, beginning with the first reunion at Cape Cod in 1988. Because of his health problems, J.C. was unable to attend the 2003 and 2006 Reunions. He blessed our meals and affirmed our group purpose of promoting fellowship among Linnell family members. J.C. was an integral part of the Linnell Family Reunions, injecting humor and joy into many of the weekend activities. The LFA will remember the move of the spouses of Linnell Family members to take over the Association at the Linnell Family Reunion at Granville, Ohio in 1994, a move initiated by JC. They called themselves “the S. O. L. I. D. s”, founded for the protection and preservation of the devoted wives and husbands whose loyalty to their Linnell-type wives and husbands is, well, solid.” In a raucous parade, they serenaded the crowd with an original song ~ one spiced with creative spelling and presented with great gusto.



I'm not a Linnell
But what the — Heck;
I'm doin' as well
As you can expect.
With speaker and pictures
And cookies and hats;
We're loaded with souvenirs,
Thises and that's
The genuine family (come down from ole Bob)
These 300 years have become quite a mob.
Our cousins are pretty & some pretty smart
So we're glad to be with them and have a small part.
If we cannot be one, then we'll tell you this;
We'll get there by wedding, and win hit or miss.

AMEN

While known to the Linnell Family Association, family, and friends as JC, he was known to the larger national world of Presbyterians and church educators as “Mr. Family Man” for his writing and pioneering work in marriage, family, and human sexuality. He was quite simply a joy and a blessing to those who knew and loved him. His obituary will appear on the Linnell Family Web Site





WAY TO GO JAMES!!

James Christopher Bohnhoff

Winner of the Linnell Family Association 2009 Scholarship

By Barrie Westerwick

The LFA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that James Christopher Bohnhoff (118,241,185,821,2) is this year's winner of the \$1,000 scholarship essay contest prize. Congratulations, James! James is the son of Henry and Jennifer Bohnhoff and grandson of Kay and Jim Swedberg. There were four students who applied this year for the scholarship, each submitting outstanding essays, making the contest quite competitive.

James is currently a sophomore at Stanford University, California, working towards a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. He is a member of the Stanford University Wind Ensemble and is a Resident Writing Tutor at his Stanford University dormitory.

He has been described as not only being an ambitious and driven student, but a kind and engaged young man with a tremendous sense of humor. This summer, James will be starting research in a biology lab and is planning on doing research in a biochemistry lab next fall.



James attended Eldorado High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico and was a Valedictorian of his high school class, and Student of the Year for his senior year. He played the French horn in high school and was a member of the Eldorado High School band as well as the Albuquerque Youth Symphony.

Again, congratulations James!

Attractions in Rockford continued from page 1

Rockford is easy to reach. The Holiday Inn is at 7550 East State Street. Call for reservations at 1-815-398-2200, and specify the Linnell Reunion. Rockford, by car, is one hour East from Chicago.

Driving directions are:

- ⇒ From the EAST: Take I-90 to Rockford, exiting Eastbound toward Rockford at US Business 20, East State Street. The Holiday Inn is only 1/4 mile on the right
- ⇒ From the SOUTH: I-39 intersects I-80 some 50 miles south of Rockford at LaSalle-Peru. Take I-39 to Rockford to I-90 North to the exit at US Business 20.
- ⇒ From the NORTH: Take I-90 South from Madison, Wisconsin to Rockford, about 80 miles away and exit at US Business 20.
- ⇒ From the WEST: Take US 20 or I-80 to I-39 as above.

If you fly into Chicago's O'Hare Airport, there is a convenient bus connection at the O'Hare Bus/Shuttle Center (follow the red arrows). The Van Galder Bus Line has buses every hour to Rockford with the first stop being our Holiday Inn. Phone Van Galder at 1-800-747-0994.

Plan to join us in Rockford to be with your Linnell family and to enjoy a terrific weekend.

Please send in your registration form and call the Holiday Inn for reservations NOW!

2006 Reunion....now visualize yourself in Rockford for 2009!

By Dan McConnell

We had such a wonderful time at the 2006 reunion on Cape Cod. For those who couldn't be there, we'd like to show you some pictures of the fellowship that we shared as cousins and family. For many, it was a time to see close family members again, and for others a chance to meet family for the first time. Here are a few of the Linnell family scenes from Cape Cod. We hope you are coming to the Linnell Family Reunion this June in Rockford, IL.



Cousins at the Registration Desk



Our founder, Rachel Linnell and family



Kay and Jim Swedberg with Bob Linnell



Young Linnells at the banquet



Jerry Linnell, president, with
the new Linnell shirt



Saturday night banquet

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, Brian and Kathy Linnell. Take a look at the Steering Committee list for the contact information.



SHIP "EAGLE WING", CAPTAIN EBENEZER HARDING LINNELL, MASTER

Eagle Wing Prints Available Again

One of the most popular things available from the Linnell Family Association has been the beautiful art print of the famous clipper ship, Eagle Wing, Ebenezer Harding Linnell, Master. This 19th Century sailing ship, under Captain Linnell, still holds the world record for the fastest time from London to Hong Kong. From historical records, the LFA commissioned a well known Cape Cod artist, Milton Welt, to do an oil painting of the ship under full sail.

If you want to order prints, the price will be \$30 if you want it shipped to your home, and \$22.50 if you pick yours up at the 2009 reunion in Rockford, Illinois. Orders, with checks enclosed, should be sent to Scott Linnell, our Treasurer, at his address as shown on the steering committee listing in this newsletter.

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.

CHAIRMAN

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Linnell Family Association
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
& RENEWAL

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

Single Life Time — \$125.00 flat fee

Single Annual — \$15.00 per year

Family Annual — \$25.00 per year

\$ _____ *Total Amount Enclosed*

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Checks payable to: **Linnell Family Association**

Send to: Scott Linnell, Treasurer
23 Liberty Knoll Drive
Colt's Neck, NJ 07722

BOOK ORDER FORM

The Descendants of Robert Linnell
Second Edition — \$35

Additions and Corrections
1994-1997 — \$8

Prices include postage and handling

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please send me:

_____ **The Descendants of Robert Linnell** \$ _____

_____ **Additions and Corrections** \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Checks payable to: **Linnell Family Association**

Send to: Scott Linnell, Treasurer
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Colt's Neck, NJ 07722

Linnell Family Association Newsletter

c/o Lori Linnell
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED