



# LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Rachel Linnell Wynn, Founder and Historian Emeritus

[www.linnellfamilyassociation.com](http://www.linnellfamilyassociation.com)

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## Looking For A Good Time??



Hey cousins, are you "**LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME?**" Well we've got the answer for you. It's The 2012 Linnell Family Reunion.....a Place to meet, greet, enjoy a meal, hear about the Linnells that migrated from Black River Falls, WI to Mineral Center, MN, share memories, and dance!!

We are delighted to send this special invitation to YOU to attend the upcoming 2012 Linnell Family Association (LFA) Reunion, June 22 - 24 in Grand Portage, MN at the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino. The setting is in northeastern Minnesota, near the Canadian border. It is exquisite with Lake Superior out your window as far as you can see. Images of birch trees and conifers along with spectacular views from cliffs and shores will stay with you forever. All this, only to be outdone by meeting up with family, friends, and COUSINS!

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find stories shared by children of the pioneering Linnells, descriptions of the 'drive up the shore' (as the locals refer to it) and the 'nuts and bolts' of how to register, find lodging, and choosing from the array of activities. Be sure and throw in your swimsuit!

So, if you are looking for a good time, with good people, doing good worthwhile activities, then this is for YOU. Also, see the LFA web site for other exciting things to see and do in the area before or after you attend the 2012 Reunion.

Please note the registration deadline for the discounted rate is May 1 and the cut-off date for registering is June 11. Plan now , make your reservations, and we'll see you in Grand Portage!

### SPECIAL MAILING!!!



The LFA Steering Committee has approved a special mailing of this newsletter to try and contact as many cousins as possible to inform them of the upcoming LFA Reunion. To ensure you receive a hard copy of the Summer 2012 LFA Newsletter, you must be a "Lifetime" member or have paid your annual "Single" or "Family" Dues.



If you are unsure of your current status just look at the mailing label on this newsletter. Following your name on the mailing label is the information regarding your membership status and the last year you paid your membership dues according to LFA records. This information is circled on the "Example Label" below.

After your name you will see your status: **Single**, **Family**, or **Lifetime**.

Decedents R. Linnell  
111 Happy Lane  
Any Town, Earth 00000

Family/12

Following your status level are two numbers. The number is the last year you paid your membership dues according to the LFA records. If you see 'xx' in either the "Status Level" or the "Last Year Paid" position, it means the LFA records are incomplete and do not indicate your status level or the last year you paid your membership dues. On the mailing label example, Decedents R. Linnell is a "Family" member and last paid in "2012".

To receive a hard copy of the Summer 2012 LFA Newsletter, you will need to be a Lifetime member or have paid Single or Family dues in 2009 or, 2010, or 2011.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!!!**

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# Letter From The Chairman

By Jerry Linnell



My dear cousins.

You guessed it. It's time for the State of the LFA address. And to start out the year 2012 I am going to put almost all of my eggs in one large basket called the LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION.

Now, hear this, if you will. "Once in a blue moon" or "once in a lifetime" or "only used once" or "once I had a dream." Well, you can equate these often used phrases with the LFA reunion at the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino this coming June 22-24. I guess the last one strikes me as apropos for my thinking about having the reunion in Minnesota "once again." Since becoming Steering Committee Chairman back in 1997, I believe it was, I have dreamed about having the LFA reunion in Grand Marais and now it is going to become a reality. You can probably bet that the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino will be "only used once" for such a Linnell occasion where we will get to honor so many of the early Linnell settlers who came to this beautiful but, at that time, desolate area of the mid-west.

The planning committee has been working diligently through regular monthly conference calls to help steer you toward this "once in a blue moon" opportunity to meet us at the lodge and casino for this special celebration. We are striving mightily to make this venue so attractive to you that you will say to your immediate family: "This is but a once in a lifetime reunion and we just have to attend."

The committee is also crunching the numbers to try to make this an affordable weekend for you, although it is mighty tough to do considering the distances some of you will have to travel. We hope that if you plan far enough in advance, you will be able to make this your family's special vacation trip for the summer.

For your information, we will have the Linnell store, a silent auction, tours, family memorabilia (which we hope you will bring with you when you come), a beautiful Saturday evening dinner with entertainment, fol-

lowed by a dance, Sunday church, golf, and a music party. Some of the expenses we will incur will be picked up in your registration fee, some from the store, some from the auction, and some from the Saturday evening meal. And should there be a shortfall, that amount will be taken from the LFA general fund.

There will be much information given to you in other parts of this newsletter and the newsletter in May. If you know of some of our cousins who do not have internet service, please make it a point to pass on as much of this information as you can so that they too might make plans to attend.

Of course, there are other special events that occur in this new year, and one of those is the annual \$1,000 scholarship award that is given to the Linnell college/school-bound cousin who accepts the challenge and composes the winning essay about a Linnell descendent. Your contributions to this fund, along with the gravestone fund, help to bring to the forefront the memories of the descendents of Robert Linnell.

In addition, we have the Linnell store activities where you might want to shop for a shirt or a picture or the new apron line that will be coming out this year, along with the Descendents of Robert Linnell book - all of which make for great special occasion remembrances.

And last but not least, may I suggest to you that an item that also would make a good gift for that special family member would be a lifetime membership in the LFA. Such an undertaking would, of course, assure another member and help to keep our general fund in the black. We ask that you too make your yearly contribution by paying dues for the year 2012.

On that note, I will close and head for the computer so that I might start making my plane reservations to that miraculous northeastern part of Minnesota that calls many of us back to that special place called home. Just "once more," I urge you all to do the same.

Jerry



## A Little Slice of Heaven “The North Shore Drive”

By Dixie (Soderlund) McLean

On your journey up Hwy 61 to the Linnell family reunion, the last large city you will encounter is the harbor city of Duluth. As you leave Duluth in your rental vehicle or family automobile, you will be traveling the amazing North Shore Drive that follows the contour of Lake Superior, the largest fresh water lake in the world. You may notice an occasional ore boat and some of you may even recall the Edmund Fitzgerald, the ore boat that vanished suddenly in 1975 during a violent storm on the lake without ever sending a distress signal.

Your drive will be surrounded by the majestic pines and the serene birch trees which our forefathers used to forge their wilderness homes. In the early days, the only route to and from Duluth for our ancestors was by boat. The America would arrive periodically at ports (Hovland, primarily) along the shore to deliver food and supplies necessary for the survival of the early Linnell settlers.

Your trip will be speckled with all types of lodging, restaurants, gift shops, and attractions on the 2-hour ride. You will pass through the community of Two Harbors about a half hour into your journey. A short distance from there are the Gooseberry Falls, a popular camping and tourist attraction. The falls are spectacular. A little farther up the road is the famous Split Rock Lighthouse which is well worth a stop to garner some historical aspects of the big lake at its finest and its worst.

Then soon you will know when you have arrived at Grand Marais by the spectacular view of a picturesque lake-side village, nestled at two of the serene bays of Lake Superior. It is the gateway to the historic Gunflint Trail and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The many shops and restaurants cater to the tourist trade in the summer and the skiers,

fishermen, and snowmobilers in the winter. This is the town where many of the Linnells moved and lived after their arduous lives near the Chippewa reservation.

Another 40 minutes will find you at your destination, The Grand Portage Lodge and Casino, situated on another scenic Lake Superior bay. This area is very close to the homesteads of our Linnell families that settled in Mineral Center until forced to move in the 1930s as the government took over the land.

As you enter the Hotel, you will be greeted by local Linnell cousins. After you have registered, you will be directed to the Malcolm Linnell Room, where there will be a buzz of activity as enthusiastic close and distant cousins share family memorabilia and check out the genealogy area to have their relationships traced. You'll want to add your photos and memorabilia to the mix. Then check out the Clyde Roberts Room, better known as the “Linnell Store” where various items will be available for purchase.

Later that evening we will gather for an overview of the weekend activities followed by a lively Linnell trivia contest, “So You Think You Know”.

Saturday will be an enjoyable day where you will have many options: you can enjoy the beauty of your northwoods surroundings, visit the nearby fort, take the tour with other cousins of the areas where the Linnells arrived and where they settled, or you may want to tour the town of Grand Marais or visit the local cemeteries. Later that evening a cocktail hour, dinner, entertainment, and a dance with live music is planned.

Sunday morning begins with a continental breakfast, followed by a wrap-up meeting and farewells. There are area churches nearby for those wishing to attend. And for those staying on after checkout there will be a Steering Committee meeting later in the morning to discuss various business topics. Some of the cousins plan to get in a round of golf at the Gunflint Hills golf course in Grand Marais. And to top off the weekend, all the Linnells with musical talent ~ or with a fondness for music ~ are invited to gather at the Soderlund cabin on Pike Lake near Grand Marais at 5 p.m.

These are only a few of the memories you will glean from this, oh so memorable, weekend and we can guarantee you will depart with a slight tug of the heart strings and a smile as you acknowledge the uniqueness of the LINNELLS.

**Editor's Note:** Below are a couple of Glen Roberts' stories while growing up in the Mineral Center area. We will publish the remainder of his stories in the 2012 Spring issue of the newsletter.

## STORIES FROM THE TIP OF THE ARROWHEAD

By Glen Roberts

In the early 1900s, cousin Mel Green who lived in the Black River Falls, Wisconsin area made a couple of trips to the Grand Portage area and came back with glowing reports of all the jobs there were in lumbering and how a person could get rich from mining the minerals that were found there. Traces of gold, silver, copper, tin, lead, iron and more were found, but they never turned out to be in concentrations that made mining feasible. But, at the time no one knew that. Mel Green convinced a number of the Linnells and my grandfather, Clyde Roberts, and his brother, Earl, to sell their farms near Black River Falls and move to the North Shore of Lake Superior. Later on, when a post office was established in Pete Linnell's store, the name Mineral Center was given to the town-site.

Grandfather Clyde, created the 1<sup>st</sup> homestead from "green" timber along the Grand Portage trail. My recollection is that he was scouting for a good spot for a homestead and came on this long sloping hillside just off the trail about two miles from the Fort Charlotte/Canadian end of the trail. Even though it was all forested, it seemed like a good spot with its southern exposure, good drainage and access to a creek for water. The land had to be cleared and stumps pulled before the ground could be broken up for gardens and fields. A log house, barn and other buildings were put up. I understand that hay mixed with manure was used to chink the logs on the outside. It must have been rather aromatic in the spring when the stronger sun hit the chinking and thawing took place. A corduroy road was built across the swampy areas for access to Highway 61, but until that time, the only way in or out was up or down the Grand Portage trail. The move to the 1<sup>st</sup> homestead was made before the twins were born in 1914. The forest fires of 1918 burned off the timber and brush between Mineral Center and Grand Portage, so that the 2<sup>nd</sup> homestead did not need to have all the work done to it to make the fields workable. The move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> homestead was made before Uncle Lloyd was born in 1919. So the time at the 1<sup>st</sup> homestead may have been about five to six years. My father, Lyman, was telling me that when he was about five years old

he had trails around the log house and in the woods nearby that he would walk on in the winter time in order to get his "exercise". I have wondered what was done for his schooling, but don't recall ever hearing about that. Ramona says that travelers on "The Trail" would often stop and stay overnight.



## Memories and a Trip into the Past

By Iris (Linnell) Shepard

A few of years ago I received a call from my niece Faye (Linnell) Johnson. She said that she and her brothers, Brian and Chuck and families were coming north for a family reunion. They wanted to go back to where our roots started and they asked me to go along. I called the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians at the Grand Portage Reservation for permission to go up there. They were very cooperative and three cars of my favorite nieces and nephews started out for what would become, for me, a day to remember.

I had gone to the courthouse and gotten a map of the Chippewa Reservation. I had it enlarged a bit and started writing people's names on the map to show where they lived, to the best of my memory. Starting out from Grand Marais we drove toward Grand Portage on Highway 61. At Reservation River, the old Highway 61 splits off and heads inland. The first stop after turning on old Highway 61 was the Cloverdale School site. Here we left old Highway 61 to go into the Valley (now called Sleepy Hollow). At the corner of the Valley road and old Highway 61 was where the house stood that Mahlon, Bern, and Faye lived. Years later, the house was moved to Grand Marais, where it still stands. My folks lived in that house in Grand Marais until they both passed away.

Further down the Valley road on the reservation, we passed the former home-sites of Carl Linnell, Roy Linnell, Earl Smith. We could only go a short way, since the old road is no longer passable. So we couldn't get all the way into the Valley or down to the Reservation River and we had to backtrack to old Highway 61. If we could have gone down the hill and across the river, we would have seen where my

("Memories and a Trip Into the Past" Continued on Page 5)

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# Linnell Family Association Scholarship Fund (LFASF)



## 2012 Linnell Family Scholarship



By Barrie Westerwick

### ATTENTION ALL CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS:

If you are a current high school senior or student of an accredited higher education program and a descendent of Robert Linnell, you could be our next \$1000 scholarship winner! Mail your scholarship application between now and **April 15th** to be eligible for this award.

- ◆ Information about the scholarship and application can be found on the LFA webpage: [linnellfamilyassociation.com](http://linnellfamilyassociation.com)
- ◆ Questions about the scholarship can be emailed to: [scholarshipfund@linnellfamilyassociation.com](mailto:scholarshipfund@linnellfamilyassociation.com).

### Donations to the LFA Scholarship Fund

Your generous donations to the LFA Scholarship Fund allow us to continue to award our deserving Linnell students a scholarship to apply towards their higher education.

*("Memories and a Trip Into the Past" Continued from Page 4)*

grandparents and Uncle Mel (Green) lived and where the Linnell brothers (Roy, Carl, Malcolm, Lee and Richard) worked at their sawmill on Reservation River.

Backtracking to Old Hwy. 61, we headed to Mineral Center. Everything was grown up with trees and brush, so it was hard to guess where everyone's house sat because it is so overgrown.

We arrived at the community of Mineral Center. At one time, 54 families lived there. We stopped at the cemetery in Mineral Center. There was a church at one time, but it burned down. The Chippewa Band has taken over maintenance of the cemetery and they keep it looking very nice. There was a post office and store run by Pete Linnell and family in Mineral Center. I'm pretty sure Effie McLane had a store across the road.

The road split at Mineral Center, north to the Canadian border and south to Grand Portage. We went north trying to pick out where people lived. We turned off old Highway 61 on the road to Mount Maude. Mt. Maude was named after Malcolm Linnell's wife Maude. The kids had fun climbing Mt. Maude to see the fire tower. We were told the tower is going to be taken down.

I remember the spot where Uncle Lester and Aunt Mildred lived. Mom, Dad, and I went up there. Aunt Mildred and Mom made Mahlon & Bern's wedding cake there. I remember Bobby (cousin) and I got into trouble. We ate the frosting they had made for the cake - no more kitchen for us. The cake was made and all was well.

I recall the Fourth of July parties being held at the Cloverdale School. There was a pot luck and the Greyhound Bus dropped off a container of ice cream. There was always music and a dance at night. A long day, but I'm sure that it was enjoyed by all. Summer time was work time on the farm, so you didn't travel too far from home.

My dad was the first to homestead in Mineral Center. He came after Uncle Mel (Green) thought the timber was good. Mom and Mahlon (two years old) came to Chicago Bay on the steamer, America, which later sank off Isle Royale.

I forgot some. Sorry - Let's just call it a senior moment. I love the people now in the memories. Time to let go.

## Dan McConnell, LFA Historian



Editor's Note: Last fall we were shocked and saddened by the news of Dan's sudden passing. Dan was a long time member and very active in the LFA. He served as the Association's Historian and will be missed by everyone. Rachel Wynn, LFA Founder, agreed to allow us to publish her letter to Betsy, Dan's wife. Rachel does a much better job than I ever could of expressing how we all feel. Our sympathy to Betsy and all of Dan's family.

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

September 24, 2011

Dear Betsy,

Word has just arrived that Dan has died. I grieve that this is true and that now we hold him in our memories for all the exceptional character that he has been to us all. Truly he has brought to us in the Linnell Family Association so much in understanding of persons in our ancestry. But in addition he has understand our personal associations, our relevance in today's world, our ways of relating to many persons and groups in the history that is ours.

I was last with Dan in 2006 at our Linnell Family Association on the Cape when I passed on to him many documents from the beginnings of our Association. To remember at that time how many helped me begin this organization in 1988 and the creation of the *HISTORY OF THE LINNELL FAMILY* in the 1980's was a joy. Dan remembered that he attended that very first reunion on the Cape.

Dan's acceptance of taking up the Historian role from my beginnings was a great joy to me. Of course I have followed the development of the Association in these later years without being able to participate because of my age. I am now 92 years old and my life direction is in participation in my own family affairs and in a few issues that are local to my living area. Dan's help with the LFA has been so very important to me. He has understood the needs of such a group and has made the case for it history.

Betsy, I know how devastating it is to find one's life partner gone even with the help of many family and friends. Still one has to determine to continue to creatively live the life that has been given, to cherish the memories and to know that money still supports the life you need to live. The strength to live remains secure and full of love. I know how proud Dan was of your creativity and abilities and I know you will find your way in time.

I send you my love, and the joy I have in knowing both of you and my hope for your future. I ask your forgiveness in typing this letter. My words can flow this way but would be stopped in hand writing. I hope to have further word from you and family.



### 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.

## Linnell Family Record Update

Larry Eugene Linnell 118,241,116,561

Died 10 Nov 2011, in Duluth, MN. Inurnment at Polish Catholic Cemetery in Duluth, MN.

Susan Linnell Hickman 118,241,215,234

Divorced Patrick Hickman on 26 June 2000.

Jessica Lynn Hickman 118,241,215,234,1

Married David Rae James on 14 August 2010, at Urbana, OH.

Adam Rae James 118,241,215,234,11

Born on 1 June 2011 at Marysville, OH. Parents are Jessica & David James.

Cera Ann Linnell 118,241,215,235,1

Born on 12 June 2001 at Columbus, OH, to Robin Linnell.



### Suggestions for Your "To Do" List

- ◆ Circle June 22-24, 2012 on your calendar for the 2012 Linnell Family Reunion
- ◆ Send changes in your family, (births, deaths, marriages) to Pam Dittus, Vital Records.
- ◆ "Spread the Word" about the 2012 LFA Reunion to other family members.
- ◆ Share a family story and pictures with the LFA Newsletter editors for publication in the newsletter.
- ◆ Send a check for your 2012 membership in the LFA.
- ◆ Complete and send your registration form for the LFA 2012 Reunion.
- ◆ Check out LFA Website—All previous LFA Newsletters now available , plus much more.

## THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Steering Committee 2009 - 2012

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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### VICE CHAIRMAN

Vacant at this time

### SECRETARY

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### HISTORIAN

Vacant at this time

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### SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

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Barrie Westerwick  
Gail Wahlstrom

**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  
Colts 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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to: Scott Linnell, Treasurer  
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c/o Lori Linnell  
1610 Piedmont St.  
Chula Vista, CA 91913  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**