



## A journey of self discovery in helping victims from LFA Vice Chairman

**Doug Roberts.**

**Part 2 of 2**



In the previous part of this article I described my journey into a ministry of compassion called Victim Relief Ministries ([victimrelief.org](http://victimrelief.org)). I became involved in the ministry while on a personal quest for significance after mother passed away. Work with fire, law enforcement, and disaster response was described. Careful training and practical field experience is provided in order to be an effective chaplain. The story continues below.

In disasters, we work alongside other disaster response organizations such as Red Cross and Salvation Army. We adhere strictly to the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS). ICS provides a common structure for all disaster response organizations so we are able to work together more effectively especially as communications are often sketchy. In a disaster zone infrastructure is broken. Food is often obtained from a cooking unit such as Baptist Men or Mercy Chefs. Lodging is often a hard floor in a gymnasium or bunk as Red Cross facilities are for victims, not responders. Despite primitive conditions, victims need emotional and spiritual support and care.

One of my first major deployments was in support of the state of Texas Disaster Response system at the Possum Kingdom Wild Fire in 2011. VRM was called in to work with homeowners when they re-entered their neighborhoods to discover whether or not their houses had burned. It was a tragic situation in which some houses burned and others did not. Some people found that their house in ashes while their neighbor's was just fine. Expensive boats burned and trailers melted into a sheet of metal on the ground.

Stone turned to rubble due to the extreme heat. People lost their jobs as the local economy stopped functioning for several weeks. We were allowed into the communities ahead of the property owners and into town meetings to offer comfort and care.

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## THANK YOU!!!

We want to thank all of you that are supporting the Linnell Family Association (LFA) by renewing your LFA Annual Membership Dues for 2014. If you've not done so yet, please remember to mail your **2014 LFA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** to LFA Treasurer, Scott Linnell.

Welcome to our newest LFA member,  
**June Roelle, Carol Stream, IL.**

We invite you to apply for award of the Linnell Family Association 2014 Scholarship Fund.

One winning essay will be selected for the \$1000 scholarship award. 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

### How do students apply?

Student applicants are asked to write an essay on Linnell family history or current positive influences of the Linnell family.

The essay should be typed and double-spaced, not less than 1,000 words, nor more than 2,500 words in length.

### When are essays and applications due?

Students wishing to enter their essay for the LFASF award must have their application, accompanying essay, letters of recommendation and transcript sent by April 15, 2014.

### 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 an LFASFAC member:  
scholarshipfund@linnellfamilyassociation.com

Please visit: [www.linnellfamilyassociation.com](http://www.linnellfamilyassociation.com) to download the scholarship application, view the complete scholarship rules and obtain further information about applying for the scholarship award.

How to send student essays and applications:

1. Send your original essay, the application, two letters of recommendation, and an academic transcript to:

Sue Dittus  
219 11th Avenue West  
Grand Marais, MN 55604 .

2. Send one copy of your essay with all identifying names removed to:

Barrie Westerwick  
11 Allocco Drive  
Holmdel, NJ 07733

## Linnell Family Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please register me as a member of the Linnell Family Association  
in the following category:  
**Life time Membership -\$125.00**

**Annual Membership -\$ 20.00**

**Renewal Membership -\$ 20.00**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Will Receive Newsletter notification by Email

**Make Checks Payable to:  
Linnell Family Association**

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



**Orrell E. Linnell 117,7-10-2,1-10-2,1  
March 16, 1910 - December 1, 2013  
passed on to a better place on Sunday,  
December 1st at the age of 103**

### **Following are excerpts from Orrell's obituary...**

He was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on March 16, 1910, the first born of George and Mary Leggat Linnell. He attended schools in Massachusetts, Otisfield and Norway, Maine. He also attended Bentley College in Boston in 1930 with a major in accounting. He was the only surviving member of his Norway High School graduating class.

During his travels to the west coast, he met the love of his life, Lottie Terwilliger and they were married on 28 July 1947 in Stephenson, Washington. They came back to Maine and together they managed a productive farm in addition to raising several foster children.

During his spare time he would construct items necessary to make the farming tasks easier and to apply his ingenuity. His ingenuity was clearly displayed in his hobby of taking pieces of raw lumber and turning them in to magnificent finished products such as bowls, candle holders, and numerous other useful items. It is believed that the replica of the Liberty Bell, which he donated to the town of Otisfield, was his most significant wood turning project.

Another of Orrell's hobbies was to be a regular correspondent for the Advertiser Democrat. His numerous writings about life during the earlier years in the local area, central Oxford County, were a regular article and enjoyed by many. While writing the articles for the newspaper he also compiled a collection of numerous documentaries of his life experiences.

To the very end Orrell possessed a very sharp awareness and welcomed a conversation about the past or current events. His interest in life was never ending and the enjoyment he got from the many visitors was immeasurable. This enjoyment was evident by the frequent smiles and chuckles that he couldn't hold back.

He will be sadly missed by all who had the opportunity to make his acquaintance.

The LFA Online Store offers a combination of pre-printed and print on-demand options to meet all of your needs. Orders for apparel items and blankets are collected throughout the year and printed and distributed every four months.

As our volume increases, so will our printing windows. We have a number of Preprinted Materials, like our books and aprons, that are inventoried off-site, which you can purchase from the online store. These orders will be fulfilled within two weeks of payment.

The only exception is the Eagle Wing print, which is currently on back-order.

If you have any questions regarding the store, please contact us at [linnellfa@gmail.com](mailto:linnellfa@gmail.com)

Visit the store for complete details:  
[WWW.TINYURL.COM/LINNELLFA](http://WWW.TINYURL.COM/LINNELLFA)

### **LFA VITAL STATISTICS**

**LLOYD R. BOATMAN  
11A,B15,515,52SP  
DIED 3 DEC. 2013  
IN AKRON, OH.**





# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings, my terrific cousins.

Snow is certainly not new to all sides of the Linnell extended family, but when it is combined with very cold temperatures it can damn well be a most deflating experience. My heart goes out to all of our cousins in little ol' Grand Marais, MN, as well as up and down the Great Lakes for they have been having nothing, it seems, but below zero temperatures. I just talked to Andrew Linnell up in Massachusetts, and he tells me the snow is up to the tree tops. Surely many New England cousins are facing the same conditions and are having to tough it out as best as their hearty souls will allow. Of course the lives of all of us are so hinged to mother nature that we have to take the difficult weather with the easy.

And that brings me to another difficulty. As certainly a lot of you know, planning a reunion every 3 years can be most tedious, especially when one is never certain as to the attendance at such an event. But the Cape is calling us back -- which leads me to one of many pleas to you. The first one is that you will include in your family discussions on certain special occasions the topic of going to the Linnell Family Association reunion in June of 2015. Cape Cod certainly is one of the most historical and entertaining areas in our family history and I am sure is on lots of people's bucket list of places to see and visit. And of course there will be much more information to follow in our upcoming newsletters as to everything from places to see to where to find Linnell themes of old. Our planning meeting, which usually occurs a year ahead of time, will take place at the Cape the weekend of June 7-8 this year at the Holiday Inn in Hyannis. Another plea: We need local cousins to help us plan. We try to get as many kinfolk involved so it lightens the load for everyone when we actually get to the Cape in 2015. If you can help us, your contact will be Andrew Linnell at 508-308-3661 [andrew.linnell@emc.com](mailto:andrew.linnell@emc.com) or Doug Roberts at 972-839-4057 [dir57@verizon.net](mailto:dir57@verizon.net)

I offer you a tidbit of information about probably one of our most renowned and adventuresome ancestors, that being none other than Captain Ebenezer Linnell (117.622.43) (married to Rebecca Crosby) who traveled near and far across the seas (many voyages at the helm of the Eagle Wing) in his quest to carry merchandise to the people of the world. One of his sailings took him to Marsailles where he saw a home he liked and thus had duplicated on the Cape in Orleans. Today it still stands and is now known as the Captain Linnell House Restaurant, which I am sure many of you will enjoy in our weekend there in June 2015.

The third of my pleas involves your urging of your children or grandchildren who are either going to go to college next year or are already in college to enter the LFA scholarship contest. In this newsletter you will find all the information necessary for anyone who wishes to write about a current or past Linnell descendant to win \$1,000. We have had great articles written by many a college-student to be and we hope more than a few will stretch to attempt this special research again this year.

My next plea is that you will follow receipt of this newsletter and a special dues mailing post card with a dues payment for 2014. Your steady contributions make it possible to carry on with our many endeavors throughout the year to keep the association alive and vibrant. And speaking of vibrancy, we are slowly increasing the number of our younger cousins on Facebook who are talking to one another regarding family and friends and special happenings. We hope more of the younger generation will join them whenever they can.

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## **A journey of self discovery in helping victims cont.**

This past spring, VRM responded to the victims of the half-mile wide F5 tornado in Moore and another F3, the widest tornado ever recorded, in nearby El Reno ten days later. The founder of VRM nearly had his truck overturned - while he was inside! VRM was fortunate to work with a local church that was on the edge of the Moore disaster area. The back side of the worship center had been damaged by the tornado. They opened their Activity Center as a Point Of Distribution (POD) for those who had lost their homes to the tornado. The Activity Center was large and so full of donations that it became one of the primary distribution points. This forced the congregation to worship outside. It was a special privilege to work with the members of that church and with the tornado victims. The generosity of Americans is truly amazing. Some victims were still in shock even three weeks after the tornados struck.

One of the more fun deployments we get to work on is in support of police departments. For example, VRM provides dinner, tables and chairs, snacks, restrooms, coffee, and water in support of a police department in a nearby major U.S. city once a year. We had about 50 VRM personnel, two RVs, and a ministry named Mercy Chefs that cooked 600 meals for the officers and VRM volunteers. The Lord is blessing the ministry in a mighty way. No officer left hungry or without refreshment.

Recently I have had the privilege of serving in the chaplaincy program for the county and county seat in the county in which I live. In these situations, most of our incidents are death notifications. We are called in by fire, police, or Sheriff to comfort grieving family and friends. We follow a carefully crafted protocol while doing what we can to provide emotional and spiritual care. We use CISM techniques, scripture and prayer (for Christians) to care for those who have suffered a loss. We also enter them into our victim services organization, often a Neighbor's Keeper team. NK teams provide care, including physical needs, for as long as necessary for victims to recover. Death notifications have been some of the most significant and personally rewarding work I've done.

It has been quite a "ride" working with VRM for the past five years. All work with VRM is volunteer. Larry Roberts is retired, but his sons have day jobs. Jerry hopes to retire soon. My father, Glen Roberts, is retired and also a chaplain with VRM.

**What is it that you do?**

**By Doug Roberts**



# **Disaster Relief**

help in crisis!



## **FAMILY UPDATE:**



**Jon Linnell (118, 241, 231, 124, 2) of Warren, MN was sound asleep Tuesday morning when he heard what he says sounded like an earthquake. His wife woke him up and told him there was a deer in their northwest Minnesota home.**

**Linnell found the doe leaping through his living room after crashing through the sliding glass door. After tearing the living room apart, the outdoorsman was eventually able to tackle the deer, grab her by the legs and drag her out of the house into 18 below temperatures. In his words, it was "crazy."**

**Linnell said, "So the first thing that came to mind was I had to stop this deer from thrashing and busting everything up. When I came down the steps I saw that it had turned, so I tried to tackle it, of course I was wrestling it, seemed like an eternity but it may have been 15 minutes from beginning to end."**

**Linnell estimates the doe was about 3 1/2 years old and about 135 pounds. Linnell did get the deer out of the house and contacted the game warden. The deer was tracked and found to be OK.**

## DID YOU KNOW???

From The LFA newsletter April 1992

### REMODELING BROOKLYN BRIDGE

It was one of our Linnell cousins who designed the machine that has kept traffic moving on that venerable national monument, the Brooklyn Bridge. Ken Rountree (11a,b15,515,43) of Portland, Oregon, with his son, Rick, engineered a finishing machine in 1985 that solved a daunting problem.

With the famous bridge at its 100th birthday, the structure remained strong; but the roadway surface, originally paved for horses and foot traffic, needed dependable resurfacing. The thin overlay of concrete was "cupped" and weakened, in urgent need of repair.

The Rountrees, father and son, were confronted by a difficult puzzle. They were recruited by the developer of a special polymer concrete, that could stand the traffic, to apply and finish the overlay. However, no machine was available capable of spreading this necessary product evenly to the traffic lanes. Together they designed "The Kenrich," a device able to overlay the polymer material to within 1/12 inches of the edge of the deck. Its wheels could ride the guard rails at the same time it negotiated a four inch bump on the surfacing job.

But at the very time that the finishing machine was dispensing its polymer so satisfactorily, Rick was undergoing major surgery. His father, Ken, stayed by the resurfacing project, handling some minor problems for only 18 days. In that period he trained operators in the handling and set-up of the machine, then returned home to be with his family on that trying occasion

The resurfacing project was completed the year after the centennial celebrations of the great bridge. The Rountrees' story is featured on the cover and in an article of Engineering News Report.



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## THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION Steering Committee 2012-2015



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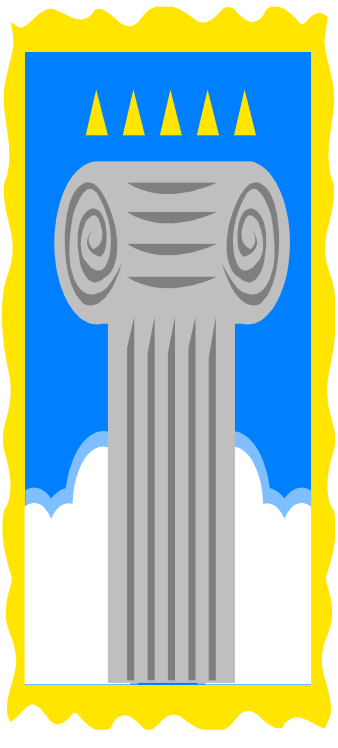
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## Letter from the Chairman continued...

And one final plea.

As you may or may not know, our family store is still up and running for you to purchase that great LFA gift for that great loved one of yours. The store will only remain open if we visit the site and make that great purchase at a great price for a great time.

Visit the store for complete details:  
[WWW.TINYURL.COM/LINNELFA](http://WWW.TINYURL.COM/LINNELFA)

OK one last plea:

Nooooo, Please, Jerry, that's enough

Spread the good word about our ~~ yes, you got it ~~ great LFA.

**ARE YOU  
A  
SNOWBIRD?**

If the answer is yes  
please send  
Membership Chair,  
Brian Linnell  
your temporary address  
in the Sun Belt. If you don't the  
Post Office will not forward  
your copy of the LFA Newsletter.

We don't want you  
miss any issues of the newsletter,  
so please send us your  
temporary address.

