



# LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Rachel Linnell Wynn, Founder and Historian Emeritus

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

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LFA \$2000 Scholarship - Deadline: April 15!

We are pleased to invite all Linnell family students to apply for the **LFA College Scholarship**! Since its inception in 2000, the Linnell Family Association Scholarship Fund (LFASF) has distributed over \$10,000 in educational aid and this year we are pleased to announce that the award has been increased to \$2000!

Any descendant of Robert Linnell who is a high school senior or current student of an accredited higher education program is eligible to apply for the scholarship. To be considered, student applicants are asked to write an essay on Linnell family history or current positive influences of the Linnell family - personally, locally or globally!

Interested applicants should visit the scholarship section of our website, [www.LinnellFamily.com](http://www.LinnellFamily.com), for information on the scholarship rules, the application, guidelines on letters of recommendation and transcript requirements.

Questions can be directed to: [scholarship@linnellfamily.com](mailto:scholarship@linnellfamily.com).

Not a college student or high school senior? Help us spread the word about the scholarship contest! Others may be unaware of this opportunity to win \$2,000. The scholarship will not only help to relieve the cost of a college education, it will provide the opportunity for the student to learn more about our Linnell family history!



## Oatmeal Drop Cookies - Dolly Linnell

From the "Best" Recipes of Minnesota's North Shore, 1974

2 c. brown sugar	1 c. lard	2 eggs	3/4 c. milk
1 tsp. soda	1/2 tsp. salt		2 1/2 - 3 c. flour
3/4 c. raisins	3 c. quick oatmeal		2 tsp cinnamon

Cream shortening, sugar and eggs; beat well. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk. Add raisins and oatmeal. Mix well. Bake at 375 for 10 to 12 minutes. Makes 4 dozen cookies. When putting away in cookie jar, put a piece of waxed paper between each layer. These are soft cookies.

# Letter From The Chairman



By Jerry Linnell

Dear LFA Members:

As you may or may not know, the Historical Society of Orleans, MA, in 2019 and into the next several years, is planning a fundraising drive to, among other efforts, purchase the Captain Linnell House on Cape Cod – a simply magnificent structure and one I believe should be our number one focus for family historical and preservation purposes. The LFA will be doing what it can to help the Society in its efforts.

Will this be an easy task? No. Will this be a worthwhile task for an association certainly not well enamored with millions of dollars? Yes. How much will we be attempting to collect? The Steering Committee has agreed to set the goal at twenty-five (25) thousand dollars. Yes, it is a little high to lots of us but when you think of it as an on-going effort, it is not an insurmountable target.

If I may state so very bluntly, I believe this effort taken on by the OHS to purchase the CLH will be one of utmost importance in the preservation of our family name, history, and efforts to reach out to all Linnells to become better acquainted with one another.

Imagine what it would be like to tell your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren about the Captain Linnell House and its meaning and interest to all of them. Wouldn't you like to become a part in helping with this undertaking? Well, as far as I am concerned, the answer is a great big "youbetcha."

The steering committee will pledge to do what it can to make this purchase a fait accompli. Members will be soon receiving a letter from the Society explaining this task and asking for your help. This letter will be received by you as a dues-paying member, addressed and mailed by the association itself. Your personal information will not be sold or given to any other cause. And, if you want more information on this whole effort, you need only go to the OHS website to learn what you want about the many different facets of this wonderful organization.

**HOW CAN YOU NOT BE ON BOARD?**

Jerry

All photos of the Captain Linnell House are courtesy of the Orleans Historical Society and Jayne Carney Photography



# *DNA Unravels Some Linnell Family Mysteries*

By Lori Linnell

## **JOHN WARREN LINNELL**



With more and more people submitting their DNA to databanks, we are able to answer some questions surrounding a few of our Linnell family mysteries. One of those stories that seems would never be solved, is that of John Warren Linnell (LFA 118, 241, 5). According to the research of Rachel Linnell Wynn, John disappeared from the family not long after his son Virgil was born in 1821. Stories of what happened to him were passed down from generation to generation, but no one really knew for sure. Did he drowned in a lake looking for land? Was he killed by Indians on a cattle drive in Vermont? The only thing anyone knew for sure was that his wife, Elizabeth (Bestey), was left to raise five young children alone.

With lots of research and DNA, **Brenda Bann**, in Canada, has put to rest what happened to John Warren Linnell. Unfortunately, DNA tests do not reveal motivation. Apparently, John ended up in Canada where, in 1826, he married again and started a new family! With his second wife, Mary Waddell, he had four more children carrying the Linnell name. He died in Ontario, Canada in 1864.

## **RUFUS B LINNELL and LUCY MELVILLE**

Until recently, the search for the family of Rufus B. Linnell (LFA 118,241,14) had lasted for years with no luck. Rufus' wife is listed as Lucy Melville, who was born in Oneida, New York. An exhaustive search for Melville's in that area of New York yielded no answers. The search was then expanded to surrounding areas and states to no avail. Recently, an email from **Jacqui Warren**, who had a DNA match to the family of Melvin's in Oneida, shed some light onto the mystery. Lucy's surname was Melvin, not Melville, and her parents were John and Mary Melvin. Interestingly enough, there are several other relatives in that family line who are also identified as Melvilles.

## **COULD YOU BE THE ONE?**

We are hoping for more break throughs in DNA genealogy and looking forward to finding more information on the Linnell Family in England. We are looking for a couple US male Linnell's descended from Robert to take at least a Y67 DNA test and any male Linnell that has family roots back to the county of Northampton, UK. The purpose of this project is to see if there is a common male ancestor between Robert Linnell from London and Linnell's from the county of Northampton in the UK.

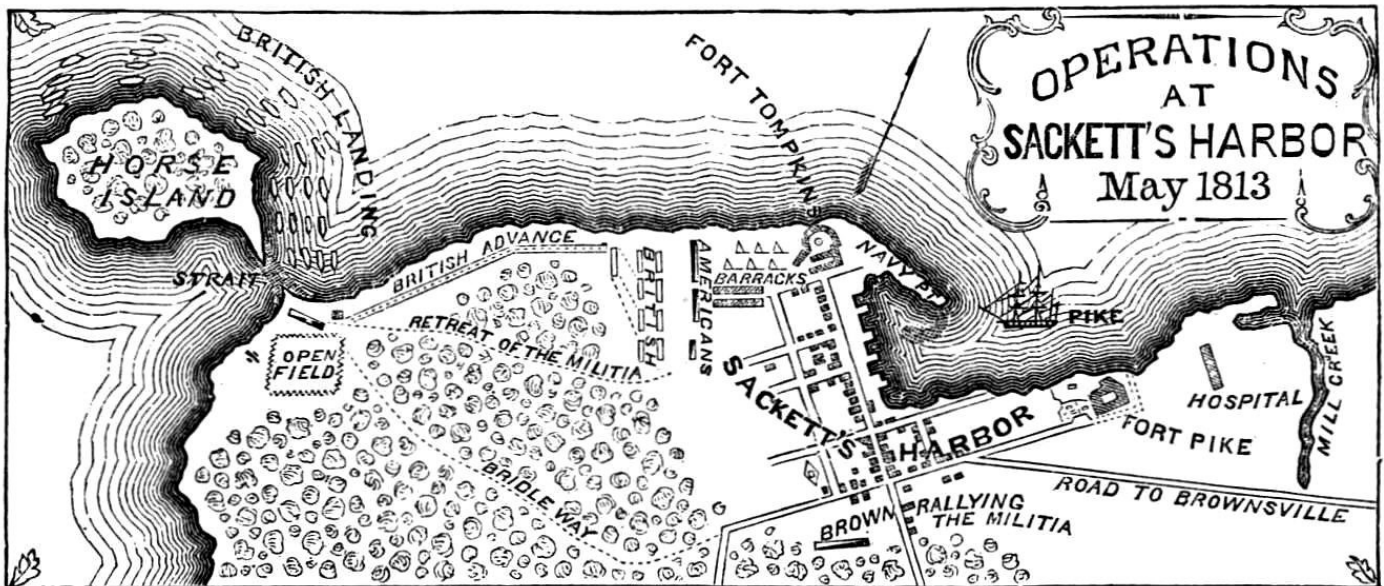
New Linnell Y-DNA Project <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/linnell/about>

For more information on the project, please contact our historian, Jason Quick.

# The Untold Story of Samuel Linnell & His Service in the War of 1812

A Three Part Series By Jason J. Quick

Samuel Linnell (118,241,1) was 3rd Sgt. in Samuel Harger's Co. of Pamela Township, Jefferson Co. Militia. The unit was part of the 108th Infantry Reg. Commanded by Maj. Calvin Britain. Samuel was mustered from March 4th to March 25th 1813 and was Paid \$5.56 for service at Brownsville, NY by J Edmonds Paymaster. Samuel was probably training around the home of General Jacob Brown who resided in Brownsville and was the commanding General of the Jefferson Co. Militia.



Samuel's story starts with a brief summary of the Battle of Henderson Bay and the Second Battle of Sackets Harbor May 28th- 29th 1813. Commodore James Lucas Yeo commanded the British Navy and General Sir George Prevost, Governor General of Canada, commanded the British land force. Yeo's ships were the HMS Wolfe, Royal George, Earl of Moira, General Beresford, Sir Sidney Smith and Lady Murray. The British land Force consisted of the grenadier company of the 100th Regiment, two companies of the 8th (The King's) Regiment of Foot, four companies of the 104th Regiment, one company of the Glengarry Light Infantry, two companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs, a detachment of Royal Artillery with two 6-pounder guns and a war band of Native Americans (Probably Shawnee).

The British force set out late on the 27th of May and arrived off Sacket's Harbor early the next morning. The wind was very light, which made it difficult for Yeo to maneuver close to the shore. He was also unfamiliar with the local conditions and depths of water. Shortly before midday on May 28, Prevost's troops began rowing ashore, but unknown sails were sighted in the distance. In case they might be Chauncey's fleet, the attack was called off, and the troops returned to the ships. The strange sails proved to belong to twelve bateaux (shallow-draft, flat-bottomed boats) carrying troops from the 9th and 21st U.S. Regiments of Infantry from Oswego to Sackets Harbor. The British sent out three large canoes full of Native American warriors and a gunboat carrying a detachment of the Glengarry Light Infantry to intercept them.

The British force caught up with the convoy at Six Town point off of Stoney Point on Henderson Bay. As the British opened fire, the Americans, who were mostly raw recruits, landed their bateaux at Stoney Point and fled into the woods. The Natives pursued them through the trees and hunted them down. After about half an hour, during which they lost 35 men killed, the surviving United States troops regained their vessels and raised a white flag. The senior officer rowed out to Yeo's fleet and surrendered his remaining force of 115 officers and men. Only seven of the American troops escaped and reached Sackett's Harbor.

Defending Sackets harbor, the Americans had about 400 Regular troops; the 1st mounted and un-mounted Dragoons, 1st and 3rd Artillery Detachment, and the 9th US Infantry. Samuel Linnell was present along with 750 Militia and Volunteers consisting of the 55th, 76th, and the rest of Samuel's 108th Regiments of the New York Militia and the Albany Volunteers. The Navy also had a detachment of Marines manning the Naval Batteries and the ships USS Fair American, Pert, General Pike (under construction) Duke of Gloucester (recently captured & damaged).

The next morning, 29th May, Prevost resumed the attack. The British troops landed on Horse Island, south of the town, under fire from two 6-pounder field guns belonging to the militia and a naval 32-pounder firing at long range from Fort Tompkins. They also faced musket fire from the Albany Volunteers defending the island. Although the British lost several men in the boats, they succeeded in landing, and the Volunteers withdrew. Once the landing force was fully assembled, they charged across the flooded causeway linking the island to the shore. Although the British should have been an easy target at this point, the American militia fled, abandoning their guns. Brigadier General Jacob Brown eventually rallied about 100 of them to take a stand and halt the British advance.

The British swung to their left, hoping to take the town and dockyard from the landward side, but the American regulars with some field guns gave ground only slowly. They fell back behind their blockhouses and defenses, from where they repulsed every British attempt to storm their fortifications.

Yeo had gone ashore to accompany the troops, none of the larger British vessels were brought into a range at which to support the attack. The small British gunboats, which could approach very close to the shore, were armed only with small, short-range carronades, which were ineffective against the American defenses. Eventually one British ship, General Beresford, mounting 16 guns, worked close in using sweeps (long oars). When its crew opened fire, they quickly drove the American artillerymen from Fort Tompkins. Some of Beresford's shot went over the fort and landed in and around the dockyard. Under the mistaken impression that the fort had surrendered, a young American naval officer, Acting Lieutenant John Drury, ordered the sloop-of-war General Pike, which was under construction, and large quantities of stores to be set on fire. Lieutenant Woolcott Chauncey had orders to defend the yard rather than the schooners, but had instead gone aboard one of the schooners, which were engaging the British vessels at long and ineffective range.

By this time, Prevost was convinced that success was impossible to attain. His own field guns did not come into action and without them he was unable to batter breaches in the American defenses, while the militia which Brown had rallied were attacking his own right flank and rear. He gave the order to retreat. Prevost later wrote that the enemy had been beaten and that the retreat was carried out in perfect order, but other accounts by British soldiers stated that the re-embarkation took place in disorder, and each unit

*(What Happens to Samuel? - To Be Continued in Our Next Newsletter)*

## LFA MEMBERSHIP AND VITAL RECORDS



Paul Linnell, Membership and Vital Records, is working on updating the Descendants of Robert Linnell (DRL) Records and would like to ask for the assistance of “ALL” of our Linnell Family Members.

If you would like to help in this endeavor, please contact Paul at (503) 430-8390 or [Membership@LinnellFamily.com](mailto:Membership@LinnellFamily.com) to provide:

- ⇒ Birth, Death and Marriage Notifications
- ⇒ Other Family Genealogy and/or Military History

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Everyone is reminded that the Annual Membership for the LFA is from “January 1st through December 31st”. Annual Membership dues are \$20.00 per year and/or \$125.00 for a Life Time Membership. We hope that everyone will renew their Annual Memberships.

To pay your Membership dues, please go on-line to the LFA website at [www.linnellassociation.com](http://www.linnellassociation.com) – click on “Membership” – and complete one (1) of the following options:

**Option One:** Click on “Membership Form” – Print and fill out the form – attach your Check and/or Money Order (payable to: “Linnell Family Association”) and mail them to Scott Linnell, LFA Treasurer.

**Option Two:** Complete the on-line form and pay your dues using “Pay Pal”.

As of December 31, 2018, our paid-up LFA Membership was

- “13” Annual Members
- “159” Life Members.

We would like to say thank you and “Welcome Aboard” to our “New”; “Renewal”; and/or “Life Members”:

- **Kay Maureen (Thompson) Swedberg**, Las Cruces, New Mexico –  
Renewal Annual Member
- **Donald Aaron Linnell, Sr.**, Navarre, Florida –  
New Life Member

## Linnell Family Record Update

### Death Records:

Bobby Dale Linnell (DRL 11a, b15, 514, 213 – Page 222 of the Additions and Corrections Booklet) on 27 November 2018 in Yukon, OK. He was born on 6 November 1943 in Goodland, KS to the late Kenneth Alvin Linnell (DRL 11a, b15, 514, 21 – Pages 217 and 222 of the Additions and Corrections Booklet) and the late Inola Gentry.

Donald Dittus, Husband of Joanne Sue (Holte) Dittus (DRL 118, 241,112, 811, 2 – Pages 401 and 444 of the DRL) on 17 December 2018 in Grand Marais, MN. He was born on 6 June 1934 in Maywood, IL to James Dittus and Virginia Borgstrom.

Melvin Gail Linnell (Not Listed in the DRL) on 16 January 2019 in Lincroft, NJ. He was born on 15 June 1951 in Conrad, MT to Melvin Howard Linnell and Lillian Marguerite Chase.

No new Birth or Marriage notices received.

## THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

### Steering Committee 2019

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

Jerry Linnell—Ocean Isle Beach, NC  
[Chairman@LinnellFamily.com](mailto:Chairman@LinnellFamily.com)

#### VICE CHAIRMAN/REUNION

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#### MEMBERSHIP /VITAL RECORDS

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[Membership@LinnellFamily.com](mailto:Membership@LinnellFamily.com)

#### GRAVE RESTORATION

Vacant at this time.

#### WEBSITE

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#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Gail Wahlstrom—Rosburg, WA  
Bonnie Featherstone—St. Paul, MN  
Norman Linnell—Alexandria, VA  
[Scholarship@LinnellFamily.com](mailto:Scholarship@LinnellFamily.com)



1850 Captain Linnell House  
Cape Cod

[www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org)

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