



# LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Rachel Linnell Wynn, Founder and Historian Emeritus

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

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## Letter From The Chairman

By Doug Roberts, Linnell Family Association Steering Committee Chair

Welcome to the end-of-year newsletter from your humble family association. We have been busy this year.

We held the latest in our long line of family gatherings – this one at the Double Tree hotel on Cape Cod in June. While attendance numbers were low, I prefer to focus on the intimacy allowed, with deeper connections made and renewed.

On the scholarship front we thank Gail Wahlstrom and Bonnie Featherstone, retired members of our scholarship committee, for their generous contributions to the scholarship fund. The Association was able to give a \$1500 scholarship this year, a \$500 increase from previous scholarships. With continued contributions, future scholarships may be larger.

On the gravestone replacement front we received notification that the Veteran’s Administration has ordered a gravestone for our ancestor Samuel Linnell (1778-1847), who served in the War of 1812. He was captured by the British near the outbreak of the war and spent most of it as a POW on a prison ship. The headstone will be placed next to his wife Eunice Mosher Linnell at Clayton Center Cemetery in upstate New York. I hope to have more information in a newsletter next year. This latest placement of a gravestone is due to the persistence and unambiguous documentation provided by Lori Linnell and Jason Jon Quick.

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Please note the Stone Cutters of Orleans article in this newsletter written by our historian Jason Jon Quick. It is fascinating to learn about, yet another professional skill developed and passed down through the family.

Lastly, the Association has set up its own page “Linnell Family Association - Family Tree” at <https://linnellassociation.tribalpages.com>. Simply go to the URL and request access. After vetting, read access is granted. Paid up LFA members are given edit access to their family to add information – stories, pictures, biographies, and other desired information. This is a good opportunity to use the included membership form or go to <https://www.linnellassociation.com/index.php/membership/> to become a member or renew your membership.

May 2022 have been as productive for you as it was for your little association. Peace and goodwill to you and yours this holiday season.

## 2022 LFA “CENTURY CLUB” MEMBER(S)

Since the beginning of time, a long life has been the sign of wisdom and strong family genes. Gone are the days of living 900+ years, such as Adam and Noah. Now, living 100+ years is considered quite the feat, with the inevitable question “what’s your secret to a long life?” We think the best answer to that question is “I’m a Linnell!” Our ancestors were strong, hearty folk, and our genes are some of the best.



Those words aptly describe our family’s grand dame, Rachel (Linnell) Wynn (DRL 117, 612, 123, 21), Catonsville, MD. The wife of the late Rev. John Charles (JC) Wynn, Rachel is our founding member and LFA Historian Emeritus. Her byline remains on the front of our newsletters.

She celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 11, 2022. For those working backwards, yes, she was born on Armistice Day, when the war to end all wars ended. “Never [tell] a woman’s age” is one of the basic tenets of good manners, however, reaching the century mark deserves celebration.

Happy Birthday, Rachel, we raise a glass to many more!

The LFA Century Club currently has a membership of one (1), albeit, our matriarch. Your Steering Committee believes there may be more Linnell family centenarians, we just don’t know their names. Do you know a relative that is 100 years or older? If they ever started a sentence with “I remember during the great depression...” they might be a centenarian! Please send us their names and contact information; we’d like to recognize their accomplishment.

# STONE CUTTERS OF ORLEANS

Photos related to this story will be found on pages 5 - 7.

*This is an edited copy of an article called "The Origins of Marble Carving on Cape Cod, Part II: The Orleans and Sandwich Carvers" by James Blachowicz published in the 2003 Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies titles. Markers XX pgs. 196-215. By Jason J Quick – Historian.*

Oliver N. Linnell (11a,b12,72) was a stonecutter who learned the trade from his brother-in-law Josiah Sparrow II who in turn was trained by William Sturgis. Josiah Sparrow II is listed as a "tombstone cutter" in both his marriage and death records. On February 3, 1842, he married Lucinda Linnell in Eastham. It was in October of 1844 that Josiah Sparrow ran his ad for his stonecutting shop in East Orleans and Chatham. His gravestone in Orleans, carved by Oliver Linnell, is broken and lying flat on the ground (Fig. 1).

Oliver Nickerson Linnell was born in Orleans on August 5, 1816, the second of eight children of Josiah Linnell and Elizabeth Nickerson. Josiah was listed as a carpenter in the 1850 U.S. Census. Oliver married Adaline G. Rogers, the daughter of Freeman Higgins Rogers and Margery Crowell, in Eastham on November 30, 1843. They had nine children. As we have seen, Oliver's sister Lucinda married Josiah Sparrow II in January of 1842, but she died the following November. It is after Josiah Sparrow's death in 1847 that Oliver Linnell's gravestones begin to appear. It is not clear however, whether Linnell had any part in his former brother-in-law's business, for Deyo (1890) tells us that it was Thomas A. Hopkins who continued Sparrow's business after his death (p.762) and Sparrow's wife (Linnell's sister) had died five years before. While it's possible Linnell may have learned carving from Sparrow, it seems more likely that he had learned with Sparrow from William Sturgis. In any case, Linnell ultimately opened a shop of his own in South Orleans.

Oliver Nickerson Linnell died (of cirrhosis) in Orleans on May 4, 1892, not quite seventy-six. His son, Oliver Herbert Linnell, who was executor of his father's estate, was also a marble-worker. Deyo's (1890) history records that Oliver Herbert was born in 1849 and took up the trade in 1869. There are three stones, dated 1864, 1871 and 1872, signed "Linnell & Son," indicating that he and his father were in business together for a time (the first stone is probably backdated). Oliver Herbert opened a shop in Wellfleet in 1873 (Deyo, p. 820) and is listed as a marble worker in his marriage that year to Augusta Knowles. I found four stones signed "O. H. Linnell"; one of these, dated 1879, includes "Orleans" after his signature. But he moved to another location in Wellfleet in 1879, adding an undertaking business (Deyo, pp. 806-7). In 1885, he bought a new place of business, which was still in operation in 1890. He signed the thick, sculpted marble marker for Thankful Snow (1883) in the Methodist Cemetery in Truro; and perhaps he carved the marble obelisk for his father and mother that marks their graves in Orleans Cemetery (Fig. 6).

Oliver N. Linnell: Gravestones

As was the case with Josiah Sparrow, I have not determined exactly when Linnell started to carve gravestones. He was a year older than Sparrow and might have learned to carve at the same time, perhaps also from William Sturgis. He carved Josiah Sparrow's own 1847

gravestone (Fig. 1) while still in his twenties. We can see how close his design and lettering are to those of Sparrow: compare his stone for Sparrow to Sparrow's marker for his father Isaac Sparrow (Fig. 5). Although it is not very evident on these two stones in particular, one subtle difference between Sparrow's and Linnell's draperies may be in the space each carver allows below the left and right rings: Sparrow tended to straighten out the left and right drapes, that is, resume a vertical line, earlier than did Linnell.

Besides what looks like a tree branch, Linnell also used a more plant like (ivy?) sprig for his main decorative feature, as on the 1851 probated stone for Lumbert Nickerson (Fig. 7). Note also the curved serif at the top of the "l": this is also helpful in distinguishing Linnell's from Sparrow's lettering, where a straight serif is used. Linnell's large 1854 stone for Lusha Snow (Fig. 8) in Orleans is initialed (Linnell would initial or sign many of his stones). Besides the very carefully carved features and long epitaph, it bears a rather simplified Sturgis-style urn, a plain willow, Linnell's characteristic drapery, and a rectangular panel for the deceased's name which has a border that resembles stitching. This border is a common feature on his stones, but Thomas A. Hopkins also uses it. We saw that Jabez Fisher carves a similar urn and willow on at least two stones around 1839; while I assume that Linnell was here imitating Sturgis' style directly, it is not impossible he was under Fisher's influence.

It is difficult to distinguish Linnell's work from that of Thomas A. Hopkins, as we shall shortly see. What may be a help is the horizontal device Linnell uses to separate the date from the epitaph on the Lusha Snow stone as well as on many others.

On a great many of his gravestones, Linnell does not chisel out the lettering, but chisels the stone away from the letters, leaving the entire inscription in high (positive) relief, such as on the 1851 stone for Esther Nickerson (Fig. 9) (William Shlrgis had produced a few such stones as well). This certainly produces a distinctive effect, but it also involves considerably more work -which may explain why he abandons this technique later. We can also note the nice symmetrical willow he places on this stone, another Sturgis-inspired design. He uses this willow frequently, even on some differently shaped later stones, such as that for Abner Rogers (1878) (Fig. 10), which he carved at the age of sixty-two.

## LINNELL FAMILY WEST COAST REUNION NEWS

The next Linnell Family West Coast Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 12:00 PM until 7:00 PM in Albany, Oregon. The site is to be determined. Updated information will be provided in future Newsletters.

If you would like to receive information about the 2023 LFWCR, when finalized, please contact Paul E. Linnell, Jr., LFA Membership & Vital Records Chairman. Paul's contact information will be found on the Steering Committee Roster on the last page of this newsletter. You may also email Paul directly – [paulelinnelljr@yahoo.com](mailto:paulelinnelljr@yahoo.com)



Fig. 1. Josiah Sparrow II, 1847, Orleans, Massachusetts.  
Carved by Oliver N. Linnell.



Fig. 6. Oliver N. and Adaline Linnell, 1892, Orleans, Massachusetts.  
Obelisk possibly carved by their son, Oliver H. Linnell.



Fig. 7. Lumbert Nickerson, 1851, Chatham, Massachusetts. Probated to Oliver N. Linnell.



Fig. 8. Lusha Snow, 1854, Orleans, Massachusetts. Signed (initialed) by Oliver N. Linnell.

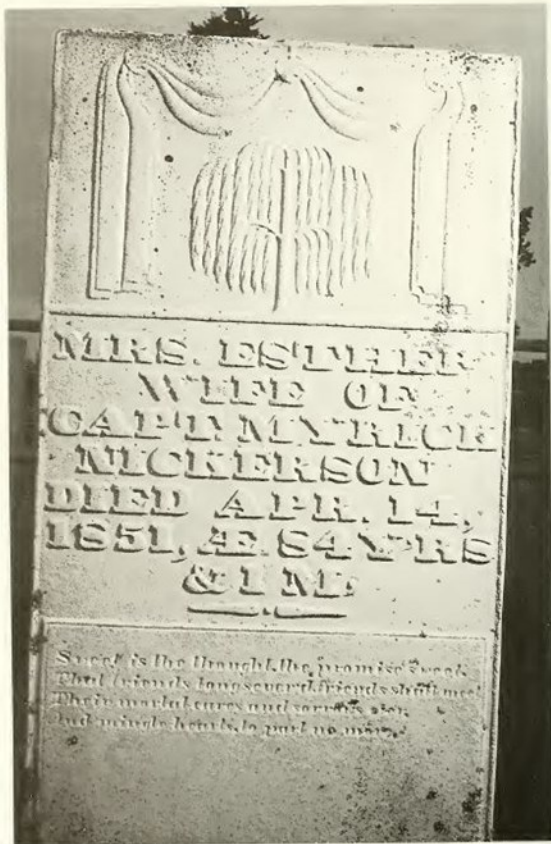


Fig. 9. Esther Nickerson, 1851, Chatham, Massachusetts. Linnell stone with positive-relief lettering.



Fig. 10. Abner Rogers, 1878, Orleans, Massachusetts. Late Linnell willow.



Fig. 11. Cecelia Lewis, 1848, Chatham, Massachusetts. Probably carved by Oliver N. Linnell.

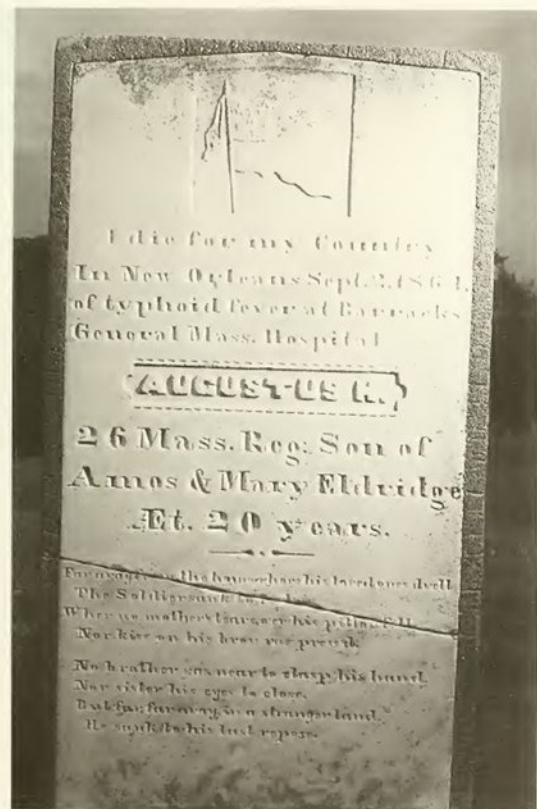


Fig. 12. Augustus H. Eldridge, 1864, South Chatham, Massachusetts. Probably carved by Oliver N. Linnell.

# LFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of the writing of this Newsletter, our LFA Membership for 2022 stands at 6 Annual Members and 145 Life Members.

## LFA RECORDS UPDATES

Many thanks to the family members who provided important records updates. If you have any Births, Deaths and/or Marriages within your respective Family Lines, please furnish the information to Paul E. Linnell, Jr., LFA Membership/Vital Records Chairman. The following are the latest updates to our LFA Family Records since the September 2022 Newsletter. There were no Births or Marriages reported since the last newsletter.

### DEATHS

**J. Phil Lesh** (*FAG 229523610*), Husband of Kathryn Elizabeth (Linnell) Lesh (DRL 118, 241, 142, 314 – Pages 379 and 419 of the DRL – LFA Database # 180), died on 5 May 2005. Phil was born on 20 December 1916.

**Kathryn Elizabeth (Linnell) Lesh** (DRL 118, 241, 142, 314 – Pages 379 and 419 of the DRL – LFA Database # 180 – *FAG 229523619*), died in 2016. Kathryn was born on 17 December 1918 in Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota to the late Clarence Garfield Linnell (DRL 118, 241, 142, 31 – Pages 357 and 379 of the DRL – *FAG 40018406*) and the late Stella Mabel Jones (*FAG 40018581*).

**Judge Stephen Jenner Covey** (DRL 118, 241, 185, 112 - - Pages 388 and 432 of the DRL – LFA Database # 610 – *FAG 195579605*), died on 25 December 2018 in West Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. Stephen was born on 12 January 1929 in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois to the late Edwin “Linn” Linnell Covey (DRL 118, 241, 185, 11 - - Pages 365, 387, and 388 of the DRL – *FAG 127502453*) and to the late Georgia Alice Blackmon (*FAG 127502439*).

**Robert “Bob” Shepherd Linnell** (DRL 118, 241, 215, 23 – Pages 289 and 296 of the DRL – LFA Database # 289 – LFA Life Member since 1999 – *FAG 238134987*), died on 8 February 2022 in Selah, Yakima County, Washington. Robert was born on 13 March 1931 in Portland, Cumberland County, Maine to the late William Shepherd Linnell (DRL 118, 241, 215, 2 – Pages 285 and 289 of the DRL – *FAG 39976555*) and to the late Jessie E. Hopkinson (*FAG 62626506*). Robert served on the LFA Steering Committee from 1994 to 2006, serving as the Vice Chairman (1994 – 2000) and the Secretary (2000 2006).

**Barbara Studley Barnette** (LFA Database # 659 – LFA Life Member since 2009), died on 21 July 2022 in East Orleans, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Barbara was born on 8 April 1941.

**Joe Edward Linnell** (DRL 11a, b15, 515, 622 – Pages 225 and 235 of the DRL), died on 20 August 2022 in Salem, Marion County, Oregon. Joe was born on 8 December 1957 in Salem, Marion County, Oregon to the late Daryl William Linnell, Sr. (DRL 11a, b15, 515, 62 – Pages 220 and 235 of the DRL – LFA Database # 271 – *FAG 43052206*) and Bonnie Joyce Hughes.

**Gerald “Jerry” Wayman Linnell** (DRL 11a, b15, 7-10-1, 34 – Pages 221 and 228 of the ACB – LFA Database # 186 – *FAG 244838121*), died on 19 August 2022 in Angels Camp, Calaveras County, California. Gerald was born on 18 January 1934 in Oakland, Alameda County, California to the late John Henry Linnell, Sr. (DRL 11a, b15, 7-10-1, 3 – Pages 215 and 221 of the ACB) and to the late Beulah Eunice Carlson. Gerald served on the LFA Steering Committee from 2000 – 2003 as the Vice Chairman.



## LFA MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Linnell Family Association of North America is a membership organization that relies on timely payment of dues. Annual Membership Dues are \$20.00. Life Membership is a onetime dues payment of \$125.00.

Membership Dues may be paid one of two ways by going to the LFA website -

- ◆ Click on “Membership” and print the Membership Form – Fill it out and mail it, along with your Check and/or Money Order (payable to “Linnell Family Association”) to Scott Linnell, LFA Treasurer, at the address shown on the form; or,
- ◆ Click on “Membership” – Fill out the on-line form and pay your dues by using Pay Pal.

Annual Membership is from January 1 through December 31 of each year. If you are uncertain about the current status of your membership, please contact Paul E. Linnell, Jr., LFA Membership and Vital Records Chairman.

## ~LET US KNOW ~

All Members are encouraged to keep the LFA informed of their current contact information to ensure that you continually receive LFA newsletters and important announcements.

**Please provide all updates to  
Paul E. Linnell, Jr.  
LFA Membership and Vital Records  
Chairman.**

You can also go on-line to the LFA Website,  
[www.linnellfamily.com](http://www.linnellfamily.com)  
Click on “Membership” and complete the  
Address Update Form.

## THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

### Steering Committee 2022-2026

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

Doug Roberts (h) 972-964-7897 (leave message)  
McKinney TX  
[chairman@linnellfamily.com](mailto:chairman@linnellfamily.com)

#### VICE CHAIRMAN/REUNION

Don Linnell (c) 210-724-9075  
Navarre FL  
[vicechairman@linnellfamily.com](mailto:vicechairman@linnellfamily.com)

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Vacant at this time  
[secretary@linnellfamily.com](mailto:secretary@linnellfamily.com)

#### TREASURER

J. Scott Linnell (h) 732-747-9764  
Colts Neck, NJ  
[treasurer@linnellfamily.com](mailto:treasurer@linnellfamily.com)

#### HISTORIAN

Jason Jon Quick  
Wheat Ridge CO 80214  
[historian@linnellfamily.com](mailto:historian@linnellfamily.com)

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Pamela Swanson (c) 707-326-6347  
Prescott Valley, AZ  
[newsletter@linnellfamily.com](mailto:newsletter@linnellfamily.com)

#### MEMBERSHIP/VITAL RECORDS

Paul E Linnell Jr. (h) 503-430-8390 (leave message)  
Hillsboro, OR  
[membership@linnellfamily.com](mailto:membership@linnellfamily.com)  
[vitalrecords@linnellfamily.com](mailto:vitalrecords@linnellfamily.com)

#### GENEALOGICAL DATABASE

Lori Linnell (c) 619-822-3019  
Maricopa AZ  
[lwlinnell1@gmail.com](mailto:lwlinnell1@gmail.com)

#### GRAVE RESTORATION

Lori Linnell (c) 619-822-3019  
Maricopa AZ  
[gravestonefund@linnellfamily.com](mailto:gravestonefund@linnellfamily.com)

#### WEBSITE

Rose Linnell, [rose.linnell@gmail.com](mailto:rose.linnell@gmail.com)  
Michael Breton, [mrbreton@gmail.com](mailto:mrbreton@gmail.com)  
[website@Linnellfamily.com](mailto:website@Linnellfamily.com)

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Norman Linnell, Head  
Christina Roberts-Hargrove  
Sheila Crosby McGorman  
[scholarshipfund@linnellfamily.com](mailto:scholarshipfund@linnellfamily.com)

**Linnell Family Association Newsletter**  
c/o Paul E Linnell Jr.  
685 NE Autumncreek Way Apt J101  
Hillsboro, OR 97006  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**