

LINVILLE ROOTS

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LINVILLE FALLS VISITOR'S CENTER DEDICATED

The letter and the phone call from Emma "Terry" Franklin came about the same time. A major series of celebrations was to occur all along the Blue Ridge Mountain Parkway this past summer. It had been fifty years since the first ground was broken to create the parkway. The dedication of the new visitor's center at Linville Falls Recreation Area in Linville Falls, NC was to be the site of the first of the celebrations. The center is only yards from where tradition has placed the deaths of William and John Linville on the shoals of the Linville River. "Dr. Eichholz, if you could possibly be here or send a representative for the family - or tell me if there are any Linvilles near by us here in western North Carolina - we would love to have you all." It seems that at Linville Falls, North Carolina little has been known about the Linville family - other than the folklore about William and John's death by Cherokee's in 1766.

Terry was pleasantly surprised to find a whole raft of Linvilles less than two hours away in the Winston-Salem vicinity. The only reason she knew that any of the Linvilles still existed is because Richard and Marie Linville stopped in Linville Falls, NC on their way home to Russell, Iowa after the 1982 reunion.

Five Linvilles made the delightful journey on a beautiful early summer day in the mountains this past June. Four of us knew each other and had planned to be there - P.J. Fulton, organizer of the annual Linville Family Reunion at Kernersville, NC, Michael Linville of Kernersville, NC and Alice Eichholz of Montpelier, VT all had been at the 300th anniversary reunion in Media, PA in 1982. Mike's seven-year-old son Greg went with us. The appearance of the fifth Linville at the celebration was just one of the many pleasant surprises in the day. It happened that Basil Linville of Florida, was passing through the area the day before the celebration and happened to see Linville Falls Recreation Area on the map. Local officials convinced him to stay an extra day for the celebration. Basil is descended from the West Virginia Linvilles. We were all welcomed as long lost family members and certainly felt like we had found another part of our extended family in the local residents of Linville Falls, NC.

Besides the speech making and the presentation of state and local dignitaries there was plenty of regional entertainment, food, and a visit to the visitor's center exhibits including natural and local history. The climax was the unveiling of the monument commemorating the establishment of the Linville Falls Recreation Area. Mrs. Tense Banks, of Linville Falls, Terry's daughter and a local organizer and Dr. Alice Eichholz were given the pleasure of lifting the gold cloth off the monument. It was dedicated to the three people who had the most to do with creating the recreational area - Marion A. Wright, a conservationist who urged the National Park Service to buy the entire Linville Falls and surrounding 1,100 acres when it was placed on the market in 1950; Sam P. Weems, first superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway who with Mr. Wright convinced the third man, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to purchase the property and place it in public ownership.



Left to Right: P.J. Fulton; Alice Eichholz; Greg Linville, Mike Linville, Basil Linville at overlook above Linville Falls, June 15, 1985

After the ceremonies we hiked along some of the wonderful nature trails at the falls. Mike, Greg and Alice skipped a few stones along the shoals at the spot where William and John Linville were killed (Alice stuck two fine "skippers" in her linen jacket pocket to take back to Cady who loves to skip stones). We met many local residents who had stories to tell and were so pleased to see Linvilles at the celebration. Greg was particularly impressed when people would come up to him and recognize his name tag. All of a sudden the name "Linville" which he saw on many local signs in his hometown started

to mean something more important. It was thrilling to watch him and hear him say to his dad, "We must be important!"

One senior resident, Alvin Pyatte who owns The Weld House, a local inn, directed us to the exact spot two miles up stream near where the old George Weld store stood in the Altamont community. It is there that local tradition has it, William and John were buried by the Cherokee. A basketball court is near there now, but that did not stop us from taking pictures of the famous site right behind to backstop and underneath three maples.

On the trip back to Kernersville we talked about all the history that is in North Carolina concerning the Linvilles. We also mused about the fact that the Linvilles have always picked such beautiful places to live in, but never seemed to have enough money to hold onto them. Thomas Linville (Thomas⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) lived not far from the falls in the same county, but his family moved west and populated western Missouri and much of the Midwest and West. At the visitors center we acquired some detailed maps of the area and started talking about having the 305th anniversary reunion in North Carolina. Camping, inexpensive lodging and a major recreation area are close enough to Kernersville to make it workable. With the fabulous Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina only two hours away and North Carolina easily reachable by major airlines now Michael Linville and I are exploring this possibility further. Our one real reservation was how hot it is in August, but then it is in Pennsylvania too! And we all had a grand time there!

MORE DESCENDANTS OF PETER LINVILLE - 'OLD BRAVE SOLDIER'

The last issue of LINVILLE ROOTS contained a picture of Squire Peter Linville, son of Burton and great grandson of Peter Linville - one of the definitive Linville Revolutionary War Soldiers. Burton Linville was married to a Nancy A. (____). Her grave stone is in the Waxahachie, Texas cemetery with the following dates - born July 16, 1816; died Nov. 20, 1899. (See *The Linville Family in America* (1982 edition) pp. 294) Squire Peter Linville was the second son of Burton and Nancy A.(____) Linville. He married Julie Ann Brown in Illinois. (See LFA pp. 296 and 304) Their children included a Dany Linville (LFA lists it from a census record as "Daisy"). She is buried in Waxahachie, Texas cemetery with her grandmother Nancy. The stone reads "Dany Shelton, wife of W. Shelton, Dec. 24, 1878; Dec. 4, 1904". Another child of Squire Peter's not listed in LFA is also buried in that cemetery - "Nora V. Linville, daughter of S. & J. Linville, Feb. 19, 1884, Sept. 1, 1884." A third child was Goldie Linville. The following is record of her descendants.

- 1 Goldie Linville (Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Oct 29, 1870. In Illinois she married Pleasant Moses Goodwin (b. Oct 29, 1879; d. Oct 6, 1953).

CHILDREN:

- 2 Ola Goodwin
3 Myrtle Goodwin
- Earl Goodwin b. Feb. 18, 1897 m. Alice Sterley -no issue
- 4 Vergie Goodwin
- Claude Goodwin b. May 21, 1900; d. May 22, 1900
 - Ethel Goodwin b. Nov. 5, 1902 not married
 - Lenore Goodwin b. 1904; d. 1928
 - Leroy Goodwin b. 1904 (twin of Lenore's); d. 1932
- 5 J.D. Goodwin
- Raymond Goodwin b. Aug. 14, 1908; d. April 3, 1929
- 6 Julia Lucille Goodwin
7 Luther Goodwin

Pleasant Moses and Goldie (Linville) Goodwin
Ola and Myrtle Goodwin



- 2 Ola Goodwin, (updated 8/99 - Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) the first child of Goldie (Linville) and Pleasant Moses Goodwin, was born Oct 3, 1893 and married Walter Banks who died in Bardwell, Texas in 1963. They had one daughter:

CHILDREN:

- Marjorie Fay Banks who married Billy Porter in Dallas, Texas. The Porters are the parents of Karen Porter and Shaun Porter.

- 3** Myrtle Goodwin (updated 8/99 - Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Nov 17, 1894, the second child of Goldie Goodwin. She married James Robert Spurgeon and died Sep 23, 1967. He died Feb 17, 1982. Among their descendents were four sisters - Larue, Virginia, Hope and Billie - who attended the Linville Family Reunion in 1982.

CHILDREN:

- 8** Edith Larue Spurgeon

- James Robert Spurgeon, Jr. born Oct 1, 1919 killed in action on Nov 12, 1944

- 9** Goldie Catherine Spurgeon

- 10** Virginia June Spurgeon

- 11** Earl Rex Spurgeon

- Hope Marie Spurgeon born Aug 16, 1928 married Verne F. St. Mars of Farebault, Minnesota

- Billie Ann Sprugeon b. May 15, 1932

- 12** Oleta Lucille Spurgeon

- 4** Vergie Goodwin (updated 8/99 - Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Dec 5, 1898 and married Sam Dyess (b. Nov 23, 1934) on Jan 15, 1921. They are the parents of two children: Jean Evelyn (b. May 17, 1932) married to Norman K. Carter, no issue; and Samuel Phillip Dyess (b. Jul 1, 1935) married on Jun 5, 1955 to Larue Cook (b. Sep 29, 1934). Of Samuel and Larue's two children, the first, Terrie Dyess (b. Jan 31, 1960) is married to Tim Outsley. The second, Donna Sue Dyess was born Jun 18, 1971.

- 5** J. D. Goodwin (updated 8/99 - Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born May 4, 1907 married Thelma Dyess who was born in 1910. Their one child Patsy Ruth Goodwin married Leroy Thomas and has two children - Debbie and Randy Thomas.

- 6** Julie Lucille Goodwin (updated 8/99 - Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Jan 1, 1911 and married Marion Norton (b. Dec 24, 1908) on Nov 18,

1931. Their one daughter Joanne Norton was born Dec 23, 1934 and married Arthur Hodge. The Hodge's one child is Beth Ann Hodge born Aug 14, 1964.

- 7 Luther Goodwin (updated 8/99 - Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Feb 26, 1915 Morris (b. Nov 15, 1915) on Jan 29, 1935. Their one daughter Janice Lou Goodwin was born Oct 30, 1943 and married Orlylan Southard (b. Jan 9. 1943). The Southard's had three children - Orlynda Renee, Jana Marie and Camillia Lou (b. Aug 29, 1963; d. 1965).

- 8 Edith Larue Spurgeon (updated 8/99 - Myrtle Goodwin¹⁰, Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born July 6, 1917 and married first, Norman E. Reid of Leveland, Texas. They had two children. Larue's second marriage was to W. M. Talkington of Coricana, Texas. Her third marriage was to _____ Simmons.

CHILDREN:

- Norma Don Reid born Jan 31, 1937 married G. B. Allen. Their child is Sharla Don Allen.
- Rex Warren Reid born Feb 18, 1944 married Janie _____. Their two children are Linda Lynn Reid and David Reid.
- Billy Talkington

- 9 Goldie Catherine Spurgeon (updated 8/99 - Myrtle Goodwin¹⁰, Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Aug 15, 1921 and died Apr 12, 1981. She married Lloyd Medlin in Rice Texas and had three children. Her second marriage was to G.T. Bowles in Ennis, Texas.

CHILDREN:

- Bobbie Jo Medlin born Oct 19, 1940 and married Billy Ray Burton of Hubbard, Texas. They are the parents of two children: Ray Allen Burton (b. Jul 16, 1958; d. Nov 22, 1965) and Coary Lynn Burton (b. Sep 18, 1960) who married Melinda Smith of Palmer, Texas. Their son Christopher Ray Burton was born Jun 19, 1981.
- Lloyd Robert Medlin born Sep 30, 1943 married Sally Kallus in Ennis, Texas.
- Patricia Ann Medlin (b. Aug 10, 1942; d. Dec 9, 1984) married Jack Oliver of Ennis, Texas and had two children -Jack Reid Oliver (b. Feb 14, 1962) and Rebecca Oleta Oliver (b. Jul 17, 1963).

- Billy Don Bolles born Dec 29, 1956 married Clecila Lynn Carpenter on Aug 17, 1985.

- 10** Virginia June Spurgeon (updated 8/99 - Myrtle Goodwin¹⁰, Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Mar 31, 1923 and married Aubrey Cherry of Kervin, Texas. They are the parents of five children:

CHILDREN:

- James Leo Cherry born Dec 21, 1942 married Cheryl Hill of Houston, Texas. Their two children are Jamey (b. Feb 16, 1971) and David Cherry (b. Jun 2, 1973).
- William Earl Cherry born Sep 22, 1944 married Becky of Houston, Texas. Their three children include Christina Cherry (b. Oct 22, 1971) and Jason Cherry (b. Aug 9, 1978) and adopted daughter Becky Sue Cherry (b. Aug, 1966).
- Mary Elizabeth Cherry born Jan 9, 1946 married Weldon Caldwell of Ennis, Texas. They have one child: Weldon Lee Caldwell born Nov 14, 1968.
- Frankie June Cherry born Feb 16, 1948 married Bud Blanton and has one child - Tracy Lynn Blanton born Jul 4, 1973.
- Donna Marie Cherry born Jul 26, 1952 married Charles Ray Spurgeon. Son Charley Ray Spurgeon born Sep 29, 1972.

- 11** Earl Rex Spurgeon (updated 8/99 - Myrtle Goodwin¹⁰, Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) was born Feb 21, 1927 and married Kitty Ruth Threet of Rice, Texas.

CHILDREN:

- Earl Rex Spurgeon, Jr. (b. Feb 24, 1952) married Donna Honza in Ennis, Texas. Their daughter Robin Nicole was born Dec 12, 1984.
- Larry Franklin Spurgeon (b. May 12, 1953) married Peggy Dlabaj of Ennis, Texas. They have two children - Nicholas Austin Spurgeon born Dec 31, 1981 and Tyler Ross Spurgeon born Apr, 1985.
- Toni Rene Spurgeon (born Jul 3, 1958) married Jerry Butler of Ennis, Texas. Their two children are Christopher Todd Butler born Apr 4, 1978 and Jeremy Aaron Butler born Nov 21, 1980.
- Steven Walker Spurgeon born Mar 31, 1962.

- 12** Oleta Lucille Spurgeon (updated 8/99 - Myrtle Goodwin¹⁰, Goldie⁹, Squire Peter⁸, Burton⁷, Aaron⁶, Peter⁵, John⁴, John³, Richard²,

Thomas¹) was born Jan 5, 1925 and married Roland Ray Franks of Rice Texas. She died Jul 20, 1963.

CHILDREN:

- Rolene Franks born Aug 25, 1946 married Bill Cox of Ennis, Texas.
- James Calvin Franks born July 9, 1949 married Theo Hauer and lives in Meeker, Colorado. They have one child - Nathan Glen Franks born Dec 17, 1975.

BRACE LINVILLE OF NORTH CAROLINA, VIRGINIA AND TENNESSEE

One of the more complicated things to do in tracing family ancestry is to follow a family when it moves quickly across geographic borders. Of course, Linvilles are not exempt from this problem. The family of Moses Linville (Thomas⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) is one of the thorny ones in *LFA*. Starting on page 175 there is considerable speculative evidence - not much that is conclusive. Another bit of information was sent by Goldie Felty Miller of Odessa, FL. Speculatively we will place this family as a possible daughter of Brace and Marjorie Gowens who were the only known Linvilles residing in Virginia at the appropriate time. An outline of Brace's family is on page 182-3 of *LFA*.

James J. Felty	2n. m.	Margaret Ailsie Linville
b. June, 1823 Virginia		b. 1827 Virginia
d. Aug 17, 1902 Teges, Clay Co. KY		d. Mar 1899 Teges, Clay Co. KY

Listed on the 1850 census for Washington County, VA which is between Grayson Co., VA where Brace was in 1830 and Carter Co. TN where he was in 1840. The following records are from Clay Co. birth and cemetery records as well as James' and George's Civil War records. George ran a general store which included a post office called Felty, KY in Clay County.

CHILDREN:

- George W. Felty b. Aug 31, 1847 Washington, Co. VA; m. Apr, 1870 Martha Mobley; d. Jul 2, 1928 Felty, KY
- John Felty b. 1850
- Polly (Mary) Felty b. Mar 18, 1853 Clay Co., KY
- Louisa Felty b. Apr 19, 1855 Clay Co. KY

- Daniel Felty b. Dec 23, 1858 Clay Co. KY m. Manda McCollum Mar 11, 1880, Clay Co.; d. Mar 26, 1941 Jackson Co. Ky

DAVID LINVILLE - VOLUNTEER FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Little is known yet about Thomas and Hannah Linville's son David who was born about 1740. In addition to the material on pages 85-87 of *LFA* some was obtained from Claude E. Thacker of Cincinnati, Ohio who is a descendant. It might be recalled that this David Linville might indeed be the only Linville to have service in the Revolution in North Carolina. That possibility becomes even more interesting when we find out something about his grandson David Linville.

We do know that David (Thomas⁴, John³, Richard², Thomas¹) had at least three sons - Thomas, who was not capable of functioning on his own, Worley, who later moved to Randolph County, MS and Richard who moved to Blount County, TN. In addition, there were at least three probable daughters. Charity, who moved to Blount County, TN with Richard, clearly was one. David's son Richard apparently was born 1775-87 in NC (David died in 1787). We can locate son Richard on the 1820 Census of Giles Co, TN; 1830 census in Tipton Co., TN. Then, he apparently moved to Texas after it became a Republic in 1836. There is also a Richard Linville on the 1840 census in Wayne County, but, it is not clear he is the same one.

David's son Richard owned land in San Augustin Co., TX as is indicated by a land deed from Richard's daughter Mary Ann Linville and her husband Sanders Jefferson Thacker to Mathew Cartwright on May 22, 1842. The deed states "a part of the same land heired by us from the estate of Richard Linsville, Dec'd."

The following genealogical notes were found by Claude E. Thacker in the papers of Ralph W. Thacker dated 1963:

D. Linville - Brother of Mary Ann Linville Thacker, who was the wife of Sanders Jefferson Thacker.

D. Linville, served in the military forces of the Republic of Texas, during those turbulent days that brought Independence from Mexico.

The Muster Roll Book of the General Land Office, Austin, Texas, page 47, lists David Linville, San Augustine, County, Volunteer Capt. Ratcliff, Apr 1, 1836.

And on page 52, David Linville is listed in Cavitts Company May 9, 1836; San Augustine County, Texas.

For his services bounty warrant No. 1900 was issued by adjutant general James S. Gillett, January 30, 1855.

By virtue of this bounty warrant, he was granted 320 acres of land in Brown County, Texas, Travis Bounty No. 565, Volume No. 16.

In addition there is a note which states that a minor child of Richard Linville's was living in another state at the time of Richard's death. The 1985 edition of "Linville Roots" suggested that this child might be the Joseph Linville married to Mary and listed on the 1860 census of Wayne Co., TN. But in Aug, 1999 this seems unlikely since the Wayne County, TN Linvilles seem mostly to be from the South Carolina branch. Frances Civillia Linville of Wayne Co. TN (*LFA* p. 382) married an unidentified Linville who might be related to either.

Subsequent errata from this original publication:

None available.