

LINVILLE ROOTS

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ARE THE LENWELL'S LINVILLES?

In 1976 Robert Lenwell, whom many may remember from the 1982 reunion, placed an advertisement in the *Genealogical Helper* asking people to check their local phone books for listings of Lenwells. He had been trying to place his family either definitively in or out of the Linville/Linvill family. The following poem was a response to his ad. It illustrates, poetically, the problem he has been facing.

Dear Mr. Lenwell,
I'm sorry to say
That in reading the "Helper" in peace yesterday
I noticed your query (so harmless it looks)
Said, "Bet you can't find my folks in all of your books."
And I said to myself, "This guy has some guts!
'Cause I've got lots of books -- no ifs, ands or buts." So
I started right in to locate all your kin
And by nightfall my fingers & nerves were worn thin!
Wouldn't you think I'd have found them, I ask ya
In Iowa, Hardin, Poweshiek or Mahaska?
Not in Story or Marshall, or Jasper or Polk
Or Marion Counties could I find your folk.
But I said to myself this job isn't done.
All those county books list only farmers, so, Son,
Now I'll get all my telephone books just to see
If a Lenwell or Linwell lurks in a city.
Sixty-nine towns, Sir, and I'm on the brink
Of deciding your people are all but extinct!
I've exhausted my resources, such as they are.
I sure wish I'd have found just one Lenwell in thar.
If you need any help finding kin you just yell -
But don't you Dare ask me to search for Lenwell.
Once is enough, tho I know, yes, I do
That if EVER I find one -- I'll sure think of you.
Sue Cochran

Evidence for the family of Lenwell and its ancestors is at present slim. In fact there is so little evidence that it seems likely that the name Lenwell is indeed a misspelled version of Linville.

The first evidence is from Marion County Indiana Marriage Records which listed three grooms and two brides with that spelling:

James Lenwell and Rachel Delzell July 18, 1829,
Noah Lenwell and Silva Kirkendall June 5, 1831
George Lenwell and Barthena McCurdy September 3, 1833
Nancy Lenwell and Alexis Harman January 21, 1830
Betsy Lenwell and Isaac Lacy December 15, 1842

There is not any real evidence to suggest they are related to Gerard Lenwell recounted below. It is simply that the spelling of the last name and the fact that none of them are presently accounted for in *Linville Family in America* (1982) in the Linville spelling suggests that they may be. The only other reference to the spelling Lenwell is in Ohio 1840 census which lists a Daniel Lenwell in Montgomery County, city of Dayton. There may be a real connection here since Gerard's first son is named Daniel.

Perhaps its only coincidence that Gerard's family should have lived so close to the descendants of two branches of Joseph Linville of Berks County, Pennsylvania. *Linville Family in America* (p. 14-40) discusses the problems in establishing the descendants of Joseph's apparent sons Benjamin and Elisha. Both clearly had descendants living in Whitley County, Indiana at the time when Gerard Lenwell died in that county. His previous residence, had been in Kosciusko County, Indiana, adjacent to Whitley.

To confuse things more, Gerard is listed on the 1870 census as having been born in Delaware. At present there is no other evidence of Linvilles or Lenwells in Delaware. Following the list of Gerard's descendants are examples of research tasks which would need to be carried out to further identify this family and determine whether they are indeed Linvilles as suspected.

- 1 Gerard Lenwell is listed as age 44 in 1870, having been born in Delaware. This is the reference located for him on the census thus far. He was married to an Elizabeth _____, listed as the same age, born in Ohio. Elizabeth died November

4, 1873 and was buried with several of her children in Abbott Cemetery in Kosciusko, County, Indiana. The age recorded on her gravestone is 47 years 9 months and 4 days. Gerard died in the adjacent county - Whitley - on December 24, 1879. Before his death he married Susan (Ault) Coleman who was born December 20, 1831 in Wayne County, Ohio. She died April 6, 1905 in Whitley County, Indiana. No children were born to him by his second wife.

CHILDREN:

- Eliza Lenwell born 1848 Ind (1870 Census)
 - Daniel Clinton Lenwell born 1849 Indiana (1870 Census) is believed to have died in 1899 in Colorado.
 - 2 Oren Sylvester Lenwell born 1851 Sidney, Indiana
 - George Washington Lenwell born May, 1858 Indiana died March 19, 1863 and buried in Abbott Cemetery
 - Lucinda Lenwell born 1854 Indiana (1870 census) died in Denver, Colorado about 1878
 - Elcey B. Lenwell born 1857 Indiana (1870 Census)
 - Hulda Ellen Lenwell died February 15, 1862 age 15 months 7 days, buried in Abbott Cemetery with mother
 - Ambrose Lenwell died February 19, 1863 age 3 mons, buried in Abbott Cemetery
 - Alice G. Lenwell born January 25, 1864, died Oct 21. 1872 age 7 years, 9 months and 29 days, buried in Abbott Cemetery
 - Francis Adella Lenwell (Alice's twin) born January 25, 1864 died 1937 South Whitley, Indiana
 - Walter D. Lenwell born April 3, 1867 Warsaw, Indiana died October 21, 1937 Toledo, Ohio
- 2 Oren (Gerard¹), born in Indiana in 1851, died on July 7, 1909 in Larwill, IN. With his wife Faraby Jane "Jennie" Freeman (born March 1855, died January 1936) he had six children.

CHILDREN:

- 3 Marion Francis Lenwell "Frank" born March, 1873
 - 4 Freeman Lenwell born Dec. 1875
 - 5 Curtis Lenwell born Dec., 1878
 - 6 Cora Alice Lenwell born November 27, 1880
 - 7 Clyde Leigh Lenwell born April 13, 1884
 - 8 Selby R. Lenwell born July, 1893
- 3 Marion Francis Lenwell (Oren², Gerard¹) born in 1873 married Eva Sparks (born Jan, 1877) and died May, 1958. They were the parents of six who had descendants.

CHILDREN:

- Lena Lenwell born June 30, 1895 married Charles Gilbert and died March 1922.
 - Allie Lenwell born March, 1898 married Lucille Scott died 1952-4
 - Berniece Lenwell born about 1898-1900 married Thomas Bright
 - Wilbdean Maurine Lenwell born 1900 married _____ Lester and died 1930
 - Thelma Lenwell born 1907 married Dale Shock
 - Helen Lenwell born Feb 1916 married Marion Randolph
- 4 Freeman Lenwell (Oren², Gerard¹) and his wife Indiana _____ had two children: A daughter died in infancy and a son, Max Lenwell. Freeman died in Feb, 1965.
- 5 Curtis Lenwell (Oren², Gerard¹) was born in Dec, 1878 and married Ann _____ who was born Aug, 1875. They had three daughters - Ruby, Velma and an infant who died young.
- 6 Cora Alice Lenwell (Oren², Gerard¹) was born Nov 27, 1880 and married Dr. Lewis Tennant. She died in Oct, 1976 and had two sons - Lewis Lenwell Tennant and David Lewis Tennant.
- 7 Clyde Leigh Lenwell (Oren², Gerard¹) was born April 13, 1884 and married Ruth Naples.

CHILDREN:

- Mary Catherine Lenwell born Jun 5, 1914, married Roscoe Bucher
 - Clyde Lewis Lenwell born Aug 13, 1916 married Jeanne Ratliff
 - Frederic Leigh Lenwell born Jun 2, 1919 married Dorothea Waldvogel
 - Anna Jane Lenwell born Apr 4, 1922 married James Darrell Stanley
 - Donald Blaine Lenwell born Dec 14, 1924 married Evelyn Gordon second married Martha Van Camp
 - James Edwin Lenwell born Apr 23, 1927 married Marzee Zimmer
- 8 Selby R. Lenwell (Oren², Gerard¹) was born Jul, 1893 married Mary _____.

CHILDREN:

- Madeline Lenwell born 1914
- Robert Lenwell born 1916
- Marjorie June Lenwell born 1919

Although more is known about some of the children in this third generation of Gerard Lenwell's descendants, the research to place the entire family more firmly in the Linville picture would have to concentrate on these generations. The following is a list of research tasks to be completed:

- Land and Probate Records in Whitley and Koscuisko counties, Indiana.
- 1900 Census records (& Soundex) for Indiana which should list month and date of birth, place of parents births.
- 1860 Indiana Census - at least Koscuisko County and probably Whitley County, too.
- 1840 Ohio Census for Daniel Lenwell
- Land and Probate Records in Montgomery County, Ohio
- Land and Probate Records in Marion County, Indiana
- 1880 Census for Whitley and Kosciusko County, Indiana
- Death records for all of Gerard's children's as well as his own

After some of these are accomplished perhaps a clearer picture can be related in a later issue of "Linville Roots."

THE CORSET THAT SAVED LINNVILLE

Many Linvilles continually send in clippings of interest to other members of the family. While most of them tend to be achievements, obituaries or examples of one Linville's path crossing another, two Linvilles sent the following clipping in. Both Vera Carte of West Virginia and Joan Wadsworth of California read this article in their local newspapers - Dated Oct 10, 1982:

"The residents of Linnville, Tex., were saved from an Indian massacre because of a whalebone corset. In August, 1840, a band of Commanches raided the customs office outside the tiny port town. After killing the customs officer, Major Watts, they prepared to rape his wife. Her

outer clothes came off easily enough - but not her sturdy corset. The Indians struggled mightily to undo it but finally gave up and took the half-dressed woman prisoner.

"The delay in the assault gave the townsfolk time to pile into their boats and escape. When the Indians finally rode into Linnville, it was deserted. They looted and burned the town, then tied Mrs. Watts to a tree, shot an arrow into her breast and left her to die.

"She didn't. The same corset that saved her townsmen had blunted the arrow and saved her life. She had only a bad sunburn and a minor wound."

PETER LINVILLE'S DESCENDANTS IN TEXAS

Those of you who attended the Linville Family Reunion in 1982 will remember four charming women who drove up from Texas to join the festivities. At the time all they knew was that their grandmother was a Linville. Since then Hope St. Mars, one of the women, has put together family data and found several more of those wonderful Linville Family photographs. It is now possible to identify their great grandmother as the daughter of Squire Peter Linville (Burton³, Aaron², Peter¹) on page 304 of *Linville Family in America* and his wife Julia Ann Brown.



SQUIRE PETER LINVILLE

Hope was able to locate the grave of Squire Peter's mother, Nancy A. (___) Linville in Waxahachiet Texas. The gravestone indicates she was born July 16, 1816 and died Nov. 20, 1899. The next issue of "Linville Roots" will update this branch of Peter Linville's descendants.

WILLIAM STUDDARD AND CHARITY LINVILLE

One of the most interesting and complicated stories about the Linvilles involves the court case concerning Richard Linville (son of Thomas and Hannah of Conestoga, PA and Belews Creek, NC) and his competency. At his death a long, drawn out case proceeded to determine whether he had been capable of exercising prudent judgement in his business transactions. Thomas Campbell, former overseer of Richard's estate was integrally involved in that battle. A descendant of William

Studdard has been able to illuminate some of the complicated family relationships which that court case suggested. Mary Lou Delahunt of Avon, IL sent in the following list:

William Studdard	married	Charity Linville in 1797
d. before 1812		her second marriage to
		Thomas Campbell

Child:

Richard Studdard b. 1800 Stokes County, NC; m. Anna Fulp on October 20, 1819 Stokes Co.; d. about 1841 Iowa or Indiana
Listed on 1840 census of Shelby County, Indiana

Children:

- Mahala Jane Studdard b. 1821 m. Anames Simpkins
- Nancy Studdard b. Jan., 1824 m. Samuel Buffington
- John M. Studdard b. 1825 m. Virginia McClary
- Thomas C. Studdard b. 1826 m. Ann Eliza Pickens
- Charity Studdard b. 1832 m. James Taylor

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With many apologies, the first issue of the subscription edition of "Linville Roots" is finally here. The publication dates still are intended to be February and August of each year. Future delays are not anticipated for subsequent issues.

This year has been extremely difficult for me. My husband decided not to continue our marriage making it necessary for me to reorganize my professional life in order to provide a stable, supportive environment for my daughter and myself. I am pleased to report that Cady and I are doing fine. We have moved to 1/2 block from the college where I was able to obtain a rewarding full time job and two blocks from her school. Life is getting more streamlined and we have many supportive people around us. Everyday is still an adventure. We hope things are well with all of our very extended family and are looking forward to the 1987 reunion.

Subsequent errata from this original publication:

No Lenwells have joined the Y-DNA project to determine whether there is a possible connection between those using the two surnames - Lenwell an Linvill.