

LINVILLE ROOTS

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(Edited and Updated Aug, 1999)

NORTH NORTHLANDS

When Thomas and Elizabeth (Wickersham) Linvill's grandchildren immigrated to Penn's Colony, they left behind some land. This habit seems to have been carried on for three more generations with land holdings when each generation left the former residence and migrated in the "New World." The Sussex land was held until 1699 when, in Philadelphia County Deeds (Book C-1, Vol. 3, p. 185] sale of the land was finalized with Nicholas Cox and Humphrey Killingbeck, the grantees. The deed mentions "Norther or Northlands," a piece of land in Fletching of about 14 acres. In trying to trace the land holding it became apparent that it now falls within the newly created Danehill Parish in East Sussex with a very active parish historical society. Mrs. Louise Mestal, a genealogist in Lewes, Sussex who has been working in collaboration with me, contacted the historical society, supplying them with a copy of the deed which I sent.

Unbeknownst to both of us was the wonderful research completed by the members of the society regarding a section of their parish called Church Lane, including one 14 acre farm called, "North Northlands." It is even clearly marked on the Ordinance Survey Landranger 198 map for Brighton and The Downs. In June 1987 shortly before my mother Rhoda Linville Eichholz lost her battle with an aggressive cancer, my brother Dr. Richard Linville Eichholz, under the expert guidance of Mrs. Mestal, was able to visit and take pictures of the farm and other family haunts in that area of our Linville ancestry. Mom saw the pictures of her ancestors' 17th century homestead in the last week of her life. We all were able to share them along with the history of that special place during the 1987 Reunion in Tanglewood.

Since then, another family member, Nary Alice Hornecker of Oregon, MO has also been to visit North Northlands which must have been a source of accomplishment to our progenitor Thomas Linville who, as a seaman and laborer, acquired the property through the apparent efforts of his father-in-law Richard Wickersham. Both Linville and Wickersham died within months of each other, while Linville's wife Elizabeth (Wickersham) Linville continued to stay connected to the Tudor home with their two children, Cassandra and our immigrant ancestor Richard Linvill.

This issue of "Linville Roots" reprints the history of the homestead as researched and recorded by members in the *Danehill Parish Historical Society Magazine* [2(Feb 1983), p. 2-8]. The next issue will add to our understanding of our English ancestors with an accounting of the prime mover behind the acquisition - Richard Wickersham, Reeve of Sheffield Manor, and Thomas Linville's father-in-law. Material in the following excerpts in() appears in the original publication. Material in [] was added by this editor.

"Church Lane, Danehill"

The By-Pass

A rental for the Manor of Sheffield made in 1597-8 refers [Sussex Records Society Vol. 39] to 'the queenes highwaie' leading from Sheffield towards Danehill; nearing the end of its journey the road climbed a steep hill and bisected the common called "The Denwood": a part of the wasteland belonging to the Lord of Sheffield Manor.

In circa 1818 a by-pass was built to avoid the hill, travellers thereafter used the new part of the road, and the route over the hill became a quiet country lane. It also became a 'desirable residential area' and a number of 'gentleman's residences' were built, and later some smaller property. In 1892 a new Church crowned Danehill, and the old 'Highwaie' became known as "Church Lane."

Early Homes

There are several houses still standing on the hill erected there long before the old road was by-passed. Some of them are over four centuries old. Why were they built? Who were the people who lived in them? For the answer to these questions we must look beyond the confines of Danehill.

The reign of Henry VII and also his daughter Elizabeth was a time of great enterprise and progress. In the countryside the large holdings of land were being divided so that the ground could be more intensely cultivated, and the woods and waste-lands cleared; therefore more farmhouses were required. Also, in the Wealden Counties the iron industry flourished. Our locality was heavily engaged in making the iron; there were furnaces or forges at Freshfield, Sheffield, Horsted Keynes and Fletching. [Note: This flourishing of the iron industry may indeed be why Thomas Linvill, whose former occupation was "seaman"

moved up the River Ouse from New Haven on the English Channel.] The prospect of wealth and employment attracted many more people to the district and with the prosperity created, they invested their money in acquiring land and in erecting the substantial well built houses that have survived to this day.

The people who lived on the hill were a tight-knit little community; for centuries their history is closely interwoven, and reflected the time they lived in.

"North Northlands"

[In researcher Mrs. Margaret Holt's opinion] about 1550 "North Northlands" was erected on Danehill. The builder chose a comparatively level site at the top of the hill, well back from the old road, behind the boundary of the Lord's waste-land. He built a substantial timber-framed yeoman farm house. By the mid-nineteenth century a barn and an oast-house [silo type house for roast malt] flanked the south side. In Victorian times a small cottage was attached to the north end. The exterior wall of both buildings have been protected by oak weather boards painted white. In the original farmhouse there are many exposed oak beams.



View from the Gate



View from the Oast House

Photographs taken by Dr. Richard Linville Eichholz, June 1987

In front of the house (on the old waste-land) there is a grassed orchard and a pond. Beside the Victorian cottage there is a little ruined stoned building, which appears to have been built in the shape of a beehive with an arched door and steps descending to a pit. This little building was, perhaps, the remains of a small ice-house. Butchers are known to have been connected with "North Northlands" since (at least) the early part of the eighteenth century, and continued

there for two hundred years. This fact, coupled with a pond which in winter could supply the ice, supports this theory.

Why was the farm called "North Northland"? There was a large block of land of at least 136 acres called "le Northlands" or "le Nordelands". When a survey of the Manor of Sheffield was made in the year 1565, this land had already been divided as follows:

46 acres known as "Norde Nodelands" tenant John Collins, (land now including "North Northlands" and "Mount Noddy" - though "Mount Noddy" farm-house had not then been built.)

30 acres known as "The Upper Part of the Northlands" tenant Will Collin's heirs. (now the "Moaps", though an earlier farm-house was on this site.)

The above lands were assessed at: 20 acres at 2s-6d per acre. 56 acres at 7d per acre.

60 acres known as "The South Part of Norde Nordelands" tenant Thomas Turner. (land now belonging to "North Northlands Farm" off Ketches Lane, Danehill.) All these lands were described as "I'Villein" lands held of the Manor of Sheffield.

"Villein tenure", a term to describe a particular kind of customary tenant, is a very early type of tenancy in use and described by the early 12th century. What was a villein? *The Local Historian's Encyclopedia* by John Richardson (p. 35) gave a concise answer.

Villein - a general term to describe an unfree tenant who had a share in the agricultural system of the manor. He was above the status of a slave but was assumed...to be annexed to the lord's person. In return for his land-holding he was obliged to perform a variety of services and pay of range of fines. His holding was at the will of the lord and he could be deposed from it. His daughter could not marry without the payment of a fine (merchet), he could not acquire land that would not be taxed and upon his death a fine (heriot) was by his heirs.

The manorial system had gradually evolved by custom and usage long before written records were kept. The system worked through the medium of the Manor Courts. The unfree land remained in perpetuity the property of the lord of the Manor, and must be returned to him and regranted at every change of tenancy. The new tenant must render the feudal dues and swear fealty to his lord. The annual rent (once assessed) remained unchanged; unless a parcel of land was divided, in which case the rent would be apportioned. The custom of Sheffield Manor was that the heir to the tenancy would be the eldest son (or failing a son the eldest daughter). In Horsted Keynes (which was in the Broadhurst Manor) the youngest son was heir. Widows were often

allowed to keep the tenancy for their lifetime. It was usual for the husband to obtain prior permission and pay the feudal dues and this was recorded in the [Manor] Court Book; after his death the jurors testified that it was the man's wish that his widow should hold the property for her lifetime. When a woman inherited property; if she married, the tenancy could be held jointly with her husband for 'the longest-liver' of them. In later times services owed to the lord were often commuted to a monetary payment.

To return to "The Northlands"; in addition to the annual rent the tenants at "North Northlands", "Moaps" and "Northland's Farm" paid to the lord annually, 'one hen, five eggs and gave one day's work in harvest.' This payment was for 'rights of common'; - to be allowed to pasture a given number of animals and collect fire-wood etc., on the wasteland.

To date, we have no earlier records of "the Northlands" before 1565. The early tenants are just names entered in the Court Books and Rental of the Manor of Sheffield.

John Collins, the elder, married Ann Brooks at Fletching Church the 4th of July 1556 [Fletching Parish Register]. In the Sheffield Manor Court Book 1570 [S.A.A. 787/8 East Sussex Record Office], John Collins petitioned for license to rent 'certain villein lands' called "North Northlands" for fourteen years. Thirteen years later, John Collins, (the younger) applied for a tenancy of 60 acres and this being granted, the following year he surrendered back into the hands of the lord "northland; 30 acres and a tenement set in wood, heath and field" with the request that this property might be re-granted to him, to be held jointly with his intended wife, Joan Pollard, and for their future heirs. The remaining 30 acres, which was "Moaps land" was claimed by Margerie Browne, the eldest daughter of Will Collins.

Obviously John married Joan for in 1588 they surrendered a field of three or four acres for the use of John Lucas and his wife Thomasina.

The land now seems to have divided into 30 acres "Moaps"; 30 acres "Mount Noddy"; 12 acres "North Northlands" and that the "Mount Noddy" lands were farmed by the latter.

In 1598 John and Joan Collins surrender 20 acres of "Mount Noddy" land for the use of Richard Awcock, who was at that time, farming the adjoining free lands (now part of St. Raphaels and Haven Farm, Danehill.)

1606 - John Collins (the younger) has died. His trustees sell "North Northlands" described as 'four parcels of villein land containing 12 acres with a tenement and orchard at Danehill' on behalf of Joan Collins, widow to Edward Bassett. Purchase price L100.

1620 - Edward Bassett has died. His daughter Agnes Bassett is the next heir. She married Richard Martin and they are then granted a joint tenancy,

1656 - Richard Martin(the older) and Richard Martin (the younger) surrender their tenancy to the lord for the use of Thomas Linvill (perhaps by compulsion? It was the stormy days of the Commonwealth.)

1658 - Thomas Linvill is dead. His widow Elizabeth Linvill asks leave of the Court to lease out her copyhold lands called "North Northlands" for two seasons. (Elizabeth was now holding the lands by the copy of an agreement made in the Manor Court.)

1735 - The next [Manor] Court book is lost [It was extant until about 25 years ago when it mysteriously disappeared. It is possible that it still exists. {Update: Aug, 1999 this editor discovered its whereabouts at Duke University library and will be researching it soon], but in the East Sussex Record Office there is a copy of a Court Roll dated 1735 (Adema 1471 wherein it is recorded that Edward Bristow and Elizabeth his wife [who turns out to be Nicholas Cox' daughter] surrender "North Northlands" 14 acres for 'the uses he shall write in his Will). It is through his Will made in 1735 and proved in 1738, that the shadowy figures [given the "lost" Manor Court Book] of the past begin to emerge more clearly. Elizabeth Bristow may have died or been very ill, for Edward Bristow, butcher, of "North Northlands" appointed his sister Mary Cripps...guardian of his young children ... and he directed that "North Northlands" should be sold He gives the impression of being a prudent, careful man. He is meticulous in identifying the property 'late Humphrey Killingbecks, before Wellers, Linvills and Martins.

[The history then continues following the Tudor house and farm up to the 20th century.]

A series of tenants on the Hardy estate occupied "North Northlands", until in 1910 Mark Awcock ... bought the property out of the "Danehurst" Estate and ran a small milk and dairy herd from there. On his death the property passed to his daughter Ruby, the wife of Frederick Stubbins.

When Mr. Stubbins took over the property about forty years ago it was in a very dilapidated condition, and condemned for milking on the farm. Mr. Stubbins converted the oast-house into a milking parlour (it was considered ideal as there were no corners to harbour the dirt) and he was one of the first farmers in this district to have tuberculin tested cattle. His wife predeceased him and in later years he sold all the farm land and animals and ran the two acres adjoining to the back of the house as a small market garden.

He made two interesting finds at "North Northlands:" an old gun, pinfired, and beautifully decorated, hidden behind the old bread oven; and a large and most handsomely engraved brass pot, which had been used in the copper as the wash-bowl. This was in the kitchen of the adjoining cottage, which had been used as a store-room for thirty years.

In 1977 Mr. Stubbins sold the farm-house and the remaining two acres of land, and retired.

The old house was completely restored and modernized by its new owners. Sturdy and strong once more it stood ready to begin yet another chapter in its long history. The old Tudor farmhouse had now become one of the most 'desirable residencies' in Church Lane.

We can now fill in the owners for the period between 1658 and 1699 a bit with what we know about the Linvills in that time period.

THOMAS LINVILL, seaman of New Haven and probable son of John and Jane (Napkin) Linvill of Telscombe and New Haven, married for a second time, ELIZABETH WICKERSHAM, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Evans) Wickersham, 25 May 1648 Fletching Parish [Register I]. They had two children known to live to maturity:

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND ELIZABETH (WICKERSHAM) LINVILL

CASSANDRA LINVILL bap 20 Aug 1653, Fletching [Parish Register II] married as Cassandra Invill to WILLIAM WELLER, aleseller, in Fletching Parish 4 Jun 1672. The fragment remaining from the Court Roll dated 1735 [see above] records that Edward Bristow identified the former owners of North Northlands as "and before that Wellers, Linvills and Martins". Cassandra and her husband William Weller, were both buried in Fletching 29 Mar 1712 and 24 Apr 1706, respectively. Their wills, leaving bequests to their children still living, were proved at Archdeaconry of Lewes. William's was written 8 May 1705 and proved 25 Jan 1706/7 [Bk A 46 #242]; Cassandra's written 23 Mar 1711/12, proved 12 May 1712 [Bk A 48 #205]. They are known to have had the following children all baptized and recorded in the Fletching Parish Register Book II.

CHILDREN OF CASSANDRA LINVILL AND WILLIAM WELLER

- MARY WELLER bap 24 Aug 1673 d. infancy
- STEPHEN WELLER bap 7 Dec 1674; bur 11 Apr 1685
- WILLIAM WELLER bap 20 Aug 1676
- JOHN WELLER bap 29 Oct 1678; bur 22 Jan 1679/80
- MARY WELLER bap 29 Oct 1678
- SARAH WELLER bap 20 Feb 1680/1
- ELIZABETH WELLER bap 19 Aug 1683; bur. "daughter of Widow Weller" 28 Jun 1706
- JOHN WELLER bap 8 Nov 1685
- RICHARD WELLER bap 22 Jul 1688
- THOMAS [WELLER] bap 9 Jun 1690, sonn of [_____]
- JAMES WELLER bap 29 Mar 1692
- EDWARD WELLER bap 12 Aug 1694

RICHARD LINVILL'S baptism was either not recorded or it is possibly the entry eaten by rodents in the second Fletching Parish Register which reads: "[_____] Oct. 1655 [_____]rd, the sonn of Thomas [_____]." He is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wickersham) Linvill by evidence of the above cited Philadelphia Deed when Richard's widow Mary Baldwin and Linvill's two sons John and Thomas Linvill sold their rights and title to North Northlands. With the second Manor of Sheffield Court Book not yet searched, it is impossible to tell at what point Richard's sister Cassandra and her family occupied the farm. As Richard LINUELL(sic) he married MARY HART in Maresfield, an adjoining parish 28 Jan 1672/3 [See "Linville Roots," Vol. 3 No. 1]. They had two sons who were the progenitors of all those who spell the name LINVILLE or LINVILL in the United States and Canada.

CHILDREN OF RICHARD LINVILL AND MARY HART

- JOHN LINVILL born 25 May 1677 Sussex
- THOMAS LINVILL born 9 Dec 1679 Sussex

REUNION AT TANGLEWOOD

The weather was hot, sultry but the over 125 people shared a marvelous family "happening" on what has turned out to be the surprise discovery of yet another "original" Linville residence - a Plantation

on the Yadkin River in North Carolina. It was a time for reacquainting ourselves with family members we'd met in Pennsylvania in 1982 and for meeting other relatives from as far away as Yukon Territories. It was also a time for "small world" coincidences - some of which were discovered only after the weekend and will all eventually fill the pages of "Linville Roots."

We were greeted Friday upon entrance to the now luxuriously appointed recreational/resort of Tanglewood in Forsyth County, NC by a huge sign, WELCOME LINVILLE FAMILY REUNION on the park entrance board, hoisted by park director James R. "Ron" Linville - the first of the small world experiences. We gathered at Shelter #1 for the beginnings of the Linville Scavenger Hunt (finding the Linvilles that fit the clues); a chance to go through the Linville Exhibits with a chronicle of pictures and documents about family starting in 17th century England and the wonderful photographs from North Northlands and Richard Wickersham's "Woodgates" estate; the now famous and REVISED five generation chart of the Linvilles, with our color-coded dots to identify from which branch each Linville descends.

Coffee Check-in on Saturday roused all of us at 8 a.m. for luscious seasonal fruit and never-ending juice and coffee and a slide show about the development of Tanglewood Park. Ron Linville started us out with a story about how he came to be park director, just in time for the 305th Anniversary Family Reunion. There were topographical maps indicating where the two major Linville settlements were (Yadkin Forks and Belews Creek) and where Thomas Linville moved to near Boone, NC on what is now the Linville/ Vanderpool Creek area on the border of Wilkes and Ashe counties to orient us for our Modern Wagon Train Linville History Tour. The tour included:

- visit to the site of the oldest oak tree in North Carolina nearly SIX FEET in diameter which has been labeled the Joyce Kilmer tree and stands right in front of the Tanglewood Manor House. It is clearly a tree with roots established when William Linvill built the first cabin on Tanglewood property before 1753.
- walk down to the Yadkin River, and a feeling about it as the major route of transportation in the 1700's. We knew John, Ann, William, Morgan, Lucretia, and Elizabeth had tickled their toes, fished and carried the their father's trapping and hunting wares from rafts in the water from the same spot where we were standing.
- tracing Cornwallis's footsteps across the Yadkin at Shallowford, traipsing right across the Bryan Settlement where the Linvills and Boones lived.
- a drive along parts of the Great Wagon Road which started 435 miles north in Philadelphia and ended "just above the mouth of

Linville Creek" (Now Blanket Creek - at Lasiter's Mill, just across Interstate 40, north of Tanglewood].

- a guided visit to Bethabara and the stockade fort built for the local settlers including 60 people from the Bryan Settlement in 1760 during the French and Indian War. We know that the Linvills had not left the Settlement for safer territory as so many had, and that they were likely in the group of 60 who took refuge at the fort.
- Visit to the old store, post office, boat dock in Belews Creek Settlement where Thomas Linville and his family first staked their claims in the 1750's. Much of the land is now under the Belews Creek Reservoir, but local Linville residents -- Mike, Byron, and Dan Linville; P. J. Fulton -- could still point out the old spots and you could still buy two cookies for 5 cents in the store. The northeast section of Forsyth County is still the highest concentration of Linville descendants living in an original settlement area of the family.

Returning to Tanglewood from the tour and plunging into the water from atop the giant water slide or into one of the swimming pools, we were refreshed and ready to cook-out at the campground shelter where several Linville families were camping. We were joined by Larry and Esther Linvill from Linvilla Orchards in Pennsylvania, who at the last minute had canceled their planned trip to Iceland and hopped in the car for the ride down the Great Wagon Road to North Carolina. Witches brew, hot dogs, hamburgers (Jim and Francis McAtee's cute little net umbrellas kept the bees off theirs!) were the fare. Clarence and Genivia Jury had the most incredible homemade peach cobbler to share. The kids had a wonderful time in the extended playground.

There was so much sharing and friendliness that we stayed up until the wee hours at the campsite and in the Manor house. It was a real treat for me because several people have really taken up the task of trying to fill in the areas of research I haven't been able to yet cover. Most notably from this visit were Jim Linville of Maryland, Louise McKinstry of Louisville and Robert Lenwell of Florida who had wonderful bits and pieces for me to chew on which are turning out to be exciting and productive... even a fascinating connection to the Boones which we never had known before [See "Linville Roots," Vol. 6 Nos 1-2].

On Sunday, we met under the shade of the giant trees on the lawn of the Manor House right next to the Rose Garden with 400 species of roses. Diana (Pollack) Paradise from Alabama and Sharon Martin from Alaska sang accompanied by music they taped on the Manor House foot pedal organ and I talked about how to keep our family history alive. We took some of those wonderful Linville Family Pictures again and then headed for the Family Picnic - catered with more food than any of us could eat - roast beef, chicken, salads, beans, rolls, cobbler, tea, punch. The kids spent the time at the pool and the deer park feeding

the deer while the adults talked about how to engender more family interest to build a solid family association which could fund more concentrated research as the gift that Dr. Frank Linville had given for the research in Sussex.

It was a wonderful time. We all missed my mom, Rhoda Linville Eichholz and Dr. Frank Linville and all of you who weren't able to attend, but we were renewed in a more solid basis for continuing into the future.

One of the things we discussed was whether to become a non-profit family organization. I am continuing to explore this possibility, though from others I have talked with, the benefits don't really make the effort all that clear. In the meantime, all Linville research will continue to try to be funded through the sale of books, charts, pictures, etc. Please let others in your family know what they are missing.

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FIVE GENERATION PROJECT
(The Future of Linville History!)

In order to complete my application for Certified Genealogist, I have been working on a thorough reexamination of all the materials possible, including tracing the collateral female lines for the first four Linville generations, beginning with Thomas and Elizabeth (Wickersham) Linville down to naming the children of their grandchildren, John and Thomas, the immigrants. I submitted my application which was approved with many positive comments. For those of you who keep after me about "the sources" you will be pleased to know that the 25 page single-spaced document has 192 footnotes. I have been tracking down every bit and piece I can for the first four generations and feel highly confident about the results.

My next goal is to do the same detailed work for the fifth generation, naming all the grandchildren of John and Thomas, the immigrants. It is in the fifth generation that all the "problems" emerge. Those of you who have an old five generation chart will know what I mean. I have already made GREAT progress on some of it but can't put it all together until further research is done in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina. I am also going back over all the fifth generation Pennsylvania material as well.

This concentrated work on the fifth generation will be for focus of my research in the next few years. I will continue to rely on the rest of you for updates on you own immediate family and branches and focus my role on pulling it all together in the early generations.

I don't expect to publish another Linville book, per se. Instead, I have revised the large Linville Family in America five-generation chart to include all the specific relationships about the Linvills we have discovered in the research in England and the U.S. since 1982. The new chart, which was available at the reunion, is different from the old one in the first two generations. The old one was speculative. This one is documentable. You will want a copy of the new one! [Aug, 1999 - under revision the 2000 version will name all the known and probable children of John and Thomas, including females, and their children.]

Given the expense of publishing, the most economical way to continue to update family members with the research results is through the "Linville Roots" newsletter [Aug 1999 - and through establishing a website].

There are over 1000 families on the Linville mailing list [Aug 1999 - which needs serious updating] though it is hard to keep it up-to-date. Please continue to send new and updated addresses for family members. I am moving more and more into computer operations with all the family material in order to make all the research and communication easier.

Thank you all for your wonderful support and enthusiasm. The 1988 slogan for the National Genealogical Society Conference in Biloxi, MS is "The two most important things a parent can give a child are ROOTS and WINGS." We are doing a good job of it!

Subsequent errata from this original publication:

Pages 5-6 Sheffield Manor Court Roll II has been located. See information posted in MyFamily Linville News 8.24.11.

Pages 7-8 "New Haven" should be "Newhaven" throughout. Thomas Linvill appears to have a first marriage, making him born c1618.

See MyFamily Linville News 8.24.11.

Proof that Richard Linvill is indeed the son of Thomas Linville and Elizabeth Wickersham, and born in 1655, is found in the Sheffield Manor Court Roll II.