

LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



G-7 IN CORNWALL REMINDER OF CORNISH HERITAGE

The global spotlight shone on Cornwall in Great Britain for almost a week this past June when the leaders from seven countries gathered for an informal economic and political summit.



Judy (Rule) Vivian of Linden township had the chance to visit the homeland of Cornwall. This was taken in the shadows of abandoned mine workings in the neighborhood of Redruth and Camborne.

A fair number of Linden area residents have family connections back to Cornwall from the 19th and early 20th century period of emigration. There are tangible Cornish landmarks in Linden yet today.

The exterior and interior of the Linden Methodist church is one shining example. Built by Cornish stone masons in 1851 and an interior designed by Thomas Blake. It has been written in past local history articles that Blake was from London, which is partially true, further research shows he was born and raised in Cornwall. In addition he was a furniture maker in Linden.

A few years ago I was showing a Cornish couple the inside of the Linden church and when they entered the sanctuary they looked like they had just seen a ghost. The man said as he looked around, "this is an exact duplicate of the chapel in Cornwall we were married in."

The Linden cemetery is another spot I have taken visitors from Cornwall to see and they marvel at the display of Cornish surnames on the monuments. More than one visitor remarked that they observed more Cornish names here than on some cemeteries in Cornwall.

The most common and prolific Cornish surname name in Linden since the 1830's has been Rule. Four Rule brothers, all miners, and their mother came direct from Camborne, Cornwall to Linden.

The late Ruth Jungbluth married Melvin Rule and spent over 12 years researching the Rule clan, and this was before Ancestry and the internet. Ruth once told me, with a deep laugh, "Once I got started there was no place to stop!" Ruth was also one of the founding members of the Linden Historical Society in 1976.

CORNISH HERITAGE, CONTINUED

Ruth once said, "At one time early in the 20th century in the village of Linden there were 50 Rules and that wasn't counting the Rules who were married with other names, that was just the people who were carrying the name Rule."

Ruth, who used to live farther up Sunny Slope road from me, used to say, "Right in this neighborhood they say either you're a Rule or a Jewell or else your wife was one, or her mother or your mother was one."

There were a number of Rule-Jewell marriages, four of William Jewell's children married Rules. It also became a bit confusing keeping track of everyone. William J. Rule married Elizabeth Ann Jewell; William F. Jewell married Elizabeth Ann Rule, for example, and to top it all off, they were all double first cousins.

Goldsworthy, Hawke, Hicks, Brewer, Richards, Faull, Baker, Rickard, Tredinnick, Varcoe, Spargo, Stevens, Stephens, Glanville, Crase, Gribble, Brown, Fine, Pollard, Liddicoat, Bray, Vial, Treglown are just some of the prominent Cornish surnames once active in Linden. A walk through the Linden cemetery will reveal many more.

Mining drew the Cornish to Linden starting with Michael Poad in 1833 as one of the earliest to settle here. Many came from the Cornish mining district of Camborne-Redruth while other immigrants hailed from a wide scattering of villages. Ed Geach was from St. Austell; Thomas Tregear from St. Just; William Treloar from Helston; Matthew Biddick from St. Issey; Thomas Batten from St. Allen and James Bowden from Tuckingwell to name a few.

Linden became a microcosm of the Cornish in America not just by their unique surnames but also by the customs and lifestyles that took root and flourished here. Up into the 1940's the Cornish dialect, with a few words right out of the old

Cornish language, could be heard and understood on the streets of Linden. Methodism, the mother church of Cornwall, was represented here with two Methodist churches. Pasties, saffron and tea biscuits are still popular here and represent the Cornish heritage.

Fishing was a major industry in Cornwall during the emigration years and each village had a fishmonger who pedaled the sale of fish up and down village streets. One Cornish emigrant transplanted that business plan from Cornwall to Linden.

"Billy Jeffrey, the fish man, did his usual amount of yelling and selling on our streets the first of this week," Linden news, *Montfort Mail*, August 3, 1899.

And, of course, there was a time when the Linden High School sports teams were known area wide as The Cornish Miners. Yearbooks in the early 1950's were named, Cornish Miner.

When it came to mining, the Cornish in Linden insisted on the old country system of Tribute mining and Tutwork. Tribute mining involved a team of 4-6 miners with one man being the "Captain" or boss who would bid on a specific area of a mine from the owner and work as independent contractors.



Wisconsin is the name of one house in Redruth, Cornwall. Other names I observed reflect mining areas all over the world that the Cornish miners emigrated to: Globe villa (Arizona), Auckland (New Zealand), Adelaide (Australia), Silver Bow, (Montana), Nevada, and a house since demolished named Hidalgo for the famous mining area of Mexico.

LINDEN JUST GOT CLOSER TO MINERAL POINT

Recently the state Department of Transportation surveyed for a new reconstruction of highway 39 from Mineral Point through to highway 18 at Edmund. Likely that was the reason for a recalibration of the mileage between Mineral Point and Linden and a new sign on the outskirts of Point that now indicates it is only six miles to Linden when it used to show eight.

For those who live in the immediate Linden area this is good news that we are suddenly two miles closer to Mineral Point than just a few months ago. Many of us either work there or go to the Point for services we don't have in Linden. The bad news is that Dodgeville is still ten miles away (by my reckoning) and it is still three miles up the road to Edmund.

Historically, there have been many links and connections with Mineral Point both in the arena of high school and amateur sports and in romance.

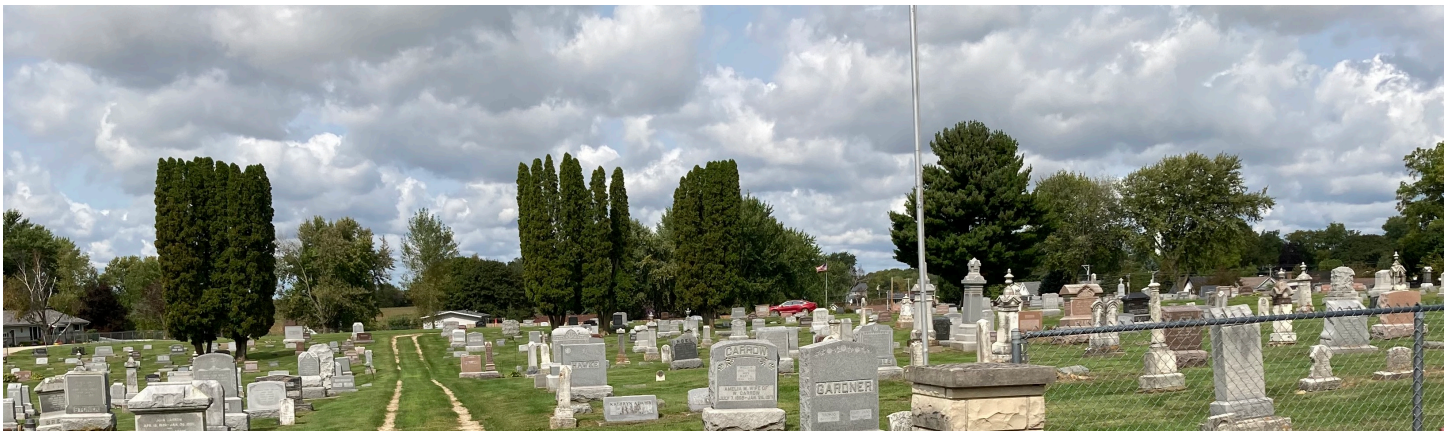
A headline in the June 22, 1922 *Mineral Point Tribune* declared, "Cupid Links Mineral Point and Linden." The paper followed that headline with, "As the Tribune of last week was being printed another of Cupid's skillful enactments was being rounded to a finish. This time the chosen stars in his nuptial drama were Milton William Treweek of Mineral Point and Minetta Mae Wearne of Linden, two of the best young people of this section."

When the newsletter editor was much younger the summer weekend dances at Soldiers Memorial Park in the dance hall pavilion were a draw. Live music and warm summer nights provided pleasant memories.

Going even further back in time, just before the Civil War tore the country apart, there was a county wide battle over the location of the courthouse. The seat of Iowa County government had been Mineral Point but in 1859 Dodgeville challenged that role and wanted the courthouse removed to their town. Linden backed Mineral Point in a losing effort in a county wide referendum. In April, 1861 Linden voted 271-79 to keep the courthouse in Mineral Point. It is important to remember that in 1861 "Linden" included both village and township voters, the village of Linden did not become a municipality until 1889.

On a serious note, we are all grateful to Mineral Point for fire department assistance and the Mineral Point ambulance. Their crews work so well with the Linden First responders.





View of Linden Cemetery from Church street.

LINDEN ARMCHAIR CEMETERY TOUR

EPISODE 4

Philipa Sara emigrated direct from Cornwall to Linden in 1891 to help take care of her aunt Grace Nicholas, profiled in the last issue of the newsletter. Philipa had a unique life story but her death also represents what genealogists and researchers sometime grapple with when trying to find a grave.

In Philipa's obituary it was stated, "The funeral was held April the 29th, 1908. A large number of sympathizing friends followed her to her last resting place beside her late departed aunt, Mrs. Nicholas."

That is probably true, however there is no stone next to Grace Nicholas bearing the name of Philipa Sara, or elsewhere in the Linden cemetery. Randy Baker checked the cemetery records at village hall and Philipa's burial can not be confirmed. I believe she is buried there but we just can't prove it. It is an unfortunate situation that plagues any cemetery of much size.

Philipa was a devoted caregiver to her aunt for fifteen years, was well liked in the community and active in the local Primitive Methodist Church. The year of 1896 was both pivotal and heart breaking for Philipa.

A short paragraph in the March 13, 1896 *Dodgeville Chronicle* reported, "Miss Philipa Sara, of Linden, has commenced an action for \$5,000 damages against Nathan Rule, of Britt, Iowa, formerly of Linden, for breach of promise of marriage. The defendant was married to another lady on the 4th of March, and hence the action by Miss Sara who alleges that he had previously promised to marry the plaintiff."

Just one week later, as reported in the *Chronicle*, Nathan Rule had the case removed from Iowa County to the circuit court of the United States for the Western District of Wisconsin by petition. Was unable to find a resolution to this case online but it likely made it more difficult for Philipa to advance her interests because she was not an American citizen.

Just a few months later on August 14 of the same year the Linden News column in the *Chronicle* stated, " Miss Philipa Sara received a letter from Colorado, last week, bringing the sad news that her only brother, Joseph Sara was dead and buried, leaving a widow and one child. The news was so unexpected that Miss Sara was completely prostrated by the shock, but we are glad to note that she is now improving. She has the sympathy of many friends in her affliction."

Philipa's sister-in-law and child decided to return to Cornwall to join her parents after the death of Joseph. The mother and child came from Colorado to Linden and lived with Philipa and Grace Nicholas for a month and a half.

The local *Southwest Wisconsin* newspaper noted in the November 18 issue that Philipa accompanied Mrs. Joseph Sara and child to Edmund to catch the train that would begin her journey back to Cornwall.

PHILIPA SARA, CONTINUED

Philipa Sara died just two years after her Aunt Grace, on April 28, 1908. Her obituary did not list a birthdate or age only that she was born in Trestpon, Cornwall.

The rest of her obituary revealed, "She was left fatherless when but a little girl. Her mother died only a little while before she came to Linden. Since her aunt's death she has been alone and the last few weeks she seemed to realize fully that there was a growing and an increasing physical weakness. She seemed to have had a premonition of her approaching end. She was of a sunny disposition, always genial and cheerful, and in her youthful days was often spoken of as 'Little Sunshine.' She took to her bed on the fourth or fifth of the month and from that time until the end gradually declined. She suffered but very little, sleeping a good part of the time. And at last without a struggle, ceased to breathe and peacefully fell asleep."

Philipa Sara had one sister who lived in South Africa and two cousins in Linden: James Vial and Kate (Vial) Adams who married William Adams.

CORNISH HERITAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Instead of an hourly wage, they received a percentage of the value of ore raised to the surface. In effect they were their own boss, paid for their tools and supplies and hoped to make a tidy profit, they also ran the risk of losing money if their area of the mine did not produce as expected.

Tutwork was simply local miners contracting with a mine to sink a shaft or a drainage tunnel and were paid by the foot. Again a team of miners with one person as boss would place a bid with the mining companies to do the job. Tribute mining and Tutwork appealed to the Cornish ideals of being self reliant and independent. This, of course, made it quite easy for the Cousin Jacks to assimilate into America.

In Redruth and Great Britain, for over a century, common custom has prevailed that you name your house and it becomes part of your address. The Redruth overseas connections are still evident today on some homes in Cornwall. Some of the Cornish miners who emigrated and were successful returned home and built a house they named after either a mine, town or state where they worked. One of those homes in Redruth is named Wisconsin, I spoke to the owner of the house who was unaware of the pedigree, or who may have named it.

The original builder was likely from the mining region of Southwest Wisconsin perhaps, Shullsburg, Hazel Green, Platteville, Dodgeville or maybe even Linden!

LINDEN FROLIC DAYS JULY 28 - AUGUST 1

The annual Linden Frolic Days will start on Wednesday July 28 and continue through Sunday, August 1. Music in the beer tent everyday plus live performances from five bands over the Frolic Days event. The annual Legion BBQ and the 2 pm Sunday parade are always favorites to end out the festival on the first of August. Village wide garage sales also during the Frolic Days.

For complete and updated information see the Linden Frolic Days Facebook page.



**FROLIC
DAYS!**

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL WEEKLY AT LINDEN VILLAGE PARK

Larry Dale Schultz, Linden businessman, wanted to see Linden's beautiful park see some more usage and with some help has organized a slow pitch softball league. Three games are played every Wednesday night starting at 7pm. Each game lasts about an hour.

The concession stand is also open and has done a booming business according to Larry Dale. The teams and their managers are: Tower Junction, Brett Welu; Upmans Heating and Cooling, Tad Spurley; RK Cattle Company, Logan Leverton; Sluggers, Kyle Spurley; Larry's Service, Larry Dale Schultz and Mean Machine, Colin Conner.

The season will end on July 21 with a league championship tournament on July 28 and July 29 during the Frolic Days.

APRIL MEETING REVVED UP STOCK CAR MEMORIES IN LINDEN

Stock car racing, families involved and the building of the cars in local garages were the subject for an Old Timers Race day meeting on April 11 at the Linden fire station.

Tables were filled with photo displays and lots of animated talk of shared memories. The decade of the 1970's was the heyday era for Linden stock car racing. The races were held at area oval dirt tracks such as Lancaster or Darlington and week nights involved the mechanical tuning up or repairs needed to get the cars back on the tracks.

During those summer weeknights in the '70's you could hear the roar of an engine being started for testing from the shop of Dale Schultz, Clyde Hirsch, Donnie Wood, Roger Reddell, Jim Conner and others. At each location there would often be locals looking over the shoulders of Linden mechanics. Jeff Lindner remembered as a kid in the '70s the excitement of him and his friends hearing a motor come to life while they were at one of the garages and everyone jumping on their bikes and racing to the next shop where they heard another engine start up.

In more recent times Linden was represented by a younger generation of stock car racers with Steve Crapp, Jim Conner Jr., and Larry Dale Schultz. There are still stock car races, without our local drivers, at Darlington and Lancaster, check online for dates and times.



Larry Dale Schultz and Jeff Lindner organized the meeting which was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.



IN MEMORIAM

ALYCE EVELYN (SPRINGER) MIKKELSON, died March 18, 2021 with her family by her side at home in Deerfield. She was born on August 2, 1943 in Linden to Robert and Lucille (Wiesen) Springer. After attending school in Linden and Mineral Point, she graduated from Mineral Point High School in 1961. She earned a Nursing Assistant degree from Madison Area Technical College in 1962. Alyce married Arthur Mikkelson in 1967 and they farmed near Deerfield. She is survived by her husband and six children; brother Ralph (Lisa) Springer, Mineral Point; sister Cheryl (Greg) Marr of Dodgeville. She was preceded in death by her father Robert Springer in 1948; stepfather, Curtis Faull in 1977; mother, Lucille Wiesen (Springer) Faull in 1989; son Aric in 1998; sister Roberta Davis in 2000.

LARRY WHITE, age 72, of Linden/Platteville, passed away on April 6, 2021 at Edenbrook of Platteville, from cancer. Born in Savannah, TN to James & Hazel White. Larry worked as chef at the Stamm House in Middleton for 31 years and moved to Platteville in 2004 where he worked at Wal-Mart until his cancer diagnosis. He is survived by sister Jeanette Schafer of Cobb; brothers: W. Earl White of Savannah; Ed White of Sun Prairie; Sam Turner of Madison. Larry was predeceased by his parents, a sister Sarah (Jim Jewell); brother Rick "Slim" White and a nephew Eric Griffiths. Burial was in Linden cemetery on April 20, 2021.

FAMA C. RULE, age 91, of Dodgeville, passed away on May 12, 2021. Fama was born on April 6, 1930 in Eden township to Arthur and Bertha (Fingerson) Heuer. She graduated from Cobb High School in 1948 and married Elmer Rule of the Bloomfield area in 1951. Fama also worked at Farmers Savings Bank in Edmund for many years. She was preceded in death by her husband on April 20, 2001; her parents, her sister, Geneva (Ron) Chafin and a sister-in-law, Sandra Heuer. Funeral services were held on May 17, 2021 at Peace Lutheran Church in Cobb with burial in Calvary cemetery.

PAULINE (YEAROUS) ROBERTS, age 88, passed away on October 20, 2020 in Destin, Florida. Private burial services were held June 5, 2021 at the Linden Cemetery. She was a graduate of Linden High School. Her daughter Patty and Pauline's grandson, Robbie of Missouri, her son Larry of Florida; brothers, Ralph and Sandy Yearous and Loren (Dewey) Yearous of Madison were in Linden for the services. Thanks to Linda Nichols for above information from her Linden news column in the *Dodgeville Chronicle*.

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTED DIRECTORS TO LHS BOARD

The pandemic cancelled out the 2020 annual meeting/program and also altered our 2021 meeting. The board felt it was still a risk to hold an indoor meeting so we opted for an outdoor meeting on June 14 at the Linden village park instead.

This meeting was only for the election of officers, it is hoped we can have an indoor program this fall. Last year's program can be viewed on our website under the programs tab and is on the Ross Mine 1904-1918. This program can also be viewed on You Tube.

Elected were: Jim Jewell, President; Randy Baker, Vice-President; Secretary, Robin Lindner; Treasurer, Sally Hartwig. Florence Wasley, secretary, retired from the board, she was thanked for her years of service to the Linden Historical Society.

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

On the front page of the April newsletter was an unidentified photo from the LHS archives of two young men on an early 1900's tractor. Catherine Hawke Whitford immediately recognized the two as her father William N. Hawke in the drivers seat and Charles Hawke behind him.

*******PHOTO AND DOCUMENT DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED*******

If you have any photos or documents on Linden area history we would love to make a copy for our archives. Photos and documents can be scanned and returned to you if desired. Contact either the President or Vice-President listed below. Membership in the Linden Historical Society is \$10 per year, lifetime membership \$100. Make check payable to Linden Historical Society and send to Treasurer Sally Hartwig.

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