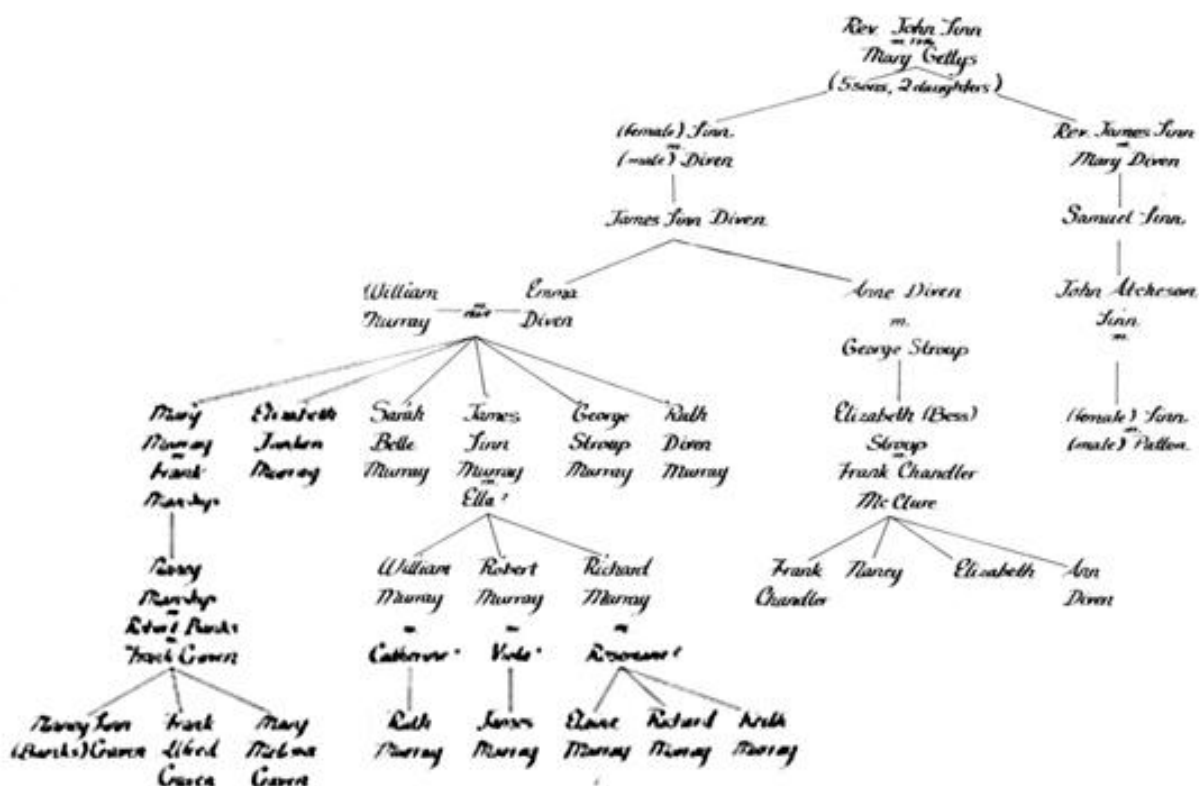


*The Ancestry of Frank T. Craven
and Nancy Manship Craven
From Craven, Brook, Kitching, Gough,
Manship, Kirkham, Durden, Murray, Diven, Linn,
Junkin, Gettys, and Ramsey Surname Lines*

Chapter 5: The Linns



1977 tree of the Linns and Divens (Melissa Craven)

The James Linn / Mary Diven / Samuel Linn / Patton line shown here is incorrect!

For the current lineage information, see the end of this chapter, the family genealogy web site at

<http://www.melissacravenfowler.com/Genealogy.html>, or

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=melissaf52>.

Lynn Name Meaning

Scottish: variant of Lyne: Scottish: habitational name from places so named in Ayrshire, Peeblesshire, and Wigtownshire.

English: habitational name from any of several places so called in Norfolk, in particular King's Lynn, an important center of the medieval wool trade. The place name is probably from an Old Welsh word cognate with Gaelic *linn* 'pool', 'stream'.¹

And from “Lynneage. The Lynns, Linns, and Linds of Scotland and Ulster” by Loretta Lynn Layman. 2010:

...the spelling of surnames in early Scotland varied greatly even within families. It has been thought by some that Linn was Scottish or Irish and Lynn or Lynne indicated English origins, and by others that Lynn was Scottish and Lynne was English. However, early Scottish records reveal that the same family often appeared with numerous variant spellings using both “i” and “y”, both with and without an ending “e”, and sometimes a single “n” and sometimes a double. This phenomenon occurred to a lesser degree among Scots who settled in Ulster. In Scotland, in fact, the name was also sometimes written with an “e” in the place of either “i” or “y” or in combination therewith.

Specifically, the name is found in early Scottish records as Lean, Lein, Len, Lena, Lene, Lenna, Leyne, Lin, Lind, Line, Linn, Linne, Linnie, Lyn, Lynd, Lyne, Lynn, and Lynne. It is reported to have originated from the Gaelic word gleann (a depression containing water), which became linn (water lying in a depression). In time, that word came to mean a placid lakelike body of water, and later still the pool at the foot of a waterfall or even the waterfall itself. Subsequently, Lynn in its various spellings became the surname of some family or families dwelling near such bodies of water. As Patterson pointed out in his volumes on Ayr and Wigtown, the taking of place names for family names was a method commonly used by indigenous peoples in various countries as surnames came into use.

At the same time, however, a great many Scottish Lynns, etc. descended from one notable [Norman] family who bore the name before coming to Scotland. This family spread its branches as far north as Perthshire – or more probably Aberdeenshire, and as far east as the Lothians....The Scots are hardly a pedigreed race.²

The available evidence, and compelling at that, points to a trail of migration for a twelfth century family of De Lynnes from Lynde, France to Dorset, England; thence northward to the Scottish shires of Peebles, Perth, Edinburgh, and Ayr; and thence west and south to the counties of Londonderry, Donegal, and Tyrone in Ireland. In Peebles, they were Lords of Lyne and Locherworth; in Ayr, Lords of Lynn, Highlees and Bourtreehill. In Perth, there was a seal for Lynnes of Pitmeadow; in Edinburgh, a coat of arms for their descendents, the Linds of Gorgie. The Lynns maintained a presence in more than half of Scotland, established a home in Ulster, and spread their branches across the Atlantic.Soon, then, a descendent of the de Lynnes, carrying the blood of both Vikings and Celts, came to a new nation conceived in liberty.³

Mother knew her Linns by heart, but only back a few generations, and she did not know all the first names. Her GGG-grandfather had been pastor of the Centre Presbyterian Church, in Madison Township, Perry County, for 43 years, as well as two other churches in the area, and may have been one of the most well respected Linns in America. What we have learned recently is that his grandfather, our immigrant ancestor, settler in the Gettysburg PA area, was also named John Linn, as was his father.

I was warned, when posting on the Linn bulletin board at Genforum⁴:

Many falsely claimed to belong to the wrong John Linn or Adam Linn--recommend caution--prove that they were Presbyterians or Baptists.... If you belong to these Linns (make certain that you do), then you do not belong to the German family of Linns that showed up in the same counties like York by 1745. Rick Thomas

I don't think we need any more proof than we already have that the Linns in our family were Presbyterians! But this explains some “Swiss” Linns whom we have encountered through the years⁵.

Three Linn brothers

There's an old genealogical fairy tale about three XXX brothers who came to America. Fill in your family name! Many families have such fables. In most cases, the stories are just that -- fiction. And we have seen this so far in our saga of multiple genealogical lines. But in the case of the Linn brothers, it's true:

The three brothers, Adam, John and Robert Linn came from **Scotland** about 1739 and settled in Cumberland County, Penn. Adam and John were naturalized in 1749. Rev. John Linn, son of John, was born in Cumberland County in 1749. He was ordained a minister of the **Presbyterian** Church, in 1771 and in 1776 married Mary, daughter of James and Mary Gettys. James Gettys was a merchant, and the founder of Gettysburg. ⁶

Adam Linn came to Pennsylvania before 1740 with his brothers John and Robert. They came from **Scotland via Northern Ireland**. Notes written in 1930, by the name of James G. Linn, a descendent of John Linn, are on file at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, and he says his ancestor came from County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Adam Linn II claimed kinship with the poet Robert Burns (who was in the same generation as Adam Linn I) so it is likely the Linns were in Northern Ireland only a few years.

By about 1740 the Linns had settled in what is now Adams County Pennsylvania, in the portion of land called Manor of Maske. This was a reservation laid out by William Penn for himself and his family and included present day Gettysburg.

The Linns belonged to (and probably helped establish), the Presbyterian Church on Lower Marsh Creek. Robert Linn is buried in the Lower Marsh Creek Cemetery....he was born c1695. We can assume that his brothers Adam and John were probably born within a period of perhaps 1685-1705. ⁷

I corresponded with Loretta Lynn Layman, an expert on Scottish Linns, and she told me that she knew of no Linn family of brothers born in the correct period in Scotland with the three names we have listed. For that reason, I tend to believe the citation that says the Linn brothers came from Scotland via Ireland. Loretta reminds me that one Linn family established businesses in Ulster before 1658 ⁸, so some Linn families were in Ireland for white some time! For more on the Scots-Irish, see Appendix B.

Muster rolls, estate maps, and other documents reveal that Scots by the name Lynn or Lynne settled in Counties Londonderry, Donegal, and Tyrone in the first Ulster Plantation (1606-1633). Their descendents, some of whom assumed the spelling Linn, migrated to other Ulster counties. Eventually, more Lynns came from Scotland and settled in various places in the province ⁹.

Once I tried to push back further than John, Adam, and Robert, I ran into confusion in Ancestry.com files. Family lines posted (OPD) there put a John Lynn (~1695-1752) and son John Lynn, Jr. in Beverly Manor of Virginia during a period of time which overlaps the time we know our Linns were in Adams County, PA. The lineage of the Virginia family was available back into Scotland for half dozen generations, which was an attractive "find" for my early days in genealogy. But the overlap showed that OPD had confused the two Linn/Lynn families and that the well-documented Virginia Lynns were not our line.

So what do we know for sure? The Linn brothers homesteaded in the Marsh Creek Settlement (in the current Gettysburg, PA area: it became part of Lancaster Co. in 1729; York Co. in 1749; Adams Co. in 1749). This area was purchased from the Iroquois by

the family of William Penn in 1736, and soon after, European settlers began arriving. Within a few years, 150 families had “leap-frogged” over the English Quakers and Germans, who had settled to the east. Many of these settlers were Scots-Irish. Our immigrant ancestor John Linn settled in what became Cumberland Township and the other two brothers supposedly in adjacent Mt. Joy Twp ¹⁰, although John also owned a tract in Mt. Joy Twp, which he may have obtained from Adam.

History blurs the Marsh Creek settlement with the Manor of Masque the Penn family tried to lay out on much of the same land, but those “squatters” who had shown improvements to the land were allowed to remain after the surveyors of the Manor completed their tasks. The Agnew-McPherson list, “A List of Names of Such Persons as Settled and made Improvements in the Manor of Masque Before the 18th Day of June 1741 with the Date of Each one Settlement Respectively”, has been reprinted in several old history texts, but it was not REALLY a list of the settlers who were there before the warrant of June 18, 1741.

The names on the Agnew-McPherson list are in fact those of heads of families occupying particular manor tracts in the spring of 1765. The dates of settlement on the list are those when the particular tracts were first occupied. In many cases, the 1765 heads of families were the first settlers. In many others, the first settlers were one or more previous occupants, whose identities remain unknown. ¹¹

The most important **Scotch-Irish** migration to York County was the “Marsh Creek Settlement”, of which the present town of Gettysburg is the center.....

....Names of Early Settlers.

The following is a list of names [partial] of such persons as settled and made improvements in the Manor of Maske between the years 1736 and 1741:.....

Samuel Gettys near Rock Creek and for land on Middle Creek, May 1740;....

John Linn, April 1740;

Robert Linn, April 1740;

Adam Linn, May 1741 ¹²

The history of this list of early settlers (partial in this chapter) is discussed in more detail in the Gettys chapter. What it really says is that when the surveys were finally done in 1765, John, Adam, and Robert were living or farming lands which had been improved as early as 1740. It does not say that the Linns were necessarily the men who had improved them. Chances are good that they really WERE there by 1740, but we definitely know they were in Marsh Creek by 1765 when those surveys were done.

“Adam Linn was one of the earliest settlers in the Manor. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to James Linn in 1767. No warrants or surveys for Adam have ever been found and, although he died without a will, there were no orphans courts proceedings relative to the disposition of his real estate.” ¹³

A small book, “Genealogy of the Linn Family, 1746-1928” ¹⁴, found at the Lenig Library of the Perry Co. Historical Society, states:

In 1746 two brothers, John Linn and Robert Linn, came from the northern part of Ireland to America and settled in what is called the Lower Marsh Creek District, six miles south of Gettysburg, Pa., where the Linn ancestors in America are buried, where there is an old Presbyterian Church.

However, we have solid pieces evidence placing John in Marsh Creek -- his signature on a petition to build a road in 1758 and the tax list of 1762. Also, Adam was overseer of Mount Joy Twp in 1756 and of Cumberland in 1752 ¹⁵. Additionally, John Linn (Rev. John Linn of Perry Co.) is always said to have been born in the Marsh Creek Settlement ¹⁶, and his birth date is 1749. So we may begin to believe that the brothers were actually there in the 1740's.

When I visited the Adams County Historical Society in 2011, I discovered that there were 3 generations of John Linns in Marsh Creek: one who died intestate March 20, 1777 (wife Sarah), a second who died in 1792, and the Rev. John Linn who was born there in 1749. Examination historical documents, such as wills, allowed me to make conclusions as to the relations among these men.

- **John Linn I** – probably of the three Linn brothers (b. ?? – d. 1777 Marsh Creek, PA) married **Sarah**, about whom we know nothing except that she survived him. Earliest solid evidence of him in Marsh Creek is his signing a road petition to York Co. Court in 1758.

His name is associated with 3 tracts of land in, and outside of, the Manor of Maske ¹⁷:

1. MM 84, 206 acres. This tract borders Rock Creek and may originally have belonged to brother Adam, who died in 1767. The 1765 survey, however, calls it the “John Linn Plantation”. John I paid tax on this property in 1762, and John Linn II was still paying taxes on this parcel in 1783. John II bequeathed this land, probably, to his son Hugh in 1792. An 1872 Atlas, however, does not show a Linn with a house on the tract.
2. MM 213, 165 acres. This tract is on the southern slope of Round Top Hill, shown in detail below, and also was Adam's originally. John Linn (probably II) sold this in 1791 to Peter Bumbgunner, and it changed hands a few more times before being purchased by the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association in 1887.
3. MM 151, 250 acres. This tract is completely or almost completely outside the Manor boundaries and originally belonged to a man named Deveney. It was surveyed for John Linn in 1775. Samuel Linn (a grandson, through John II, of John Linn I) paid taxes on it in 1779. A document at ACHS connected to MM 151 says Samuel Linn was listed as the owner in the 1798 census; but that John Linn was the occupant of the 40 x 28' log house – one story, 2 windows, and 12 lights. John II had died in 1792, and John III was already in Perry County, so perhaps it was occupied by John II 's widow? In 1835, Samuel willed 100 acres of it to his son Samuel and “the rest of my land” to son William. Again, an atlas of 1872 shows no Linn households on this tract.

Because of the unusual situation the Marsh Creek settlers found themselves in, many lands changed hands without the documents we current-day researchers would normally be able to locate for the transactions. We can read the wills, if any, and see to whom land was bequeathed; we MAY be able to find out who paid tax on acreages; and

we can see who requested surveys at various times, thanks to the diligent work of the Manor of Masque team at the Adams County Historical Society. But from 1740 to almost 1800, these settlers had surveys of their properties, but they had no deeds. And in many cases, we have no document trails. This is certainly the case for some of Linn's properties.

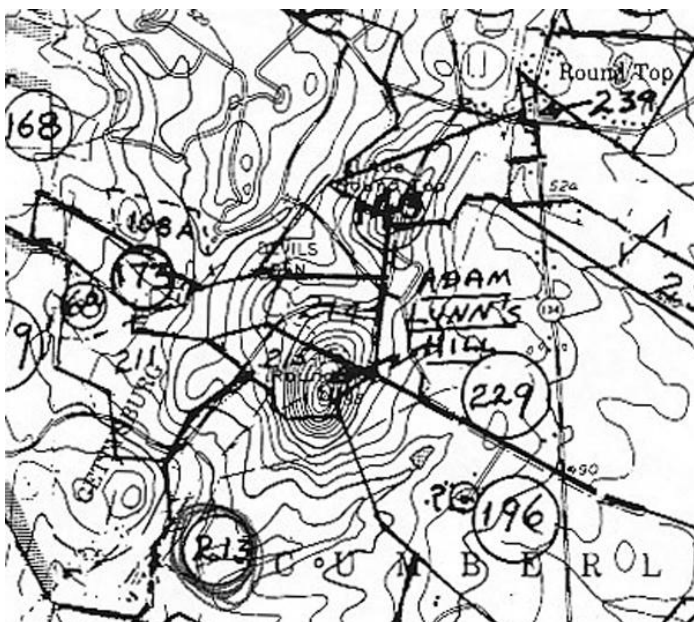
Someone named Etting collected up a lot of data on the Linns at one time, and at the Adams County Historical Society, I was able to make a copy of his/her list of historical mentions of the family. The pages shown to me were pages 202-210 of a much longer document, supposedly on file in the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and York County. In it, I found:

John Linn of Cumberland Township paid taxes of 2 shillings on property worth £110 in 1762; and another 6 shillings for property worth £40. Other Linns paying taxes that year were Robert Linn of Cumberland Twp¹⁸, Adam Linn of Cumberland and Mt. Joy Twps, and James Linn of Mt. Joy Twp.

The Tax lists of 1768 and 1772 named John and Robert in Cumberland Twp.; Adam had died in 1767. On tax lists of 1773, just John Linn, as Robert had died in 1772.

By 1783, in the first census of York County, the next generation of Linns, sons of Adam (who died 1767), Robert (who died 1772) and John (who died 1777) appeared there: Adam, Andrew, David, Samuel, Hugh, and John (John II with 206 acres in Cumberland Co), presumably, were now the tax payers.

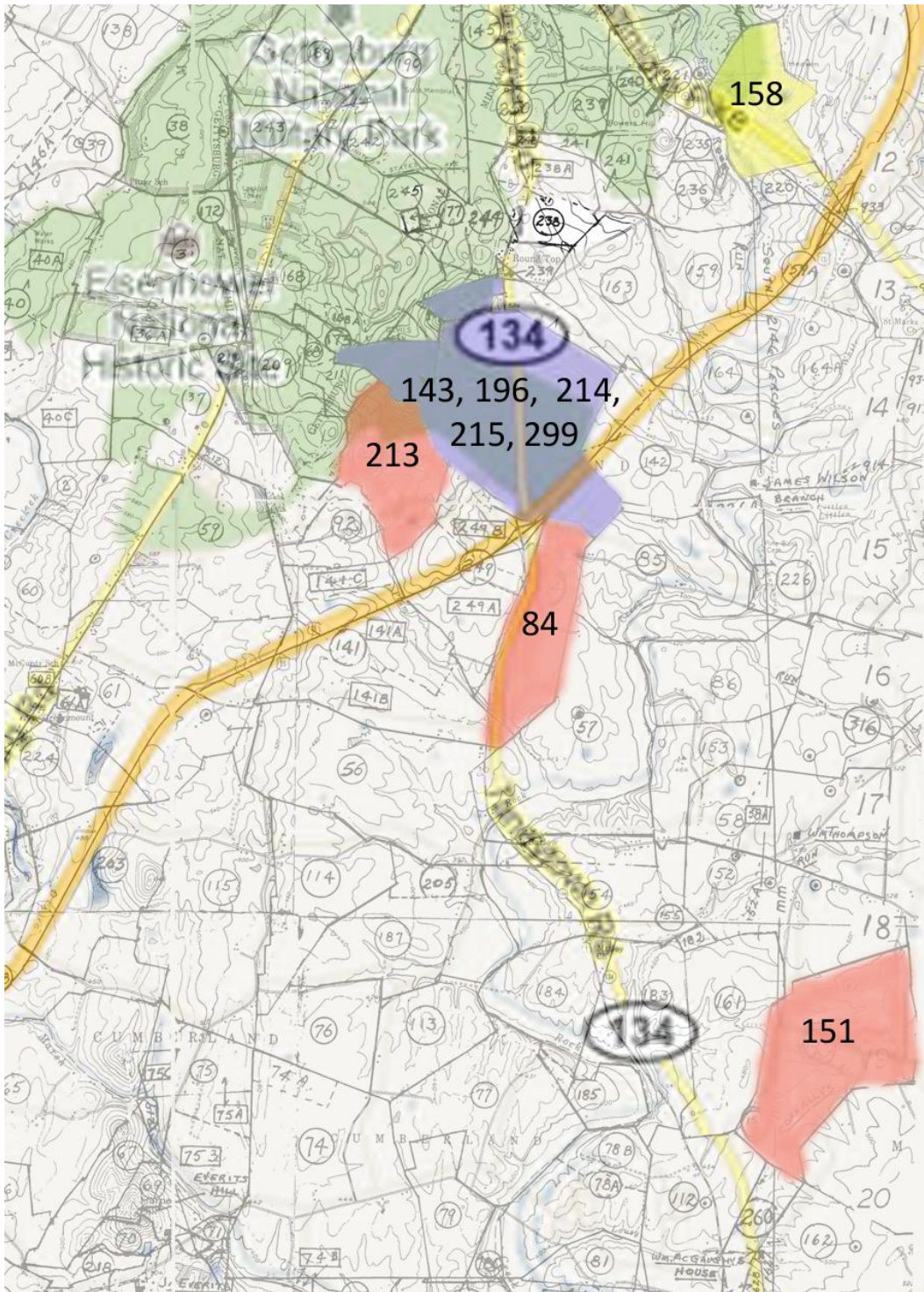
Adam, John I, and James (probably the son of Adam, b. 1752) also were civil servants, acting as supervisors, collectors, constables, and overseers of their townships from 1752 (Adam) through the rest of their lives. A John Linn was also an assessor and collector in the early 1780's, so that would probably have been John II.



Map of Round Top Hill was labeled "Adam Lynn's Hill" in this Manor survey map of 1765.

Adam originally owned all of Little Round Top and Round Top hills, although the south slope of Round Top had passed to brother John I before 1765.¹⁹

(The Manor of Masque: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992.)
Overlay of current map of Gettysburg area (Google maps).



Map of Gettysburg Pennsylvania area, showing Manor of Masque survey tracts.

Properties owned by **John Linn (RED: MM 84, 151, and 213)**

Properties owned by Adam Linn (BLUE: MM 143, 196, 214, 215, 299)

One of the properties owned by Samuel Gettys (YELLOW: MM 151)

(The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties,
 Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992.)
 Overlay of current map of Gettysburg area (Google maps).

Adam and Robert died in 1767 and 1772, respectively, suggesting they were of the same generation as John I, who died in 1777. Adam supposedly had 6 children between 1752 and his death; James Linn, the son of Adam, was given letters of administration on his father's estate in 1767, although his name does not crop up in any other way in the documentation of Adam's lands²⁰. In the 1780's, however, James bought a lot in James Gettys' new town. I have no information about Robert's line.

In an Orphan's Court document of February 1778, John Linn II, one of the sons of John Linn I of Cumberland Twp, yeoman, stated that:

- his father had died intestate, owner of a tract of 300 acres in Cumberland Twp (that is not quite consistent with the surveys we have);
- that he left to survive him a widow Sarah and issue:
Adam the eldest,
John the petitioner the youngest son,
Margaret wife of John Hughes,
Mary,
Sarah wife of William McGowan, and
Jane;
- that Adam in his father's lifetime had released his claim to the real estate to the mother and other children; and petitioned the court to award an inquest for partition. It was so ordered.

The inventory of John I's goods started with 1 plantation valued at £300, and proceeded through the remainder of his effects, such as 1 bay mare, livestock, farm equipment, bushels of grain, firearms, tools, clothing, acres of rye and wheat "in the ground", furniture, bedding, and £21 cash. Value: £493. In the Register of Wills, the balance of his estate in Feb 1779 was £157.1.2.

At least one of John's brothers was buried at the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Cemetery, but we have no burial information for John. The John Linn family, too, was reported to be associated with this church, so their remains are probably there. Not many stones still stand there:

- **John Linn II** (b. ?? Ireland – d. 1792 PA); no wife name known (she died before 1792). This second generation John Linn was probably also born in Ireland and immigrated with his father and uncles to Pennsylvania. The first of his 8 children was born, reportedly, in Marsh Creek, in 1747.

The Pennsylvania Archives provided references to John Linn of York Co: as an election examiner in 1777, for the County Representative to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ²¹; and as a signatory to letter to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth in 1779 ²². A John Linn was also a township assessor and collector in the early 1780's, so that would probably have been this John II.

John Linn paid tax on 206 acres in Cumberland Co in 1783, which I assume was tract MM 84, that he inherited or purchased from his father's estate. On that tract in 1783 were 1 house, 1 outhouse, 5 inhabitants, 4 horned cattle, 3 horses, 9 sheep, valued at £358.

A house on Tanneytown Road is located on what was MM 84. In the federal style, which was most popular between 1780 and 1820, it may have been built by John I or II. However, this style house was so popular in the area that it is still being built today! So there is no telling whether John I or II built this house or someone did later.



House at approximately
1960 PA Route 134
(Tanneytown Rd.)
Gettysburg, PA. In the
Atlas of 1872, it
belonged to F. S.
Cramer.

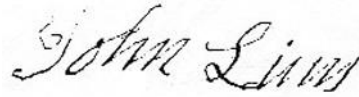
(Google maps street
view)

A will for John Linn II, dated 25 November 1792, and probated 14 Nov 1793, listed 6 sons and 2 daughters. John's II executors were son Hugh and son-in-law William Reed.

- The two oldest sons, Rev. John III and William had moved to Perry Co.;
- Samuel was living on the land in Mt Joy Twp, tract 151;
- OPD suggests Andrew moved to Kentucky;
- OPD suggests David moved further west in PA;
- OPD suggests Hugh may have moved to Franklin County, PA ²³;
- Daughter Margaret was married to William Reed;
- Daughter Jennet was married to Robert Gibson.

John left money to sons William, John, Samuel, and David from the “bonds” to Peter Bumbgunner (presumably from the sale of MM 213). To his daughters, he bequeathed bedding, furniture, a cow, and “a striped linen gown of her Mother’s”. The remainder of his money “in bond notes or book accounts” was to be divided in four even parts and given to son Andrew, son David, Daughter Jennet, and daughter Margaret. All his lands were to go to son Hugh.

It was signed in his hand.....

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Linn". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

The inventory of good and chattels is interesting, especially compared to those we have seen of older Linn and Ramsey generations in this area. He owned a lot more clothing for instance; more tools and farm implements than his father had; and his land was not included in the inventory. Total value £100.

- **John Linn III** (b. 1749 Manor Masque, Adams, PA – d. 1820 Tyrone, Cumberland, PA) married **Mary Gettys** (b. 1752 Marsh Creek, York Co, PA – d. 1823 Tyrone, Cumberland, Pa).

As far as we know, the Rev. John Linn was our first direct Linn ancestor born in America, in (then) York County, PA in 1749. He married Mary Gettys in 1777, and when called to the churches in Perry Co. in 1778, they are said to have **walked** over the mountains ²⁴.



The route from Gettysburg to Madison Twp, Perry County might have taken them around South Mountain on what are now routes 15 and 74, but the ridge north of Carlisle, seen here as dark green zigzag stripes, would have to have been climbed. (Google maps)

I have located three lengthy biographies of Rev. John Linn. The first is reprinted verbatim; the second and third, only pieces which were not identical to parts of the first. They detail his education, life, and ministry:

My personal recollections of the Rev. John Linn are not very extensive or minute; and yet, in my earlier days, I had some opportunities of knowing him, and I can truly say that he left an impression upon my mind which time has done little to impair. I regarded him as an uncommonly fine specimen of a man; and so, I am confident, he was generally regarded by those who were privileged to know him. The materials for the following brief notice of him are derived from the most authentic source; though his life was of so even a tenor that it could hardly form the subject of a protracted narrative.

JOHN LINN was born in Adams County, Pa., in the year 1749. His parents were Presbyterians, and were connected with the Congregation of Lower Marsh Creek, in the Presbytery of Carlisle. He made a profession of religion while he was yet quite a youth. He was fitted for College by the Rev. Dr. Robert Smith of Pequea, Lancaster County, Pa., and was graduated at Nassau Hall, during the Presidency of Dr. Witherspoon, in the year 1773. He was a classmate of Henry Lee, Morgan Lewis, Aaron Ogden, John Blair Smith, William Graham, John McKnight, and several others, distinguished in

their respective professions. After leaving College, he returned to Pennsylvania, and studied Theology under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, minister of the Congregation of Middle Spring, within the limits of what was then Donegal (now Carlisle) Presbytery. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Donegal in December, 1776. Not far from a year after his licensure, the Congregations of Sherman's Valley, in Cumberland (now Perry) County, invited him to become their pastor. He accepted the invitation, and was accordingly ordained and installed shortly after. Here he remained labouring faithfully and efficiently to the close of his ministry, and his life. He died in the year 1820, in the seventy-first year of his age. His death occurred in consequence of his being overtaken by a severe shower, on his way home from church. Being warm, from the exercise of preaching, he took a violent cold, which run into a typhus fever, and terminated in death, within a few days. His son, the Rev. James Linn, who resided at a distance, arrived at the paternal residence in time to attend his father's funeral; and, on the Sabbath succeeding, occupied the vacant pulpit.

Soon after his settlement in the ministry, he was married to Mary Gettys, a native of the neighbourhood in which he resided. She survived him a few years. They had seven children,— five sons and two daughters. One of them, the Rev. James Linn, D. D., born in 1783, is the Pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Bellefonte, Pa.

Mr. Linn was about five feet ten inches in height, portly and symmetrical in his form, and muscular and active in his bodily movements. He had great strength of constitution, and uncommon powers of endurance. His disposition was social and cheerful; he could easily accommodate himself to persons of different characters and conditions in life, and was cordially welcomed by every circle into which he was thrown. He was distinguished for sobriety of mind rather than versatility; was reflective rather than imaginative. As his salary was inadequate to the support of his family, he was under the necessity of conducting a farm, and, at certain seasons of the year, of labouring upon it himself: this rendered him a less vigorous and diligent student than he would otherwise have been, particularly in the latter part of his life; but his mind was so trained to reflection, that his studies could hardly be said to be intermitted, even while he was engaged in manual labour. He was accustomed to write his sermons out at full length, and deliver them from memory; except that, in the summer, his morning discourse, which was a lecture on some portion of the New Testament, was usually delivered without written preparation. He had a remarkably clear voice, and uttered himself with great solemnity and impressiveness. One of his manuscript sermons,—a sermon occasioned by the death of the Rev. Samuel Waugh—I have had the opportunity of perusing; and it shows that he was a correct writer, and an instructive, methodical and earnest preacher. He was uncommonly devoted to the interests of his flock, giving no inconsiderable portion of his time to pastoral visitation. In his family, and indeed in all his relations, he was a fine example of Christian dignity, tenderness, and fidelity.

Accept the assurance of my kind regard. R. Baird, New York, January 15, 1850. ²⁵

Rev. John Linn was one of those early divines whose impress has been left upon the life of this county, although his ministry ceased with his death, which occurred in the year of the county's formation, 1820. He was born in Adams County in 1749, and professed religion when a mere boy. He graduated from Nassau Hall in 1773 and studied theology with Dr. Cooper, pastor of Middle Spring Church, in Cumberland County. Donegal Presbytery licensed him to preach in December, 1776, and about a year later he received and accepted a call to the churches of that faith – then the only ones – in Sherman's Valley. Here he labored and spent the balance of his life, faithfully and efficiently, being seventy-two years of age when death came in 1820.

Soon after settling here he married Mary Gettys, a daughter of the founder of Gettysburg. They became the parents of four sons and two daughters, one of the sons being Rev. James Linn, D.D., also a Presbyterian divine, who long served the church at Bellefonte and others.

Rev. Mr. Linn was, according to an account by Rev. Baird,..... [repeated much of the above]...Uncommonly devoted to his flock he did a wonderful amount of pastoral work. Christian

dignity, even in his own family, tenderness and fidelity were marked traits in this first messenger from the Master to cast his lot among a new people, in a new country, then in the making.....

Rev. Linn has the distinction of having one of his blood, a direct descendant, occupying the second position in the nation at the time this is written (1920). Vice-President Marshall's mother was no other than Susannah Linn, a granddaughter. His descendants are the Linns of Chambersburg, Williamsport, Philadelphia, Springfield, Ohio, and many other places. ²⁶

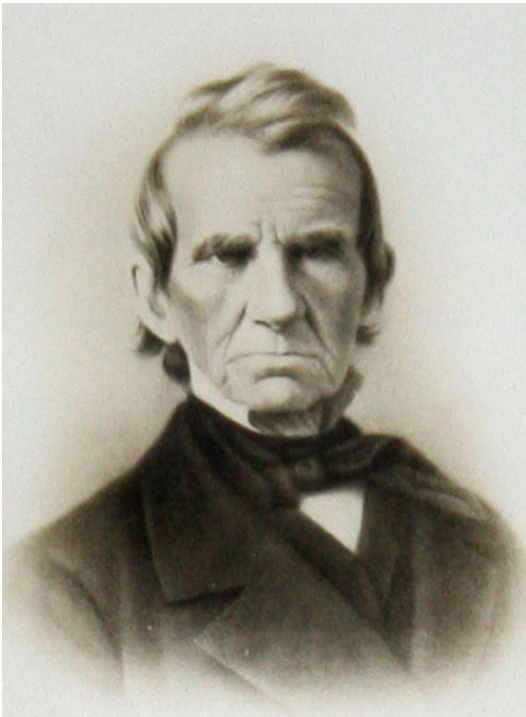
About 1778 he bought the John Byers tract warranted 1762. At the time of his death, he owned large tracts of land....

He was a trustee of Dickinson College from 1783 until his death.....

His descendents are the Linns of Chambersburg, Williamsport, West Philadelphia, PA., Springfield, OH and elsewhere, all adherents of the Presbyterian Church.....

Under Mr. Linn's able and spiritual guidance the church had grown from a small group to a large active membership. The new church building (1793) was in use and free of debt. The land....7 acres and 5 perches, had been patented,...the church had been incorporated and charter granted....

Everything points to the business-like methods of Mr. Linn during his long pastorate...
Mr. Linn...died of typhus fever caused by a cold caught while returning from church. ²⁷



Left: Rev. John Linn (1749-1820), pastor Centre Presbyterian Church from 1777-1820. (Photo of portrait on display at Centre Presbyterian Church, by author, 2010);
Right: Rev James Linn (1783-1868), son of Rev. John Linn, and pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bellefonte, PA. (Photo of portrait in Bellefonte by Nancy Craven Henry)



“Tole” painted metal communion basket and elders’ chairs, all from the era of John Linn at Centre Presbyterian Church. These had been passed down through my lineage and were donated back to the church in the 1970’s by my mother, Nancy Manship Craven. (Photos by the author, 2010.)

John Linn also preached at other Sherman’s Valley churches, especially the Limestone Ridge Presbyterian Church (aka “Sam Fischer’s Church”) near Elliottsburg; “Dick’s Gap” Church, the oldest church in the county (Miller Twp); and Blain Presbyterian. At Centre, in the earlier days, men guarded the front and rear of the log church from Indian attacks.

Hain’s “History of Perry County” also tells us more about John Linn’s land holdings:

[in Madison Township] The John Byers tract of 310 acres was warranted in July, 1762. About 1777, Rev. John Linn, one of the county’s pioneer divines, purchased it....At Linn’s death, he owned large tracts of land. ²⁸

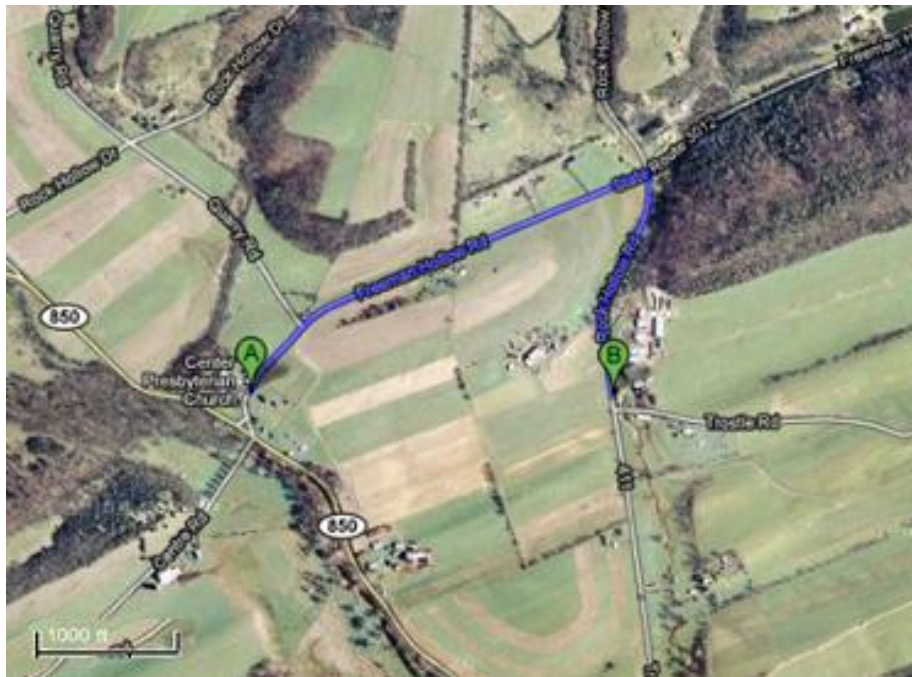


Home of John Linn (1748 – 1820) and Mary Gettys Linn (1752 – 1823) on Rock Hollow Rd, Loysville, PA. (Photo by author, 2010.)



The home of Rev. John Linn which he built along the Allegheny Trail near Centre Church of which, along with the Upper Presbyterian Church at Blain, he was pastor from 1777 to his death in 1820.

Photo of John Linn’s home, 1978. (Perry County, a Pictorial History. The Perry Historians, 1978.)



Map of John Linn house (pin B) and Centre Presbyterian Church (pin A).
Less than 1 mile by road, and a shorter distance across the fields. (Google Maps.)

John Linn also built a house nearby for one of his sons, south of his farmhouse, on what is now Rock Hollow Rd. In the 1863 Perry Co. atlas, W.B. Linn was living in that area, so most likely John built it for his son, Andrew Hugh Linn, who was William B. Linn's father and who died three years before the atlas was drawn. There is a mention that his sons John, William, and Andrew were all farmers and each died on the mansion farm or part of the mansion farm.²⁹

Both John Linn and his son Andrew Hugh Linn were slave-holders³⁰:

Slaveholder Name Linn, Andrew

City or Township Toboyne Township

Slave Name James Diven, a.k.a. Pad or Paddy

Slave Notes Apparently the former property of Rev. Linn, and sold as part of Linn's estate in 1826.

Runaway ad from the Perry Forester:

"Six Cents Reward. Ran away from the subscriber, living in Toboyne Township Perry County, on the second of June inst., an indented Mulatto Man, aged about 22 years; who calls himself James Diven, but is better known by the name of Pad. He had on, when he ran off, a brown underjacket, tow check pantaloons, and half-worn roram hat. Whoever takes up said runaway and returns him to the subscriber, shall have the above reward, but no other charges will be allowed. ANDREW LINN.

Toboyne Township, June 21I, 1826."

Date of Record June 22, 1826

Slaveholder Name Linn, Rev. John

City or Township Tyrone Township

Occupation Pastor

1. **Slave Name** Rachel

Slave Age ? (adult in 1795)

Slave Gender Female

Slave Date of Birth ? (pre-1780)

Slave Description

Slave Status Slave for life

Slave Notes Mother of Emy.

Date of Record 1795

Slave Name Emy

Slave Age -

Slave Gender Female

Slave Date of Birth 1796-February 07

Slave Description "Mulatto"

Slave Status Slave to age 28

Slave Notes 1796 Registration lists Emy's mother as "Rachel." The 1820 census for Perry County, Tyrone Township, lists two "free Blacks" as living with Rev. Linn. One is a female, aged between 14 and 26 years, probably Emy, and the other is a male, aged under 14 years, probably Paddy.

Date of Record 1796

2. **Slave Name** Paddy

Slave Age Infant at time of Registration

Slave Gender Male

Slave Date of Birth 1805-August 15

Slave Description Mulatto

Slave Status Slave to age 28

Slave Notes The 1820 census for Perry County, Tyrone Township, lists two "free Blacks" as living with Rev. Linn. One is a female, aged between 14 and 26 years, probably Emy, and the other is a male, aged under 14 years, probably Paddy.

Offered for sale in the December 02, 1820 edition of the newspaper Perry Forester, as part of the estate of Rev. Linn. Partial text of ad, as quoted in source 116: "unexpired time of a Mulatti Boy, aged 15 years." The same paper listed him again in 1826: "For Sale, a healthy, stout, mulatto man, aged about 22 years. To be sold as the property of the Rev. John Linn, deceased."

This is apparently the slave who ran away from Andrew Linn on June 02, 1826, shortly after being sold. See the entry under "Linn, Andrew."

Date of Record 1805

The Rev. Linn was called a "correct writer, instructive and methodical". In his 3-page hand-written will, John carefully provided for Mary, who was to share a home with one of her sons:

To my beloved wife, Mary, I will and bequeath two rooms in the brick farmhouse in which I now live, one on the first story and the other on the second, either in the front or back part of the house as she may choose. The half of the cellar under the brick house, a part of the spring house, the half of the kitchen for cooking and washing, free access to it though the room between it and the brick house, the half of the garden if she chooses, wood to be laid in the yard for her fires and fires made during the year by whichever of my sons may live in the house, twenty bushels of wheat and six bushels of corn and seventy dollars yearly during her natural life, the wood, grain and cash to be furnished by my two sons John & William, each finding and paying an equal part.....

John went on in *extreme* detail to list the items Mary should inherit, and that list included individual furniture pieces, "her mother's silver cream jug", half a dozen silver spoons, a mulatto girl, a cow, produce of the farm and orchard, his family bible, and the works of John Newton. All other personal items were to be sold. He also described how the proceeds should be divided among Mary, sons Samuel and James, and daughters

Annie (Anna) and Polly (Mary). Each of the four was to receive \$1000 or \$1500 in addition.

It's nice to see that Linn did not leave his daughters to the complete support of their husbands:

*To my Daughter Annny married to John Dixon or her heirs I will and be-
queath fifteen hundred Dollars exclusive of what she has already received*

My sons John and William I allow to live on my plantation, John in the house in which I now live and William where he now lives, each to work the one half of the land. William to have the half of the meadows and half of the fruit of the orchard. This they are to have during the life of their mother. To my son Andrew, I will and bequeath a horse if he has not got one before that time, worth one hundred dollars and a sum of money equal to what John and William shall receive.....

After the death of my wife Mary, it is my will that my executors shall sell all my real estate as soon as it can be sold for its value. At present with the valuable improvements on it, the old tract should sell... for fifty dollars an acre, or near it, but what it will then be worth, none can tell – If it cannot be sold for its value or near it, I allow my two sons above named to live on it three or four years and pay a rent for what it may be valued at by three different men, and the sum arising from the rent to be equally divided among all my heirs.

When my real estate is sold I allow the money to be equally divided among all my three sons John William and Andrew after the above legacies are discharged unless the amount of my estate....should exceed twelve thousand dollars. In that case, the overplus shall be equally divided among all my heirs.

But he was not done! He went on to describe exactly how the sons John, William and Andrew should receive payments from the sale of the land. And how William, if he should build a barn on the property where he lives, would get reimbursed for that added value. He went on to describe some shares he owned in the Carlisle Bank and Carlisle-Hanover Turnpike and how those should be sold and monies distributed. And then there was one debt of seventy dollars which he instructed to have repaid with interest, and almost lastly,

It is my will that my executors remit the interest on the bond of one hundred dollars which I have on my brother David Linn.

It was signed.....



But wait! There is a codicil in which he bequeathed a feather bed, bed, and bedding to each of his sons John and Andrew, “unless one may have been given to each of them before my decease”. And he found it necessary to mention that John and William would be responsible for paying taxes on the land as long as it was in their hands. [In my day,

John would have been called “controlling”, but in his day, it was called “correct writer, instructive and methodical”.]

The inventory of John Linn’s “goods and chattels” covered 8 pages, and the net in household and farm goods was \$1265, with another \$3200 in cash, bonds, bills, and duebills. The most valuable piece of property was a wagon worth \$9, although together his books were valued at \$272.

Of Mary Gettys Linn, we know little, but her last will and testament, sworn out a month before her death in 1823, details the gift of half her silver spoons and sugar tongs to one granddaughter (Anna Jane’s daughter, Mary Gettys Diven) and the other half of her spoons and tea-chest to another granddaughter (Mary Gettys Linn’s daughter, Jane Mary G. Anderson). She did not mention “her mother’s silver cream jug”. The remainder of her effects were to be appraised and either divided equally or sold and the money divided equally among them, “Share and Share alike”. Her executors were her son-in-law John Diven and son Andrew Linn. Mary’s will was not written in her own hand, but was signed:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Linn". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

All of John and Mary’s children lived their entire lives in Perry County, except for James.

- Son Andrew married Mary Ann McCord, had five children, was a local business man, as well as a farmer....

“When the county was formed [1820]....Andrew Linn was conducting a store, a distillery, a gristmill, and a sawmill”....³¹

- James attended Dickinson College and became a Presbyterian minister, serving in Bellafonte PA, until his death in 1868. He married twice resulting in seven children.
- William was a farmer who apparently never married, and lived all his life on what had been his father’s lands.
- Samuel was a cabinetmaker and Justice of the Peace in Landisburg; he married Catherine McLaughlin and had two children.
- John was a farmer, married twice, to Agnes Elliott who lived only another 4 years, and to Mary Ann McClure, but had only one child we know of, Nancy Linn.
- Mary Gettys Linn married Samuel A. Anderson, a merchant in Landisburg, and had two children.
- Anna Jane? Well, keep reading.....

In history books, I found Linns listed as soldiers, county commissioners, justices of the peace, board of election commissioners, church trustees.....but Linn given names repeated so often that it is hard to tell which John, William, Samuel or Andrew the author was referring to. Additionally, John Linn's brother William (~1749 – 1813) owned a lot of land in Saville Twp, Perry Co, owned a grist and sawmill on Buffalo Creek (near the site of grisly Indian raids along the Canachoke Ridge), and was an elder at Centre Presbyterian Church. He too had a large family and used all the same given names as his brother did. So I cannot say much else with certainty about the Linn children in this generation.



Flat grave-markers for John Linn, left (1749 – 1820) and Mary Gettys Linn, right (1752 - 1823).
Cemetery of Centre Presbyterian Church, Perry Co, PA (Photos by author, 2010)

- **Anna Jane Linn** (b. 1787 Sherman Valley, Cumberland Co, PA – d. 1838 Landisburg PA) married **John Diven** (b. 1778 Spring Twp, Cumberland, PA – d. 1839 Landisburg, PA).

Of Anna Jane Linn, one of two daughters of John Linn and Mary Gettys Linn, the history book is silent; however, she married John Diven in 1817 and went on to become my GGG-grandmother. Their gravestones at Centre Presbyterian Cemetery are pictured in the previous Diven chapter. Catch their story there.

- **James Linn Diven** (1819-1901) Landisburg, Perry Co, PA) married **Elizabeth Junkin** (b. 1818 Cumberland PA – d. 1847 New Bloomfield, Perry, PA)
- **Emma Diven Murray** (1846-1905 Landisburg, Perry Co, PA) married **William Murray** (1838- 1905 Landisburg, PA).
- **Mary Gettys Murray** (1877-1948) married **Frank Alfred Manship** (1877-1915) in 1910.
- **Nancy Manship Craven** (1912 Denver CO -1991) married **Frank Tempest Craven** (1914-1962) in 1948.

By the way, in “A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900”³², a “prominent orchardist, Colonel John Linn” spoke, in 1974, about the flavor of Adams County apples deriving from the right kind of soil. There may indeed be descendents of those three Linn brothers living in Adams County!

I was not able to contact this Linn however. Already, 1974 is a long time ago.....

Endnotes:

¹ <http://www.oneworldtree.com/facts/Lynn-family-history.ashx>

² Lynneage. The Lynns, Linns, and Linds of Scotland and Ulster. Loretta Lynn Layman. 2010. Page i.

³ Lynneage. The Lynns, Linns, and Linds of Scotland and Ulster. Loretta Lynn Layman. 2010. Epilogue.

⁴ <http://genforum.genealogy.com/linn/>

⁵ So too does the fact that during the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, Scotland's military and mercantile skills were in demand by countries on the continent. Loretta Linn Layman wrote me that: They sent large numbers to Germany, France, Sweden, Holland, and possibly other countries. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Scotland and Germany engaged in trade that was significant enough to cause a few Scots to settle in Germany (See "The Scots in Germany, Being a Contribution Towards the History of the Scot Abroad", Th. A. Fischer, 1902).

Scottish migrations to Germany must have continued into the future, as evidenced by one family in the 1850 U.S. Census. In the same household in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan are 60-year-old William Linn and 57-year-old Jane Linn, both born in Scotland, along with 26-year-old Joseph Linn born in Germany. There are several dozen more German-born Linns, Lynns, etc. living in various States in the 1850 U.S. Census. Scotland's "Auld Alliance" with France began about 1296. Then, between 1419 and 1424, 15,000 Scottish mercenaries went to France to support them in their war with England. Some of them aided Joan of Arc in the 1428-29 Siege of Orleans. Very likely, some remained in France, and others left their name behind. In 1850, one male Lyne, one male Lynn, and one male Linde, all born in France, were living in the U.S.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/europe/features_europe_auldalliance.shtml

Also in the 16th and 17th centuries, an even larger migration of Scots went to Sweden, the two countries having made an informal alliance for military and trade purposes (See "An Unofficial Alliance, Scotland and Sweden 1569-1654", Alexia Grosjean, 2003). In 1850, there were a dozen or more Swedish-born Linns, Lynns, Linds, and Lynds living in the U.S.

⁶ History of York County, Pennsylvania, Chapter IX, page 128; as reprinted in Genealogy Magazine, Vol. IX, No. 7, November 1920

⁷ From "Adam Linn of Ireland, Pennsylvania and Virginia", Katherine Lynn Seewald, Lynn/Linn Lineage, Vol 7, No. 3, Fall 1993

⁸ Lynneage. The Lynns, Linns, and Linds of Scotland and Ulster. Loretta Lynn Layman. 2010. Page 41.

⁹ Lynneage. The Lynns, Linns, and Linds of Scotland and Ulster. Loretta Lynn Layman. 2010. Page 475.

¹⁰ History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania Containing history of the counties; their townships, towns, villages, schools, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of Pennsylvania, statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc., Warner, Beers & Co, 1886. Part III. History of Adams County, pages 241 and 313.

¹¹ The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992. Page 11, 13-14.

¹² History of York County Pennsylvania, George R. Prowell. J.H.Beers & Co., Chicago, 1907, pages 126-128.

¹³ The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992. Page 33.

¹⁴ Genealogy of the Linn Family, 1746-1928, compiled by W. H. Graham, Charlotte, NC, July 9, 1921, and A. G. Linn, Chattanooga, TN, Dec 1927, from data gathered from various sources.

¹⁵ Once again, please see more of the story of this area in the Gettys/Ramsey chapter to understand this time period.

¹⁶ Genealogy of the Linn Family, 1746-1928, compiled by W. H. Graham, Charlotte, NC, July 9, 1921, and A. G. Linn, Chattanooga, TN, Dec 1927, from data gathered from various sources.

¹⁷ The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992.

¹⁸ Robert's warrant is MM 201, adjoining Gettys' MM 206, several miles from Adam's and John's lands.

¹⁹ The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992. Page 33.

²⁰ In the documentation on Adam's Round Top tracts, there is no information between Adam's early warrant and 1800-1811 surveys for other owners, so there is much we do not know about who inherited Adam's lands. The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992.

²¹ Election Returns, York Co, 1776-1789, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 6, Volume XI, page 421

²² Memorials Against Calling a Convention, 1779, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 2, Volume III, pages 304-307

²³ Although this Hugh Linn may be confused with the Hugh Linn, ancestor of Loretta Lynn Layman, who immigrated from Ireland at this time and died in Franklin Co.

²⁴ There were more than two routes over North Mountain in that time. Between today's two main routes, Waggoners Gap (SR 74) and Sterrets Gap (SR 34), were

- Longs Gap Road, a packhorse trail which may have been in existence as early as 1750, which also crossed Sherman's Creek at today's Bridgeport and continued to the Alinda area;
- Sharon's Gap, which may never have been more than a footpath or bridle path; and
- Crane's Gap, another packhorse road.

Janel Grindall Taylor, The Longs Gap Road, The Perry Historians Airy View, Volume 36, No. 4, July 2011.

²⁵ Annals of the American Pulpit or Commemorative Notices of Distinguished American Clergymen of Various Denominations, from the early settlement of the country to the close of the year eighteen hundred and fifty-five. With historical introductions. Volume III. William B. Sprague, D.D., 1860.

²⁶ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922; pages 735-736

²⁷ "Centre Presbyterian Church, 1766-1966", published by the Two Hundredth Year Anniversary Committee of the United Presbyterian Church of Loysville, R.D., PA

²⁸ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922; page 993.

²⁹ History Of That Part Of The Susquehanna And Juniata Valleys, Embraced In The Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In Two Volumes, Vol II. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Pages 1014-1015.

³⁰ Sources:

Registrations of Children of Slaves, "Slave Returns Listings" in "Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Board of County Commissioners--Returns for Negro and Mulatto Slaves, 1780-81, 1788-1811, 1813-21, 1824-26, 1833."

History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Rev. Conway P. Wing. James D. Scott, Co., Philadelphia, 1879; Repr. 1982 by the Cumberland County Historical Society and

Hamilton Library

History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922; pages 534-539.

<http://www.afrolumens.org/slavery/cumbjm.html>

³¹ History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement, Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, H. H. Hain; Harrisburg, PA, 1922; page 1050

³² A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Page 377.