

Leonard Lineberry on the Lineberry family history (Recorded in the late 1980's in OKC)

Okay, we'll start then, in 1752. Jacob Lineberry and his wife and two children, William and Jacob Jr, settled in Randolph County, North Carolina. They were farmers and I suppose that was about the only industry going then was farming support themselves. And of course, like every children, grew up. This Jacob married and raised a large family. I have in some of my papers the names of his children. This Jacob Jr eventually was an old Revolutionary War Veteran. At one time he was at home and saw this detachment of British soldiers led by some infamous British officer that was known for his murderous acts and, of course, Jacob Jr saw him coming and ran on an hid. His wife had baked for a large cake of corn bread and it was hot and very odorous, pleasant to the masculine appetite. She wrapped it in some clothing of some kind and hid it in the chest. The officer came in...through it and they got it and they ate it themselves. Of course, they could find no men folk there and they went on. But Jacob Jr could have easily killed this British officer but knew that he would massacre the whole family had he chosen to do so. (see page 3-4 of W.S. Lineberry's book *The Lineberry Family* for story where Leonard probably originally heard of this incident).

Of course after the war settled and people began to go on about their business *because* this old man made his will, I have a copy of it in my papers, in I believe it was 1821 and the name was different than what we have it as today. It was kind of a jaw breaker in German and this is what they come out with, Lineberry. And, of course, that's been the family name since. Many, many Lineberry families started to North Carolina and various other states in the United States and it is all one, all one family.

This Jacob had a son that was born about 1780 and around in this section of North Carolina there was quite a number, quite a large German settlement in there. And they still had in Winston Salem a whole, well guess you'd like it like a national museum consisting of the old houses and premises of those early dwellers dating to early 1800 and earlier. The old finishings and everything in there and beautiful furniture and other furnishings...even their ... and various things like old blacksmith shops and this and that and the other. Woodworking shops...

Well this Jacob Lineberry III married Elizabeth Fanning. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Fanning and no doubt they were from Randolph, North Carolina too and he was, he had gone to the end of the edge of Virginia in what was then Grayson County. Grayson County had just recently been cut off in Montgomery County in the year, I believe, 1796. The same year 1796 Jacob Fanning got up there and got a grant of land. You could go up there and buy all the land you wanted for 25 or 50 cents an acre. Rather than handle it, they had agents looking after their business in these locations and they lured to sell the land to get settlers in there, get their names on the actuaries. They would give them a land grant on a parchment about like a sheep skin. These parchment land grants were signed by the governor and dated and I'm sure this date was 1796.

Perhaps maybe that year or a year later, I'll say 1800 give or take and I'd think it'd be a year prior to 1800 this Jacob who married Elizabeth Fanning and no doubt after Jacob Fanning and his wife had both accompanied them up to Grayson County had come back to Randolph County, North Carolina and of course, Jacob Lineberry III and Elizabeth Fanning were married then and went back into Virginia probably 75 miles or maybe a little more up there into the edge of Virginia. Of course back then all the whole country was in timber, old original, virgin timber they grew many, many thousands of dollars per acre but there was no market for it. They had to cut it down and burn it and get it out of the way in order that they might plant the potatoes, corns and beans and other vegetables and make sure there's feed for the livestock too and of course for the fences there was a lot of chestnut timber up there and that would split very easy and they would make rails out of this chestnut, not the chestnut, logs and uh the chestnut logs would last many, many years 'cause they had a kind of acid in those logs that would resist a lot of rot and insects and so on and so forth like that at this time. They would make the rail fences out of that and of

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course they'd burn all the rest of it and, of course, the fence would come along. There was various animals up there, I know up in Grayson County I was checking some records in the courthouse I found the name of the man that killed a nasty wolf in Grayson County. At one time after they got settled up there I don't know how in the world they made money of course all the streams were teeming with loaded crop and no doubt many, many poor down animals and perhaps they caught various animals, sold furs and so on and so forth like that and maybe they raised a few cattle or sheep or hogs or something and sold over who knows how they made their money but in 1803, this Jacob the third bought 300 acres of land settling this for up under the river, 300 acres for \$300 and no doubt that 300 acres was covered in virgin timber, imagine that.

This Jacob and Elizabeth Fanning, they raised a large family too and I have maze of all their children in my files, marriage records and so on and so forth like this. Among Jacob third's family there's another Jacob, who we'll call Jacob the fourth and he was my great grandfather he married Piety Thomas Smith and she was named after her father and I knew heard of anything like that before. There buried there in Carroll County in the old Hebron Cemetery. This cemetery is well maintained today by some of the descendants of these people.

This Jacob, then, had an old iron forge down on Crooked Creek near his home and they would be down in this county with their ox wagon dig out this very low grade iron ore and evidently this forge, there on the Crooked Creek, was in operation probably before 1850. They headed down across the creek there these large timbers were operated by water power and, of course they go down in this county there it must have been a distance of 30 or 40 miles and dig this old ore out, it was pretty close to the surface. Dig it out by hand, load it up in those wagons and bring it on up to there to the forge. Then they would go up in the hills and cut down oak trees and split the wood and stand it up on end then begin to burn it. When it began to burn they would cover it up earth so it would burn into charcoal and they would use that as their fuel. Smelting ore. When it was melted and everything they'd get it out there and use, use those hammers one of them weighed 700 pounds and the other one 350 pounds and the water powered would bring those hammers up got up so high and down they would they would come down on this iron beat them out shapes, desired shapes they would like. People would come in from miles around with their oxen and horses and everything just to see the operation of this because it was such an unusual operation and something new that the people around had never seen anything like. Of course, when they'd go up to that hit that hot iron sparks would fly all of the tar nation and scare man and best alike.

Finally, the Civil War came around. Told some of them I was doing the history of Carroll County Civil War the Yankees came around started shooting at us Americans and started the Civil War.

During the Civil War they were conscripted to make iron to a certain specifications for the Confederate forces then after they were made them they had to put them on the wagon and carry them in to work a distance of some 40 to 50 miles, they had to go and had cross the river, a New River, and geologists tell us that New River is the world's second oldest river, cross that river on a plank head over to the railroad station there in ?, the nearest railroad.

When manpower became so short during the war that I suppose they just about had to shut down the old premise because three of my great grandfather's son, my grandfather was one, his brother Wesley and another brother Joseph were all conscripted to the armed services. Granddaddy was uh, his name was George Lineberry, was in the battle of Richmond. He and Coltrane boy, another Carroll county young man, they together and they were behind a large oak, one on one side and one on the other and they were shooting at the hankies and the hankies were shooting at them. If you've ever seen one these bullets were called minie balls and about a 50 caliber, a great big thing, and I guess one of them weighed maybe an ounce and a half or two ounces. So one of these

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minie balls hit this Coltrane boy and went all the way through him and of course it was cold down there and they had, my grandfather had on a heavy overcoat and the ball that went through the Coltrane boy hit in my grandfather's shoulder and said it hurt terribly bad and he worked that overcoat and that ball fell out on the ground.

Well, after the war was finally over and we surrendered to Grant there at Appomattox. They were 250 miles from home, the boys had to walk home they had to walk home. And my grandfather and several other boys from Carroll County were walking home and they were stopped by some federal forces and of course these men were not armed and they told the boys they were not going home and they held those boys there until that report was their job then they let them go on home.

Then, of course, after the war people down there had absolutely nothing. During the war the women folks were left at home to raise their family. Many of those women actually would actually do the plowing, planting, the harvesting of the crops. They would split rails for the fences. You talk about hardships it was inflicted upon these people in a terrible manner. Of course, food became a very, very scarce item. One old gentleman whose father was an old civil war veteran told me that were always hard pressed, the enemy was on right their heels most of the time and they would kill somebody's cow, men were always hungry, kill somebody's cow and dress it and cut the meat up in chunks and put it in a great big pot and about the time the meat was hot, those men were so hungry that they would begin to eat that meat about the moment it got hot. And at night they would they never had time to get their hair cut, their hair grew long, and at night they would roll up in the blankets and sleep on the ground. And when it was cold enough to freeze their hair would freeze into the ground and they'd have to cut their hair off there before they could get up in the morning. And they'd be in a place maybe a big field of corn there that somebody had planted the family depending on that corn for food and the food for the cattle. They would have to cut that down so the enemy couldn't slip up on them. And my grandfather had a cousin by the name of Jacob whose father was Joseph. This Joseph was a brother to my great-grandfather who was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Fanning. He was killed during the war and of course the enemy was on them so close that it was said they buried him in a little shallow grave with enough dirt to cover him up and his boots still sticking up out of the ground. Of course, that's how hard pressed they were.

After the war these men come home, nothing to come to. If they had anything, they made it or raised it. They had no money to buy anything. Well, of course, their old forge was, I suppose they went back to that and began to operate it for what little they could do. They had a blacksmith shop up on the road up above the iron works there. They'd take a lot of iron up there and the blacksmith shop if you wanted anything like a molers (?), shovel or hoe or anything they would make it by hand in the blacksmith shop. Now in those log cabins they built then everything was put together with wooden pins and pegs and they didn't use many nails, if they needed nails they would go into these blacksmith shops and they would, very scattered about in various locations through the county, various sections of the country. And to get nails, maybe you'd want half a dozen nails, make them by hand there in the shops and whatever you wanted a hoe, shovel, fireplace tools, hand irons, whatever it might be and of course, no one had stoves back then, and they'd done all their cooking and heating right in the fireplace. Of course, the iron pots they had and many of those old fireplaces had what they called a cone or an arm that would swing in and out of the fireplace and they would put the pots, whatever they were cooking in those pots, and swing it back over the fire, there in the fireplace. And the beans or corn or potatoes, whatever they might be cooking in there, would simmer and I suppose would retain all their delicious vitamins and everything no doubt they were very delicious especially for a hungry person. The bread they would bake and many of them made cornbread and very few of them would make wheat bread, bread out of wheat flour as we have it today. They would raise all the corn all their wheat and other grains by themselves and there was mills around here in the country that would grind the grain

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and the cornbread they would bake, they would have what they called a dutch oven like a big, deep iron skillet with about 3 legs on it and with a big heavy iron cover and thing was about 3 or 4" deep and they would make the cornbread in that and put it in the fireplace and cover it up with the hot ashes and coal and, of course, that would retain all the vitamins and everything in it and I believe that was the best cornbread I ever ate, I ate some once.

Well, it's kind of gross a few years after the Civil War in the year of 1877, come a large flood down there and washed all the dam away and those 2 hammers down the creek and they stayed there until WWII when a cousin, Ernest Lineberry, got them out and sold as scrap iron. Wouldn't they have been a fine addition to any museum. I don't know how they got them out but they did and sold them for scrap iron.

Then people began to prosper a little after that but before that before the turn of the century. One old gentleman told me that his taxes on his farm was a little over one dollar and he didn't have the dollar. He had a group of oxen and an old farm wagon there. He said he got everything on that he could: produce, chicken, hams, vegetables, fruit whatever he could load up on that wagon, a whole wagon load of it. Took up to Mt Airy, some 40 miles, Mt Airy, North Carolina south. Went down there, down the mountain on into Mt Airy and peddled down there from house to house for a week till he got that dollar and something and paid his taxes.

Of course then, people began to prosper a little. Factories were being built, people working in the factory people getting a little money, markets began to open up for the cattle and lumber and so on and so forth like that. Then there's brother. Had a brother Joseph who was in the lumber business down there and they wouldn't buy any kind of lumber then with a knot on it especially with a lot of virgin pine left. He'd cut down those huge pine trees, take the logs up to the first limb and there wouldn't be a knot on it. Cut it down, the railroad then was beside him so they had a boxcar in there so he might load his lumber in for shipment. The name of the siding, Lineberry siding, so he loaded his lumber there. He would cut this lumber into specifications for the purchaser, some lumber company, and load it in the car down there and got nine dollars a thousand. They all left clear lumber would been cut into trimming ornamental woods so on like that that bring two or three thousand dollars a day but that's not the type lumber that these people want today. They cut secondary kind where the limbs go out the bottom all the way on up to the top and when that lumber's sawed why there's knots all through it they call it knotted pine and that's what they want today.

These people moved about but I must tell you about grandfather's brother, uncle Wesley Lineberry who was veteran of the Civil War. Before the Civil War, Uncle Wesley was born in 1845 and as a young man of 18 he was in the Civil War. His letter that was evidently written by a daughter in his later days, how recounted his experiences said that he ? after the war about 2 years after the war I imagine about 1867 he and two of his aunts left Carroll County, Virginia in a covered wagon migrated to Missouri. And before he started Uncle Jacob, that was Uncle Wesley's brother, as a young man he was born in 1849, had a dime and gave that to Uncle Wesley. Uncle Wesley said that when he got into Missouri he had 15 cents and of course why later he owned 200 acres of fine Missouri land, farm land. A fine home land Marceline, Missouri he raised a family of seven children and among his grandchildren was one Wesley McAfee and at one time Wesley McAfee was nominated for president of New York stock exchange. He was president of Edison Electric in St. Louis when he lived in St. Louis.

Of course, down in North Carolina this first Jacob Lineberry came in 1752 with two sons, William and Jacob. Jacob settled in Randolph County and William settled over in Chatham County and William became a very notable parishioner there in the legislature in North Carolina. During the war there was one captain Lineberry pilot for the Air Force and he was from Charlotte, North Carolina. There was a big, big item from that night but I did not save

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this newspaper item about his experience in the war as a pilot. We've found them scattered all over the country as many places as we've been why we've picked up telephones and called various ones and all seem to be answered. Another one of the North Carolina Lineberry's down there wrote a book on her ancestors she gave me a copy of that and I still have that in my files. There was old captain Lineberry who was a captain in the Civil War Captain William S Lineberry and he wrote in 1918 a history of the North Carolina branch of the family that his grandmother remembered and told him to remember and we have a copy of that book in our files at home.

On my great grandmother's homemade tombstone I believe it had her initials on there wrong when they made it they had it T.P. and should have been P.T. for Piety Thomas Smith she was named after her father. This is a beautiful old tombstone from her husband, Jacob Lineberry, my great grandfather buried side-by-side there in the old Hebron Cemetery in Carroll County, Virginia. The cemetery is very, very well kept by descendants ...? Of course there's a lot of his descendants and other kinsmen that are buried there.

The old original Lineberry cemetery where Jacob and Elizabeth Fanning are buried along with their daughter Elizabeth and Jacob Lineberry who came from North Carolina. This old cemetery has not well cared for but this spring I hope to get some men down there to clean that up and we'll have to fence it. Put a real good fence around it. Use steel posts so it will be there for many, many years to come and set those posts in concrete and a good, strong fence around it clean it up and keep it in thing in choice condition. That would be my great, great grandfather and of course grandmother and her father and mother Jacob and Elizabeth Fanning and we need to clean that up and keep that in good condition because they were among the first settlers in Carroll County, Virginia.

On this tombstone of my great grandmother

As you pass by remember me
As you are now
So once was I
As I am now
You soon will be
Prepare for death and follow me