

# Round Robin

*May 2020*

**(RUTH: ) LINNAE'S LETTER**, Havertown PA, near Philadelphia

Hi Family,

As Em's JoAnn said to me, we are living in strange times. We are all making the best of things. Thanks for all your Round Robin entries. Attached are some photos, and I don't know if the captions show on the small screen, so I will describe them: First, two that Steve suggested: (1) 1902: Frank and Amy Lindgren on their wedding day, and (2) 2005: Aunt Irene and Les Dahlen shortly after their marriage (2<sup>nd</sup> for both). Then, from me, is (3) 1923: The four Frank and Amy Lindgren girls: Aunt Irene at age 6 (spunky even then) with her three older sisters, Ruth, Ev, and Gene. Becky sent a cute collage of four photos of her grandson Roman getting his long hair cut, but I could not figure out how to attach it here, so will forward it separately as Round Robin, Part 2, along with a repeat of her letter.

Also attached is a "pdf" document from our double-cousin and newest member, Jim Carey. It is a genealogy table, still in draft form, showing the relationships of our extended family members. Jim is still working on it and welcomes input from us. It puts the relatives into an orderly and easy-to-read visual form – extremely helpful! Aunt Irene would have loved it. See Jim's entry at the end for more information.

My youngest nephews, Jon and Julia's boys (Alexander and Alek), have just had birthdays. They all live in the virus "epicenter" in New Rochelle NY. Julia sent me this note a couple of weeks ago which summarizes it for many of us:

"I hope you are doing well in this 'new normal.' It's been quite an adjustment, and I don't like it at all. I'm grateful that I can still work (from home) and that it's busy enough to keep me occupied most of the day. Thank you for remembering the boys. I cannot believe they will be 16 and 18 next week. How did THAT happen? ... Not sure how we'll celebrate; likely just a cake -- perhaps a special treat of ordering dinner in instead of cooking.... Please do keep yourself safe, and know that we are all thinking about you."

We have a new Round Robin member, Jim Carey from California, professor of entomology at the University of California, Davis (in northern California, near Sacramento). His name was on the last Round Robin list, but he is writing to introduce himself in person this time. He is our "double-cousin," son of LaVerna Lindgren and Robert Carey, and grandson of Grandma Amy's sister Lizzie and Grandpa Frank's brother John. (I used to call them "Grandma and Grandpa Lindgren" growing up, but this would be confusing today – can mean several people.)

A year ago Jim was in Madison WI for a presentation and met the three Obed sons – Steve, Bruce and Dave – and Gil's Dick, plus Laura and Carson. They suggested he join the Round Robin group, and write an entry at this time. There has been a flurry of emails between Jim and myself over the last couple of weeks and he is full of enthusiasm – I imagine him as the ideal college professor,

accomplished but sympathetic on the human level. Genealogy is one of his fields of interest.

He has included a summary of his life to introduce himself. I added some headings to make it easier to read. We have been exchanging lots of emails, and he told me this little story about himself the other day: He mentioned that when he first moved to California 45 years ago, he met sisters Pauline and Rosalie Johnson (daughters of Grandma Amy's brother "Frank I." and Esther Carlson). As adults, the girls had made the adventurous decision to move to Sacramento CA and open a Swedish "tea room" restaurant. Of course they were older when Jim met them. Jim said:

"Rosalie and Pauline's tea room was called the Orange Horse (named after the Swedish icon, the Dala horse), located at the time in the upscale Town & Country Mall in Sacramento. I believe I visited it once. They and Rosalie's family came to my son's christening in 1980 but I really didn't see them much. I went to Rosalie's husband Don Ortmeyer's memorial after he died 10-15 years later. Pauline thought I should hook up with Rosalie's daughter Gwendolyn, who had graduated from Berkeley as I recall, but was much younger. Aside from the cousinship issue, at that time I was not that far-removed from Iowa's corn fields and she was cosmopolitan young woman – not good fit! She's gone on to do well back east."

Interesting. I love Swedish tea rooms, by the way. I have come across them in several cities. Love those little pastries. But I digress. Welcome, Jim Carey!

Jim has two links in his entry: one is to a very short presentation about using genealogy tables, with good diagrams clarifying and naming the relationships between relatives. The second link is more casual, a travelogue of the trips to Africa that Jim and his wife Patty have taken. It is pretty fast moving in parts – if you want to pause it, just hit the ""k" button on your keyboard. Set aside some time to sit and enjoy this – it is 45 minutes long.

The Africa video starts with gorillas in the wild, and Jim got so close, I can't imagine why these beautiful creatures didn't just turn around and take a swing at him! But I guess I have seen too many King Kong/Jurassic Park-type movies. And the humans were being very quiet and careful. There are other animals, gorgeous scenery, and then a section about the people living in the small villages, very interesting and respectful of them I thought. As noted above, there is also an expanded "pdf" file on genealogy. So – enjoy!

Again, thanks everyone for your entries.

Love, Linnae

**(GENE: ) PAT'S LETTER**, Tulsa OK

Dear Family,

My computer has been doing crazy upsetting things so I hope I can get a letter out!! Our dentist retired last fall so we went to a new one in December. The hygienist after my cleaning said she was checking for cancer. She found a big lump in my neck and couldn't believe I had never felt it!! I think the only time I touch my neck is with a soapy washcloth. So I went to my Dr. as instructed, and he had a couple tests done and said if it started bothering me we'd have it removed. But back to the dentist..... Jim's appt. was right after mine and the first thing she asked him was if his wife has dementia!!! I don't know

what his answer was! I went to an ENT in January and he said I needed to have it removed, and he did so. I thought it was the size of an egg but it turned out to be about twice that big but there was no cancer!

We have been going to San Antonio TX in January or February for years, in fact one time we met Uncle Obed and Thelma down there – I think that was about 20 years ago!! We went this year in February. My daughter Pam Bizzle, 4 grandkids and now 2 great grands live down there.

Great-grand Brayden turned 5 while we were there. A couple days while granddaughter Brittany was working (she is a physical therapist) and Jim was playing golf, Brayden wanted to stay home with me. The first day, about 10 a.m., I said “OMG I forgot to take my pills,” and he walked to the kitchen with me and asked to see the pills. The next day he said “Ganny did you take your pills?” I thanked him for reminding me. Again he went to the kitchen with me, and then said “You know if old people don’t take their pills they die.” He’s the one who stared at my wrinkled face last year and then said “Ganny, are you old?”

Well, this letter did disappear from my screen twice but luckily husband Jim found it!! Life used to be so simple! I hope everyone is healthy and happy!!

Love, Pat

**(GILMORE: ) LAURA AND DICK’S LETTER**, Ames IA and Madison WI

Dear Family,

This is Laura, and I am writing for my Dad too. We decided to write our letter together, especially since my Dad and I happened to see each other last weekend for a short meeting in Independence Iowa with my brother Mark and his son, Mark Jr. They traveled there to pick up a few boxes of paperwork at some apartments which were recently sold.

My Dad continues to live in his own house in Madison WI. He gets meals-on-wheels, which are both low salt and gluten free. He goes out occasionally to the grocery store, wearing a mask. He stayed in Madison for Thanksgiving with family there, and traveled to Iowa for Christmas. He hopes to travel to Michigan in August to go to a Corvair convention and hear his cousin-in-law, David Cole, speak. It is still too soon to tell if the meeting will happen or not.

My granddaughter in Madison (and my Dad’s great granddaughter), Lucy Gardner, daughter of my son Carson and Elle, turned 1 year old on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Lucy started walking about 6 weeks before her birthday, and is a joy and delight, with her sweet smile and bright red hair!

I am learning a lot of new things about teaching music online. It was challenging at first, but after sending home many worksheets and emails, I finally learned how to videotape myself teaching the students, which I plan to do the rest of the school year. I also meet with the teachers for staff meetings and church services through Zoom.

Thanks so much to Linnae for contacting us and putting the Robin together again!

Love,

Laura and Dick

**(OBED: ) BRUCE'S LETTER**, Minneapolis MN, for the Obed & Verona Lindgren brothers

Hi all,

Steve, Dave and I have been using Zoom and last Tuesday we spent almost an hour discussing who should write for the RR and what should be included. Steve made a motion, seconded by Dave, to delegate the duty to me for writing our contribution; subject to edit. The motion was adopted 2:1. In March as the COVID 19 pandemic was developing we had to forego our customary birthday breakfasts (Dave's was March 28) and meet instead with Zoom. Part of the conversation was about email and I commented that I rather liked a family URL [www.lindgrenonline.net](http://www.lindgrenonline.net) that could enable me to make a switch from the email address that I have been using for nearly two decades. So now you can reach us with [bruce@ ...](mailto:bruce@...), [dave@ ...](mailto:dave@...) or [steve@lindgrenonline.net](mailto:steve@lindgrenonline.net). Of course, our old email addresses are still active and may likely continue for some indefinite time. We always look forward to hearing from you. [Linnae's note: I had a problem with the new addresses, probably better to keep the old ones for now.]

Of course everything online has its origins and evolution. We don't have any grand plan for the lindgrenonline website. If it only remains a vehicle for our email, it will be fine. However, I have made provision for placing some of our heritage artifacts on the site. Over ten to fifteen years ago, Linnae and I with support from Dick, maintained a site the-lindgrens.net, but dropped it after a couple of years when I found there was little traffic. This effort will display some of the photographs and writing from our parents and grandparents along with some genealogical records that have been assembled and passed along by Aunt Irene, Dick Lindgren and his daughter Amy Gfesser, Jon & Linnae Coss, and Jim Carey. I remain concerned about the future of these documents and pictures and don't see this website as a final solution but at least a tool for sharing.

COVID 19 has disrupted all of our lives. The future of travel is uncertain. February in San Diego was wonderful with our meeting Sonja & Jon Noordeloos, Gordon Lindgren, Jon and Elaine Lindgren, but Patti and I were glad to be back in Minneapolis on March 4<sup>th</sup>. I know that Steve would love to hold his two newest grandchildren but is separated by glass and distance, while enjoying and eagerly sharing the pictures he receives from his children Lisa and Stuart. Kathy and Steve walk in their neighborhood enough each day to exceed 10,000 steps while observing social distancing rules. Dave finds safe haven at home with Joyce and his hobbies, which have enlarged with some new ventures into web development work. Patti and I find the Minneapolis downtown streets and sidewalks mostly free of people as we get out for daily walks in nearby Loring Park. There are a few glimmers of hope for a pandemic turnaround, many perhaps premature and misguided, to remove some of the social distancing. Almost everyone in my circle of contacts is signing communications with "stay safe and be well." Which, of course, is what we hope for all of you.

All our best,

Bruce

**(EMORY: ) JOANN'S LETTER**, Bremerton WA, nr Seattle

Dear Family,

This spring is beautiful here in Washington state, as always. It's worth all the rain! We, as a family, escaped the virus, though a few of our friends have had to isolate themselves because of neighbors who have the virus. Our Elizabeth (and Ronn) and our Billy (and Andrea) home-school their children so the school closure here doesn't really affect them. Ronn and Billy can work from home and my Bill is doing new construction of an isolated house.

Linnae sent me a link to a video of Lily, (Gil: ) Jon's granddaughter, performing her ballet recital for them at their condo. We loved it!

Hope this Round Robin finds everyone safe and thankful!

Much love,

JoAnn (Lindgren) Morton, Emory's daughter

**(ROY: ) BECKY'S LETTER**, Leander TX, nr Austin

Dear Family,

Hello from Texas! I hope you are all doing very well. I think Steve has a new grand baby and so does Sonja!?

Congrats to each of you plus Laura Gardner... (& anyone I've missed)

My news is quite amazing actually.

My daughter, Heather Looker, and my son-in-law, Gabe, have purchased, mid-April, a mini farm in Hutto Texas.. a northern suburb, plus a lot of country, north of Austin. They will be taking the horses soon. They have been looking for over one year. Surprisingly, there was a 4 acre piece of land directly behind their 3 plus acres, also for sale. They asked if I would like to buy that and sell where I live now, moving to be their neighbor! This did sound quite ideal, so I have bought the acreage! Now to prepare and sell where I live plus decide what kind of home I wish to have, still within my retirement budget... (P.S. I'm still at 22505 Sunset Hollow, Leander, TX for now...)

This is quite exciting for us, and I look forward to being able to walk to their home or the little boys, now 5 & 8, being able to walk to see me! Roman calls me Gammy, as I called my (our) grandmother, Amy. He can't say the r's yet.. Gage calls me Grammy:)

Also, my brother Charlie enjoyed all his birthday cards, thank you!

And, my mom, Dixie, is doing really quite well in Olympia WA at age 92. She has 2 amazing care givers who clean her groceries, wear masks and walk her dog a lot! She just sits in a chair (for safety) by the sliding door to let the little, but hefty, part chihuahua out on a long leash, when they are not there.

We all think this little dog has done the trick making her more happy and lively and involved. Yeah for dogs!!

Happy May and May we all survive this virus & thrive after it~ ?

Love,

Becky

**JIM CAREY'S LETTER**, Davis CA, near Sacramento

*Son of Laverna and Robert Carey, grandson of John (Frank's brother) and Lizzie (Amy's sister) Lindgren*

Dear Everyone,

I had the good fortune and happy experience last spring in Madison, Wisconsin of meeting for the first time my second cousins Dick, Bruce, Steve, and Dave Lindgren, as well as my second cousins once and twice removed, respectively, Laura Garner and her son, Carson. Along with recent help and encouragement from Linnae Coss, this delightful occasion inspired me to join this Round Robin.

What a thrill for me, given I have had so many contacts with the Lindgren relatives. My mother LaVerna was the 9<sup>th</sup> child of Frank Lindgren's brother John Lindgren and Amy (Clara Naemi) Lindgren's sister Lizzie Johnson. As a young boy I had heard talk about Obed, Gilmore, Frank, Aunts Amy and Nellie. My second cousin Bob Selim (living in Somerville MA) was my mother's escort at my wedding in Boston in the late 1970s. And I met Rosalie (Johnson) Ortmeyer and Pauline Johnson when I came to northern California. Although I had put together a family genealogy 25-30 years ago, I still had only a weak sense of the Lindgren side of my heritage. By joining this Round Robin I feel on a path of personal discovery.

### **Childhood**

No use for me trying to cover too much historical background — like everyone on this RR, it would take pages and pages. In a nutshell: I was born in 1947 as the second child of three (Barb and Kathy) of LaVerna (Lindgren) and Robert Carey (who died when I was 14 and mom was in her mid-40s). I grew up on our small farm in Iowa until I was 17, and moved to Ames with my mother and one sister after high school.

### **Military and early education**

I was drafted to army infantry in late 1960s during the Vietnam War but ended up serving as a ranger instructor at U.S. Army Mountain Ranger Camp in northern Georgia. In 1973 I completed my B.S. degree at Iowa State in fisheries and wildlife biology (I was big into hunting, fishing and trapping on the farm) but went on to graduate school in entomology with guidance from Tom Brindley, LaVerna (Rohden) Brindley's husband, who was entomology professor at Iowa State (as noted by Dick Lindgren et al in their earlier RR letters).

### **PhD and family**

In 1975 I enrolled for my PhD at UC Berkeley, finishing in 1980, including a one-year stint at Harvard as a visiting PhD student in population biology and genetics. It was in Boston that I met my first wife

(since divorced and re-married) with whom we had three children — Bryce, Ian and Meredith, the first two of whom are married with a total of 5 (grand) children.

### **Teaching**

As of March 1 I finished my 40<sup>th</sup> year as a faculty in entomology here at the University of California, Davis, as both an instructor and a researcher. It has been a good run and retirement is on the horizon at 72 years old. Although I am still actively publishing and teaching, we'll see how much longer I can go, especially given the current pandemic situation.

### **Life today**

My wife Patty and I thoroughly enjoy our lives in Davis – a progressive university town of around 60,000 residents and nearly 35,000 students. All my children live out-of-state – i.e., New York, North Carolina to Oregon. I am very much looking forward to reading and contributing to this RR letter. I have included links to two videos I produced FYI – (1)kinship relations ([click here](#)) I use in a class I teach that might help you sort out kinship relations among the Lindgren clan; and (2)African Odyssey: Wildlife Adventures, Natural Wonders and Indigenous Peoples ([click here](#)) a video-seminar travelogue I presented to our department last year.

[Linnae's note: Jim has also attached a pdf document to this Round Robin, a genealogy table of our extended family that he is still working on – please contact him or me if you can help fill this out.]

Best wishes, Jim Carey