

LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, No. 1

April, 1993

PAUL LINNELL'S CONTACTS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Chatting with high flying space ship crews is a hobby available to few persons in our clan. However, Paul Linnell (118, 241, 231, 124, 2) of West Fargo, ND has been talking with American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts over the past eight years. He uses his ham radio skills to chat with those characters in outer space and to send them computerized messages.

Paul has been active as an amateur radio operator for more than 25 years. It was when he learned that other ham radio operators were establishing contacts with space ships that he opened a whole new enterprise of conversation with their crews.

One of his most satisfying relationships has been the months-long contact he has enjoyed with Sergei Krikalev, a Russian cosmonaut who was kept spinning around the planet seven months longer than his planned trip. Not only did the U.S.S.R. break up as a collective nation, but even the space agency that sent him into orbit was closed down while he was up. Krikalev had to feel abandoned in space for a very long time.

It helped that Paul had taught himself to speak rudimentary Russian; for even though the cosmonaut had a good command of English, the competition among 1500 ham operators seeking his attention in American English offered an advantage to anyone who could open conversation in the cosmonaut's own tongue. Their interchange has been cordial, their topics chiefly personal. Paul reports that he did not attempt to discuss problems of politics nor very many technical questions but separated out problems of government from the common interests of people. It has been, he emphasizes, a person-to-person dialog.



Contacts between Paul and his Russian correspondent were necessarily brief. He had only nine minutes to get on line with Sergei as the space craft circled over the western United States. Even then, actual discussion time could never exceed two-and-a-half minutes because the lightning-fast space ship was soon beyond reach. Yet into that time, the two men built a continuing relationship that endured until Sergei finally got down from space last spring. They have not exchanged messages recently.

Paul continues his interchanges with other space crews, sending them computer messages and dialoguing with them. He makes it sound easy for others to get into such contact, noting that the federal government now makes it simpler to obtain an amateur radio license, and confiding that AMSAT, an organization of amateur radio operators interested in satellite communication, publish a guide about space flights, schedules and positions.

Paul's call sign is WQ0M; and he notes that there are other Linnell cousins who could hold conversations as several in his immediate family are doing.

Such a pastime could threaten to become as all-consuming hobby; but Paul has a business of his own. He manages a safety consulting firm, continuing the same work he has done for some years when employed by a North Dakota manufacturer. He and his wife, Nancy, are the parents of three children: Jo Dee Paulette, 18; Matthew Paul, 16; and Paula Gail, aged 9.



INSIDE

p.2 Chairman Dick Writes
Gleanings from Letters
p.3. The Descendants Book
What Does "Linnell" Mean?



A QUILTING BEE FOR ALL LINNELLS

At next year's Linnell Family Reunion, some one will win the prize heirloom quilt that is being created by crafters from within our clan. Additional stitchers are now being sought to complete the full double bed size quilt that is being projected. Pamela Ponting and Barrie Westerwick are coordinating the entire project.

Pamela and Barrie have assembled basic kits for each square to be included in the quilt, but they will leave the design for the square to the individual quilter. The design could be a traditional quilt pattern. Or it could represent some event from the family history. Or it could be an original design by the individual quilter. "As long as everyone doing a square coordinates it with the colors of the fabric swatch in the kit," Pamela says, "the resulting quilt will be beautiful." Pam or Barrie would enjoy

talking over ideas for squares with interested cousins. All are welcome and encouraged to participate, first time or experienced quilters.

Completed squares are to be returned to Pamela or Barrie who will oversee incorporating them into the finished quilt. The plan for the selection of the winner of the quilt will be announced in the autumn NEWSLETTER. In the meantime consult either Barrie or Pam for more information and for your starting kit:

Pamela Ponting
413 Melvin St.
Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 778-1352

Barrie Westerwick
181 Deerfield Lane
Aberdeen, NJ 07747
(908) 583-0897

For inspiration, Myrle Linnell suggests browsing in your local library for the helpful book, Quilting Together by Paula Nedelstern and LynNell Hancock.

CHAIRMAN DICK WRITES TO US

As I check the goals we had hoped to see our Association accomplish, I discover that we are doing great! Paid memberships have increased and we are on the way to becoming financially sound. These two goals we had agreed upon at the 1991 Family Reunion; and they are now in sight. A hearty thanks to all of you who have helped with your contributions!

This coming June our Steering Committee is to hold a planning meeting at the site of our upcoming 1994 reunion; that's Granville, Ohio. From the wealth of Linnell history to be found in this charming village, a wonderful experience awaits us all. The committee is working to identify varied places of interest for us to visit. There's a centrally located stone memorial that lists the names of founding families including, of course, our own. There are also several historic houses our ancestors occupied, as well as the old family farm nearby. And within driving distance are the attractions of the Columbus area that families with children will enjoy in the days around the Reunion and during free time.

How can you, yourself, help our Linnell Family Association move forward? (1) Let Al Linnell, chairman for the Reunion Of '94, know how you wish to be involved in helping at Granville. (2) Keep Rachel informed about the family accomplishments and events for the NEWSLETTER and revisions of the book, The Descendents of Robert Linnell. (3) Continue your membership support when the request for dues payment arrives in July. (4) Take part in the quilting project.

Meanwhile remember to clear your calendar for the 1994 Reunion at Granville, June 24, 25, 26.

Best wishes,
Dick



GLEANINGS FROM LETTERS

Kay (118, 241, 185, 82) with Jim Swedberg helped celebrate her father, Norman Thompson's 85th birthday at the Thompson home in Hawaii last November. Kay's brother, David, sustained considerable damage from Kauai's hurricanes in 1992. He is now in the progress of rebuilding and recovering. Kay and Jim's daughter, Wendy, toured with the Artie Shaw band for three weeks in August and again December 5-15 on an inter-island Hawaiian cruise ship. On this later trip she was able to take husband Bob with her. Another Swedberg daughter, Heidi, recently was part of the "Seinfeld" cast for six programs, playing the part of Susan in that sitcom.

Bob (11a, b12, 753, 12) and Myrle Linnell have moved across the country from California to White River Junction, VT and into a dream house overlooking mountains blanketed with snow in winter. They are active in choir and local groups and have found friends and family nearby who make them already feel at home.

Dr. Larry Linnell (117, 7-10-1, 435, 11) has announced a major move from Dexter, ME to join a 17 member medical group in Towanda, PA. Larry, with one partner, will carry the obstetric specialty. Pam and the children are to follow after the school year is completed. As a part of the cooperation between medical groups in Maine and Brazil that Larry has instigated, he was securing passage for a truckload of donated X-ray and hospital equipment to go to hospitals in Brazil.

The Speldes (Judy-118, 241, 112, 878) have expanded their air transport business, Empire, into a jet operation this past year. Judy works full time now as the personnel manager. Their daughter Jen is now attending the University of Washington in Seattle. Her AFS sister, Karen from the Netherlands, returned home after graduation and after trips to Disneyland and a reunion of the Spelde family in Holland, MI. Judy's mother, Alma Anderson, has moved back to Grand Marais, MN where friends and phone calls keep the family in touch.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The purposes of the Association are to promote fellowship among the Linnell family members through reunions and the publication of the Linnell Family Newsletter and to preserve the records of the family.

Steering Committee 1991-1994

Chairman	Dick Linnell	PO Box 95
.....	815-789-4668	Orangeville, IL 61060
Vice Chairman	Dennis Linnell	200 North 165th St.
.....	414-786-7241	Brookfield, WI 53005
Secretary	Ladoska Elliott	423 S. 2nd St.
.....	Harrisburg, OR 97446
Treasurer	Judy Spelde	208 Vista Dr.
.....	208-765-4600	Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Reunion 1994	Al Linnell	1667 Hillcrest
.....	208-883-4960	Moscow, ID 83843
Computerization of Data	Glen Roberts	7007 436th Place N.
.....	612-535-3682	Crystal, MN 55428
Historian & Newsletter	Rachel L & J.C. Wynn	717 Maiden Choice Ln.#523
Editors	410-242-5760	Catonsville, MD 21228

Bonnie and Roger Hansen, whose extensive house fire damage was reported in the previous issue of the NEWSLETTER, have now rebuilt their home in Spring Lake Park, MN and have returned to live in it again. They write that help and comfort from family and friends have made the big difference in both their survival and their recovery.

Dossie (11a, b15, 415, 64) and John Elliott have moved too; their new address is in the Association Steering Committee listing. They had hoped to restore an historic home, but found it too far deteriorated to accomplish. A double-wide manufactured home has helped solve their problem and they are now established. Dossie found time to gather with ten cousins and their eight spouses for a summer reunion picnic in Albany, OR.

JUST WHAT DOES "LINNELL" MEAN?

One tradition, among several, holds that the family name Linnell is of Celtic origin and that the key to its meaning is to be found in analyzing the two syllables, "linn" and "el". Because "lynn", with its variant "i" or "y" is translated as the word "lake" and "el" as a hill, this can suggest a lake at the foot of a hill. Just how the name could get attached to people who lived on the lake shore under the hill is hardly mysterious. Etymologists frequently theorize that families acquire names from their locations. Thus the Greenes lived next to the green meadow where the cattle grazed while the Towners had a home in the town itself. It makes sense then to suppose that a family who could be identified by the lake (lynn) and hill (el) become the Linnells.

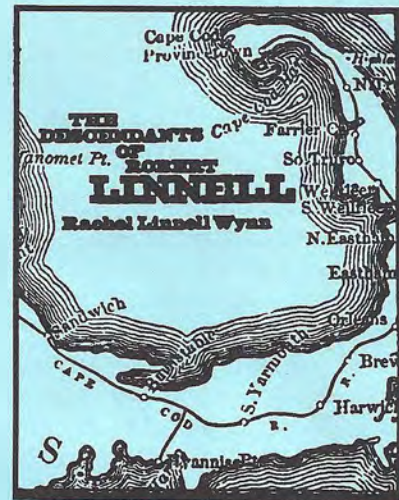
In his Pioneer Real Estate business at Portland, Maine, Virgil Linnell has adopted a logo (seen in the illustration) that advances this theory a major step. His information is that "linnell" is Welsh term that means "house by the water". As Welsh is a derivative language from Celtic origins, this explanation is cogent.



We can be confident that the name was known in England long before the emigration of our ancestor, Robert; but it was often spelled Lynnel in those days. Today's English families spell Linnell as we do, or else with the elimination of that final "l" (Linnel). To complicate matters (though we hardly need that) the name of Robert, our original ancestor in this country, is variously spelled in various documents. On his will he signed his name as Robert Linnel. But in the list of the townsmen of Barnstable, according to Freeman's History of Cape Cod, he is listed as Robert Linnet.

One tradition makes the claim that Linnells entered England from France in the Norman invasion of 1066, and that one of our remote ancestors was entrusted with the administration of a section of the conquered territory. His name, as given at that time, was simply spelled Lionel. Still other stories relate that some of our kin migrated to Scandanavia. Indeed some of our family, touring Sweden in 1978, discovered Linnells among the residents of Upsala.

If readers of the FAMILY NEWSLETTER have discovered other variations of the history of our name, they are urged to write to the editors. Through enrichment of our collection of these reports concerning the word, we hope to begin to trace the true story, even with all its variations, and finally establish a definitive version.



THE DESCENDANTS BOOK IS PROGRESSING

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR RECORD?

Virgil Linnell of Portland, ME recently sent in a packet of splendidly documented information concerning his relations, bringing his family line up to date for the Second Edition of The Descendants of Robert Linnell. Virgil will be remembered as the treasurer at our first Linnell Family Reunion on Cape Cod in 1988.

Also included in Virgil's packet were obituaries, notices of marriages, and articles clipped from area newspapers about other persons with the Linnell name. Some of these have been identified; others will enrich our data bank with connections still to be made.

Bruce MacGunnigle, (11a, b12, 611, 412, 2) of East Greenwich, RI sent a number of corrections. Along with them was the comment that his aunt, widow of Charles Francis McGunigle (11a, b12, 611, 411), must be a neighbor of your editors because of a similar address. A phone call to Philina McGunigle located her right within our same retirement community and resulted in a wonderful afternoon conversation over tea.

A call from Bonnie Featherstone of St. Paul, MN, with her identification number (118, 241, 116, 541, 1), made it possible to determine just what information was lacking from her family's record for the Second Edition.

Family members are encouraged to complete their research and submit it by May 30, 1993 so that all records can be up to date for publication. All information should be sent to: Rachel Linnell Wynn, 717 Maiden Choice Lane #523, Cantonsville, MD, 21228.

If you need help to know just what is lacking from your family's record, you are encouraged to telephone Rachel, as Bonnie did (1-410-242-5760). Having your identification number available helps to locate your record.

Information about how to order your copy of this new edition of The Descendants of Robert Linnell will come in the autumn NEWSLETTER.

**THE LINNELL FAMILY
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**
Rachel L. and J.C. Wynn, editors
717 Maiden Choice Lane, #523
Catonsville, MD 21228

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ADD THESE TO OUR FAMILY RECORDS

DEATHS

Richard Lee Linnell (118, 241, 533, 311) on 22 Oct. 1992 at Lake Park, FL of ALS (Lou Gehrig disease).

Gloria T. (Stuart) Linnell, wife of Richard L. Linnell, above, on 15 May, 1992 at Lake Park, FL of cancer.

MARRIAGES

Brock Featherstone (118, 241, 116, 541, 3) son of Bonnie Featherstone, to Addfridur Ragnheidur Thorisdottir of Reykjavik, Iceland on 20 June, 1992.

Thelma (Heilig) McCluskey (118, 241, 145, 145, -10-5) to Chester J. Vanscoy on 26 June, 1992

Carol (Soderbeck) Peterson (118, 241, 145, 831) to Ralph L. Fritz on 7 Mar., 1992

Pamela Jean Tonkin (118, 552, 151, 221) dau. of Sherwood L. Tonkin (deceased) and Sandra (Dils) Galbraith to Giovanni Christoph Meier on 26 Sep., 1992 Higganum, CT.

BIRTHS

Nicholas Robert Audet b. 18 Apr., 1991 to Jane (Linnell 118, 241, 533, 321, 2) and Roger R. Audet at Lewiston, ME.

Brandon Michael Bennett b. 21 Nov., 1992 to Mark (118, 241, 161, 111, 3) and Marlene (Emerling) Bennett at Rochester, NY.

John Thomas Bohnhoff b. 26 Dec., 1992 to Jennifer (Swedberg 118, 241, 185, 821) and Henry Bohnhoff at Albuquerque, NM.

Kelly Jane Linnell Eldridge b. 7 Mar., 1989 to Ann Odessa (Linnell 118, 241, 533, 321, 3) and Shawn T. Eldridge at North Country, NH.

Brittany Sue Linnell b. 28 Sep., 1989 and Samuel Bradley Linnell b. 12 Mar., 1992 to Jeff (118, 241, 116, 574) and Lynn (McLean 118, 241, 116, 23) Linnell at St. Paul, MN.

Melanie Elizabeth Linnell b. 9 July, 1987 to David R. (118, 241, 533, 321, 1) and Janice (Philbrick) Linnell at Waterville, ME.

Abigail Kathryn Linnell b. 24 Oct., 1988 and Jason Stephen Linnell on 13 Oct., 1992 to Stephen (118, 241, 533, 324, 2) and Beverly (Jackson) Linnell.