

LINNELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 3

AUGUST 1995

ROBERT LINNELL

THE STILL UNSOLVED MYSTERY

For the last several years I have been doing research on our common ancestor, Robert Linnell, who emigrated from Great Britain and took an oath of allegiance to the King and an oath of fidelity to the colony on 1 February 1638. I have been attempting to do two things: 1) verify information that we already have, and 2) gather additional information. My search has certainly been interesting! I have consulted a variety of institutions, mainly in Great Britain, and I have learned much. I would like to share with you exactly what has been done, and what we now know.

I began by trying to verify the marriage of Robert Linnell in Kent, England, as that is where we all assume that Robert originated. By contacting the **Kent County Council** where all such records are kept, I discovered that they had NO record of Robert Linnell's marriage in Eastwell, Kent (where, according to LDS genealogical records, he had been married). Nor could I find any reference to a marriage in the **International Genealogical Index (IGI)** for anywhere in the county. Frustration.

I then contacted the **Canterbury Cathedral, City and Diocesan Record Office**. Why? Because research seems to indicate that Penninah Howes' father was the parish clerk of Eastwell, Kent. At this point I have no answer on this topic, as the Cathedral only undertakes research of this kind after fees have been paid.

Since Robert Linnell was known as "Mr. Linnell," which was a title of honor, I then con-

tacted the **College of Arms** to see if perhaps there were any documents pertaining to a pedigree. The College of Arms grants coats of arms and has a large repository, therefore, of genealogical records. Again, they only undertake research of this nature after payment of substantial fees, so this is another unfinished line of work.

Many records such as births/deaths/marriages/baptisms in Great Britain are kept by the **General Register Office at St. Catherine's House** in London. They have mainly Church of England registers, but they did check their holdings on non-parochial registers of non-conformists and found nothing on ROBERT LINNELL. I also contacted the **Keeper of the Public Records** in London. Nothing.

However, I was referred to **Dr. Williams' Library** which contains many histories of non-conformist churches (like Rev. John Lothrop's). Here, for the first time, I was able to CONFIRM what had previously only been a supposition. **Robert Linnell and his wife (name unknown) were members of the Jacob-Lothrop/Lothrop Church in Southwark in 1634, and Penninah House/Howes/Howse was a member of this congregation in 1632.** So we have progress!

I have contacted both **Cambridge University** and **Oxford University** to see if our illustrious ancestor Robert perhaps had a college degree. Cambridge University has checked their records and cannot confirm his attendance, though they do say that their records of this early period are "sometimes deficient." Oxford University has, to date, not responded. As you can see, I've been trying to be creative!



In an effort to both be more effective and creative, I finally hired a genealogist in Great Britain to see if HE could come up with further concrete data on our ancestor. I must confess that he was unable to do so. He WAS able to go to the **Bodleian Library, University of Oxford**, and send me photocopies of the proceedings of the Court of High Commission, Ecclesiastical Division, for 3 and 8 May 1632. While Penninah Howes was mentioned several times as being present and part of the proceedings, at no time did she speak. So that is a piece of "family folk-lore" and not historical fact.

However, the genealogist recently contacted me. Although he felt that any further research on original documents would be a waste of money, he was kind enough to tell me that he had been contacted by a woman in **Australia(!)** who is looking to research her Linnell ancestors from Surrey in the 1860's. The genealogist thought perhaps we would be of help to one another, and I HAVE written to this woman.

As you can see, the last two years have not proven terribly fruitful. Yet it has been interesting corresponding with people from various parts of the world. I feel like a detective trying to track down little snippets of information that will hopefully give us a more complete picture of our ancestor **ROBERT**.

And there are still plenty of avenues to pursue. I have a reference to a marriage of a **RICHARD LYNELL** of St. Magnus, London, and Margery Awsten of Kensington, Middlesex, at Kensington on 18 July 1577, Bishop of London's Office. Are these perhaps the **PARENTS** of our Robert? The time would be about right. But this must still be pursued. There is a reference in the will of a "Samuel Howes" to his sister Penninah Linnell-- again, this needs to be tracked down. And it turns out the D.E. Banks, upon whose research we base much of our information, is known for being unreliable and, indeed, inaccurate!

I have enjoyed working on this little "puzzle" as time permits. I will certainly continue and keep everyone informed. Should anyone wish a list of all the **SPECIFIC** documents that have been researched so far (by me and also the genealogist), I would be happy to send them copies if they simply write to me.

Charlene Toews 11a,B12,753,121
3930 NW 27th Terrace
Boca Raton, FL 334434 Phone: 407-997-2816

HOW A COUSIN BECAME THE EARL OF LINNELL

Juanita Moore, granddaughter of Abigail Linnell, sends along the following anecdote about her father, Earl Linnell (118,241,151,3). Earl loved horses. He owned and trained many race horses even though he never bet on any race.

One day he was at a horse auction where he spotted a horse that nobody seemed to want; therefore, he was able to buy him for a relatively small amount. After many months of tender loving care and careful training, he entered said horse named "Crystal Pennant" in the Coffroth Handicap, a big race. He won! Because of this, he received great praise from all, including the media who dubbed him "The Earl of Linnell."

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 1994-1997

CHAIRMAN	DICK LINNELL 815-789-4668	PO BOX 95 ORANGEVILLE, IL 61060
VICE CHAIRMAN	ROBERT S. LINNELL 509-697-6047	2930 N. WENAS RD. SELAH, WA 98942
SECRETARY	CAROLJEAN ANDERSON 715-284-9816	RT2 PARKLAND VILLAGE BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615
TREASURER	JUDY SPELDE 208-667-8721	1912 NO. 14TH ST. #3 COEUR D'ALENE ID 83814
HISTORIAN	RACHEL L. WYNN 410-242-5760	717 MAIDEN CHOICE LANE #523 CATONSVILLE, MD 21228
COMPUTERIZATION OF DATA	GLEN ROBERTS 612-535-3682	7007 46TH PLACE N. CRYSTAL, MN 55428
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	KAY SWEDBERG 505-522-1966	2727 SUNRISE PT. RD. LAS CRUCES, NM 88011
REUNION 1997	JACK LINNELL 401-351-2879	355 BLACKSTONE BLVD #302 PROVIDENCE, RI 02906
	CONNIE GATES 608-942-5533	RFD 1, BOX 518 NORTHWOOD, NH 03261
	DAN McCONNELL BETSY McCONNELL 513-454-1721 EXT 1522	8102 TIMBERLODGE TRAIL CENTERVILLE, OH 45458

INTRODUCING CONNIE GATES 1997 REUNION COMMITTEE

Connie Gates is new to the steering committee. She and her husband Sonny went to their first Linnell national reunion at Granville, Ohio, in 1994, which they really enjoyed.

Connie and Sonny have been married nine years, having each lost their spouses of 39 years in 1984. Sonny and Connie had dated in high school and were lucky enough to find each other again. Sonny has two children and three grandchildren, and Connie has four children and six grandchildren. All live nearby except for Sonny's son who is in Puerto Rico.

Connie and Sonny are just finishing their second year of farm living. In 1993 they were able to move to the place where Connie grew up in Northwood, New Hampshire. Connie was born in Kalkaska, Michigan, and moved many times to reach this place and time as her father was one of those wandering Linnells. Their farm was built in 1790, a spacious cape with beautiful fields and woods. It even has its own little cemetery "down the lane," and keeps them busy with gardens, fruits, and berries. To fill their spare time, they work at crafts. They do several craft shows a year and have items in a local shop. (Sonny does wood-crafting, including painting miniatures of old town buildings. Connie does counted crossstitch and dried flowers.)

Connie's college degree was in music, but as her children became involved in school, she quickly realized that teaching was her true love. She taught kindergarten through sixth grade and was involved with a Resource Room for twenty-three years. Through teaching and travel she developed a great interest in history. She has worked on her mother's, father's, and first husband's family histories. Sonny, too, loves searching into the past. They feel truly blessed to live in New England where history abounds, and are really looking forward to the Reunion of 1997 at the Cape!

INTRODUCING JUDY SPELDE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION TREASURER

My interest in the family tree came from my grandmother who, prior to her marriage to Sam Linnell, was not a Linnell at all. Grandma used to tell us that we were descendants of Capt. John Smith, so with that in mind I started the backward search toward the Mayflower in hopes of proving that this famous captain was somehow related to me. My trail of inquiries and letters took me back to Plymouth and the Pilgrims, but my connection is to Samuel Fuller, the doctor on the Mayflower, not to the captain. Now my interest was peaked and as I continued to write to relatives and sources that I thought could tell me more, I learned about "a lady out East who was putting the Linnell Family history together" and "a Dick Linnell in Illinois" who also knew a lot about the family. I contacted Rachel, she gave me Dick's address, and from there it's recent history. Through them I've been introduced to some of the most interesting people one could want to meet: David Linnell and the love of his life, Hannah; and Captain Eben Linnell and his incredible ship the Eagle Wing. The Linnells that I've met at the reunions have more recent stories to tell, but these, too, will go down in the Family History. It's an interesting group and I'm pleased to be entrusted with handling the financial aspects of the Association.

What about me personally? I grew up in northern Minnesota, but Idaho has been home for 20 years. I work full-time as a Human Resource Manager and I have one daughter who is in college. Trips take me back to Minnesota 3 or 4 times a year to visit my mother, Alma Linnell Anderson, who is in a nursing home there.

If you're considering going to the reunion in 1997 in Cape Cod, but haven't quite convinced yourself that it's the thing to do - make the commitment. Join us in Hyannis in 1997! I'd like to meet those of you who I only know through your name on your membership check....

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand Jan. 1, 1995	\$ 628.82
Income:	
Membership Dues	\$2,510.00
DRL Book Sales	1,200.00
Misc. Notion Sales	48.00
Trans. from Svgs.	769.81
Total Income	\$4,527.81
Expenses:	
Newsletter Printing	\$ 760.67
Newsletter Postage	616.23
Bank Charge	4.63
Total Expenses	\$1,381.53
Balance	\$3,775.10
West One Bank July 20, 1995	

NINETY AND STILL GOING!

Alma Anderson (118,241,112,87) becomes 91 years old on 31 Dec. 1995. She lives in the North Shore Care Center, Grand Marais, MN 55604. While her vision is limited, she would enjoy hearing from those of the family who remember her. Daughter, Judy Spelde, will be visiting her and other members of the family in August and can interpret relationships of the family who send cards.

Winslow Linnell was 94 years old on 26 August 1995 and is our oldest living Linnell. He has been in the Bridgton Health Care Center, RR2, Box 754, Bridgton ME 04009 for 2 1/2 years since he fell and shattered a hip. An operation has eliminated the pain but does not allow him to walk so he spends his days in a wheel chair. This is a completely different life style from his years of being a Maine Guide. In those former years he guided at Flint's Camps on Aziscoos Lake and at Camp Redspot on Lake Umbagog. Elva Jordan, who answered our letter for him, comments that he could not be interviewed by phone since he is very hard of hearing. She is sure that he could tell many a story of the fish that got

away or the deer that eluded the hunters. Do send a card to help celebrate this birthday.

Please help us know when a family member reaches that magic age of 90. We are not yet computerized to be able to search for this information. Let Linnell Family Historian, Rachel Linnell Wynn, 717 Maiden Choice Ln #523, Catonsville, MD 21228 know about those you can identify.

ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

BIRTHS

Steven Matthew Sauro b. 11 November 1993 and Daniel Robert Sauro b. 25 March 1995 to Jodi (Olson) 118,241,145,822,2 and Steven Sauro

Kyle Travis Featherstone b. 27 June 1991 and Melanie Jade Featherstone b. 27 May 1995 to Todd C. 118,241,116,541,12 and Colleen (Parnell) Featherstone Maplewood, MN.

DEATHS

Wanda (Sibell) Linnell, wife of Donald Linnell 118,241,185,-10, on 7 July 1995 at Perham, MN.

James Ryan, husband of Jean (Stephenson) Ryan 118,241,231,132, on 27 March 1995, bur. at Forest Hill Cem., Duluth, MN.

THREE POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO THE RIDDLE

Here lies:

2 Grandmothers with their Granddaughters

2 Husbands with their wives

2 Fathers with their 2 Daughters

2 Mothers with their 2 Sons

2 Maidens with their 2 Mothers

2 Sisters with their 2 Brothers

Yet but 6 corpses in all lie buried here

All born legitimate, from incest clear.

This article was submitted by Pam Linnell 118,241,116,912,1 and Steve Williford

Through my wanderings in cemeteries around the country, I have seen this inscription used three or so times. Three do come immediately to mind.

The first time I saw the inscription was in Garden

City, New Jersey. It was a plot occupied by the Maiden family of whom I had known nothing about since I was new to the area. I was intrigued, so I went to inquire at the little cemetery office on the grounds. There I talked with a Mrs. Gandy, an elderly woman, who ran the office and, yes, she knew the inscription and, in fact, had known some of the Maidens buried there. She had gone to middle school with some of them, and had really tried to be friends with Martha Maiden, who had been in her class, but to no avail. The Maidens would keep only to themselves and would not socialize with any other children. Mrs. Gandy was very emphatic about the fact that instead of "from incest clear," it was clearly incest. Nothing but incest. The whole town had suspected it and the Maiden family had used those words just to try and cover up what had really been going on. "That whole Maiden clan was a strange lot," she told me as I thanked her for her time and bid her farewell. I could tell she was buried in her paperwork, and I did not want to take up any more of her time.

Another instance of the inscription is at the plot in which the Famous Flying Saharovici's are buried in San Francisco. They were, of course, the very famous Rumanian trapeze act - a very tight knit group composed surprisingly of only Siamese twins. What a spectacle that act was to behold. People would cross continents all for a night's entertainment. The papers would report on nothing else. Unfortunately, they chose the night of the great San Francisco earthquake to perform there without the use of a net ... and so ... well - ummm Anyway, the city of San Francisco got together and had them buried, as the Saharovici's were much loved there and as the city felt somewhat responsible. (There were also those who thought the shrine would help the tourist trade there, which had always been in a slump). Some city official who had seen this inscription somewhere else thought it would be fitting here - Siamese twins and all, you know, and so ... Voila! But , as the rumor is that these folks were not really married, nor were they related (or then again maybe too much so), I don't think it would apply to your inquiry.

The one instance which I think qualifies and the one to which you refer is probably the Donelson-Parks plot just outside Only, Tennessee.

As I recall, the story went something like this:

George and Bess Donelson bought a pretty good size farm on the outskirts of Only, Tennessee, just after they were married. Bess had only married him because George Donelson was the only man from her small town who was going anywhere. They were both too young to get married, but they were tempestuous and so soon married. As it turned out, George was only going to Only. Once settled in Only, Bess found out she was pregnant and seven and a half months later gave birth to their son, Bill.

Now as the years passed and Bill was getting taller, he became good friends with a lad whose name was Sam Parks. Sam was exactly Bill's age though he was born a couple of months earlier and lived on the farm next to the Donelson place. His parents were Wirt and Pauline and they were fairly young too - as far as adults go, about George and Bess's age.

Well, one year the Donelson's invited the Parks over for a big Thanksgiving dinner. George and Wirt went out to shoot a turkey or two and maybe scrounge out a few more eats, when they were attacked by rabid turkeys. It was a most unfortunate occurrence and neither of them survived the ordeal. Ol' Doc Anderson was so intrigued by the case, he got permission from the widows and shipped the bodies up to Chicago on the train to be studied by the experts there, promising, of course, that the bodies would be returned shortly for burial. But as fate would have it, there was some mix-up. The two boxes that were returned contained an odd assortment of vats and funnels and copper tubing and curious things like that. These boxes were stored in the Donelson barn waiting for someone to claim them, while the grieving families inquired after their dead. The bodies of George and Wirt never turned up.

George and Wirt, now being gone, made it imperative that Bill and Sam take up more responsibilities on the farm. They joined forces and worked together on both farms. The hard , strenuous work matured them faster, and made them quickly grow into strapping young men. Bess and Pauline watched them grow and were proud of them. The widow's life was a hard one, a lonely one. But they, too, worked together fixing meals for the boys and keeping the farms running. If an outsider had been given half a chance, it might have been observed that Bess seemed to be doting a little bit on Sam, as Pauline was on Bill.

One summer day, as Bill was doing some work in

the barn, he came across those two boxes full of curious implements. Well, dog-gone-it, at least he would get to the bottom of this mystery. So he loaded the two boxes on the wagon and took them into town straight to Mr. Bruckner at the livery. Alfred Bruckner scratched his bald pate as he examined the contents of the boxes.

"Looks to me," he said to the young Donelson, "you got all the equipment you need to make you one humdinger of a still."

"A still," responded Bill, "what's that?"

Alfred looked hard at Bill, then looking to see if anyone was around, pulled Bill into the livery. From the cool shadows of an empty horse stall, he pulled a big jug out, uncorked it, and handed it to Bill for a swig.

Once Bill's eyes had again found the opening in his eyelids to see out, and the smoke had cleared, Bill was a converted man and wanted to know all about what was in the jug. Alfred told him to go talk with Hank Williamson who lived six miles out of town 'cause that's who he had gotten this jug from. By the end of the day Bill was well versed in the making of whiskey. He went home and shared his new found knowledge with Sam. They started the next day, and though it took them a few attempts to get the recipe right, it was not long before they held in their hands their first batch of home-brewed sour mash.

This first jug they took in to share with the women folk. And, well, to put it in Ogden Nash's own true words,

"Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker."

It was not long before Bess found herself promised to Sam, and Pauline to Bill. They had a double wedding that next spring. The town was at first scandalized by this (some of the ladies in town were actually envious of the widows getting such young husbands), but soon grew to accept it since it was really perfectly legitimate. By the time the year was out, Bess and Pauline were pregnant again (heck, they were only about 35 years old then - why not?) This time they both had girls. Sam and Bess Parks named their little girl Terry. Bill and Pauline Donelson named their's Tamara.

Well, to wrap this story up:

They gave up farming altogether, putting all their efforts into the still, since it was such a big money maker. Tragedy struck when Bill, Sam, and Bess

were killed in a big shootout with revenuers. Pauline and the girls kept the still going. Eventually Pauline made the still legitimate by calling it a distillery, and Terry came up with the name "Wild Turkey" after the cause of those bizarre deaths that had so shaped their futures. Pauline died about 1939, leaving Tamara and Terry to mind the business. And they did very well. Tamara and Terry were good in business and eventually set up the Wild Turkey Foundation which does all sorts of good benevolent things. They never married, and when they, too, passed on, the Wild Turkey Foundation buried them in the family plot with Bill, Pauline, Sam, and Bess, and set up this marker with the inscription. It had been Tamara that had written it. She was the real poet of the group.

And so.....

Here lies:

2 Grandmothers with their Granddaughters

Pauline is Terry's grandmother

Bess is Tamara's grandmother

2 Husbands with their wives

Sam is Bess's husband

Bill is Pauline's Husband

2 Fathers with their 2 Daughters

Sam is Terry's father

Bill is Tamara's father

2 Mothers with their 2 Sons

Bess is Bill's mother

Pauline is Sam's mother

2 Maidens with their 2 Mothers

Bess is Terry's mother

Pauline is Tamara's mother

2 Sisters with their 2 Brothers

Terry is Bill's half sister

Tamara is Sam's half sister

Yet but 6 corpses in all lie buried here

All born legitimate, from incest clear.

Nuf Said!

LOST COUSINS!

May newsletters addressed to the following individuals were returned without a forwarding address. If anyone has a current address for any of the following, please send it on to Dick Linnell, P O Box 95, Orangeville, IL 61060

Mertis Portwood, Scott Kerr, Velma Wickham, and Ellisworth Townsend.

QUILTING A FAMILY HEIRLOOM

Various Linnell family members are busy at work creating quilt squares which will be incorporated into a family heirloom quilt. The projected plan is to have the quilt ready for bidding upon at the 1997 Linnell Family Reunion at Cape Cod. The quilt organizers, Barrie Westwick of Aberdeen, NJ, and Pamela Ponting of Petaluma, CA, tell us that volunteers are still needed to complete a quilt square. So far we have enough volunteers working on the project to make a quilted wallhanging. Ideally, enough volunteers could be recruited to make a double-sized bed quilt. It's not too late to have your handiwork on this family heirloom. Please let them know ASAP if you would like to be part of this project.

With an OK from Barrie or Pam will come a kit containing the basic muslin background material plus the fill and the backing material for the 12 inch square. Directions will also be included in the kit so that colors for each quilter's square will coordinate with everyone else's colors.

Your desire to complete one of these squares should be sent NOW to:

Pamela Ponting	or	Barrie Westwick
413 Melvin St.		181 Deerfield Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952		Aberdeen, NJ 07747
(707) 778-1352		(908) 583-0897

The design for the quilt square is left to the individual quilter. The design could be a traditional quilt pattern, or it could be an original design by the individual quilter, or it could represent some event from the family history. Some examples of the family events already completed by some of our family quilters are:

The book cover of The Descendants of Robert Linnell

The first Cape Cod Reunion logo

A Granville, Ohio scene

An Eagle Wing ship design, as depicted on the wallpaper which has been described in our newsletters

For those family members who have already volunteered to make a square but have not returned the questionnaire sent out this past spring, please let Barrie know what your chosen design is. If your square is completed, please send it to Barrie soon.

Updates about the progress of the quilt project will be included in future newsletters.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Last issue I commented on our keeping in touch with the family through the newsletter. Your responses, letters, address changes, and corrections have been great. **THANKS.** Keep the letters coming.

As this newsletter goes to press, I find it appropriate to thank the many cousins who are submitting articles for publication. This is your newsletter, so continue to submit articles. It makes a great way for us to learn more about all our cousins.

If you change your address for the winter or summer months, a note to my desk will get each issue to you promptly. This note should include your name, former address, former city, state, and zip, along with your new street address, new city, state and zip, and the date you expect to return to your former address.

If any Linnell family group had any reunions or gatherings, please send a report of your gathering to Kay and Jim Swedberg at 2727 Sunrise Point Road, Las Cruces, NM 88011, for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Plans are underway for a 1997 Reunion Planning Meeting on Cape Cod during the first week of June 1996. Any cousin who would like to join us to help with planning, please contact Jack Linnell at 355 Blackstone Blvd. #302, Providence, RI. 02906 or Dick Linnell at P.O. Box 95, Orangeville, IL 61060. Your assistance will be most welcome. Meanwhile, keep thinking Reunion 1997. Hope to see you there.

Dick Linnell

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

We thought a word of explanation was in order about the delay in sending out this newsletter. Several other commitments have caused part of the delay. However, the major culprit was our old computer. It really wasn't *that* old, but it seemed that the newer software required more machine than we realized. The good news is that we now have a newer, faster, machine and (we hope) the next edition of the Linnell Family Newsletter will be on time and crammed full of graphics.

ORDER FORM

THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL

Revised and Enlarged Second Edition

_____ copies at \$35.00, including postage

_____ Total amount enclosed

Your name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to:

Linnell Family Association

Mail to:

Rachel L. Wynn

717 Maiden Choice Lane #523

Cantonsville, MD 21228

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Please check type of membership

_____ Single Life Time (\$125.00)

_____ Single (\$15.00 a year)

_____ Couple (\$25.00 a year)

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to:

Linnell Family Association

Mail to:

Judy Spelde, Treasurer

1912 No. 14th St. #3

Coeur D'Alene ID 83814

**THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

DICK LINNELL

PO Box 95

Orangeville, IL 61060

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Freeport, IL
Permit NO. 63

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

