

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



In recent weeks two letters have crossed my desk that bother me. It seems that various publishers are soliciting Linnells to purchase books about the Linnell family. One book entitled THE WORLD BOOK OF LINNELLS and the other called THREE CENTURIES OF LINNELLS. Both of these publications make claims regarding our family that are incorrect and misleading. I hope that Cousins that have received these letters recognize them as such.

Rachel Linnell Wynn's book THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL was copyrighted by the Linnell Family Association and is the authentic history of our family up to 1994. If anyone wants the story of our family, this is the book to purchase. If you don't have your copy, use the order blank in this newsletter to order your copy TODAY.

Jack Linnell, 1997 Reunion site Chairman, reports that a planning meeting for the 1997 reunion will be held on Cape Cod June 11, 12, and 13, 1996. Any cousin interested in taking part in this meeting will be most welcomed. Let's make this the biggest and best reunion ever; with your help I am sure we can. Contact Jack or myself about arrangements to attend this meeting.

A reminder about Reunion registration. Registration fees will be waived for those Cousins that are paid up dues members. So, if you plan on attending the reunion and haven't sent in your 1995 dues yet, why not do it TODAY and save the cost of reunion registration. (See membership form in this newsletter.)

See ya all on the Cape in '97.
Dick



ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

Marriages

Nancy (Stevens) Baker
117,622,362,211 m. to David Williams on 1
Sep. 1995. They will live in Batavia, NY.
Sarah Linnell 117,7-10-1,42-11,35 m. to Francis
Patho on 5 Aug. 1995.



Deaths

Douglas Linnell 118,241,142,313 on 16 Oct.
1995, Las Vegas, NM
David Selwin Benson 118,241,185,31 on 1 Oct.
1995 Phoenix, AZ



ANOTHER NINETY YEAR OLD



On December 11, 1995, Margaret K. (Hanley) Linnell, wife of Seth Taylor Linnell, deceased, will celebrate her 92nd birthday. Greetings should be sent to her at 515 E. 5th Street Apt. 212, Goodland, KS 67735. Margaret's son, Kyle, alerted us to this coming event. By chance, Judy Spelde met Kyle's wife recently in a store in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where both families live. Hearing the Linnell name brought recognition and a meeting. Kyle also notes that Edna Linnell Tromble's name ends with an "e" instead of an "a." She was noted in recognition of another 90 year oldster in May, 1995.

IT'S A SMALL, SMALL WORLD!

In August, 1994, Joanna (Townsend) Wisner of Wisconsin, daughter of Nina Linnell Townsend, was visiting a friend in Charlotte, NC. While there she accompanied her friend to church. While waiting for the service to start, her friend introduced a lady sitting in the same pew. She was originally from Wisconsin. The conversation in



getting acquainted centered around mutual cities, schools, and the state in general. Joanna mentioned the fact that Nina was born in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and the lady said, "What did you say her maiden name was?" Joanna repeated, "Nina Linnell." The lady then said, "My Aunt Maude..." and Joanna, not giving her a chance to finish, said, "Is married to my uncle, Malcolm Linnell!" (He was Nina's older brother.) Imagine Joanna's friend's surprise! She said, "Don't tell me you two are related!" Which, of course, they were not, except through the marriage of this lady's aunt and Joanna's uncle. As it is said, "TALK ABOUT A SMALL WORLD!"

[Submitted by Joanna Wisner of Manawa, Wisconsin, who writes that she is also related to Judy Spelde on the Linnell side and to Sam Linnell's wife who was her grandmother Townsend's half sister Lois Berry. Joanna's grandmother was Carrie Ella Berry Townsend. Joanna learned all this at the first Cape Cod Reunion when she met Judy.]

ANCESTORS

(From "The Nutmegger," March 1979)

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
There might be some of them, perhaps,
You wouldn't care to know;
But here's another question
Which requires a different view:
If you could meet your ancestors
Would they be proud of you?"



NEW COUSINS FOUND THROUGH DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL

The publication of The Descendants of Robert Linnell has brought correspondence and book orders from a variety of newly discovered cousins throughout the U.S.A. An advertisement for the book in The Genealogical Helper brought responses from Rick Ackley of Greenville, Michigan, and from Joy Malloy of North Yarmouth, Maine. Promised information from these new friends will locate them in our descendant lines.

Philip Ray from Barberton, Ohio, also found the advertisement of D.R.L. in The Genealogical Helper and hopes for help with his genealogical search from Linnell family members. He is a descendant of Asenath and Sherebiah Clark of Belgrade, Maine and Ohio. Asenath was a granddaughter of Samuel Linnell (118,24), but the connecting link, probably through Phoebe (Linnell) and Joseph Lumbard is not clear. Phil would like to hear from anyone who has information about the children of Phoebe and Joseph Lumbard. Phil also plans to attend the next reunion. He visited the cemetery and museum at Granville, Ohio, recently and has read about the reunion last June. He and his brother Dale connect with the Linnell/Wynn families in being graduates of the College of Wooster.

Sharon Davis of Bloomfield, Michigan, identifies her ancestry in ordering a copy of the book. She is the granddaughter of Agnes Linnell Olson of Wilson's Mills, Maine, and the daughter of Evelyn (Olson) and Harold Pudvah of Windsor, Vermont. Sharon is married to Dr. Bruce Davis, and they have two children, Jason and Benjamin.

Pamela Beach, daughter of Sue and Donald Dittus and granddaughter of Thelma (Linnell) Holte Whitney, notes that some of the more recent information about families is missing. We hope that when she gets settled in Lorton, Virginia, she will help bring her line up to date.

A wonderful letter from Maureen McConnell told about enjoying the book with her father David

McConnell and thinking about those he remembered in his ancestry. Maureen is married to David Chalkley who is a Research Assistant in Plant Pathology. Maureen is a Research Associate at the University of Arkansas, Department of Agronomy. She studies tall fescue used as forage and turf. Her sister Kathy Grant works for the Motion Picture Association of America in Washington, D.C., and sister Patti Watt works for Woodholy Productions, Walt Disney division.

Bill Merritt Jr. says to tell all that they have a friend in Dayton, Kentucky. A wonderful phone conversation last summer brought us news of his life and work. He works in a plant that creates dispersions. He says this is a "fancy name for the raw liquid color product that users buy to make paints, inks, dyes, and such for their own needs and applications." He says he was involved with the Indians in the Tomah, Wisconsin area and their ceremonial ways. This is still a strong focus for his brother George.

May we meet these new cousins soon!
[Submitted by Rachel Linnell Wynn]

EAGLE WING WALLPAPER QUEST

Cousin Eva (Linnell) Spurlin of Mineola, Texas, is still searching for the Linnell Family's favorite wallpaper. Eva corresponded with Robert Linnell in Selah, Washington, who then sent her a sample of the "Linnell wallpaper" which he purchased back in the '70s. With that in hand, Eva contacted Coast-to-Coast Stores. However, even though she had the number all dealers need to know, she did not know the wallpaper book from which it came. Eva then contacted the Schmacher Company in New York and sent them the sample, but because it was not a complete replica, Schmacher Company would have to do much art work and several runs for each different color. Needless to say, it would be quite expensive to reproduce rolls at a price Linnell Family members would be willing to pay. Is there a Cousin out there who can help? If so, contact one of the Board members or write to Eva Spurlin; 114 Laura; Mineola, Texas 75773-1115.



JACK LINNELL REPORTS ON 1997 REUNION PLANS

The fourth reunion of the Linnell Family will take place at the Holiday Inn in Hyannis, Massachusetts June 20, 21, and 22, 1997. It will be a little different from the last two reunions in that it will be held at an inn as opposed to a college campus. Holiday Inn has offered us a "package deal" which includes both room and meals. Holiday Inn wants our commitment by the end of April, 1997, so look for the details of this package in the February newsletter.

The Steering Committee has scheduled a planning meeting in Hyannis on June 11, 12, and 13, 1996. We will need your input if this is to be a successful reunion, so please send us your ideas. We will also need volunteers, especially from those Cousins who live in this area. You will be hearing from us. Best wishes for Happy Holidays from the Gates and the J. Linnells.

(Thanks to Dick Linnell and Roger Hansen for this unique idea for this graphic display for the reunion.)

INTRODUCING
GLEN AND MARCIA ROBERTS
STEERING COMMITTEE
COMPUTERIZATION OF DATA

Glen was born near the Canadian border in a "Linnell" community and grew up on farms in east central Minnesota. His wife Marcia grew up in Mankato, about 90 miles southwest of Minneapolis.

They both attended Maplewood Academy in



Hutchinson during their high school years and were married in 1956, two years after Glen graduated. They have lived a good portion of their married life in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, with a 14 year period of time in Duluth, close to Lake Superior. Glen enjoyed the cool climate, but Marcia wished that she could warm up "at least one day a year!" Presently, they live in a modest home in a Minneapolis suburb with a very attractive backyard that includes a lot of flowers that Marcia enjoys working with and a small garden that Glen "putters" at in his spare time.

They have a son and three daughters. Douglas has a Masters degree in Micro Computers, Vicki is a Registered Nurse, Sharon is a Legal Secretary, and Virginia has a degree in International Relations. At this time, Sharon and Ginny are involved as full time homemakers. Their children have provided Glen and Marcia with 13 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. Just recently they were blessed with a great grandson.

Glen spent several years in Public Accounting and about 29 years ago, made a switch to computers. Most of his learning has been self-taught "sitting" in front of a computer with a book." He was self-employed as a Consultant for over 10 years and presently is the Information Systems Manager for each of three

companies that have related ownership. The job is demanding of both time and know-how, and he says, "I love it?"

One of Glen's more enjoyable pastimes is entering family names into the computer database. The plan is to have the entire The Descendants of Robert Linnell computerized by the 1997 Reunion on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. It is a time-consuming, but pleasurable activity. He and Marcia are excitedly looking forward to putting faces with the names that are being entered into the computer. They hope to meet YOU there!

SIGHTSEEING ON CAPE COD:
CAPT. LINNELL'S HOUSE

Although Ebenezer H. Linnell, captain of the clipper ship *Eagle Wing*, died in 1864, his home on Cape Cod still stands as a monument to him. The stately home has been turned into a lovely restaurant and lounge by the present day owners, Bill and Shelly Conway. Together they have restored the home to its former elegance.

The home, built in 1840, began as a simple Cape and grew into a mansion styled after the neo-classic home in France of Captain Linnell's shipping agent. Crowning the mansion is a copper roof complete with a cupola and widow's walk, frequented years ago by Rebecca Linnell as she looked out at the sea in search of her seafaring husband. It is here in this cupola where Rebecca retreated to read and reread the letter from the *Eagle Wing's* first mate describing Captain Linnell's horrible and untimely death. Rumor has it that Rebecca still visits the widow's walk wistfully looking out to the sea.

There are other stories about Captain Ebenezer H. Linnell walking the grounds and rooms of the Linnell mansion. Perhaps we'll learn more in the next newsletter. Perhaps you'll have to find out for yourself when you come to the best reunion yet, the 1997 Reunion of The Linnell Family in Cape Cod, Massachusetts!

INTRODUCING



ROBERT S. LINNELL STEERING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN

Having been reminded that as your Steering Committee Vice Chairman, I have agreed to present an article introducing myself to you, my many cousins, and an article having appeared in the April, 1994, Newsletter which serves to adequately cover that objective, I shall use the space allotted to me in this most worthy epistle to share with you (perhaps in several installments, should the readers find it of interest) a few observations by our late Cousin, Lena M. Dyer.

Allow me to begin by assuring each of you that you never heard of Cousin Lena. I hadn't either until she was 66 years old and I, 11. Cousin Lena was born in the Skowhegan, Maine, area in 1876 (the exact date is debatable as will appear below). The daughter of Edsell Cain and Georgia Linnell¹, she was also the granddaughter of Lyman Miller Linnell [118,241,23].

Little is known at this point about the details of Cousin Lena's first 65 years - whether there were siblings, when she married, or who Mr. Dyer was. She first came to the attention of my immediate family in 1942 when she appeared at the Portland, Maine, law offices of Bradley, Linnell, Nulty, and Brown and demanded to speak to my father, Senior Partner William S. Linnell [118,241,215,2]. Claiming to be a relative, she was eventually ushered into his private chambers and received under a cloud of considerable suspicion - not a totally unreasonable reaction in view of the fact that father, then 58 years old, had never heard of her and the further fact that this diminutive 66 year old widow with yellowing white hair was wearing a hard hat and badge identifying her as a riveter at the South Portland shipyard. She was doing her part in the war effort by helping

to build liberty ships!

It took little investigation to establish that Cousin Lena was truly a long lost family member, alone in the world, and, until then, devoid of kith and kin. At the time, she owned and occupied a small house on Cumberland Avenue, in the Munjoy Hill area - a depressed part of the City of Portland. The residence would lack significance but for the fact that in addition to Cousin Lena, it housed a large quantity of house cats, none of which was ever permitted out of doors. This latter situation was quickly and breathlessly perceived by merely standing in proximity to the open front door.

Predictably, my mother, who was known among the hobos as a lady who would always supply a hot meal (to be consumed on the back porch), soon found room for Cousin Lena at the Thanksgiving Dinner table and that first visit developed into a tradition which lasted many years. As I turned 15 and received my driver's license, it fell to me to ferry Cousin Lena to and from the Linnell manse each Turkey Day as all other (and senior) family members declined the risk of exposure to the interior of her home.

Cousin Lena passed away, following several months' illness, on May 26, 1954, at age 78. I was at Law School in Boston, Sister Sarah and family lived in Rumford, my parents were on a vacation trip, and it thus fell to my sister, Nancy [18,241,215,22] and her attorney husband Caspar F. Cowan to handle the "arrangements." A death notice was published and, in addition to Nancy and Caspar, a few elderly acquaintances attended the services. Burial followed at the Pooler Cemetery in East Skowhegan.

1. This spelling for Edsell and Georgia appears on the death certificate of Lena M. Dyer; Georgia's headstone in Pooler Cemetery says "Georgie" and she has been also referred to as "Georgeanna." Edsell has also been referred to as "Edsel W. Caine."

EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF COUSIN LENA

"On December 20, 1876, Roby Linnell [18,241,21] passed away in the little town of Wellwood, Maine, and funeral services were held in the old Linnell homestead in East Skowhegan."

"Uncle Roby was ushered out of this world, and I came into it on the tail of one of the worst blizzards Skowhegan had ever known, and as I have often heard my mother say, 'There was a death and a birth in the family at the same time as you were born on the night Uncle Roby died.'²

"Uncle Roby was a good Christian man as were all the Linnells in those days, so I sometimes wonder if when he knocked at the gates of Paradise, good Saint Peter didn't stand there and say, 'Enter, Uncle Roby, but how did you ever get up here in such a blizzard as this?'"

"Another thing I heard my mother say was, 'You know it says in the Bible, Lena, that when someone dies and the soul passes on there is a body prepared for it, so, if this be true, might it not be possible that Uncle Roby's soul entered into the body of the little child who was born the night he died?'"

"My grandmother with whom I lived was Cynthia Sawtelle. She was born in Belgrade, Maine, and in early life married Lyman Miller Linnell, brother of Roby. My grandfather died about five years before I was born. Lyman and Cynthia Linnell were both of the old pioneer stock. They had thirteen children and I can recollect Grandma naming them."

"My grandmother sent four sons to the Civil War and Uncle Henry was killed in action. He was married shortly before going to war and his little son, Henry Scott, was born in the old home and my grandfather and grandmother brought him up. I have often heard my mother say that grandfather thought more of little Scotty than of any of his own children as he was a little

fatherless boy. He would follow my grandfather in the field all day and one day when they came home for dinner, little Scotty (he was only four) put his little hand on his forehead and said, 'Oh, father, it is nothing but work, work, all the time, ain't it?' He always called grandfather 'Father.' He was like a dearly loved brother to me as I was born when he was 14 years old."

"My grandmother was a very wonderful woman as almost the first thing I can remember was that she walked to Skowhegan and back, covering the whole ten miles in one day, when she was 75 years old. I was then five years old."

2. Some sources indicate that Roby died December 22, 1876; further, Lena M. Dyer's death certificate lists her birth date as May 7, 1876.

COUSINS, COUSINS EVERYWHERE!

From Robert Linnell's small family in Barnstable



the Linnells have spread throughout the United States and Canada. This map shows where, by state and province, this newsletter is mailed.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

We intended to publish this issue of *The Linnell Family Newsletter* by Thanksgiving. Due to circumstances beyond our control this has become the December issue. Please accept our apologies. We wish all the family a **Very Merry Christmas!**



PROPOSAL

A DOCUMENT EXCHANGE

Charlene Toews

All of us who subscribe to the Linnell Family Newsletter have different levels of interest in genealogy. Some of us just want to meet and socialize with other members of our wonderful family. Others like to read about family issues, but find that that is enough involvement. A few are deeply interested in pushing our boundaries of knowledge of the family and documenting what we have discovered. This research is very painstaking, but, in the end, everyone in the family benefits.

Some of the research that has been done is perhaps a duplication of effort. Everyone of our members has documents pertaining to their branch of the family – such as marriage licenses, birth/death certificates, military service records, etc. Some of these documents might be of interest to someone else in the family. To that end, I am proposing a new column in the Family Newsletter, to be called the DOCUMENT EXCHANGE.

The DOCUMENT EXCHANGE would consist of entries such as the following:

I have the (such and such) certificate for ROBERT LINNELL (1). Anyone interested in obtaining copies should contact me. Charlene Toews, 3930 NW 27th Terrace, Boca Raton, FL. 33434.

OR:

I am looking for the marriage license of David and Hannah Linnell (1668). Does anyone have a copy? Charlene Toews, 3930 NW 27th Terrace, Boca Raton, FL. 33434.

In this way, we could all save each other countless hours of tedious work (and expense) and yet only those who are truly interested would participate. This type of exchange has the potential to be one of the benefits of membership in the Linnell Family Association. Genealogical Societies and magazines charge a lot of money for membership, and one of the primary reasons for joining is this type of exchange. I hope that it can work for us!

PROPOSAL

A TAX DEDUCTIBLE RESEARCH FUND

Charlene Toews

Another idea that I would like to propose has to do with the ongoing research by several family members regarding our original ancestor ROBERT LINNELL. What I would like to propose is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO A RESEARCH FUND**. The research into ROBERT LINNELL, since it is in England, and since it is in the late 1500's when bookkeeping was erratic, is proving to be very expensive. Originally one or two people have been defraying the costs on their own. However, it is proving to be too costly, and at this point we have a very small consortium of donors. We would like to invite everyone to participate in this endeavor, at whatever level they feel comfortable. There would be no minimum or maximum donation. Again, everyone in the family will eventually benefit with increased knowledge of our ancestors.

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.

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