

**INTRODUCING  
CAROL JEAN ANDERSON  
LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARY**

In 1979 I moved to Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to take a new position as laboratory manager of the local medical clinic. My widowed mother and her sister, my Aunt Laura (who celebrated her 90th birthday March 30th), moved with me. The coincidence of our move was that Black River Falls was the birthplace of both mother (Ellen Linnell Anderson) and Aunt Laura Linnell. As young girls they moved to northern Minnesota and eventually settled in Duluth where I was born and raised. All through my growing-up years I had heard stories of my family history when family gatherings took place. Mom was one of eleven children and I had many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

As I grew up I was always interested in family history and many of the stories stayed with me. Moving to Black River Falls brought these stories into sharp focus. I would meet people whose names I had heard in the family stories. I told Aunt Laura about these encounters and she became more and more interested in writing down the family history. She then began writing letters where she knew her relatives had settled, and this is how we met Rachel Linnell Wynn and Dick Linnell.

When the first reunion on Cape Cod was held, we were very happy to be a part of the gathering. Since then we have been to both the reunions at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Granville, Ohio. We have made many new friends and renewed many old friendships at these gatherings. God willing, we plan to be a part of the 1997 reunion in Cape Cod. I do hope to see many of you at Hyannis on Cape Cod!

Carol Jean Anderson

*(Editors' note: See the March newsletter for an article on Linnell cousins who celebrated their 90th birthday this year.)*

**MAINE COUSINS DISCOVERED**

John Renwick Linnell (118,241,533,521 pg 319 in D.R.L.) called me from Maine. Wonderful! His name was one of the final entries in the material given to us by Harriet and Charles Whitney to be included in THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL. This call happened because Virgil Linnell of 65 Rackleff St., Portland, ME 04103 sent a list of all Linnells in the Maine area to us. Then Chairman Dick Linnell sent out a letter of information and invitation to all on the list. This prompted John to call and check us out. How wonderful to make a connection to a cousin we had not located! John's mother, Margaret Renwick Linnell contributed her extensive genealogical research to the Whitneys on this branch of the family. Now we can look forward to meeting John at the Cape Cod Reunion and to bringing this Linnell line up to date. A special thank you to Virgil for his Maine list. It is very important for all of us to be mindful of connections we can make to other Linnells.

Not as productive, but very important, was another connection on the other side of the continent made by Paul Linnell of Sweet Home, OR. Paul and Ida were traveling in British Columbia and stopped at a restaurant along the way and got into a conversation with the Linnell manager. Paul was persistent in getting Eric Linnell to write down his family record with parents and siblings. These were sent along to me, but I am sorry to report that I have not been able to make a connection to our family history as yet. So this data remains in the file of "Unknown Connections" with the hope that someday we may be able to join them together with us. The thrill of finding someone with the Linnell name was there for Paul and Ida as we know it will be for others. Be sure to let us know when it happens to you.

Virgil Linnell has also been doing extensive research on his Norton family line which connects the Linnells in Maine. He would be glad to share the information with others.

Rachel Linnell Wynn

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

The Reunion planning meeting will be held at Hyannis, MA, June 11-13. Several couples have made plans to meet and plan the 1997 reunion. Should you want to join us, contact Jack and Barbara Linnell, 355 Blackstone Blvd. #302, Providence, RI. We welcome your attendance.



I wish to express my **thanks** to all cousins who responded to my mailing requesting information. When you get a 40% response from a mailing, it is just great. A good deal of information came to light from this response. If you did get a letter and have not yet sent a response, I encourage you to do so **ASAP**.

Dru and I attended the 90th birthday celebration of cousin Laura Linnell (118,241,112,68) in Black River Falls, WI, on March 30. We met a host of cousins and added names to the mailing list. Thanks to Carol Jean Anderson (118,241,112,6-10-1) for the invitation. Then on April 11, Althea (118,241,231,435) and Don Tremewan spent the evening with us on the way home from Florida. We had a most enjoyable visit. By the way, if any of the cousins are in our area, we invite you to stop and see us.

Hope you are making plans for the reunion on Cape Cod. Remember the dates June 20, 21, 22, 1997.

One more reminder!!! 1996 Membership dues are still being accepted. Use the membership registration form in this newsletter issue and send yours in today. Remember, regular paid up membership will waive your reunion registration fee. What a bargain!

Looking forward to seeing you on the Cape in 1997.

Cousin Dick

### SURFING THE 'NET

Is there any interest in a Linnell home page on the Internet? Please send me an e-mail note with your thoughts.

James Swedberg  
swedberg@lascruces.com

## ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

### Births

Karina Marie Cannon b. 26 Oct. 1996 to Jennifer (Shaffer) 11a,b15,515,422,1 and Scott Cannon

Kyle John Chenevert b. 10 Oct. 1995 to Jennifer (Fritz) 117,612,412,323,2 and Paul J. Chenevert

Mariah Anne Linnell b. 16 Mar. 1996 to Gregory 118,241,185,643 and Jill Linnell at Grand Forks, ND

Camilla Martina Mecagni b. 6 Sep. 1995 to Laura (O'Connor) 118,241,151,322,2 and Mauro Mecagni

Christopher Weaver b. 12 Aug. 1995 to Richard 117,612,111,111,2 and Deborah (Derr) Weaver on 12 Aug. 1995 in Urbana, IL

### Marriages

Jennifer Holt Firtz 117,612,412,323,2 m. to Paul Joseph Cenevert on 16 Oct. 1993

Jonathan David Moore 118,241,151,312,2 m. to Pammy Kathleen Aquilino on 6 Aug. 1995

Jennifer Lynn Shaffer 11a,b15,515,422,1 m. to Scott J. Cannon on 6 June 1992

Richard L. Weaver 117,612,111,111,2 m. to Deborah Derr on 23 May 1992 in Urbana, IL

### Deaths

Winslow W. Linnell 117,7-10-1,429 d. 16 Feb. 1996 Bridgton, ME bur. Hanover Cem. Hanover, ME age 94 years, 5 mo., 18 da. (Listed in March newsletter as our oldest Linnell)

### Correction

Dale A. Linnell 118,241,185,64 d. . 24 Oct. 1995, not 10 Oct. at Grand Forks, ND, p. 391

## FURTHER EXCERPTS

### FROM THE DIARY OF COUSIN LENA M. DYER<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT S. LINNELL

“Turning to my great grandfather, Sturgis [Sturgis Linnell 118,241,2] he was totally blind in the latter years of his life so my little cousin, Scotty, used to lead him around where ever he wanted to go (and, at times, places where he didn’t want to go. But this is a little secret between William [William S. Linnell 118,241,215,2] and myself). He was a very religious man and would never condone anything he considered sinful, such as dancing.

“One time my grandfather [Lyman Miller Linnell 118,241,23] and grandmother took a little trip up to Moose River. Don’t know what they went to see, but the fact remains they went and were away for two or three days. They hadn’t driven more than out of the dooryard before my Aunt Clara who was a gay and fun-loving girl, said to Uncle Mill [Lyman Miller Linnell, Jr. 118,241,235], ‘Mill, I am going to have a dance tonight while Pa and Ma are away.’ Then she said, ‘Now we can’t have grandfather around so I will tell you what to do. You ask him if he doesn’t want to go down and see Aunt Esther and Uncle Joseph [Joseph Linnell, Jr. 118,241,-10]. Uncle Joseph was his brother. Aunt Clara told Uncle Mill to tell Aunt Esther to keep him all night.

“When Uncle Mill asked him if he wouldn’t like to go down and see Uncle Joseph and Aunt Esther, he stopped to consider a moment and said, ‘Yes, Miller, dear son, I would like to go down and see Brother Joseph and Sister Esther, so you may hitch up and take me right down’. . .which my uncle did.

“After supper was over, great grandfather began to get restless and finally said, ‘Sister Esther, I want Brother Joseph to take me home.’ Aunt Esther was astounded and said, ‘Why, I thought you were going to stay all night. Why would you want to go home now?’ Great grandfather replied, ‘Because I think the young folks are going to have a frolic up there tonight and I feel it is my duty to be there.’ But Aunt Esther insisted that he stay over and he did.

“Bright and early the next morning he had Uncle Joseph take him home. When he arrived, Aunt Clara was washing up the kitchen floor. Great grandfather sat down and said, ‘Darter, I suspect you young folks had a frolic here last night.’ Aunt Clara said, ‘Well, perhaps we did, grandfather.’ Then he said he wanted to come home last night but Aunt Esther wouldn’t let him. ‘Now, grandfather,’ said Aunt Clara, ‘Supposing you had come home and found us having a dance. What would you have done?’ He said, ‘Darter, I should have knelt right down and prayed for the wicked sinners and I should have expected every one of them to have knelt with me and asked to be forgiven for their sinful actions.’

“I am all alone now, but I have tried to put into this, as a record for my cousin, William, such facts from my childhood days as I can recall about the Linnell family.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cousin Lena was introduced first in the December, 1995, issue (Vol. 7 No. 4).

<sup>2</sup> As can be seen, these quotes from Lena’s handwritten record are not from a “diary” in the true sense, but rather a sketchy “memoirs”.



## NINETY-ONE IN NINETY-SIX!

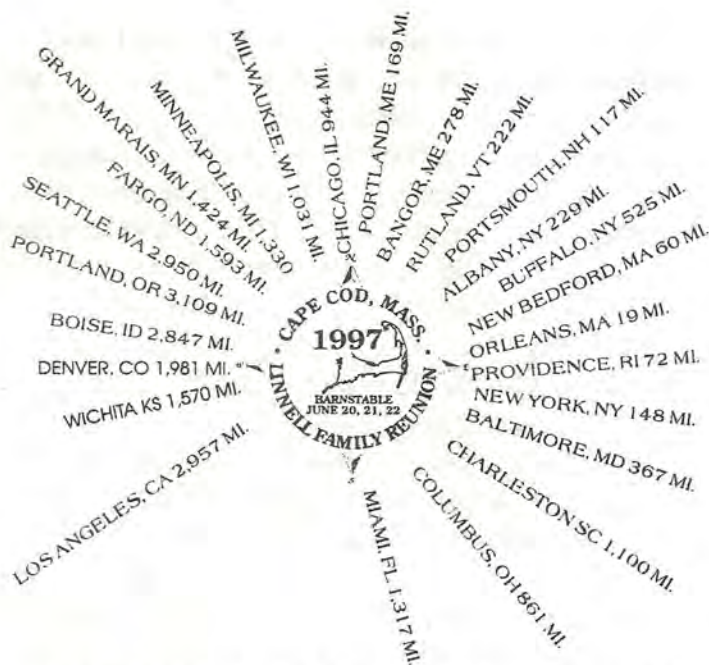
We missed one of our ninety year olds in the March newsletter! Thanks to Virgil Linnell of Portland, Maine, who called this to our attention.



**Hazel (Luscombe)  
Linnell**

(118,241,533,31S) wife of Charles E. Linnell, deceased, had her 91st birthday on January 6, 1996. She continues to live on her own in Portland, Maine, and enjoys her family in Maine and Florida.

***A Blessed Belated Birthday, Cousin Hazel!***



## REUNION PLANNING MEETING JUNE 11-13, 1996

By the time you read this the Reunion Planning Meeting may be completed. Many of the activities which will be available at the reunion in 1997 will require the help and participation of many cousins. Watch this space in upcoming newsletters for more information



on the plans for the reunion and how you can participate. If you have something you wish to contribute to the reunion planning, please contact Barbara and Jack Linnell Dick Linnell, 355 Blackstone Blvd #302 Box 95 Providence, R.I. 02906 Orangeville, IL 61060 (401-351-2879) (815-789-4668).

### THE DOCUMENT EXCHANGE

*This column is for the dissemination of Linnell family documents. Submit your reentries to the newsletter editors.*

#### WANTED

Information on the ancestors of Eunice Mosher, wife of Samuel Linnell (118,241,1) of Grindstone Island. (page 331 of D.R.L.)

James Swedberg  
2727 Sunrise Point Road  
Las Cruces, NM 88011

## CAPE COD REUNION 1997 NEWS

Cousin Jack Linnell reports that planning for the Linnell Association's fourth reunion is going well. Jack has booked the Holiday Inn at Route 132, Hyannis, MA 02601 for June 20, 21, 22, 1997. For advanced planning, here are the costs of the hotel. They are based on adults and include rooms plus the following meals:

#### Saturday, June 21st

Buffet Luncheon (good selection)  
Served Dinner - 2 choices

#### Sunday, June 22nd

Continental Breakfast  
Fruit Tray  
Danish, Muffins, Croissants  
Coffee, Tea, Milk

#### Two Night Accomodations (Friday & Saturday)

Single Person	\$192.00
Double	220.00
Triple	267.00
Four People	304.00

#### One Night Accomodations (Saturday Only)

Single	\$115.00
Double	152.00
Triple	190.00
Four People	227.00

#### Local People Not Staying Overnight

Lunch	\$11.00
Dinner	21.00
Continental Breakfast	6.00

#### Children under 12 are lodged free and meals are charged separately

Lunch	\$11.00
Dinner	15.00
Breakfast	6.00

Massachusetts Room Tax 9.7% (as of now)  
Food Tax 5.0%  
50% Deposit Required by 4/27/97



*This is the third story written by Ethelyn Pearson, 118,241, 145,121, to appear in a Linnell newsletter.*

## Where did all of the little towns go?

A hundred years ago the countryside was peppered with small towns that have now left without a trace. Where'd they go? Several that come to mind are Topelius, Linnell and Mallard.

Topelius was the smallest of the trio. In fact, they didn't get much smaller. It was located several miles east of Bluffton, south of the railroad tracks. One old timer remembers it already being an old beat-up town in 1915 when he was a kid in Bluffton. Another recalls a faded sign over a dusty road that read: Topelius.

A fellow who worked on the railroad still recalls how hard the crew worked when nearing Topelius. They served the coldest beer around. Many agree there was a fairly busy depot there. It joined history so effortlessly that no one can come close to putting a date on just when the Topelius sign came down.

I.E. (Charlie) Linnell, one of my ancestors, moved from Iowa to a homestead in Becker County, a mile east of where Ponsford stands today. That first winter of 1880 was memorable. Snow measured four feet on the level, making it impossible for settlers to travel more than a mile or two. That is when Charlie knew he had to start a trading post. He started one in his home in 1881. He had room to only stock necessities and gathered furs and pelts from the settlers and Indians.

In 1882, his home also became the site of a post office. The town was named for Abigail Linnell, a widow who homesteaded where Ponsford now stands. She was commissioned Becker County's first postmistress in 1883. She was Charlie's mother. Charlie and Abigail kept the post office going — also on Abigail's land — until Ponsford took over. Then she and Charlie moved far west where homesteading was easier, the winters shorter, and a dollar didn't look so big. Abigail lived to be nearly 100 years old.

Despite the fact that Mallard was quite a metropolis compared to many neighboring towns, with a population of 400 souls, it, too, bit the dust in 1939.

Mallard consisted of 16 city blocks divided into 12 lots. Its avenues were named Itaska, Robinson, Roma, Sinker and University, with its main thoroughfare called Sibley Avenue. Many who worked on the new railroad being built lived there (they received 12 cents per hour of hard work), as well as many loggers, who took advantage of living in town.

Harry Sinker's place, The Pioneer Store, carried \$40,000 worth of merchandise. It served everyone who could find a way of getting to it. Other businesses besides Sinker's were another general store, drug store, livery stable, hotel, school, restaurant, barber shop, dance hall, five saloons, post office and a newspaper called The Mallard Call. The first building went up in Mallard in 1901, giving it a life span of only 38 years. However, in that short time, it made enough of an impression for an unknown poet to write an untitled poem that could well be the cry of every small place that returned to dust:

*Mallard lost its grip and years later on,  
The town was here but the buildings were gone.  
From much strife and oppositions, everywhere found,  
And the buildings were leveled to the ground.  
Absence of friends and few to stand guard,*

### 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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