

## THE HOUSE AT 50 MARSTON AVENUE

To Cape Cod visitors, the house at 50 Marston Avenue, Hyannisport, might look just like others of the wonderful Cape Cod: Georgian style, wood shingle houses that date back over 200 years. But now this house takes on special significance to Linnells because of the research done by Steven Davis. The Davis family bought the house in 1966 and Steven has researched its history, including the period of over 70 years when it was part of the Linnell history. It was originally built by Daniel (#2) Bassett about 1755-1760. It made its Linnell connection when Daniel (#4) Bassett married Sarah Linnell on 5 Feb. 1824.

Sarah, or Sally Linnell, 118,311,2, p. 248 DRL, was of the seventh generation of Linnells in Barnstable, the daughter of David Linnell and Mary Lewis. Daniel (#4) Bassett was of the seventh generation of Bassetts in America. When Sally and Daniel (#4) married, they came to live in the family homestead on Marston Avenue.

Daniel (#4) spent his early years at sea and was a sea captain. When he retired from the sea in 1836, he was part owner of the Schooner *Emblem*, built in 1836 and registered out of Boston. He held many positions of importance in Hyannisport: Selectman 1838?-1852 (also chairman of Board of Selectmen), Assessor and Overseer of the Poor, Surveyor of Highways, Postmaster of Hyannisport 1840-1852, High Sheriff for Barnstable County 1853-1856, and at the time of his death, Deputy Collector of the Port of Barnstable.

His death on 5 November 1857 was the cause

of deep sadness in Hyannisport and Barnstable. Members of the Masonic Order came from all over the Cape to pay their respects to this member who had been Master of his lodge in 1852. The memorial service was held in the Universalist Church in Hyannis, and he was buried in the Universalist Cemetery behind the church. He left to his wife Sally two properties with houses on them. But, as with so

many widows, there were questions of how she could sustain herself throughout her years. They had no children of their own, but had adopted Mary Bearse who may have been a niece.

Information about the use of the house on Marston Avenue indicate the changed circumstances and relationships that were being put in place. During the 1870's Sally was taking in

boarders and relatives at the Marston Avenue address, a pattern often used by widows to maintain a property and generate cash for living expenses. Mary Bearse, the adopted daughter, had married Heman Coleman, Sr., and probably had moved with her two children to the second property owned by Daniel and Sally. The relationship to this family was strong enough that the two properties were willed to the two Coleman descendants upon Sally's death.

By the 1880's Sally was living alone on Marston Avenue and questions were being raised about her health and abilities. Part of Sally's care may have fallen to Hannah Linnell Bursley, Sally's niece and the daughter of Sally's brother, Captain David Linnell. Hannah had Sally judged insane in 1892 at age 88, a move used in those days to establish the

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

extent and responsibility of care to be given to aged persons. Ferdinand Kelley was appointed by the Court to oversee Sally's situation and continued this responsibility until her death, even taking her into his home in her final days. During these later years most of Sally's possessions were either auctioned off or taken by relatives. Money for her care could be generated in selling possessions. Family mementos could be preserved through the distribution of possessions.

The names Bassett, Bursley, Coleman, and many others in our records tell stories of prominence and influence during the early days in America. The first Bassett, William, arrived at Plymouth, MA, in 1621 on the ship *Fortune*. He had originally set out on the *Speedwell* accompanying the *Mayflower*, but had been forced to return to England because of leaks in the ship. Daniel (#2) Bassett, who built the house on Marston Avenue in the 1750's, was the fifth generation of Bassetts in America. This same Daniel (#2), with his mother, Elizabeth, and stepfather, Hezekiah Marchant, were probably the first settlers of Hyannisport. The house built by Daniel's stepfather, Hezekiah Marchant, dated between 1730-1750, is also still standing and is the oldest house in Hyannisport.

Daniel (#2) Bassett served in the Revolution as a First Lieutenant in the Continental Army, commissioned on 21 Feb. 1776, from Barnstable, MA. He later served as a recruiter at Barnstable. He also was a mariner, 1/8th owner in the schooner *Sally*. There is evidence that this ship was in use in 1781 during the British blockade to carry provisions to town residents in the shallow coastal waters. Upon his death Daniel's interest in the *Sally* was conveyed to his son Daniel (#3).

And the house on Marston Avenue was inherited by Daniel (#3) and then by Daniel (#4). Through the years numerous alterations were made. A sun porch was added, and the plumbing modernized, but basically the original plan of eight rooms remains. We are grateful to Steven Davis for sharing its history and, with it, opening up the story of Sally Linnell Bassett, 118,311,2, p. 248 in THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL.

Rachel Linnell Wynn

## Reunion Planning Meeting Notes

On June 12-13 Richard and Dru Linnell, Jack and Barbara Linnell, Robert and Maureen Linnell, Cliff and Mildred Linnell, J. C. and Rachel Wynn, and James and Kay Swedberg, members of the Steering Committee, met at Hyannis, MA, to begin planning for the 1997 Linnell Family Reunion.

The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn where the Reunion will be held. The members toured the facilities to see first-hand the rooms and areas which will be available for the Reunion. The agenda for the Reunion was then prepared which allotted time for the business meeting as well as time for sight-seeing, family activities, and socializing.

The Reunion will take place in two large rooms called the Family Room and the Main Room. A Welcome Party will be provided on Friday evening in the Family Room where the displays, family exhibits, computerized family genealogies, and similar things will be found. That will be followed by Get-Acquainted activities in the outdoor area of the Holiday Inn. The Main Room will be the location of the Family Association meeting as well as all the meals on Saturday.

A large block of time has been set aside for families to sight-see or do whatever they want. Suggestions for sight-seeing and other activities will be available. There will be activities planned for the children, too, especially during the Family Association meeting which may hold little interest for the smaller children! Of course, there is also a swimming pool with life guard as well as outdoor sports facilities for the older kids. The weekend will culminate in a Worship Service on Sunday morning.

More details of the reunion will be published in later newsletters. The committee wants very much to make this the best reunion ever. Plan now to attend, and start planning something to display in the Family Room.



**SEE YOU AT THE CAPE NEXT SUMMER!**

## FURTHER EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF COUSIN LENA M. DYER

"My grandmother [Cynthia Sawtelle Linnell, wife of Lyman Miller Linnell - 118,241,23] fell heir to an old spinning wheel and clock reel, as well as a lot of other old relics which were lost in the fire. I had the old spinning wheel and clock reel sent to Portland just before the fire, and they are now in the possession of cousin William [William S. Linnell 118,241,215,2] as is the old Windsor Rocker in which his great grandmother used to sit and knit [Lydia Linnell, wife of Sturgis 118,241,2].

Grandma always used the old spinning wheel, and as a child nothing pleased me more than to have her go up in our old open chamber, set up her wheel, and start to spin. On it was spun all the yarn with which my stockings and mittens were knitted. As she was a very skillful knitter and knew all kinds of fancy stitches, my stockings were the envy of all the other children. Some were open work and others had vines and leaves on them, but did they itch! I walked a whole mile to school, but could only go a little way without having to stop and scratch, and I have itched ever since when any wool comes in contact with me.

In our kitchen was an old brick Dutch oven in which my grandmother continued to bake all her beans, brown bread, and apple pies, and it was the delight of my childish heart on a cold winter night to stick my head in the oven, look up the chimney, and see the stars shining so cold and bright.

Grandma hooked and braided all of her rugs, and made all of her patchwork quilts and comforters. She had a great knowledge of barks and roots with which she made her own dyes for quilt linings. I can still recall that acorn bark made a beautiful shade of brown. Something else made a rich salmon color, and another a beautiful blue, so all our puffs and quilts had very pretty linings.

When the children were small, she had an old loom on which she weaved the cloth for the little girls' dresses and boys' suits. I don't know what became of the loom.

Another thing was her Indian-like knowledge of the herbs to have on hand for sickness. The nearest doctor was several miles away and the roads were often impassable, especially in winter. When fourteen, I had a bad attack of jaundice which she

soon cured with all the saffron tea she could get into me, and when I had the measles I must have swallowed a gallon of pennyroyal tea. For a bad cold and cough, dried hoarhound was made into a candy which I used to delight in taking. Grandma raised flax seed for chest poultices in case of a bad cold and sage for tea to lower a fever.

Grandfather [Lyman] had a yoke of oxen on the farm, and mother would tell me that when the children were caught at school in a blizzard, he would hitch the oxen to a sled in which Grandma would place a big comforter, and he would then drive to the schoolhouse where all the children would scramble under the comforter and be snug as a bug all the way home. Mother said it was great fun."

Submitted by Robert S. Linnell



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

It is great to report to the family that the Association continues to

**GROW.** Our treasurer, Judy Spelde, reports that memberships continue to arrive in her mail. If you haven't sent your dues in yet, why not do so TODAY? Our mailing list also continues to increase, and today newsletters go out to 707 Linnell cousins. Thanks for your continued support.

On June 11, Linnell Family Steering Committee members from the states of Maryland, Washington, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Massachusetts met on Cape Cod at the site of the '97 reunion. We had a great three day planning session. The joy of meeting and joining together to plan the next reunion made for a wonderful experience.

Our planning for the 1997 reunion was accomplished. The Association is ready to welcome you with many activities to keep you involved and busy during our gathering on the Cape in '97. This is an opportunity to visit the land of your ancestors. Plan your attendance and mark your calendar NOW. More registration information will be in the next newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on the Cape.

## SURFING THE 'NET

Only one person has expressed an interest in a Linnell home page. Are there any more out there?

James Swedberg  
swedberg@lascruces.com

# Reunion Survey Results

A survey form was included in a newsletter after the Granville Reunion with a request that the forms be completed and returned. Here are the results of that survey. A total of 61 forms were tabulated. Note that everyone did not answer every question. The number in parentheses is the total response to that question, so that a "circle all that apply" response has more responses than the total number of forms. The results are given as a percentage of the total response except where noted. "Other" responses or comments are given in an abbreviated form on the right.

1. The best schedule for reunions (54)

- a) Every 3rd year 52%
- b) Every 4th year 13%
- c) Every 5th year 35%
- d) Other 0%

2. Best place for reunions (54)

- a) Cape Cod 20% Every other at Cape
- b) Circulate 74% Different location
- c) Center of country 6% Vote to vary
- d) Other 0%

3. Reunion Programs should include (182)

- a) Business meeting 25% Short business
- b) History or genealogy 29% Mixer
- c) Recreation 19% Music ("Giants")
- d) Tours of sites 27%

4. Mini Reunions for close cousins (44)

- a) Friday night 52% Saturday breakfast
- b) Saturday night 32% 2nd or off years
- c) Sunday afternoon 16%

5. Sales Items (112)

- a) Logo T- shirts 29% Old photos
- b) Linnell caps 21% Address books
- c) Mats, pens, mugs 35% Logo buttons
- d) Linnell video tapes 28% Document exchange

6. Accommodation Considerations

- a) Low total cost 31%
- b) Comfort (a/c, bath) 37%
- c) Easy access 33%

7. Amount of planned activity (33)

- a) Too much 3% Too spread out

- b) Just right 88% Need time to socialize
- c) Not enough 9%

8. Considering Children

(Numbers are total responses)

- a) Under 5 4 Need sitter service 4
- b) 5-12 11 Need planned games 14
- c) 12-18 8 Need family activities 5

9. Transportation

(47)

- a) Near airline 8%
- b) Airline & rental car 38%
- c) Motor home facilities 8%
- d) We come by car 47%

10. My age is:

(61)

- a) 20-29 1
- b) 30-39 6
- c) 40-49 13
- d) 50-59 14
- e) 60-69 10
- f) 70-79 14
- g) 80-89 3

11. Plan to attend '97 Reunion

(51)

- Yes 80%
- No 20%

12. Why didn't you attend the Granville Reunion? (29)

These responses were generalized from those given in the survey. Some people gave multiple reasons.

- a) Work interfered 7
- b) Cost 6
- c) Health problems 4
- d) Other commitments 4
- e) Too far away 4
- f) No nearby relatives 3
- g) Other family reunions 3
- h) Personal reasons 3
- i) Not my branch of the Linnells 1

These results were given to the committee planning the 1997 Cape Cod Reunion. While we know that you can't please everyone, we hope that the feelings addressed by this survey will be considered and that the 1997 reunion will be the best ever.

James Swedberg

## An Interview With Dorothy Provan

It was a beautiful Cape Cod afternoon when JC and I went to visit Dorothy and William Provan at Chatham, MA. Even though the mist was blowing off the ocean with a cold, damp feel to it, the sun was shining brightly. Dorothy was watching for us when we drove up, and the Visiting Nurse who helps care for William was just leaving. We were all anticipating this meeting.

At 92 years, Dorothy is a slight, gracious person whose interest in her Linnell ancestry, as well as her Freeman ancestry, is apparent. Double framed portraits of Capt. Ebenezer and Rebecca (Crosby) Linnell have a place of prominence among the family pictures that grace the shelves of family mementos. Prior to our coming, Dorothy had written out the names of her mother, Abby's siblings, and their children. And she was happy to tell us that her nephew was working to gather further genealogical information that he shares with her. He has found several links between her Linnell and Freeman lines.

Above the fireplace was a stunning copper worked eagle with its wings outspread. Our appreciative comments brought the admission that this was Dorothy's own work. Copper sconces on either side of the framed eagle are also the handiwork of Dorothy.

Since Dorothy's mother was only five years old when Captain Ebenezer Linnell died, Dorothy herself has few memories of that generation. She recalls childhood visits to the Captain Linnell home to see her grandmother Rebecca and her aunt Helen who took care of Rebecca and the home. She remembers the busy kitchen of that household using an entire barrel of flour every month for their baking and cooking. Helen, married to Joseph Cummings, and having six children, maintained a busy, active home.

The sharing of information about Cape families and Reunion plans brought a sense of family to us all. We anticipate Dorothy's presence with us at Reunion time in 1997.

Rachel Linnell Wynn

### THE DOCUMENT EXCHANGE

*This column, for the dissemination of Linnell family documents, is being dropped since no entries were received. If any are received in the future, the column will be re-instated.*

The Editor

## ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

### Births

None reported

### Marriages

Rob Borland 117,612,123,212,1 p. 107 m. to Vicki Lukavich on 3 Aug. 1996 at W. Sunbury, PA  
Rebecca Anne Donner 117,612,123,221,2 p. 108 m. to Doug. Woods on 24 Aug. 1996 at Santa Monica, CA

### Deaths

Purl Oliver Gross 11a,b15,515,12 d. 22 Sep. 1991 Norton, KS  
Walter Oscar Johnson 117,7-10-2,1-10-2,3S (husband of Dorothy L. Johnson) dec., d. 18 Apr. 1995 So. Paris, ME.  
Ethel (Mitchell) Linnell Franzwa, 118,241,116,59S, former wife of Verne L. Linnell (dec.), d. 7 June 1996.  
Alma Linnell Anderson, 118,241,112,87 d. 12 June, 1996 Grand Marais, MN

### 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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