

## A Message from Our Chairman

Summer greetings to the Linnell family.



When the warm days start to appear in our Nation's Capital and the flowers are blooming, I think back to the days when I was a young boy and "travel" to me was that wonderful ride

from Grand Marais to Duluth, Mn. in the Hedstrom Lumber Company's red, 8-wheel GMC, driven, of course, by the best darned truck driver in the world -- my dad. With my bag all packed -- courtesy of mom, you can guarantee -- I was off to the big city to visit Aunt Rae, my dad's sister, and her husband, Uncle Ed. After a stop for coffee and a donut at Oscar's cafe in Two Harbors, it was on to downtown Duluth and a trolley stop, where I would await the bus driven by Uncle Chet, my dad's brother, to take me to Glenwood. What was supposed to be a 15 minute ride usually turned into an hour at least as Uncle Chet would let me ride his route around town for awhile and then it was time to jump down, wave goodbye and run across the street to the waiting arms of the most wonderful woman in the world, my dear Aunt Rae.

This week-long visit with my two cousins, Claude & Bob Whitney, and my aunt and uncle, seemed to me to be a fairy tale. Here I would stay, being treated to some of the best entertainment a young boy could ever want -- bowling, shopping downtown for baseball cards, having lunch at Uncle Ed's office, going to the Dukes baseball games, going to the movies, and above all, our weekend trek to

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Gravesite Restoration

May 12, 1998

Barnstable Department of Public Works  
Cemetery Division  
280 Pullman Avenue  
Cotuit, MA 02635

Att: Stephen Sandelin, Superintendent  
Re: Grave stone of JOHN LINNELL (1747)  
Lathrop Hill Cemetery

Dear Sir:

I represent the Linnell Family Association of North America, a non-profit group which meets for a reunion every three years at different locations throughout the United States. One of our concerns is the grave stones of our early ancestors and it has come to our attention that the marker of John Linnell who died in 1747 is broken in two with much flaking. I understand his wife, Ruth Davis, is buried next to him, but don't know whether she has a separate stone.

Unfortunately, most of the early stones were either slate or blue marble, neither of which remain very legible for much more than 200 years, depending on various factors.

What we are considering is the replacement of the original marker (along with his wife's, if separate) with a granite one of like design and inscription; however, we, of course, want the Town's permission before proceeding further. Also, we would request the names and addresses of at least two monument shops in the area in whose work your division has confidence.

I am aware that the Town of Barnstable has its own cemetery restoration program as funding permits, but I am sure you can understand the more personal concern arising from family interest.

These graves are on the right hand side of the fifth row. Please advise as to the conditions, etc., surrounding such a proposal.

Robert S. Linnell

Cousin **Eva Spurlin** has challenged all Linnells to match her \$10 donation to this worthy cause. Send your donation to Treasurer Judy Spelde at the address shown on page 5.

## FROM THE NOTES OF SUSAN TARBOX LINNELL

A letter to her half-brother,  
William S. Linnell (118,241,215,2)

Dear Bill,

I'm going to tell you a bit of ancient history which maybe you don't need; then again.....

When William (William F. Linnell - 118,241,215 and Sarah (his second wife, following the death of Susan B. Tarbox Linnell) went on their wedding trip, Carrie Shepherd Mentch was at home with her twin boys, William and Walter. Her husband, Alex, had a brother in the Blue Hills region of South Dakota. He wanted Alex to take up a claim in that region and he would stand by. The Shepherds were fearful, but Carrie also went.

Two years later, I came home from school to find your mother (Sarah Shepherd Linnell, Susan's step-mother) in tears. A letter had come from Carrie saying Alex had gone to the post office, some forty miles away, and left her with the children. I remember that she wrote: "It's hard for a pregnant woman to have nothing to eat but corn meal. But the twins and baby seem to be well, even on such a scanty diet!

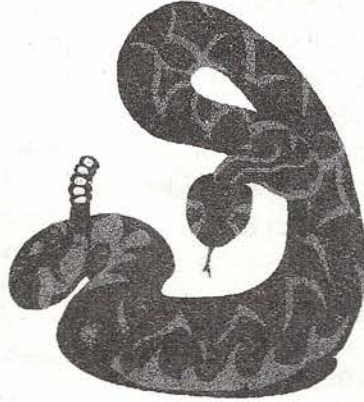
Father, of course, came to the rescue and sent them \$50. Later, another letter arrived and he sent more money. The crops had failed for two consecutive years and they were destitute. The next news was that they were giving up and going to Montana to stake a claim. Then there were five children including a girl named Elsie (Sarah's sister, Elsie Shepherd Dean).

No further word came for years. The last time I knew, the family had been quite successful. There were two or three additions and as each child came of age he or she had staked a claim. So then they could travel the road for twenty miles with their own property on each side of the road. Aunt Carrie eventually built up a successful bakery business and they were getting along very well. That was the last I ever heard. I never

was told the name of the town. [Later study showed it to be Absarokee, Carbon County, Montana.]

One incident impressed my childish mind: when they were in South Dakota, there was, at the time of the writing, only the twins, Willie and Wallie. Their home was a two room affair with only one room floored over and the other hard earth. In one corner of the dirt floored room there was a door to the outside. Once when Alex had gone to market, Carrie heard the twins squealing with delight. She stepped to the door of the room where the babies were

sitting and coiled in the center of the dirt floor was a huge rattle snake! She ordered the children- they obeyed in those days - to keep perfectly still. She backed into the room, took a milk pan and put a cup of whisky into it. Then with a broom, she pushed the pan toward the rattler. He drank his fill and succumbed.



Then one youngster tipped into the yard and she pulled the other back into the room. She seized the axe and, biding her time, chopped the drunken serpent to pieces. This picture of the frontier mother has never left me."

*Susan Tarbox Linnell was the daughter of William F. Linnell and Susan B. (Tarbox) Linnell. Susie B, as she was later referred to, died June 5, 1877 at age 25, and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Biddeford, Maine. Susan T. Linnell (Susie T) taught elementary school for many years at South Hamilton, Massachusetts, near Salem. She was confined to a wheel chair for the last ten years of her life (she called it "being housed") and lived alone on the top floor of a two family house- yet she would deny ever being alone, for rarely a day passed that she was not visited by former students whose affection for her was indeed impressive. She died in 1960 at age 83, and is buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Saco, Maine. She never married.*

*Robert Linnell*

# A Linnell Childhood

## Part One

**Marvel Mae Linnell Soderlund**

Mineral Center, Minnesota, was the area where Peter Linnell and his cousins from Black River Falls, Wisconsin, settled in the early 1900s. The heavily wooded wilderness was six miles from the Canadian border and six miles from the nearest Indian village of Grand Portage. The Linnells were enticed to come to the northeastern tip of Minnesota by exaggerated promises of prosperous homesteads on fertile land. Upon arriving from the rich, productive farming area of Wisconsin and viewing the rocky, barren land, they were disillusioned and disheartened, but

were determined to survive. So they rolled up their sleeves, cut and dragged the trees, hauled the rocks and boulders out of the way, turned over the soil, and made a home for themselves in this unwelcoming land.



My grandfather, Peter Linnell, and his wife, Nellie O'Sullivan, raised a family of 10 in Mineral Center, six boys and four girls: Ted, Foster, Chester, Russell, Vernie, Arnold, Teresa, Rae, Grace and Cecilia. (Only one child is still living, Cecilia.) In addition to his farm, he saw the need for a general store in the community. He and the older boys built a store with a living area above it about 1/4 mile from the farm. They built it on the main road which eventually became the "highway." The store sold everything from seeds to building nails. I remember that he had 100-pound bags of sugar and flour which customers weighed out into paper bags. I recall people picking up groceries and supplies with horse and wagon (horse and sleigh during the winter), and some would walk away with armloads of

supplies.

I have a fond memory of Grandpa's horse and buggy with a red interior -- I was very young and it must have been a special occasion as I clearly remember him wrapping me in a red blanket and sitting me on the bright red seats of the buggy. Grandpa had the first radio in the area; on Saturday night many of us would go to the store and stand around the radio, but there was only an occasional voice that was audible, it was mostly static. He also had the first car (\$300) in the community. The store also had the only gas pump for miles around. Behind the store was a large storage shed with an equally large area above it for community meetings and parties. This is where dances were held on occasion. Grandpa played the fiddle at the dances and most of the Linnell boys taught themselves to play a musical instrument, and some of them learned to do the Irish jig.

Grandma Nellie was Catholic, but there was no Catholic church in the area. Neighbors and friends built a Congregational Church on the land adjoining the store and Grandma attended there along with the rest of her family. There is now a graveyard where the church once stood.

I remember my grandpa Peter as a wonderful grandpa because when we left to go to Iowa for summer work he would give my brother Bud and me a bag of candy. That was a rarity in those days.....to me it was as exciting as a trip to Disneyland for the kids these days.

Some stories were told of the early days when the settlers first came to the area. The food, furniture or other needed supplies came up the North Shore of Lake Superior on the "America" boat to Hovland, 12 miles away. A story I long remember is that Uncle Martin Bockovich carried a cook stove on his back from the "America" to his home, a distance of 12 miles. In later years, when they had horses and wagons or sleighs, some men would meet the boat and haul all the items the neighbors and friends had ordered.

*To Be Continued.....*



## Additions to the Family Records

The page references for the location of these additions are given to enable cousins to find the proper place to add the information. This follows the same plan as the new Additions and Corrections 1994-1997 book

### With Sympathy Deaths

p. 147

117,7-10-2,1-10-3,2

Marjorie E. Kincaid Burgess

b.19 Sep. 1916 d. 27 July 1995

p. 218

11a,b15,514,-12

Otto F. Linnell Sr.

m. Grace Logan 29 Nov. 1930, married 67 years

b. 1 Oct. 1911 d. 31 May 1998 Kansas City, KS

p.225

11a,b15,515,62

Daryl William Linnell

b. 28 Apr. 1925 d. 3 Apr. 1998 Salem, OR

p. 227

11a,b15,515,92

Laura Lough

m. Lawrence (Bud) Nelson

d. 18 Oct. 1997 Scio, OR



p.274 (Additions)

118,731,921,142

Katheryn (Smith) and Fred Sinclair III

Sinclair Child:

ii Kaleigh Smith b. 12 May 1998

at Willimantic, CT

p. 107

117,612,123,21,1

Robert P. and Vicki Borland

Borland Child: Tristen Robert b. 15 July 1998

at Pittsburgh, PA

## To Submit Family News

Send:

Newsletter articles to Jim Swedberg.

Address changes to Dick Linnell.

Vital statistics to Rachel Wynn.

See page 5 for addresses.



## Marriages

p. 226

11a,b15,515,81

Gerald Dean Gutzman

m.(1) Phyllis Schroeder d. 1989

m.(2) Elaine Olson

p. 226

11a,b15,515,82

Robert Gutzman

(correction: m. Nelda Toms, not Thomas)

Gutzman Children:

i Robert O. b. 28 Jul. 1962 d. 1996

ii Nola m. Michael Brebal

p. 236

11a,b15,515,812

Tamara Lynn Gutzman

m (2) Donald Price Oct. 1995

Williams Children:

i Amanda

ii Sabrina

Price Children:

iii Jordan b. 1995

iv Chandler b. 1996

v Spencer b. Mar. 1998



p. 431

118,241,169,211

David Charles Linnell and Diana Frazier div. 9 July 1997

(correction: Brian David b. 22 June 1981)

## Linnell West Coast Reunion

August 29, 1998

Surfwood Villa Clubhouse

Salem, Oregon

A mini-reunion has been organized by Ladoska Elliot. It is intended to give the west coast members of the Linnell Family an opportunity to get together without having to travel all the way across country. All Linnell Family members are invited to attend and to bring pictures and family history information with them so that Dossie can assemble a book to take to the 2000 reunion in New York. The lunch is potluck and will begin at noon. Plan to attend, especially if you cannot go to the 2000 reunion in New York.

# FROM THE DIARY OF COUSIN LENA M. DYER

When we lived on the farm near Skowhegan I had a little black Western broncho which I used both as a saddle and driving horse. I sometimes think that my mother [Georgeanna (Georgie Cain) Linnell Caine] would pick the coldest day of the winter to tell me that I would have to hitch up Dandy and take the butter and eggs to Skowhegan, get some groceries, and bring back a bag of cracked corn for the hens and a bag of feed for the cow. She would heat some bricks in the oven and I would get started - muffled to the ears with a brick in my lap and one under each foot. It would be near 20 below and I had a five mile drive both up and back. It would be several days before I got thawed out after I got home.

I can't quite imagine children today driving an old pung home from the village under those circumstances.

Often I arose in the early morning hours after a big snow storm the night before only to find all the buildings blocked by snow drifts so that I had to shovel my way to the barn to milk and feed the cow and to look after our hens and my little horse. Our old house was very comfortable though, as it was very staunchly built and we always kept three fires going in the downstairs rooms.

This is the last article in the series from Cousin Lena.  
Thanks to Robert Linnell for sharing this family history.  
The Editors

## Reunion 2000

Plan **NOW** to attend the Year 2000 Linnell Family Reunion in New York. What better way to start the next millenium than vacationing in a beautiful setting, making and re-establishing friendships with all of the members of your Linnell family? Plans are being made for another wonderful program at the reunion, but the real treat is the area itself. There are so many places to see and things to do! Remember, if you fail to plan, you plan to fail!

## 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 1997 - 2000

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#### REUNION 2000

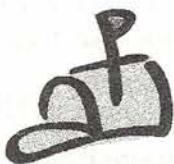
Chuck & Maryan Ainsworth 203-637-1053  
15 Park Avenue  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

## GLEANINGS

### from E-mail and the post.



The mail has brought news from around the country to share with you, dear readers.



-- FROM a very alive 94 year old **Dorothy Freeman Provan**, 117,622,434,5 of Chatham, MA. It looked from the death notices in the May Newsletter that it was she who had died. Not at all! It was her dear husband under whose name the dates of birth and death were recorded. To our knowledge Dorothy is the oldest living Linnell descendant.

--NEWS of others of our elders filters in. **Aunt Laura Linnell**, 118, 241,112,67, who has attended all of our reunions was 92 on March 29th. She spent three weeks in the hospital in December and January, but is doing fine now and is as sharp as ever.

--PLUS A great birthday celebration was held for Laura's sister, **Nina Townsend** when she turned 90 on 21 February, 1998. All of Nina's children attended as well as our former chairman **Dick Linnell** and his wife **Dru**.

--AND **Dick Linnell** hopes that his membership lists in his new computer generate information about who else has reached that venerable age of 90.

--AND also from **Dick**. He broke his wrist in a fall recently and had to do the last mailing of our Newsletter one handed. He says the wrist is fairly well recovered now.

--**GLEN Roberts** writes that he and **Marcia** have sold their house and are waiting in a motel for the hitch to be fastened to their truck so they can begin retirement wandering in their mobile home. They plan to meet **Jerry Linnell**, our current chairman, and others on

the north shore of Lake Superior this summer. His new laptop computer makes it possible to continue genealogical work even in mobile retirement.

--THE **Al Linnell** family and the **Wynn** family reunited at the homes of **Scott and Susan Linnell and Barrie L. and Rick Westerwick** in New Jersey in June. It was the culmination of Al and Ann's trip east to graduate **David Linnell** from high school and **Moriah Linnell** from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In New Jersey they celebrated the birthdays of **Paul Linnell** and **Al Linnell**. Al's trip began with attendance at the American Astronomical Society Convention in San Diego, CA, where he presented a paper about his research on tracking binary stars. These reunions between the three year Linnell Family Reunions help us keep in touch and see how much the young people have grown. We measured three teen agers over six feet tall. **David Linnell** is off to Dickerson College in the fall and **John Wynn** to Tulane University.

--**MARTHA and Bob Borland** watch daily for E-mail or postcards from their Emily. Emily is currently studying in Florence, Italy, under a program of Syracuse University where she is a junior. She has traveled to Rome, Venice, and Pompeii to study classical architecture and art. She began her summer travels as part of a mission group from Syracuse University who laid foundations for houses for professors at the University of Zimbabwe, Africa.

--**TIM Linnell** from England sent E-mail to Rachel and Mark Wynn. He indicates that parenting young Christopher, nearly one year old, is delightful and time-consuming. He has been doing some genealogical work, solidifying family records after 1735. He finds a cluster of Linnells living in the Paddington area of Middlesex. This was an area of tradesmen with a tradition of religious dissent, a tradition that could tie into our Robert in the

## A Message from Our Chairman

*(Continued from page 1)*

Schultz Lake to the cabin to fish, swim, water ski, take saunas, and sleep in the boat house.

Gosh, could it get any better than that?

Yes, it could. This particular week, cousin Butch and his brother Mike and sister Jackie were coming, too. Then Linda and Gail were coming, and Bonnie and Dixie, and Larry and Casey, and Kathy, Denise and Elaine, Bud and Jean, Marvel and Marvin, and more. Then the most fun people in the whole wide world-- all the moms and dads, my aunts and uncles. It was time to have a family reunion.

As you travel about this summer, I am sure some similar warm memories will come floating back to you. Why don't you jot down some of your favorite Linnell stories and send them on to us so we can all share them in our LFA newsletter.

Have a safe summer filled with sweet memories.

Jerry Linnell

### CAUTION!!!

#### The New World Book of Linnells

Ida Linnell sent in an advertisement that she received for The New World Book of Linnells. While I have not personally seen or spoken to anyone who has seen the book, I urge Linnell cousins to be cautious about this offer. It is my understanding that the book is primarily a list of names and addresses taken from such public domain sources as telephone books. I believe that there is little which would help the genealogist. I have been offered a similar book by the same organization for the name Swedberg.

#### The Descendants of Robert Linnell

is still *the* best Linnell reference and a few copies are still available. To purchase this extraordinary book, contact Dick Linnell at 815-789-4668.

James Swedberg



### SEARCHING FOR BRANCHES AND ROOTS

I am looking for information on  
**James and Polly Nichols**  
the parents of **Clarissa Nichols**  
b. 6 July 1834 Rochester, NY  
who married Chester Linnell (118,241,116) in  
1856

See The Descendants of Robert Linnell  
p.333 and 339-340

Naida Standing  
6134 Wisconsin Avenue  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
klaughbaum@portup.com

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Send order form and payment to:

Rachel L. Wynn  
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**LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**

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