



Robert Linnell and our Heritage of Religious Freedom

As descendents of Robert Linnell, who came from England to Scituate, [now Massachusetts] in 1638, then to Barnstable, on Cape Cod [MA] in 1639, we may wonder what brought Robert and his family from London to America at such an early time. It was only 18 years after the first Pilgrim settlement at nearby Plymouth. America was wilderness. Subsistence farming and fishing was difficult at best. Life was hard.

The best indication we have for Robert Linnell is that he was among those early pioneers who came to America to flee from a kind of religious persecution that we can barely imagine. In our country, we are so used to the freedom to choose and practice our religion, that we have lost awareness of the passions and dangers that ruled those times.

Although we have not yet discovered records that shed light directly on the life and times of Robert Linnell in England, we can learn a lot from the history of the early congregation of which he was a member, the First Church of London, in Southwark, whose minister was his brother-in-law, Reverend John Lothrop. Also, we can learn from the court records of Robert's second wife, Peninah House Linnell, the sister of Rev. Lothrop's wife. From Rev. Lothrop's journal, written in America, we have the following passage—"My brother, Robert Linnell, and his wife, having a letter of dismissal from

the church in London, joined to us, September 16, 1638."

The First Church of London was famous in religious history. Sometimes called "The Church of the Pilgrim Fathers," in Southwark on the south bank of the Thames, it was one of the first Separatist churches, along with the English pilgrim church in Leiden, Holland. From these sprang churches we would know today as Congregational, Baptist, and many others. The concept, at that time, was radical and dangerous. From the time of King Henry VIII [1539], England had broken with the Roman Catholic Church, and the King or Queen was the actual head of the Church of England. There was an absolute hierarchy of King, Archbishop, Bishop, etc. down to the local parish minister. No other practice was permitted. At times, Kings chose to brutally repress any dissenting opinion or practice.

Robert Linnell, as part of Rev. John Lothrop's church, took a radical and dangerous path. Rev. Lothrop was a Separatist. He was graduated from Cambridge, and took his orders first at the parish church in Egerton, Kent, and married the daughter of Rev. John House, of Eastwell, Kent. In 1623 he resigned his orders under protest, and took over the church in Southwark from Rev. Henry Jacobs, an associate of Rev. John Robinson of Leiden, and

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West Coast Reunion 05

The 1st picture is of the family group, 2nd is the band that Ron Smith plays with. "Our group was smaller this year with only 44 of the family attending. Even with a small group we had a great time. Enjoyed the music furnished by cousin Ron Smith and three of his friends. Our 2006 reunion will be in Idaho on the 5th of August with Lyle and Janis Linnell hosting. We will keep you informed through the year. Hope we will see new faces and meet new cousins." Dossie



Linnell Family Association Reunion June 23-25, 2006

We would like to invite all members of the Linnell Family Association, and all descendents of Robert Linnell, our immigrant ancestor, who came to Massachusetts in 1638, to the seventh reunion of the Linnell family, to be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Eastham, MA, June 23-25, 2006, on beautiful Cape Cod. We suggest that you might want to come early, or stay late, to enjoy the many vacation opportunities that Cape Cod offers, such as the Cape Cod National Seashore which is only two miles away and named one of the top ten beaches in America, noted for its high dunes and miles of bike trails. Also nearby are whale watches, boating, golf, hiking trails, and many more beaches on both sides of the Cape.



The following places will be of special interest to the Linnell family. In Orleans [six miles away], is the Captain Linnell House, Orleans Museum with artifacts from his ships, the Orleans cemetery with the restored gravestone of Jonathon Linnell, Linnell Landing Beach, and many more places. In Barnstable [twenty miles away] is the Sturgis Library with its great genealogy collection including the manuscripts of our own beloved Rachel Linnell Wynn, the Daniel Davis House Museum [another Linnell descendent], and the Lothrop graveyard with the restored gravestone of John Linnell.

We urge you to register early for the reunion, using the registration form supplied separately, and to book your hotel reservations directly with the hotel at (508) 255-5000. Mention that you are booking for the Linnell reunion. The special rate of \$139 will be available for several days before and after the meeting, depending on availability. For those who would like to camp, there is an RV park next door to the hotel, Atlantic Oaks, which can be booked anytime at (508) 255-1437, and the Nickerson State Park

in Brewster, eight miles away which can be booked six months in advance at (877) 422-6762 .

We look forward to seeing you at the reunion next June.

The following is an extract from the obituary of Kelly Anne Forseth which was published recently in the Waushara (Wisconsin) Argus. It was sent in by her grandmother, Joanna Wisner, for publication in The Linnell Family Association Newsletter with the following note: "The accident was a result of riding with a driver who was under the influence. We hope that other teens will read this and try to make good decisions in their lives."

We extend our condolences to the Forseth family.

The Editor

Kelly Anne Forseth, 18, of Waupaca died on Aug. 14, 2005 as a result of an automobile accident in the Town of Lind, Waupaca County.

She was born in Waupaca on Feb. 25, 1987, the daughter of Jerry Forseth and Leigh Anne (Wisner) Forseth.



Kelly Anne Forseth
Feb. 25, 1987-Aug. 14, 2005

Kelly graduated from Waupaca High School in 2005. She was enrolled at UW-Superior and was going to major in Biology. She enjoyed wrestling; helping out in Waupaca Youth Wrestling, and was wrestling manager in middle and high school. She was also involved in volleyball, softball, drama, and speed skating.

Kelly liked to spend time with her family and friends. She was a loving daughter, sister, grand-daughter and niece to many. She was known as a social butterfly. She was involved with the church youth group and attended church work camp in Colorado in 2004 through Trinity Lutheran Church in Waupaca. She attended National Guard Youth Camp for six years. Kelly also volunteered in the community, and liked reading Shakespeare.

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a famous Separatist who was one of the first English Baptists. All of these ministers and their flocks rejected the authority of the Bishops and held the Bible as the only source of authority, especially following the Epistles of St. Paul in his descriptions of early church communities. They believed in forming churches that were a local assembly of committed Christians, who elected their own ministers. To us this doesn't seem too radical, but to the King of England, it was. "No Bishop, no King," said King James. Separatism was viewed as treason. He said, "I will harry them out of the land" [1610].

In the time of King Charles I [1630's], the repression got much worse. Archbishop Laud moved to totally suppress any deviation from standard practice and authority. On the night of April 22, 1632, Rev. Lothrop was holding a church service in the home of one Humphrey Barnet, at Blackfriars, London, when Archbishop Laud's officers [yes, they had legal power] arrested 42 worshippers and threw them in jail, with 18 escaping. Was Robert Linnell arrested that night, or did he escape? We don't know, but we do know that his wife-to-be, Peninah House, was arrested and called before the King's Court [Star Chamber] where she courageously refused to renounce her beliefs.

Rev. Lothrop, however, was held for two years in the foul London jails. When his wife died, and his children petitioned for his release, he was allowed to emigrate to America in 1634, as had many other dissenting ministers before him, such as Thomas Hooker, John Cotton, and the like.

Interestingly enough, once re-established

in Scituate, his church was joined by Isaac Robinson, son of Rev. John Robinson, the "Moses of the Mayflower Pilgrims." They were clearly all of similar belief. Two generations later, Isaac Robinson's grand-daughter, Sarah Sturges, married Samuel Linnell in Barnstable [118,24].

We know that Robert and Peninah Linnell came to America "upon dismissal" from Rev. Lothrop's old church in London, meaning they carried a letter from the London church transferring them, in good standing, to the re-established church in Scituate. What they went through in the several previous years, we don't know, but they left England just in time. In the 1640's England erupted in a bloody Civil War as the Puritans, under Cromwell, deposed the Archbishop and King. Meanwhile, in the New World, Robert and Peninah Linnell were able to live and worship in peace, and help found a country where religious liberty was guaranteed.

For those of you who will be joining us at the Linnell Family Reunion, June 23-25, 2006, on Cape Cod, you will be able to see the places where the early Linnells lived, the Lothrop library [the former home of Rev. John Lothrop, and certainly where Robert Linnell and family were frequent guests], the Lothrop cemetery where they are buried, and many other sites of interest to the Linnell family.

Dan McConnell

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VISIT THE
LINNELL WEB PAGE
linnellfamily.home.comcast.net**



Our Oldest Cousin

There has been an outpouring of response to the "Our Oldest Cousin" article in the August 2005 LFA Newsletter. Here are three more contestants. We will continue to honor all of our senior cousins. Cousins everywhere are urged to send them their good wishes on their birthdays.

Otto F. Linnell, Sr.
(11a,b15,514,-12) was born on a homestead near Alma, Kan on October 30, 1909 the youngest of 12 children, nine who lived to marry and raise families. His father, James Linnell, and two brothers, homesteaded there.



He was 96 years of age on October 30, 2005. His address is
The Gables
11701 Neiman Road
Overland Park, Kansas 66210

Thirza Covey Tinthoff (118,241,185,14) is the daughter of Ira J. and Alta Linnell Covey. She was born November 6, 1906, in Peoria, IL. She lived in Peoria all of her life except for a few years during World War II when her husband served in the US Coast Guard and she and her family lived in California.



Her address is
Lutheran Hillside Village
Healthcare D4
Peoria, IL 61614

Dennis Linnell reports that his aunt, Doris Ernestine Linnell (118,241,231,35) may be able to claim the title of Our Oldest Cousin. Doris was born July 18, 1908. She is the daughter of George William Linnell. No picture was available at publication time. Contact Doris through Dennis at 16890b Lake Road Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

Happy Birthday



Please continue to submit the names of our cousins who have reached the age of 90, along with some biographical information, their current address, and a photo, if possible.

The Editor

WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT JASON LEE HAS GRACIOUSLY DECIDED TO TAKE OVER THE POSITION OF FAMILY NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR YOU.



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB LINNELL FOR THE COOKIES AND for THE MORAL DELIMMA that came with them. Should I have returned the cookies? Forwarded them to the next newsletter editor? In actual fact I swallowed my guilt and



Additions to the Family Records

Marriages, Births & Deaths

Clarissa Lucielle Johnson (118, 241,111,312)
 b. 15 Sept 2004
 Parents: Glenn Steven Johnson (118, 241,111,31) & Jolene Holland

Drew Allen Matheny (118,241,231,111,323)
 b. 5 Jan 2005 to Trista Leah (Johnson) Matheny
 (118,241,231,111,32) Cambridge MN

Updated information for **Linnell Louise Oberg**
 (118,241,231,112,1)
 Children of Linnell & Leonard W Sathers:
 i. Sandra Linnell Sathers
 Child of Sandra & Jeff Hawkinson:
 i. Abigail Linnell Hawkinson
 ii. Scott William Sathers

Mason Millard Linnell (118,241,231,124)
 d. 5 May 2005 at the Luther Memorial Home in Mayville ND

Donald W Tremewan (118,241,231,435S)
 d. 28 March 2004 while visiting in the Florida Keys

LINNELL ROOTS AND BRANCHES



Your mailing label shows your current membership status in the Linnell Family Association, either Life, Family, or Single Membership along with the current date of your payment. Please contact us if there is any discrepancy.

If your current LFA dues are yet to be paid, this may be your last Newsletter. Costs of mailing and printing make it impossible to continue to send the Newsletter to those who choose not to maintain membership.

THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The purposes of the Association are the promotion of fellowship among the Linnell family members through reunions and the publication of the **Linnell Family Newsletter**, and the preservation of the records of the family.

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Registration Form
Seventh Linnell Family Reunion
June 23-25, 2006
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Eastham, Massachusetts



NAME _____

SPOUSE _____

CHILDREN ATTENDING (WITH AGES) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Mail this form & check to R. Scott Linnell, Treasurer
23 Liberty Knoll Drive
Colt's Neck, NJ 07722

I/We are coming to the 2006 Linnell Family Reunion and enclose payment as follows:

Registration fee

Family/Couple @ \$40 (\$45 after May 1) \$ _____
(‘Family’ means one or both parents and dependent children)
Single @ \$20 (\$25 after May 1) \$ _____

This fee covers Program, Printing, Mailing, Rentals, Souvenire, Friday Evening Refreshments (No meal will be served Friday evening), and Saturday & Sunday Continental Breakfasts. A Saturday luncheon is not scheduled.

Saturday Evening Banquet (Please indicate entree choice and number of each @ \$25)

Baked stuffed sole _____ Stuffed chicken breast _____ Sliced top sirloin _____ \$ _____
Children under 12 Chicken fingers & fries at \$11 each _____ \$ _____

Housing

You are responsible for your own hotel reservations. Call the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at (508)255-5000. Cut off date is May 23. Special rate for LINNELL REUNION is \$139 plus tax Single/Double. \$10 extra for each additional occupant 18 & over. Also, there is an adjoining RV park (Atlantic Oaks), Phone (508) 255-1437 and a campground at Nickerson State Park in Brewster (six miles away), Phone (877) 422-6762, but reservations there must be made 6 months in advance. Should you wish to use the general Sheraton 800 reservation number (1-800-325-3535), be sure to specify the Four Points Hotel at Eastham, MA.

Please cut out, fill in, and mail this form, along with your payment, to R. Scott Linnell.
See you at the Cape next June!

ORDER FORM

The Descendants of Robert Linnell

Second Edition - \$35

Additions And Corrections

1994 - 1997 - \$8

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_____ Additions and Corrections \$ _____
_____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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Street _____
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Send order form and payment to:

Scott Linnell, Treasurer
23 Liberty Knoll Drive
Colt's Neck, NJ 07722

MEMBERSHIP

REGISTRATION & RENEWAL

Linnell Family Association

Please register me as a member of the Linnell Family Association in the following category:

_____ Single Life Time (\$125.00)
_____ Single Annual (\$15.00 a year)
_____ Family Annual (\$25.00 a year)
_____ Total Amount Enclosed

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

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**LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

James Swedberg
2727 Sunrise Point Road
Las Cruces, NM 88011

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Status: 05

