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THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

L I N N (E) O N R L Y N N (E)

Compiled by
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THE NAME AND FAMILY OF LINN(E) OR LYNN(E)

The name of LINN, LYNN, LINNE, or LYNNE is said by some writers to be of Celtic origin and derived from the word linn, meaning "a marsh or swamp"; while others state that it is taken from the Scotch word linn, meaning "a waterfall or precipice". In either case, it was taken by its original bearers because of the location of their homes, at the time of the adoption of surnames in Great Britain, at or near such places or at places so called. It is found on ancient British and early American records in the various forms of Lyne, Lyn, Lin, Llyne, Llyn, Llynne, Llynn, Lyme, Lym, Linne, Linn, Lynne, Lynn, and others, of which the last four are frequently found in America today, the forms of Linn and Lynn being most often used.

One line of this family originated in Scotland, in the County of Ayr, and many of its members removed to Ireland at early dates; while another line was anciently seated in England, where families of this name were to be found in the city and vicinity of London and in the Counties of

Cornwall, Hants, Cambridge, Essex, Bedford, Devon, Surrey, Suffolk, Norfolk, Northants, and York.

Among the earliest records of the family in the British Isles are those of Cecilia de Lynn, of Devonshire, in 1272; those of Reginald de Lyn, of Devonshire, in 1273; those of Walter de Lynne or Lin, of Cunningham, Scotland, in 1296; those of John de Lynne, of Norwich, before 1396; and those of William Lynne, of Bedfordshire, and later of London, before the year 1400.

Of these, the last-mentioned William Lynne (also recorded as "Linne") married Sandresse Caudrey and was the father by her of a son named William, who resided in the Parish of St. Dunstan in the West, London, and was a prominent merchant of that place. He married Alice Stokes, of County Kent, and was the father by her of John, Robert, Alice, Beatrix, and Margaret, of whom the son John resided, not only in London, but also at Southwick Hall, in Northamptonshire. He died in 1487 and left issue by his wife Joane or Jone, daughter of Sir John Knyvet, of Richard, William, Joane, Alice, Helen, and Anne.

Richard Lynne or Linne, elder of the last-mentioned brothers, became Vice-Chamberlain to Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby. He made his home in

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Cambridgeshire and married Alice, daughter of Peter Farrington. He was the father of Robert, Randolph, and Thomas, of whom the first probably died without issue. Randolph, second son of the first Richard of Cambridgeshire, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Dale, and left an only child, named Margaret; and Thomas, third son of the first Richard of Cambridgeshire, died in 1549, leaving issue by his wife Joane, daughter of John Parris, of Phillip, John, Katharine, and Jane. Of these, the son Phillip died without issue; and John married Mary, daughter of John Sewster, and was the father by her of William, Henry, the Reverend Edward, John, Marmaduke, Francis, Elizabeth, Anne, Alice, Jane, Helen, and Mary.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, sons of John and Mary, William was the father by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Steward, whom he married about 1588, of an only child, named Catharine; Henry had issue by his wife Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Butler, of John of County Middlesex and the Reverend Henry of Bedfordshire; the Reverend Edward settled in Huntingdonshire and left issue there of Marmaduke, Augustine, John, Jane, Abigail, Eleanor, and Margaret; John (brother of the Reverend Edward) resided in Devonshire and was the father by his wife Mary, daughter of William

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Grylls, of William, John, Richard, Marmaduke, Anne, Catherine, Mary, and Elizabeth; Marmaduke (brother of the Reverend Edward) is said to have become Chancellor of Salisbury, but his records are not complete; and Francis married Abigail, daughter of John Pigot, and was the father by her of John and Jonathan.

William Lynne or Linne, the younger son of John and Joane or Jone (of Southwick Hall, Northamptonshire), succeeded to the family estates in Northamptonshire and left issue there by his wife Margaret, daughter of William Laxham, of Guy, Jerome, David, Audrey, Cecilia, Agnes, and three other daughters whose Christian names have not been found. Of this line, Guy married Agnes or Anne, daughter of George Kirkham, and was the father by her of George, William, and Elizabeth, of whom the first married Amicia, daughter of Sir Edward Montague, and died about 1593, leaving issue by her of George, Humphrey, Edward, and Frances, of whom the son Humphrey was the father by his wife Ursula, daughter of Thomas Dudley, of John and Henry.

George, eldest brother of the last-mentioned Humphrey, married Martha, daughter of Clement Throkmorton, sometime before the year 1575. He was the father by her of George, the Reverend Fitzwilliam, Guy, the Reverend Walter of

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Lincolnshire, and others. The son George married Isabella, daughter of Myles Forrest, of Huntingdonshire, and had issue by her of George, William, Clement, Miles, Frances, Anne, Isabella, Martha, and Cordelia.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, sons of George and Isabella, George married Mary, daughter of Thomas Kirkham, and was the father by her of John (died in infancy), another John, George of London and Lincolnshire, William, Robert, Miles, Mary, Martha, Katharine, Margaret, and Lydia; William (son of George and Isabella) married Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Whetenhall, at London in 1631 and was the father by her of Francis, John, William, George, and Henry; Clement left at least one son, named George; and Miles died unmarried.

Another early line in England was that represented in the first part of the sixteenth century by one John Lynne, of County Essex, who was a descendant of the before-mentioned Lynnes or Linnes of Cambridgeshire. This John married Alice, daughter of Sir William Bulmer, and had a son named William, who married Alice Pamont, by whom he was the father of William, who married Ellinor, daughter of John Abell, and had issue by her of William, Mary, and Ellinor. Of these, William was the father by his first

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wife Audrey, daughter of Sir John Watts, Lord Mayor of London, of John, Thamer, Audrey, Margaret, and Ellinor; and by his second wife Martha, daughter of Francis Barnham, of London, he had further issue of a son named William, and possibly of others.

The Lynn or Linn family of Ayrshire, Scotland, was represented, about the beginning of the seventeenth century, by one John Lynn "of that ilk"; in 1608, by "Jon. Lin or Lyn"; in 1609, by Andrew Lynn; in 1615, by Robert Lin; in 1616, by Robert and Hugh Lyne; in 1617, by Robert and Archibald Lyn; and, in 1633, by John Lynn, who had a son named Andrew. The records of this branch of the family are not, however, either clear or complete.

It is said that one branch of the family removed from Scotland to Dublin and Waterford, Ireland, during one of the early religious persecutions in Scotland, and that from this line many of the American immigrants of the name were descended.

There was also a Swedish family of the name of Linn, of which at least one branch came to America in the early nineteenth century, but its records prior to the emigration of the family to America have not been found.

Although it is not known in every case from which of

the many lines of the family in Great Britain the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, records indicate that the family was one of the first to settle in this country.

Henry Lynn or Lynne came from London to Boston, Mass., in the fleet with Governor Winthrop, in the year 1630. He made his home at York, Me., in 1640 and about five years later removed to Virginia, where he died shortly after, leaving a widow named Sarah and at least five children, Sarah, Elizabeth, Ephraim, Rebecca, and Joanna.

Other early records of the family in Virginia include those of "Fra." (Francis or Frances) Lynn, who settled in Lancaster County in 1653; those of John Linn, who made his home in Lancaster County in 1653; those of James Lynn, who settled in Northampton County in 1655; and those of Moses Lynn, who came from England to Loudoun County in 1670.

As early as 1712 one Joseph Lynn was living in Pennsylvania, but whether or not he was born there cannot be determined. In the above-mentioned year he married his first wife Martha (surname unknown), by whom he had issue of Joseph, John, Elizabeth, Martha, Esther, Susannah (died in infancy), Susannah, and Seth. By his second wife Sarah he had further issue of Jeremiah, Sarah, and Hannah.

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One William Linn came from Ireland to Chester County, Pa., in 1732. He brought with him his only son, William Linn Jr., who settled in Lurgan Township, Pa., and was first married to Susanna Trimble, by whom he had issue of William and John. By his second wife, Jane McCormick, he had further issue of James, Susanna, Nancy, Jane, Isaiah, Charles, George, and David.

Nathaniel Linn made his home at Dover, N.H., sometime before 1735 and removed at a slightly later date to Chester, in the same colony. He was the father of Joseph, Agnes, and Molly.

James and Joseph Linn, who came from Ireland to Somerset County, N.J., about 1740, were brothers, but the records of the first are not in evidence. Joseph was married in 1747 to Martha Kirkpatrick, by whom he had issue of Mary, Margaret, Alexander, Andrew, David, Ann, Martha, and John.

Andrew Lynn, son of one Andrew Lynn, of Ireland, made his home in Alleghany County, Md., with his brothers James and William. He later removed to Redstone Creek, Pa., about 1761 and was the father by his wife, Mary Ashercraft, whom he married in 1760, of William, Andrew, John, Ayers, Isaac, and Nancy Anne, of whom the son John died at an early age.

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Toward the end of the eighteenth century, probably in the year 1788, one Hugh Linn came to America with his wife, Sarah Widney, whom he had married in Ireland in 1777, and their first six or seven children. This couple settled at Concord, Pa. They were the parents of John, Mary, William, Hugh, Sarah, Margaret, James, Jane, and Nancy.

The offspring of these and later branches of the family in America have contributed substantially to the growth and expansion of the nation. Records and the writings of family historians show them as a practical, energetic, and thrifty race which has been prominent in the fields of business, law, statesmanship, education, and literature.

Among those of the name who fought as officers in the War of the Revolution were Major James or Janus Linn, of New Jersey; Chaplain William Linn, of Pennsylvania; Director of Hospitals John Linn, of Pennsylvania; Lieutenant Colonel George Lyne or Lynne, of Virginia; Ensign Adam Lynn, of Virginia; Captain David Lynn, of Maryland; Lieutenant John Lynn, of Maryland; Surgeon John L. Lynn, of New York; Lieutenant William Lynn, of Connecticut; and Captain William Lynn, of Virginia.

Andrew, William, John, Hugh, Ayers, James, Robert, Edward, Richard, George, Henry, Francis, Joseph, David,

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and Alexander are some of the Christian named most favored by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America in more recent times are:

Archibald Laidlie Linn (1802-1857), of New York, lawyer and congressman.

John Blair Linn (b. 1831), of Pennsylvania, lawyer and author.

James Merrill Linn (1833-1897), of Pennsylvania, soldier and lawyer.

Samuel H. Lynn (1843-1917), of Pennsylvania, physician.

William Alexander Linn (b. 1843), of New Jersey, journalist.

William Alexander Linn (b. 1846), of New Jersey, banker.

Robert George Linn (b. 1849), of West Virginia, lawyer.

E. G. Linn (b. 1862, in Sweden), of Nebraska, merchant and banker.

Andrew M. Linn (b. 1863), of Pennsylvania, lawyer and banker.

Paul Hinkle Linn (b. 1873), of Missouri, college president.

One of the most frequently used of the several coats of arms of the Linn(e) or Lynn(e) family of Great Britain, from which most of the American families trace their descent, is that described as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms.---"Gules, a demi lion rampant argent, a border sable bezantee."

Crest.---"A lion's head erased argent."

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WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general categories: (1) those formed from the given name of the sire; (2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; (3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and (4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Simon the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece daughters were named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually an enlarged form of the father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civiliza-

tion, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician traced his descent by taking several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary appellations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as "the Strong", "the Hardy", "the Stern", "the Dreadful-in-battle"; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary designations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. Perhaps the oldest known surname in England is that of Hwita Hatte, a keeper of bees, whose daughter was Tate Hatte. During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use.

By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames: "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butler." And as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree compelled Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names which they had previously used.

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O'. Thus John's sons became Johnsons; William's sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard's sons, Richardsons or Richardses (the final "s" of "Richards" being a contraction of "son"); Neill's sons, MacNeills; Herbert's sons, FitzHerberts; Thomas's sons, ap Thomases (ap has been dropped from many names of which it was formerly a part); and Reilly's sons, O'Reillys.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. From among the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned: Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover, and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames--names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were popular in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were mainly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim fathers illustrate place designations: for instance, Winthrop means "from the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; Bradford, "at the broad ford"; and Standish, "a

stony park". The suffixes "ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley, and Norton.

While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose--names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (park-keeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefield was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In America a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented. While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names--who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant

ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim mists of antiquity—may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms—that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle—the name itself, borne through every event of a man's life and through the lives of scores of his progenitors, became the badge of family honor—the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. As the worthy deeds of the marching generations have given it dignity and splendor, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

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