



## CALL TO ALL COUSINS TO REUNION



ON JUNE 20, 1997, 5 P.M.  
FAMILY ROOM,  
HOLIDAY INN,  
HYANNIS, MA

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. on June 20th with an informal buffet hosted by Jack and Barbara Linnell. Jack and Barbara have made our site arrangements. Their gracious plans for Friday's buffet will set the stage for the revelry to follow on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. The committee anticipates the arrival of cousins, new and old, to celebrate our lineage and renew our ties.

Introductions, talent shows, singing, and dancing in the hotel outdoor square will bring us together during the evening hours. Susan and Pat Hickman have agreed to DJ our line dancing fun. (Have you learned the macarena?) We'll have a sing-a-long time; and we know the Linnell clans have voices to bring harmony and joy aplenty to our Friday celebration. Dr. Larry Linnell, our first Chairman, returns to the fold with his guitar to entertain us this year. Others are planning to participate with music and acts.

This is only the beginning of possibilities on our Friday night fun. We need to know who else of our kin can be introduced with a story to be told, a song to be sung, or music to be played. We need to hear from you that you will share your talents with the family on this joyous Friday night gathering. Please write NOW to let Rachel know what you will contribute. Get your siblings or close cousins to join you in participating. Is there a Barbershop Quartet group or Sweet Adeline group out there? Do we have a magician in

our fold? Have you a talent as a stand up comic? That SOLID group at the Granville Reunion who tried the Family Takeover isn't the only fun loving bunch we have!!

Tell Rachel Linnell Wynn, 717 Maiden Choice Lane #523, Catonsville, MD 21228 that you will sing, dance, play an instrument, tell a story for our Friday night celebration. What fun we will have together! But we need to hear from you now!

## From the Chair- man's Desk



To all Linnell Cousins,

Best wishes for a great 1997. The new year holds an exciting promise for all cousins. During the month of June, on the 20th, 21st and 22nd, we again have the opportunity to gather on Cape Cod for our fourth REUNION. The steering Committee has organized events for all ages. The highlight of the event again will be the opportunity to get acquainted with our own connections on Cape Cod.

Look over the newsletter for the program of events and activities planned so when your Reunion Registration letter arrives you can make your reservations pronto.

The 1997 Membership mailing was recently sent out. I urge your immediate response, your continued support keeps the association active. Remember, active members have their reunion registration fee waived.

We eagerly look forward to seeing you all June 20-22 on Cape Cod.

Expectantly yours,  
Cousin Dick Linnell



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

"I cannot remember Uncle Joseph [Joseph Linnell, Jr. 118,241,-10] so I think he must have died before I was born, but I well remember Aunt Esther [Joseph died in 1876, the year Lena was born]. She lived in the next house to the old red schoolhouse and all the children were very fond of her as she always had a little candy or some other tidbit when we went to see her.

She told us that in the early years of her married life she and Uncle Joseph took up a little house in the wilderness. Uncle Joseph soon had a little land cleared and a log cabin built. They were right in the heart of the woods. One night Uncle Joseph was late getting home. She thought perhaps he was working for a distant neighbor. As she sat nursing a baby, she heard a great scratching and scrambling on the roof above her head and then something heavy slide to the ground. It was a huge timber wolf! Snatching a burning brand from the big fireplace with the tongs, she opened the door. As soon as Mr. Wolf saw Aunt Esther with her flaming stick, he lost no time in making his exit! Wolves are desperately afraid of fire.



"When Uncle Mill [Lyman Miller Linnell, Jr. 118,241,235] was a young man, he went west for a time and worked in the Minnesota lumber camps. The Minnesota woods were full of big timber wolves and one night Uncle Mill was on his way back to camp when over the ridge came the howl of a wolf. Soon there was a whole chorus of wolf howls and Uncle Mill lost no time in climbing the nearest tree. The wolves surrounded the tree but Uncle Mill was

safely out of their reach. The deer ran past and the wolves forgot all about my Uncle and took after the deer. Uncle Mill then knew it was safe to come down out of his tree and continue his way back to camp, which he did. In the camp the men kept a fire burning in front of the camp all night and the wolves would come and sit around it like big dogs, always being careful to keep at a proper distance Uncle Mill said.

"I have always been so glad that I rescued the old spinning wheel and clock reel before the old homestead burned, but so many times I wished I had the old 'up and down' blue churn we used to churn our butter! Grandma and I usually did the weekly churning with good results but there would come a day when the butter would absolutely refuse to 'come'. She called me 'Leenie' and would say, 'I have churned a hundred strokes. Now, Leenie, you keep count and churn a hundred and see if the butter would come.' I would churn until I was exhausted with no better results than Grandma had. In those days all the old people were filled with superstitions and Grandma was no different from the rest. When we found it was a hopeless case to churn the cream into butter she would say, 'It is of no use, Leenie, for some witch has put a spell on my butter. But I will fix that.' Then she would take a long stove poker to the sink and wash it as she was always very neat in everything she did. After the poker was clean, she would put it in the stove until it became red hot. She would then plunge it into the churn full of cream and we would start churning again. Soon the butter would 'come' and all would again be serene. Grandma didn't realize the cream was too cold to make butter and that her hot poker did the trick after all. After she died and my mother and I did the churning, we always tested the cream to be sure it was the proper temperature before we started to churn."

Submitted by Robert S. Linnell



## ADD THESE TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

In 1997 we will henceforth record in the Newsletter only Birth, Marriage, and Death records that have taken place since 1995. All newly reported records will appear in the Additions and Corrections packet available at the June 1997 Cape Cod Reunion.

### Births

Dominique Bernard Brillat b. 29 Sept. 1994 to Suzanne J. Linnell (11a,b15,7-10-1,341) and Pascal Brillat at Portland, OR.

Austin Jeffrey Cramer b. 2 Feb. 1994 to Lisa G. Burchard (11a,b15,7-10-1,383) and Jeffrey W. Cramer.

Alexandria Lin Dufresne b. 9 May 1996 to Charles A. (118,552,151,521) and Lisa (Brillon) Dufresne at Bennington, VT.

Justin Bradley Kirby b. 14 June 1992 to Kendall Ryan Kirby (113,241,231,132,11)

Jacob and Peter Larsen-Holmgren b. 24 Mar. 1996 to Lori Larsen (118,241,116,231,14) and Robert Holmgren. Peter d. 28 Mar. 1996.

Megan Renee Linnell b. 22 May 1994 to Marc Richard (11a,b15,7-10-1,343) and Linda A. Linnell

Nicole Renee Linnell b. 18 Apr. 1994 to Dean Paul (11a,b15,7-10-1,371) and Sadie (Glassford) Linnell

Sheridan Ann Shea-O'Connor b. 6 Jan. 1996 to Michael (118,241,151,311,3) and Stephanie (Shea) O'Connor

Jaime Rose Smith b. 2 Aug. 1996 to John R. Smith III (118,731,921,141) and Erin (Brady) Smith at Hartford, CT.

### Marriages

Lisa Ann Baum (118,241,145,853,1) m. Bill LeMinh on 19 June 1995

Tracy M. Cirillo (117,7-10-2,1-10-1,111) m. John Anthony Waswill on 16 Sept. 1995

Michael F. Cirillo (117,7-10-2,1-10-1,113) m. Christina Marie Drew 5 Oct. 1996

Charles A. Dufresne (118,552,151,521) m. to Lisa Marie Brillon on 4 Nov. 1995 in Bennington, VT

Kendall Ryan Kirby (118,241,231,132,11) m. Michael Stuart Bulla on 14 Oct. 1995

Dennis C. Linnell (118,241,231,361) m. Judith A. Stefan on 27 Sep. 1996, in Brookfield, WI.

Kristen C. Linnell (118,314,762,11) m. David Gower on 14 Sep. 1996, in Little Compton, R.I.

Shari Ann Linnell (118,241,231,361,2) m. Daniel Paul Kirschnik on 15 July 1995, in Milwaukee, WI

Paul S. Ryan (118,241,231,132,32) m. Lisa Sue Zeige on 25 June, 1994. They live in Aitken, MN.

Gary A. Reel (11a,b15,515,643) m. Lesla (Lee) Knight 4 Aug. 1995

Patricia Marie Ryan (118,241,231,132,2) m. (2) Richard Lee Haney in July 1993.

Daniel Lee Williams (118,241,116,933,1) m. Elizabeth Ann Nauney on 19 Oct. 1996 in Williamsburg, KY

### Deaths

Raymond A. Greenlaw (117,7-10-2,132,12) b. 5 Dec. 1919, d. 11 Oct. 1996 Naples FL

Charles Floyd Jones (118,241,231,431,3) b. 27 Sep. 1951, d. 19 June 1996 Sarasota, FL

Charles C. Linnell (118,241,142,227) b. 13 Sep. 1926, d. 28 Sep. 1995 Solon, IA

Craig Oliver Linnell (118,241,116,5-12-1) b. 17 Feb. 1938 Duluth, MN, d. 16 Sep. 1996 White Bear Lake, MN

Phyllis Linnell Hagen (118,241,116,911) b. 14 Sep 1922, d. Dec 1996 Black River Falls, WI

Edward A. Woodworth, husband of Rita Linnell Woodworth (117,7-10-2,1-10-2,2) d. 8 June 1996 at Norway, ME.



## NINETY AND STILL GOING



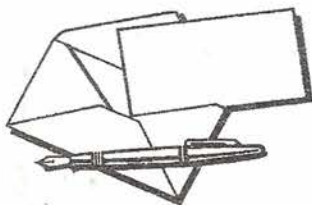
Remember these ladies on their day and send a card to help celebrate their birthday.

Hazel (Luscombe) Linnell, (118,242,533,31S) wife of Charles E. Linnell, deceased, had her 92nd birthday on January 6, 1997. Her address is: 66 Victor Road, Portland, ME 04103. A blessed belated birthday Cousin Hazel.

Edna Linnell Tromble (11a,b15,514,1-10) will celebrate her 92nd birthday on February 21, 1997. Her address is: PO Box 1194, Evansville, WY 82636.

Madelyn (DeLong) Linnell (117,7-10-1,435S) wife of Wallace M Linnell, deceased, has her 90th birthday coming on February 24, 1997. Her address is: PO Box 104, East Corinth, ME 04427.

Laura Linnell (118,241,112,68) will celebrate her 91st birthday on March 29, 1997. Her address is: Route 2 Parkland Village, Black River Falls, WI 54615.



### REQUEST FOR YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

Thirty-five pages of *Additions and Corrections* since the publication of the

second edition of **THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT LINNELL** have already been assembled for distribution at the Linnell Family Reunion, June 1997. For new family data to be included in the final printing, it must be received by Rachel Linnell Wynn at 717 Maiden Choice Lane, Apt. 523, Cantonsville, MD 21228 by April 15, 1997. Now is the time to bring your family line up to date for this publication.

### 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 1994-1997

CHAIRMAN	DICK LINNELL 815-789-4668	PO BOX 95 ORANGEVILLE, IL 61060
VICE CHAIRMAN	ROBERT S. LINNELL 509-697-6047	2930 N. WENAS ROAD SELAH, WA 98942
SECRETARY	CAROL JEAN ANDERSON 715-284-9816	RT. 2 PARKLAND VILLAGE BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615
TREASURER	JUDY SPELDE 208-667-8721	1912 NO. 14TH ST. #3 COEUR d'ALENE, ID 83814
HISTORIAN	RACHEL L. WYNN 410-242-5760	717 MAIDEN CHOICE LANE #523 CATONSVILLE, MD 21228
DATA COMPUTERIZATION	GLEN ROBERTS 612-535-3682	7007 46TH PLACE N. CRYSTAL, MN 55428
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REUNION 1997	JACK LINNELL 401-351-2879	355 BLACKSTONE BLVD #302 PROVIDENCE, RI 02906
	CONNIE GATES 608-942-5533	RFD 1, BOX 518 NORTHWOOD, NH 03261
	DAN McCONNELL 513-454-1721 EXT. 1522	5223 WANDERING WAY MASON, OH 45040

### GLEANINGS FROM THE MAILBAG

Or perhaps I should say from the E-Mail Bag! I have received four responses to the question about setting up a Linnell home page on the Internet, all in the form of e-mail

notes. Due to personal commitments I will not be able to even attempt this until late spring. However, with "a little help from my friends," a quote from the theme song from the TV series "The Wonder Years," I believe that we could have one in place prior to the reunion this June on Cape Cod. I hope to have a computer and Internet connection at the reunion so everyone can see the Linnell Homepage then. If you are willing to help, are interested, or are even curious, please call or write.



James Swedberg  
swedberg@lascruces.com



## Lafayette (Lafe) Seabury Linnell

(11a,b15,515)

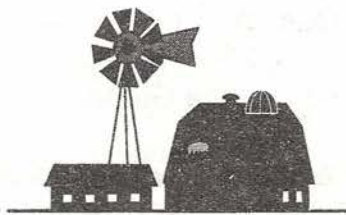
by Ladoska Linnell Elliot

(11a,b15,515,64)

When homestead land became available in Kansas, Lafe and his brothers, Charles and James, left Michigan for homesteads. They settled in Norton County, Kansas, where they were next door neighbors. A short time later their parents, Joseph (11a, b15,51) and Margaret, with younger brother Edward, moved to Kansas and eventually homesteaded close to the three boys.

Lafe had built a small sod house for himself. Then in 1884, after meeting a young Danish girl, Serena Miller, and subsequently proposing to her, he worked many hours and days adding to the sod house for his bride. They married in January of 1885. While living in the sod house Carrie, Josephine, and Paul were born. Serena's mother also lived with them following the death of her husband, Serena's step-father. With so many living in the sod house, a small frame house was built and there Mary, Lois, George Edward, Jay, Opal, and Velma were born.

In 1904, with the help of carpenters and neighbors, a new two story house was built. The first floor consisted of the kitchen, a large dining room, living room (or parlor as they were called then), a bedroom, and a small room that was used for bathing. The upstairs had four large bedrooms. Each room had a large closet, no pegs on the walls. All were carpeted with braided rugs. Water was piped into the kitchen with a pitcher pump at the sink from a nearby cement cistern. This was quite an elegant home for that period and time in Kansas. This home was destroyed by fire in the 1940's.



In the early 1900's a large barn was built. The center of the barn was designed large enough to allow the wagons to drive in and unload directly into the

grain bins. The entire lower floor was cemented and the upper was a large haymow. When the haymow was not in use for the storage of hay, barn dances were held, with the sound of music and laughter floating out over the countryside.

The only thing that remains today is the old cistern and windmill, the storm cellar, and the garage that was built later, and (believe it or not) the only cement sidewalk in Norton County, no doubt, that lead to the outside privy! The barn collapsed several years ago from neglect.

In 1909 Lafe received a Canadian patent and, in 1910, a US patent for a hay stacker. Before it could be marketed, however, another one similar to his was built and marketed, and so the lawyers advised against putting his on the market also. He built one for his own use and shared it with his neighbors.

In the early days of WW1, Lafe worked on the construction of Camp Funston along with sons Paul and George. Camp Funston was adjacent to Camp Riley (which is still in use). Paul and George joined the Army in March, 1918. Paul trained at Camp Funston and George at Camp Riley.

Lafe remained on the farm, living with his oldest daughter Carrie and her husband until his death at the age of 75 on July 31, 1931. He was preceded in death by his wife, Serena, son Jay, and Paul, who died in September, 1918, from injuries received while serving in France. The American Legion in Almena is named for Paul.

(Most of this information came from my Aunt Opal Gutzman (11a,b15,515,8). I lived with Aunt Carrie until I was four years old and remember some things about the farm, but do not remember my Grandfather. John and I have been back to the farm several times on trips through Kansas.)



## BOB LINNELL AND HIS ORCHESTRA THAT SOPHISTICATED RHYTHM

Robert Earl Linnell (118,241,145,13) was born August 18, 1898, in Powersville, Iowa. In 1899 his father and mother, Frederick and Sara, moved to a farm near Winnebago, Minnesota, with their children Myrtle, Russell, Robert, and Frances. Their fifth son, Hugh, was born on this farm in 1905. In 1914 the family moved to Hewit, Minnesota, in Rockwood County. In 1917 they moved to a farm south of Sebeka, Minnesota, and farmed there until 1930.

Robert married Issac Foster's daughter, Mildred, on July 21, 1921. Mildred's father had established a successful sawmill on Red Eye River in 1892, at the town site of Sebeka, and he operated a 120 acre farm. In 1898 he opened a hardware store, and in 1907 he erected a 50 barrel flour mill.

Robert and Mildred moved to a farm near Sebeka. Eventually they purchased 30 acres with 4-5 acres under plow and the balance in pasture for a few head of cattle. They had a daughter and a son, Majorie and Roger. To make ends meet Mildred raised turkeys for market, tended a garden, and managed a lunch wagon that Robert would take to auction sales.

"Bob," as Robert was known to his host of friends, formed and conducted an orchestra, first out of fun, then out of need as the Great Depression deepened. The orchestra varied in size from 5 to 8 members, depending on the club they were playing and who was available. The orchestra name changed a few times, eventually becoming best known as the *Bob Linnell Orchestra* and *The Harmony Kings*. Bob did all the bookings. For that work he was paid for his phone calls and 2 cents a mile. (It seems Bob was on an eight-party phone line

so he had to go to town to phone his bookings.) A regular booking would bring \$20 for the whole orchestra. A typical night booking was from 9 p.m. to midnight or 1 a.m. with a 15 minute break. He managed the orchestra until 1944.

The orchestra's style and make up developed over time as the members moved on or took other jobs. Regular members were Carrol Kingsley (trumpet), Charley Thompson (saxophone and trombone), Robert McNurlin (drums), Mildred Linnell (piano), and Robert Linnell (lead drummer and manager). Charley Thompson also ran a trap line for profit, specializing in trapping skunks, but he never missed a gig, even after successfully trapping a skunk. Mildred did not take a liking to picking Charley up before a gig and finding that he had been out skunking. With each mile and each degree of temperature rise, the more odoriferous the air would become! Carrol Kingsley also operated the Kingsley Press and printed the posters, and Robert McNurlin drove the car with the equipment trailer. Over the years there were other members on woodwinds and brass: Art Kniss, William Carpenter, Carol Julius, Mike Reed, Ace Shaw, Grant Norman, and Melvine Green.

Regular gigs were booked on Wednesday and Saturday nights at Chateau Paulette near Park Rapids and the River Inn in Alderich, Minnesota. They also played at clubs in Bar Harbor, the Brainard Minnesota Pavilion, and the pavilion in Leaf Lake, Minnesota. These were resort areas that provided a good draw for their Benny Goodman style of swing music, offering up the fox trot, the two step, the polka, and the schottische. Door admission was 10 cents for ladies and 25 cents for men.



Original Poster for the Band



During this era small towns such as Hubbard had large meeting halls for Saturday night dances. Saturday also meant baseball, and baseball meant a community event. Baseball was played in the afternoon, along with picnics, pie auctions, family and neighbor gatherings, and in the evening, the community dance which usually lasted until midnight. Robert McNurlin, who played drums, said it was difficult to get the ball players to take off their baseball cleats before they came on the dance floor. This type of entertainment was so popular through the 30's and 40's that it is no surprise that the Bob Linnell Orchestra was among the more popular orchestras in Central Minnesota.



Bob in 1929

Mildred's daughter Marjorie (118,241,145,131) said her fondest memories of that era were of dancing to the music of the orchestra in an all log structure called Chateau Paulette, around the magnificent fieldstone fireplace which centered on the dance floor, with the fire pit open to both sides, of helping to hand print booking information on the posters, and of falling asleep behind the piano as her mom played for silent movies in Sebeka's Village Hall.



Mildred in 1929

She also recalls going to sleep on strange piles of coats or blankets behind the piano as the Bob Linnell Orchestra played in the Minnesota towns of Hubbard, Huntersville, Nimrod, Osage, Menaga, Wolf Lake, and Perham.

But for Bob's health, the orchestra would have played on. He had a history of asthma which was aggravated by his exposure to smoke when, in 1932, his farm house caught fire. It didn't help that he rebuilt the house using lumber salvaged from the old Foster Flour Mill that had been damaged in a 1920's fire. As his health declined, he and Mildred sought a better climate, and so, in 1944, they moved to

Santa Monica, California. The climate change also meant a change for Mildred. She went from being a mother, poultry farmer, lunch wagon manager, and orchestra member, to being a cosmetologist. Her career in cosmetology spanned the next 20 years. During this time she also dedicated herself to a church ministry in music.

Robert "Bob" Linnell died in Santa Monica, California, October 24, 1949. Mildred died in an auto accident near Deer Creek, Minnesota, November 2, 1989. They are buried in the Foster family lot in West Village Cemetery, Sebeka, Minnesota.

This article was made possible through the help of Marjorie Linnell Attleson, Roger Linnell, Douglas Blakeman, Robert McNurlin, the Sebeka Review newspaper, and Bonnie and Roger Hansen.

*Note from Dick Linnell:* Our research for clues to the family origins and history resulted in the article on the Bob Linnell Orchestra. It brings us a glimpse of American history, of hard times, personal endurance, and achievement. It brings to mind the attributes of Linnells that we continue to see today. Linnells marry good helpmates, excel in music and business, and are an adventuresome lot. It brings to focus activities that fit many of our Linnell cousins as they make their livelihood on the land and as they nurture their children in a wholesome way of life...and as they play their music.



## QUILTERS NOTE

Anyone quilting a square for the Reunion Quilt send completed square ASAP to:  
 Barrie Linnell Westerwick  
 11 Allocco Drive  
 Holmdel, NJ 07733  
 Note Barrie's new address. You can reach her by phone: (908) 264-6899





PROGRAM  
4TH NORTH AMERICAN  
LINNELL FAMILY REUNION  
Holiday Inn, Hyannis, MA

Friday, June 20

- 2 p.m.- 8 p.m. Registration. Pick up Program, maps. Greet cousins
- 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. Welcome Party with light fare hosted by Jack and Barbara Linnell in the Family Room.
- 7:30 p.m.- 9 p.m. Get acquainted party: skits, music, line dancing on the lawn enclosure.

Saturday, June 21

- 8 a.m.- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast in the Main Room
- 10 a.m. Family Association Meeting in the Main Room  
What new ideas will come before us this year?
- 9:30-11:30 Children and Youth activities: Swimming, tennis, video arcade, etc., etc. Some with supervision. Sign up for events at Registration.
- 12 m. Luncheon: Program at the tables. Family features. Afternoon planning.
- 2 p.m.- 6 p.m. Free time for your choices: Tours, Cape Cod attractions, Family opportunities. Visiting in the Family Room.
- 6 p.m. Happy Hour interval in the Family Room
- 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. Banquet: Prime rib or Stuffed chicken  
Program: Mr James J. Coogan Jr., of Cape Cod. "Cape Cod with a Linnell Twist."
- 9:15 p.m. Clan Meetings and Family Room nostalgia

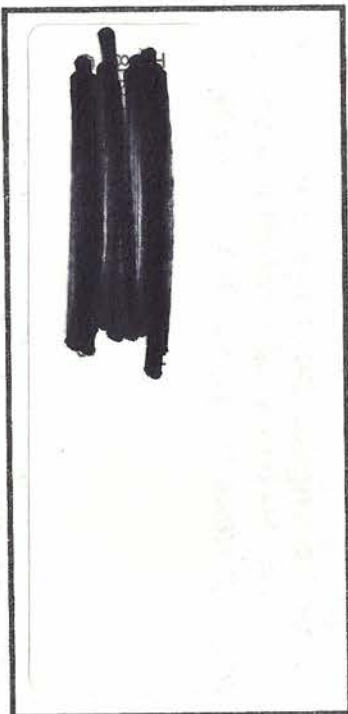
Sunday, June 22

- 8 a.m.- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast in the Main Room
- 10 a.m. Sunday Worship- Cousin led, in the Main Room  
Saying our Goodbyes until the year 2000 at Alexandria Bay, New York
- 11 a.m. Steering Committee Meeting  
Also packing and check-out at Holiday Inn.

THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
Dick Linnell  
PO Box 95  
Orangeville, IL 61060

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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