A PROFILE OF TWO IRISH FAMILIES:

THE LARKINS AND THE LINSKEYS

Gail Linskey Porteous

19, May, 1981
"There was a very pretty wedding solemnized on Wednesday morning at Saint George's Roman Catholic Church, the contracting parties being Miss Hester Mary Larkin of Leete's Island and Nicholas B. Linskey of Guilford. The marriage was performed with a solemn high nuptial mass at 10:30 o'clock, the church being crowded with friends from Guilford, Naugatuck, New Haven, Bridgeport and other places.

The bridesmaid was Miss Carrie Conners, an aunt of the bride, and the best man was James Bergen. The wedding march was rendered in a very appropriate manner, the singing being of a very high order.

At the end of the mass Father Leddy, who performed the ceremony gave his blessing to the young couple wishing them success and happiness through life.

After the ceremony all repaired to the home of the bride in Leete's Island where an elegant wedding dinner was served.

The presents were many both ornamental and useful and of great value.

Mr. and Mrs. Linskey departed, amid a shower of rice, on the 7:11 train and after a short wedding tour they will return and make their home in Guilford where they will take up housekeeping."

The young Irish-American couple who were married that June day were typical in many ways of first generation Americans whose immigrant parents settled along the Connecticut shoreline and the Connecticut River Valley. The following profile of the Linskey and Larkin families will hopefully add to the understanding of how ethnic minorities, such as the Irish, made their way in, and adjusted to, a small Yankee town like Guilford, Connecticut.
This paper will explore who these people were, where they worked and where they lived, and, where ever possible, what their ideas and fears and dreams were. The Larkins and the Linskeys had in common their Irish customs, rituals and foods, their legends and love of storytelling, and their devotion to the Catholic Church. Yet these two families held different types of jobs and lived in separate communities within the town of Guilford. The facts of births, marriages and deaths, combined with newspaper clippings and letters and vivid recollections by present day family members, form the basis for this account.

THE LINSKEYS * FIRST GENERATION

There were not many Irish families in Guilford when Martin Linskey and his bride came to settle there about 1861-62. Those Irish who were already living in the small Yankee town at that time worked as farm laborers, servant girls, and laborers on the railroad. The Guilford Census records for 1860 reveal only two Irish-born men (farmers) owned their own land at that time. Guilford was a town that had seen very little of the waves of immigration in 1860. Ten years later, the situation was to be very different, with Irish, Swedes, and many others coming to work in the foundry and the quarries.

Martin Linskey was born in Kilcoole parish, County Galway, in 1839 (some records say November 1836). His wife Ellen was the daughter of Patrick and Teresa Wallace Brennan, and she was born 15, August,
1841 in Ireland. Her exact birthplace is not known. It is also uncertain where Martin and Ellen met and married. It may have been in Ireland, just before they left for America, or it may have been during their passage through that great gateway to a new life, New York City. The couple were in their very early 20's when they first appear in Guilford records with the birth of their first children (twins) in 1862. They were not listed in the Guilford Census of 1860. Young Martin brought with him a thick, leather-bound volume inscribed with his name inside the cover. This was his Bible, printed in Gaelic, which his great-great grandson Thomas Linskey now owns.

At first Martin and Ellen lived on Meadow Street (also called Factory Street in that period), just south of Water Street, in a tiny, wood-frame house that appears on the Guilford map of 1868. The property was sold to them by John Gragan of New York City. Perhaps Mr. Gragan is the link that connected the new immigrants with Guilford.

Although the Linskeys didn't purchase this house until February of 1868, they may have rented it before that time. They already had five children by then. Martin got a mortgage for the house and 1/4 acre from one of Guilford's prominent merchant families, the Monroes (GLR 41/361).

Martin worked at the I.S. Spencer Foundry, on Fair Street. The company began production in 1857 and continues to operate to this day. It produced iron castings, including cast school furniture, sewing machines, lamps and plows. Martin began working there as a laborer, or foundry hand (GVS 3/88 and GC 1870). It was only a short walk up River Street from his little house to the foundry. By 1872, when the birth of the couple's eighth child is recorded (GVS 3/112)
he had been promoted to the skilled position of 'iron molder'. The wartime economy of the 1860's helped manufacturers all over New England.1 Spencer's Foundry continued to grow, as did Martin Linskey's family.

All of the 14 Linskey children were born in Guilford. The small house on Meadow Street must have been very crowded, and by the time the ninth child was born, Martin purchased a bigger house just up the street. The new house was on Water Street and the family moved in in the spring of 1875 (GLR 43/260). The cost of the 2 story, late 19th century dwelling and the 1/4 acre lot at the corner of Meadow (Factory) Street and Water Street was $1500.00. Martin once again got a mortgage ($1300.00) from Mr. Beverly Monroe (GLR 43/261). He also kept the little house and 3/4 acre lot on Meadow Street, and paid Mr. Monroe $1300.00 for a quit claim on both parcels in 1883 (GLR 46/409). He continued to purchase parcels of land in Guilford through the next decade, though it seems amazing that he could do so and still support such a large family on his earnings from the foundry. He bought another 2 acres fronting on Water Street, adjoining his homelot, and another 16 acre woodlot abutting Lexte and Chitteneden land. He seemed to have that well known Irish yearning for land acquisition, and he seemed to want to be firmly planted in Guilford. A list of Martin and Ellen's children follows:

John J. Linskey  b. April, 1862
Mary Ann  b. April, 1862
Katie  b. March, 1864
Teresa A.  b. December, 1865
Dennis  b. April, 1867
Ella       b. October, 1868
Delia      b. September, 1870
Martin Jr  b. July, 1872
Thomas     b. October, 1874
Nicholas B. b. November, 1876
Daniel     b. March, 1879
Lizzie     b. March, 1881
Willie (William) b. August 1882  d. age 6 months
Jennie     b. September, 1883

Ellen Henney Linskey died in Bridgeport, September 15, 1899, at the age of 58. She may have been visiting her daughter Delia who lived in Bridgeport, at the time of her death.

Martin Linskey died in Guilford, February 13, 1922.
THE LARKIN'S FIRST GENERATION

Hester Conners was born in New York City in 1863. She was the daughter of James and Mary Norton Conners, of Ireland. Although Hester and her brother James were born in America, Hester spoke with the accent of her Irish parents. James Conners, Jr. was a sailing captain and it may have been through her brother that Hester met her husband, 'Captain John Larkin. The exact date and place of John Larkin's birth is unknown, but he was born in Ireland. He and Hester probably married in the late 1870's or the year 1880. Unlike the Linskey family, the Larkin family was not a large one.

John and Hester's first child was born in October of 1881. They had already moved from New York City to Leete's Island, at that time, and it is said that the child was born on a table in the Larkin's kitchen. That room was straddling the town lines of Branford and Guilford, with the table being half in each town according to the story, so that the child could always say (and did always say) that she was born in both towns. The child was named Hester Mary Larkin. Twelve years later, in 1893, the second Larkin child was born and named Ellen Elizabeth. Both girls were known throughout their lives by their nicknames, 'Daisy' and 'Nellie'.

Captain John Larkin was a mariner who worked for Beattie's Quarry. The granite quarry was in Leete's Island (part of Guilford) and it was owned by an enterprising Scotsman named John Beattie. The quarry was opened in 1870 and it may be that Captain Larkin came to work for Beattie at that time. Unlike Martin Linskey, John Larkin came to Guilford with a specific and specialized skill. The quarry at Leete's Island was "like a town all its own."
going. According to Guilford historian Joel Helandor, "the place sometimes employed as many as 500 people, to extract, refine, and transport granite. Most of Beattie's workers were immigrants, who were a cheap source of labor and who lived on quarry property in shanties. The foremen, superintendents, and the schooner captains (John Larkin and Patrick O'Keefe) lived in better dwellings near the present package store on Lect's Island Road." 3

Land records show that Hester Larkin bought a piece of land from John Beattie in 1892 (GLR '47 : 571). It was a small parcel on the east side of what is now called Old Quarry Road. It had no buildings on it and could have been the site for the Larkin house remembered by present family members (and photographed circa 1900). The deed was a little unusual in several ways. First, it was Hester and not her husband John who purchased the land at a time when few women, particularly first generation Americans, dealt in real estate directly. Secondly, grantor John Larkin went to some length in the deed to stress that there must be no alcoholic spirits or liquor of any kind sold or given away on the premises (GLR '47 : 74). A final question remaining about this parcel of land is whether the Larkins lived somewhere else in the area, perhaps nearer to Stony Creek, until this lot was purchased. Perhaps a search through Branford land records would reveal the answer. The Branford-Guilford town line was changed in 1873 when, "John Beattie asked to have 44 acres (Headley's Point) included in Guilford instead of Branford so that he could pay his taxes all in one town." 4
The Larkin's house in Leete's Island was a place of many memories for grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The house had the proverbial, formal front parlor, as all Irish middleclass homes had. It was a very formally furnished room which was only used for special occasions. Once Hester Larkin hid money under the carpet in this front parlor because the room was used so seldom. Although the Larkins didn't own much land (except their house lot) they did have such things as a new automobiles. Hester had a Ford in her later years and her son-in-law drove her up to town to visit her daughter Daisy, on Water Street. It is also remembered, by Hester's granddaughter-in-law (Laura Chittenden Linskey Hansen) that, "when Captain Larkin died, I took Grandma Larkin to New Haven to buy a black dress to wear to the funeral. We passed by the music store and I was longing for a piano... Grandma stood there too and said, 'let's go in and look', so we did and she insisted on buying me a piano..."5

Yet luxuries did not come easy for John and Hester Larkin. They both worked very hard. Hester was often called upon to help on board her husband's ship, cooking meals for the crew on return trips to Leete's Island. "Many times when the ship docked and the crew went ashore, some of them would drink very hard and not make it back in time to leave port with the ship. It always seemed to be the Captain's cook who didn't return, so the Captain would call the railroad and somehow get a message to his wife. She would hop a train, usually to New York, and go and do the cook's job. If the Captain was short-handed, she'd do other jobs too. It was a hard life and they both
worked very hard. John and Hester's elder daughter Daisy remembered spending many days and night on board ships that her father sailed. When she was a girl, Beattie's Quarry had a big contract to provide stone for the base of the Statue of Liberty (1882-1884, and again about 1888). There were many other contracts for Leete's Island granite to be brought to New York too, including: stone for the first Plaza Hotel, dozens of bridges on the Harlem Railroad, for the Harlem River tunnel, for the north half of Battery Shant, and for the foundation of the New York Produce Exchange, among other things. Daisy recalled learning all the terms for ship's riggings while she was on her father's ship in New York harbor. She also could never forget the night she saw a ship's mast struck by lightning and her panic in thunderstorms lasted throughout her life. But perhaps the most vivid story told about the Larkins and their life on the sea is the story of 'Hester and the Seal Skin Coat'.

"One time Grandma Larkin (Hester) went down to New York to meet the Captain. It was winter and she had a new seal skin coat, so she wore it to keep warm. It was her first fur coat and she said she boarded the train with pride because she loved the coat so much. She arrived in time and they took off, but in a few days a storm came up. It was one of those rain and gale storms that tossed that little boat over on one side and back on the other side. It was impossible to stand up, let alone hang on, so her husband tied her to the mast; but not until she got her new seal skin coat on. She was a tiny and pretty person then. She said that the mast, with her tied to it, swung out over one side of the boat then back over the other, with her new coat soaking up the salt water. Every time it went over,
she thought it would be the last of her but if she was going to die,
sh'd have on her new coat. This storm lasted several hours and
all survived and reached their destination, but the experience was
dreadful and she never forgot it."\(^8\)

Captain Larkin piloted tug boats and sailing ships that had been
remodeled to accommodate the huge loads of stone he transported. One
of the ships he sailed was called the 'Wasp II', which "carried the
largest stones for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal-28 tons in all."\(^9\)

James Conners, Hester Larkin's brother, also captained the 'Wasp II'
during the time it was used by Beattie's Quarry. James died young,
at the age of 44, of 'sudden death'. His estate was probated September
3, 1907, with his widow Mary Norton Conners as administratrix.\(^10\) Captain
Larkin and his lady were very well thought of by their neighbors and
family. John Larkin was called 'Squire' sometimes, a title which
alludes to his unofficial position of leadership in the Irish com-
community in Leete's Island. The Larkins remained in Guilford, as did
their daughters. John and Hester's great-grandson Robert Linskey
remembers, when he was very young, sitting on 'Squire's lap to look
out the window and watch people walking home from the train. He also
recalls fondly the frosted gingerbread that Grandma Larkin (Hester)
made, and how she was especially kind to children—himself and his
cousin Marion Larkin. "Leete's Island and Larkin's house was,"he said,
"a great place for a kid".

Hester Conners Larkin died in Guilford, August 13, 1940.

John Larkin died (probably in Leete's Island) \(\ast\) 1933.
Although the Larkin and Linskey families have been shown to have been different and lived in different styles, there were still common themes which ran through both families, because of their being Irish. It seems inevitable that alcohol would play a large part in their lives. The stereotype of the Irishman and drink is too often proven true. Perhaps the pressures of a new society, not to mention raising 13 children, drove Martin Linskey to drink excessively in his later years. He got, "mean as a buzzard" when he drank, and once hurled a mantel clock across the room at his new daughter-in-law. Some of his sons also had a problem handling alcohol. People remember that both Daniel and Nicholas were often out of control and they caused their families a good deal of hardship. Other sons, Thomas in particular, never had a drinking problem at all. Although John Larkin and his family were not heavy drinkers, many in their community were. Several incidents concerning alcohol were remembered by Laura Chittenden Linskey Hansen, who married into the family. "For John and Nester Larkin's golden anniversary the family had a big party at the house in Leete's Island. Guests brought jugs of liquor with them for the celebration, but in a short time everyone had already had too much to drink. Daisy and Nellie were busy all day taking the extra bottles to the pantry and pouring the contents out the window. Another incident concerned the frequent activities of bootleggers in Leete's Island. "During the days of prohibition there were ships (loaded with whiskey) docking down at Beattie's Quarry several times a week (because the quarry harbor was especially deep). Large trucks came and carried the cases to many places along the shoreline. Where the Larkins lived, there were three or four
houses on each side of the street and everyone collected a fee to let the trucks pass their house unremarked, everyone except Captain Larkin, though his family never knew the story until after he was dead." 12

The Catholic Church was the second common bond these two families shared. The Linskeys were devoted to Saint George's Church, in Guilford center. Hester Larkin is known to have worshiped at the Catholic church in Stony Creek. Her granddaughter-in-law, who was a Yankee and a Protestant, recalls that she, "wished I'd go to church—any church would be better than none at all. That was being very broadminded for a Catholic." 13

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An added note about the Larkins and Linskeys of this generation; Daisy's family was not very pleased when Nick Linskey came to court her. He drove his buggy down Water Street and Leete's Island Road to pay her a visit every Sunday, but his in-laws-to-be were worried about 'his bad habits'—his heavy drinking tendency. 14

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And about the strength of the Catholic faith in the lives of these families: Daisy did indeed have a difficult life with Nick, as her parents had feared. Yet, though she was ashamed that so many family men in the neighborhood spent their whole week's pay at Nick's tavern, and he drank his way through three bank accounts and was not especially kind to her, still she would not hear any talk of divorce, because she was a 'good Catholic.' 15
THE SECOND GENERATION

Between the Linskey and Larkin families there were 15 children that survived to maturity (William Linskey died at age 6 months). These children, first generation Americans, went in many different directions and those who left Guilford are not well remembered by surviving family members today. Of all the children of both families, only one is known to have married outside of the Irish group. A list of the children of Martin and Ellen Linskey and John and Hester Larkin follows: **THE LINSKEYS**

*Mary Ann married a Mr. O'Leary, and probably removed to New Haven.

*Katie married Mathew Leahy of Branford, in 1889. They lived in New Haven and had one child in 1907.

* Ella (Ellen) married William Brown (his nationality is not known). They had five children and lived in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1907.

* Delia married Joseph V. Brennan of Bridgeport, in Jan. 1892. Mr. Brennan was Superintendent of the Board of Charities in Bridgeport, and the couple had one child in 1907.

*Martin Jr. married Elizabeth Glynr of Ireland. The couple's first child was born in May, 1891. At that time he was employed as an iron molder, probably at Spencer's Foundry. By 1907, he and Elizabeth had five children and lived in Union City.

*Thomas married Margaret (?) of Ireland. They had no children. In 1907 they lived in Stockbridge, Mass., but later they had a greenhouse in Brooklyn, N.Y. Jennie and possibly Dennis Linskey lived with them in Brooklyn for a time.

*Teresa (Tessie) married Benjamin A. Parker, in 1891. (see p. 15)
SECOND GENERATION** THE LINSKEYS*CONTINUED...

Nicholas married Daisy (Hester Mary) Larkin of Leete's Island, in 1904. He remained in Guilford. Their only child was born in 1906 (Wm. Francis Linskey). They lived first in the 'old home' of Mrtin Linskey Sr., on Water Street. Later they owned a two-family dwelling up the street. Nick worked for the railroad for many years. He also kept a tavern on Water Street. He was listed as a saloon keeper at the time of his marriage.

* The wives of Danny, Dennis and John Linskey are not known.

Danny (Daniel) was married and lived in New Britain in 1907. He later had one daughter (Helen) and they lived in Guilford, where he drove the ice wagon.

Dennis was married, had three children, and lived in Union City in 1907.

John was married, had seven children, and lived in Union City in 1907.

* Jennie and Lizzie Linskey never married. They were both living in their father's home on Water Street in 1907. Jennie, or Jane, as she was later called, lived with Thomas Linskey and his wife Margaret in Brooklyn later in her life.

**SECOND GENERATION"** THE LARKINS ********************************************************

* Hester Mary (Daisy) Larkin married Nicholas Linskey in 1904. (see Nicholas Linskey)

* Ellen Elizabeth (Nellie) Larkin married her cousin, James Larkin.
SECOND GENERATION\*\*\* THE LARKIN'S \* CONTINUED

Nellie and her husband Jim lived with her parents in Beeto's Island. They later moved up to Water Street and lived in the upper story of Nellie's sister and brother-in-law's house (Daisy and Nick). Jim worked in Branford, at the McVeable Iron Fittings plant. The couple had two children, John (b. c. 1922) and Marion (b. c. 1923).

Of all the 15 children in these two Irish families, only one is known to have married outside the (Irish) group. Teresa, or Tessie Linskey married a man who was born in England. Benjamin Parker lived in New Haven at the time of his marriage to Tessie (1891), and it is not known what he did for a living. The couple had two children when they attended the family reunion at the Linskey house in 1907. It can only be surmised that since Benjamin and Tessie came to the reunion, they were accepted by the Linskey clan.

A look at the rest of the second generation shows that:

Mary Ann Linskey
Katie Linskey
Delia Linskey
Kartina Linskey Jr.
Thomas Linskey
Nicholas Linskey
Daisy Larkin
Nellie Larkin

Anna Linskey—probably married an Irishman (William Brown).

Jennie and Lizzie Linskey never married.

Danny, Dennis, and John married women of unknown nationality.
Many of the 15 children of these two families moved away from their birthplace in Guilford. It is thought that the Linskey boys who moved to Union City, in the Haugatuck Valley, went there to find jobs in the iron casting trade. They may have learned their father's trade by working beside him at Spencer's Foundry, but only Martin Linskey Jr. is positively known to have worked there before moving to Union City. New Haven and Brooklyn, N.Y. attracted several others in the Linskey family; Mary Ann, Katie and Teresa were probably in New Haven because of their husbands' trades or businesses. A chart showing where the children went and, if possible, what they did, follows:

**Guilford**

Daisy Larkin Linskey

Nicholas Linskey - worked for the railroad - also saloon keeper.

Nellie Larkin Larkin

Danny Linskey (lived in New Britain, 1907- came back to Guilford later). - drove an ice wagon -

**Union City**

Martin Linskey Jr. - probably iron molder

Dennis Linskey - occupation unknown

John J. Linskey - occupation unknown

**New Haven**

Mary Ann Linskey O'Leary

Katie Linskey Leahy

Teresa (Tessie) Linskey Parker
Bridgeport

Delia Linskey Brennan - Delia's husband Joseph was Superintendent of the Board of Charities, although this was probably not a full-time, paying, job.

Brooklyn, New York

Ella Linskey Brown

Thomas Linskey - lived in Stockbridge, Mass. (in 1907), later lived in Brooklyn - had a big greenhouse there.

Jennie (Jane) Linskey - lived in Guilford (in 1907), later lived with her brother Thomas and his wife.

Unknown

Lizzie Linskey - lived in Guilford in 1907, but probably moved elsewhere later on.

There is one more thing to add about this second generation which may perhaps be taken as a hint of how these people felt about being considered Irish (as opposed to Americans). In addition to the fact that all but 3 of the 15 moved away from the Irish communities (later Street was populated with Sheas, Hanrahans, and other nearby Irish families, while Leete's Island was dominated by Irish and other immigrants), where they grew up, at least 4 of the girls changed their names. It is worth noting that, though the boys had nicknames like Danny (Daniel) and Nick (Nicholas), the changes that the girls made were of a different sort. More than just a change to a shorter, less
formal name, these girls seem to have Anglicised names they may have felt were a bit too Irish sounding.

Lizzie Linskey was called Elizabeth in the Shore Line Times article on the Linskey family reunion of 1907. Vital records show that she was called Lizzie at birth.

Jennie Linskey was later known as Jane.

Katie Linskey seem to have changed her name to the more formal, Catherine.

Teresa Linskey was called Tessie or Toss, by the time of her marriage. Of course Tess was a common nickname for Teresa, and perhaps that was just the point; to be in style...and not to sound so Catholic, perhaps?

Daisy and Nellie Larkin both used their nicknames, throughout their lives. Certainly 'Daisy' was a more stylish name than Hester (her given name and also her mother's name). But, having known Daisy (my great-grandmother) I doubt that she ever attempted not to appear Irish. She had a very strong feeling for the ethnicity of her group. She was the family historian, keeper of records, family legends, superstitions, and old news clippings, and she was more reluctant than the rest to welcome an outsider into her (Irish) group.

Nicholas B. Linskey died in Guilford, February 23, 1945.
Hester Mary (Daisy) Linskey died in Guilford, June 3, 1963.
Nellie and Jim Larkin are living in California.
THE THIRD GENERATION

Of all the 15 children of the second generation, only the lives of three (or two couples) will be dealt with here. Nick and Daisy Larkin Linsky, and Nellie and Jim Larkin all lived in Guilford. I knew all of them except Nick, and I spent many weekends during my childhood at their house on Water Street. By the time I can remember, Nellie and Jim had moved in to the second floor of Daisy's house, and one of their two children was already dead.

With each succeeding generation, the size of these families decreased. In this generation there were only three children, with two more added by marriage.

Daisy and Nick's first, and only child was born in Guilford in 1906. He was called William Francis Linsky, although he never used the name William. Francis grew up on Water Street, and attended public school in Guilford. A photograph of him, with his grammar school class, is included at the end of this paper. When he was in his senior year of high school, he met a freshman named, Laura Faith Chittenden. He courted her at school dances and she recalls being pleased to be attending senior dances while only a freshman.

Laura Faith Chittenden was a member of a Guilford, Yankee family that stretched back ten generations or more; to William Chittenden who came with Rev. Henry Whitfield and founded Guilford in 1639. She was the daughter of Laura Faith and David Dudley Chittenden. Although she wasn't particularly aware of it at first, her Protestant parents, particularly her father, would never willingly have her marry a Catholic, a Catholic who was also Irish at that!
Francis and Laura continued their courtship, to her parents' dismay, and in 1928 when she was only 18 years old, she and Francis were married. When Laura married Francis, she was 'excommunicated' from her family, and although they lived nearby, on York Street in Guilford, they may as well have been at the other end of the country. I don't believe that they were reconciled until long after Francis was dead and she came back from California for a visit in the 1960's. By that time her parents very old and they lived by the seaside in Madison. I remember my surprise at meeting this elderly couple (the Chittenden's) and learning that they were my great-grandparents, and that they'd been there all the time, just one town away, and I had never known it.

Francis and Laura lived on Water Street, in a big, red, Colonial house right next to Daisy and Nick's. Francis was employed by the U.S. Post Office, and he served as a mail carrier for the remainder of his short life. The couple's only child was born in November, 1928. (They had a second son who died in infancy).

It may have been that Catholicism was "becoming less unfashionable" in many places in America in the 1920's, but in a small country town like Guilford, a deeply Yankee community, this was not the case. Laura Chittenden Linskey was excluded from her family group completely, and to a certain extent, she joined the ethnic Irish community of her husband. Because of the terrible strife with her family over religious differences, she rejected all religion for almost thirty years. She did not raise her son in any organized faith. She has many thoughts and memories about that period of her life, and the Irish group she
married into. Here are a few of her impressions:

"They [her husband's family] were all so very good to me. I must say that because, after all, I was not their kind... I was an outsider, a protestant with English ancestors... and unknown to me at the time the English had persecuted the Irish years ago. There's still a conflict to this day, and [none of us], Daisy, ... or I can solve those problems or help where our families came from. Still, Grandma (Hester) and Grandpa (John) Larkin, Nellie and Jim, never brought that up to my face. Daisy didn't take my English background as gracefully as the others, but she was good to me and she taught me a lot. Somehow I got along best with Nick, though, he said he admired me because I told him exactly how I felt... especially about his love of spirits." 18

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"Grandma Larkin danced the Irish jig at the big party they had for her golden anniversary, but Daisy tried to keep me from noticing because she felt I wasn't supposed to see such [ethnic] displays." 19

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Nellie Larkin, Daisy's sister, married her cousin Jim Larkin, and at first they lived with Nellie's parents, in Leete's Island. They were married about 1920, and their first child, John was born in 1922. When Nellie was pregnant with her second child in 1923, Laura and Francis were expecting their first baby (William Robert Linskey). Because there was a twelve year difference between the sisters (Daisy and Nellie), Nellie's child Marion and Daisy's grandchild Robert were the same age.
Jim Larkin was a veteran of World War I, and it is said that he was gassed in the trenches in Europe. Nellie and Jim's son, John, was also in the service, learning about planes which had fascinated him throughout his boyhood. At the beginning of World War II, John Larkin was a tail gunner, because he was small and light. He was killed in a practice flight, in a plane in Florida.

Nellie and Jim's daughter Marion was a quiet girl who loved to read. She became a librarian, married and moved to California.

Nellie and Jim moved to California in the early 1960's, to be near their daughter. I believe that Marion's husband has recently died but Marion herself, and her parents, still live in California. Marion and her husband never had any children.
FOURTH GENERATION

The section of Water Street where Martin and Ellen Linskey lived (near Meadow Street) in the last quarter of the 19th century, was an Irish neighborhood. By the time Martin's great-grandson, Robert Linskey, grew up on Water Street, the neighborhood was a mixture of families with different ethnic backgrounds. Robert's grandfather, Nick Linskey owned two houses on the north side of the street (next to the former Hubbard's Tinker Shop), and Nick and Daisy lived in one and Laura and Francis and young Robert lived in the other. Nellie and Jim Larkin lived there too, a little later on. Robert recalls that he was never very aware of any particular ethnic heritage when he was growing up. Well there were Irish legends and superstitions aplenty from his Grandmother Daisy, but never a feeling that he, or his friends were 'foreign' to Guilford. By that time the family was established in the community. Robert's children would have the same sense of belonging. He married his high school sweetheart in December, 1949, while he was home on leave from Naval training. His bride was a Guilford girl, the daughter of Frank and Nabel Spencer Morse, Evelyn N. Morse. The couple spent a year in Seattle before returning to settle in Guilford. They have two children: Gail Linskey, b. Jan., 30, 1951 and married to David Bruce Porteus on July 19, 1975. And Thomas Robert Linskey, born October 14, 1954. Gail and Thomas have a strong feeling of belonging, in the town of Guilford, perhaps Martin Linskey planned it that way.
3. ibid., p. 12.
4. ibid., p. 18.
6. ibid.
Also, Helander, Joel, "Beattie's Quarry", p. 15.
13. ibid.
15. ibid.
FOOTNOTES, continued

17. ibid.


21. ibid.

GENERAL SOURCES

Guilford Land Records -- GLR

Guilford Vital Statistics -- CVS

Connecticut Census Schedules, for Guilford (census) -- CC, for the years 1860 and 1870.

Family notebook listing the birth place and date of birth of Martin and Ellen Linskey and their children.

Family photographs and old copies of and clippings from the SHORE LINE TIMES.
The John Brown house, Lake Island, circa 1900.

[Handwritten note: ...]
GUMLORD, CONN., Sept 18, 1899

TO GEO. P. ROLF, DR.

LIVERY, BOARDING, AND SALE STABLES.

SALE HORSES A SPECIALTY.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>2 Horses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Bus</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 6. Pass</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17 Bus &amp; Teams</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Bus</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $46.65

Oct 5, 1899

Paid by

Chas. H. Rolf

John Beattie
THE SHORE LINE TIMES, JUNE 30, 1904

were riding on the sidewalk, the warden has given orders to the officers to arrest any and everyone whom they may see violating that law.

Fred W. Seward of Putnam was a guest of E. M. Loof one day this week.

The directors of the Guilford Savings Bank held a session on Wednesday, July 6, and declared the usual 2 per cent. semi annual dividend.

Henry Bishop, Ohio, owner of the Bishop place at Duck Hole, was in town on business last Saturday.

Mrs. A. B. Loof of East Haven visited her mother, Mrs. Susan Standard, on Tuesday.

Miss Lilian Knapp of Brooklyn, N. Y., who was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wilcox, returned to her home on Saturday.


Owing to a mistake in the call for the annual meeting of the Union School District which was called for Tuesday evening, the meeting was not held at that time but will be called to order in the Town Hall this, Thursday, evening at 8 o'clock.

The Misses Florence and Josephine Fosse of Bridgeport, daughters of the late Capt. Samuel E. Fosse, will be the guests of their aunt and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. William T. Fosse, next week.

Mrs. Eleanor Houseman of Fairfield, in the guest of the Misses Eleanor and Susie Eger of Fair Street.

Mrs. Louis Boulet of Hartford is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Landham on Church street.

The following pupils of the Boston Street School were perfect in attendance: Helen O’Toole, Ethel O’Toole, Helen C. O’Toole, Gertrude O’Toole.

Dr. J. H. Evans is caring for his brother’s patients in Brantford during the latter’s absence on a vacation.

Rev. Father Laddie of St. George’s Church is making pronouncements.