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Rev. James Linn, D. D., who died at Bellefonte, February 23, 1868, was a remarkable man, and enjoyed the rare distinction of having served the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church there the unusually long period of fifty-eight years. He was born in Sherman's Valley (now Perry County), Penn., September 4, 1783. His grandfather came over from Scotland in the early part of the eighteenth century, and was of solid Presbyterian stock. His father, **John Linn**, was born in Adams county, Penn., in 1749, was graduated at Princeton College in 1773; studied theology with Rev. Robert Cooper, and during his entire ministerial life, including a term of nearly forty-four years, was settled as the pastor of Centre Church, Sherman's Valley. He died in 1820 in his seventy-first year. He was married to **Mary Gettys**, daughter of the founder of Gettysburg.

Dr. James Linn was graduated at Dickinson College in 1805, and studied theology with Rev. Joseph Williams at Newville. He was licensed to preach the Gospel September 27, 1808, by the Presbytery of Carlisle. He himself considered it an honor of no small measure to have been licensed by such a body of ministers as then composed that Presbytery: "A noble band of venerable men, and men of talents." In the spring of 1809 he visited the congregations of Spruce Creek and Sinking Valley, since in the bounds of Huntingdon Presbytery, and from there he shortly after came to Bellefonte. The Presbyterian Church here had just been left vacant by the removal of Rev. Henry R. Wilson, to Carlisle. His preaching here and at Lick Run for a few Sabbaths resulted in unanimous calls from both Churches, each for one-half of his time. On April 17, 1810, he was installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Bellefonte, the installation taking place in the court house, which was then used as the place of worship. His time was divided between charges at Lick Run and Bellefonte. In 1839 the Bellefonte Church received his undivided labors, and as the pastor of this Church he remained until his death. His labors among the people were greatly blessed. He took an active interest in the cause of education, in the early years of his ministry taught the Bellefonte Academy, and was for many years president of the board of trustees. His labors in the temperance cause and in the interests of the Bible Society and Sabbath-schools were incessant all through the long years of his active life. He was eminently hospitable, and his generosity spontaneous and unpretending. There is a sublime eloquence in the career of such a man, and the reputation he won he bequeathed to enhance the dignity, honor and usefulness of his fellow laborers in the ministry. His strong individuality, clear mind, and sound judgment commanded the respect of men of character, while his large-hearted hospitality, his genial humor, and his kind and cheerful disposition won upon all classes of the community, and made him a man of the largest influence. Yet, though gentle, yielding and forgiving in his temper almost to an extreme, his decision was uncompromising in all questions of principle. His preaching was characterized by the pointed and impressive presentation of truth, and was doctrinal and practical rather than rhetorical. With a full, round

voice, and a commanding presence, his personal advantages were more than ordinary. His manuscript sermons show thoroughness and accuracy in preparation for the pulpit.

Dr. Linn was twice married: first to **Jane Harris**, February 28, 1811, and their children were: **Claudius B., James H., Hon. Samuel, Anna** and **Jane**. This wife died August 14, 1822, and on April 15, 1829, he married **Isabella Henderson**, and a daughter, **Margaret H.**, was born to them. On October 21, 1856, **Margaret H.** was united in marriage with **Mr. William Potter Wilson**, son of **Samuel Hunter** and **Mary (Benner) Wilson**.

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