

MINUTES OF BELNAP FAMILY ORGANIZATION

A meeting for all Officers and Family Representatives was held November 11, 1978 at the home of President Max G. Belnap at 1:00 p.m. Minutes were taken by Brent J. Belnap in the absence of Secretary Joy M. Belnap.

Present: Max G. Belnap, Gordon L. Belnap, Della A. Belnap, Hal R. Belnap, Keith Belnap, Brent J. Belnap, LaGrande H. Belnap, Voletta Blanch and Howard K. Belnap.

Invocation was offered by Hal R. Belnap.

President Max said he had sent letters to all Family Representatives and some had legitimate excuses for not being present.

At the last meeting held November 3 approved present officers except Helene K. Smith as historian. Contacted all others and got their approval to serve. A replacement for historian in Helene's place has not been found. Want Representatives here to give input - still searching.

Max reported that Knight Kerr had said the Vinson Knight home in Nauvoo will be completed next month and that by the end of this month they need anything that could be placed in the home. They desire articles, personal and time era, to be put in the home. Della has a Vinson Knight account book and mentioned that Zeruah Thompson has a quilt made by Martha Knight. Another sister has a black dress. Coolbear line has Martha Knight's wedding dress. Olive Jensen has some furniture of the period from Hyrum Belnap's home. Max suggested a liaison person be appointed to collect things for the home. Keith has a hand-crank sewing machine from England over 100 years old. More will be done on this later.

The purpose of this meeting was to determine if the Family Constitution needs to be changed. At the meeting held for Representatives on August 12 at the reunion, Representatives were asked to contact family members for input. Max gave a handout on Church policy regarding family organizations. Howard said he doesn't see anything he'd like to change. He wasn't sent a handout.

Review of handout was discussed by everyone: (Max used his family as an example.)

- Recommendation in 1977 to stress family organizations.
- Married couple immediate family organization.
- Grandparent organization formed when children are married.
- Gilbert Belnap ancestral organization.
- In 1979 families will send in one 4-generation family group sheet that is fully accepted and corrected by family members.
- Church will only accept sheets from family organizations.

Max read in the Belnap Constitution where it stated the purpose of the family, then referred to Ezra Taft Benson's talk at the last general conference. The ancestral organization should not interfere with grandparent organization.

Keith read the ancestral organization is only for genealogy gathering and filing, coordinating genealogical activities, catalogs, histories, journals, books, etc. Everyone agreed that our organization does this. Later read where once the objective is completed, the organization might be dissolved. Gordon said "might" does not mean "have to." Keith said we need to determine the extent our family now needs to cover and what we have accomplished as an organization. Have we fulfilled our objectives?

The new program now is to eliminate duplication and make family records more exact and complete. Beyond the four generations is optional.

The Belnap Family has put records in about 9 branch libraries. Della stated things in the records could now be updated and a lot more histories included. Keith said then that we haven't really fulfilled our objectives. Hal said that you could search for years - how long do you want to keep searching? The Family could become a hobby organization helping only others fulfill their goals. Do we want to do that? Hal said the new extraction program eliminates identity of the family. Sealings put the families together. The extraction program will not put families together. Keith said then it appears the family has completed its goal.

Hal said we still need a depository for records. Said the Church has killed family genealogy work beyond four generations. He asked what is left that really needs to be cleaned up. Aren't we about as accurate as we can be? Keith summed things up by saying the extraction program will perform baptisms, endowments and sealings, but we must put them together as families.

Gordon said our Family is one of the leaders in the organizations of the whole Church. We have set the pattern. He said our Family is blessed to have been in the Church for a long time. He said that if we want to continue to lead, we must determine where we stand. New programs are for new converts to the Church. Ancestral organizations are not taboo. We still need to act as clearing houses. We still can have reunions. With new members joining the Church, the Family can take on a new stature.

Keith said we should keep the organization as a sort of "headquarters". Max said we do need this type of organization to draw on. Della said we need this to help others who are just starting. She read the letter from Van Orden that said to keep the Crier coming.

Gordon said we need our organization to make sure the younger generations hold their reunions and organize. He said we could combine organizations and still hold reunions. This was followed by extensive discussion.

Howard made the comment on his family (Joseph) how generations lower down lose interest in the larger organization.

Voletta said she is trying to decide between the two (Gordon and Hal). She said she thinks it should be kept and interest the younger ones.

LaGrande said he thinks we should follow Church policy. He said our immediate need is to organize younger families, but should still keep the larger reunion.

Keith suggested we get the feedback from the Family Representatives and act on that information concerning the Family Organization.

Max will send a letter out to all Family Representatives with minutes of this meeting with some instructions about building their own records of their descendants. Gordon said that if they had wanted to be here, they would have been. The Representatives have outlived their usefulness. Most of them are indifferent. That is why we should maintain the main organization. Some families have lost the level and are now ancestral levels. He suggested the Family Organization be:

1. A place to come to for records that are complete.
2. Insure that duplication doesn't go on.
3. Maintain contact and encourage family members - doesn't matter what level. Organize families even to the youngest level.

Keith said we need to decide mechanics at the officer level; take suggestions and weigh them and come up with a proposal as how to do things and have them voted upon by the group.

Max indicated that only two Representatives were here - should we go ahead with the meeting. Hal was here in place of Marvin Benson on Oliver line.

The Crier was the next point of discussion. Gordon gave a financial report. He indicated that more money was taken in this year than any other year before. He gave the reunion expenses. We now have \$2,500.07 on hand. Keith said this shows how interested the Family still is in the organization and reunions. Gordon said that there were 923 Criers sent out for 1977 (early 1978) and that only 159 were paid for - that is only 17% response. The mailing list has 1,057 names, with 79 names added this year, 18 names removed, 197 addresses changed or added. We have 66 unknown addresses, 9 this year who don't want the Crier sent to them. Over the years about 50 to 75 have refused the Crier. There were 12 books (Heritage With Honor) sold this year. There were 199 registered members in attendance at the reunion this year, hoping everyone signed. Gordon indicated the response is too low on the Crier and the materials sold at the reunions is way too low. He said he would like to be in charge of next year's reunion (1980). He would like to put out a Crier that is general in scope and then each family put in what they want to have printed. The families could send in what they want and how many ordered for their line. He said that several years ago a girl came back into the Church because of the Crier. He said what is the worth of a soul. We should keep the Crier going just for that reason. LaGrande said keep it going as long as we don't go in the hole financially. Howard said to keep it going even if they are the only ones interested. There is new interest in new groups by dropping down a level. We should center our attention on the next generation and continue as long as there is interest.

Max suggested each family form a committee and document four generations down from Gilbert and send into the Church. Hal said it would be too big. Max said if we do it again, it must be right. We could hire it done. It was unanimous that

three generations could be clean cut, or start from Rosel down four generations.

Keith suggested that because it was snowing they should wrap things up and dismiss.

A motion was proposed by Howard that the Organization remain in tact. It was seconded by Hal. All voted unanimously the affirmative.

A motion by Max to get a letter out and inform them of the Crier.

A motion by Howard to organize the Family at a lower level.

A motion by Gordon to carry down the lines only as far as the family is interested. This was seconded by Keith. He said we would act in our rightful role as an ancestral organization as long as the Family is interested.

A motion by Gordon to publish the Crier on a limited basis. Each family put information into it for their own family at our time of request. The master organization put out 10 pages of general information and history available to the mass mailing. The individual families pay for what they want sent out to their own members and charge their families only for what they want added. Still mail Crier to everyone. This was seconded by Keith. This was followed by a great debate. Howard said it wouldn't work - too hard and complicated. Said let the families print their own newsletters.

Motion that the Crier be published in March 1979 (approximately) with four generations from Rosel included. A final edition. Then abandon Crier and then have it come out under a different format and name. This was seconded by Keith and voted unanimously to the affirmative.

Max wrapped it up and proposed we perfect genealogy for 3 generations and request Family Representatives to give names for a committee to purify the information. Need a Historian - would welcome any suggestions.

The next meeting will be held January 5, 1979 (Friday) at 7:00 p.m.

Benediction was given by LaGrande Belnap.