

Belnap Family Organization Minutes – March 16, 2016

Conference call: Brent Belnap (Hyrum), Pat Johnson (Joseph), Sheila Moore (Reuben), Ray Vanderdoes (Reuben), Loanne Bartholomew (Augustus Weber), Gordon and Sharon Belnap (Hyrum), Mark Goodmansen (Lola Almira), Jim Marriott (Gilbert Rosel)

Excused: Don Hammon and Diana Schultz

The conference call began at 8:00 p.m. with a prayer by Loanne Bartholomew. Brent Belnap conducted the conference call in the absence of President Diana Schultz.

Discussion:

1. The production by Diana Schultz on the life of Gilbert Belnap is in the works but will not likely be completed before the August reunion. We need to plan an alternative reunion event for August 13, 2016, to be held in Utah.
2. Changes have been made to the belnapfamily.org website but it still needs work. Brent is looking for someone with WordPress program expertise. We also need to visit Facebook, located "Belnap Family Organization," and "like" it and encourage our family contacts to "like" it. Social media is increasingly the only way we can keep the family informed and organized. Snail mail is costly and outdated. Each representative needs to search and gather email contacts from their family branch.
3. Our IRS filing, tax exempt filings and corporation papers are all up to date.
4. Brent briefly discussed an organization called AMAFO (Association of Mormon Ancestral Family Organizations). Fran Jensen is the contact person. Other large family organizations such as ours have the same issues of keeping tax exempt status and contacting and getting support from expanding family members. A representative from our organization to AMAFO would be welcome.
5. Discussion of Gilbert Belnap's gravestone in the Ogden cemetery: the soft sandstone base is crumbling and needs to be repaired. It will cost about \$1500 to replace the base with granite. A motion was passed to go forward and use the funds in the Wells Fargo general account to repair the base of the gravestone.
6. Discussion of the reunion: Historical locations have been at parks, churches, Hooper, etc. A successful attendance was at Lagoon a few years ago. It is a fine balance to find a location that would attract the youngsters, yet be convenient for seniors and less costly. Jim offered his property in Monte Cristo, Utah. It is about 35 miles up Ogden Canyon and is cool and beautiful in the summer. Ray and Gordon suggested the Huntsville church with facilities and a park nearby. It would also be cool in the summer and the lake would be an attraction. Loanne asked about locations further south towards Utah County. That would be a longer drive for the family members from Idaho, but many Utah families have moved further south. Places such as Sundance and Heber Valley were suggested. The site needs to accommodate 200 to 250 people. BFO would provide lunch and hopefully hire the Schultz family to barbeque the meat as in the past reunion. Possible content of the reunion could be the DNA testing and genetics at a reduced price and also a power point presentation by Brent about Sir Robert Belknap.

Specific assignments: Pat will research places in Utah County area, Mark in the South Valley, and Jim in Huntsville and Monte Cristo.

Specific assignments for all representatives: Work on getting family branch emails and contacts. Report deaths and significant family events. Participate in the monthly conference calls.

We need representatives for Isador's line and encourage active participation from all the branches. Jim said he would reach out to Hal Stoddard of the Isador line.

Brent asked for examples of how representatives were keeping in touch with their branch. Jim's sister maintains a family directory. Ray has contact information with his cousins and has done a good job of getting messages out. He had a good representation at the last reunion. Brent keeps descendants names on an Excel spreadsheet and tries to get emails of the heads of families. He uses Facebook to find relatives and invites them to join their Facebook page. Some are enthusiastic, some don't care, and some are lukewarm. He has email contact with over 200 Hyrum descendants. Loanne also has an Excel mailing list. She has sent out letters and asked for children's and grandchildren's contact information. Mark said he has information with his immediate family line but has lost contact with other cousins. He will try to start up again. Similarly, Pat has a Facebook page, yearly reunions, and good contact with the descendants of Amos Belnap, but nothing with the other children of Joseph. Brent has found a relation from Joseph that he will share with Pat and that will be helpful. All representatives were encouraged to begin building an email or social media base of their branch.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. Utah time. Brent will let us know the conference call information.

Closing prayer by Sheila Moore – Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.