

January 27, 1969

Miss Evelyn Belknap
2201 Oakes Ave.
Everett, Washington 98201

Dear Cousin:

I venture to say "cousin" because the outline you sent to Mr. (or Mrs?) R. B. Taylor in Las Vegas makes it seem plain that you and I have the same great-great-grandfather: Jonas Newton Belknap. I'm a great grandson of Jesse Belknap -- the Jesse shown on your outline.

The Taylors sent me your outline because I'm engaged in compiling a Belknap genealogy based on all known collections of the records of the family; and occasionally I can help the Taylors by showing them the linkage to the Belknaps shown in their big chart. Perhaps I can help you; and I'm sure you can help me.

(for your grandfather Isaac Newton Belknap)
On your outline (copy enclosed), the dates 1833-1909 make it seem that your great grandfather Orin was the one who married Anna Draper. This Orin, son of Jonas Newton Belknap and Esther Parker, was born in 1799 in Ontario County, New York. According to his son Orin Jr, who was living in ~~Kettle Falls~~ Kettle Falls, Wash., in 1919, your *uncle Harry* great grandfather Orin Sr married Anna Draper "near the headwaters of the Susquehanna River in New York State, built a flat-boat and went down River to the Ohio River near Louisville, whence he moved to Central Ohio, to Michigan, to northern Illinois, starting from there to join brother Jesse in Oregon, went to western Iowa 1854, where he died 15 Feb 1873." His wife Anna is said to have died 3 March 1856, in Iowa. Later that year he married again -- Naomi (Carpenter) Lyman. His children (all apparently by his first wife) are listed as: William, Charles Wesley, Isaac Newton, Jane, Martha Ann, Marilla, Lafayette, Orin Jr, ~~Elmer~~ (born 25 Dec 1839, living 1919), Flora, Lewis, and Jasper.

The records in my possession give no other dates; so I hope you can help me on this score -- for ~~XXXXXX~~ everyone in your outline and for the names listed above. In return, of course, I'll gladly supply whatever additional information I can, on your Belknap ancestry back to about 1480 -- if you'll just tell me what you'd like to have.

As I'm trying to bring the record up to date, I'll be grateful if you can give more information about the marriages and children of all your uncles and aunts and your brothers and sisters. With full dates if you can -- not just year alone.

I'm especially interested, too, in places of residence -- generation by generation -- if you can give them. Place-names often prove most helpful in tracing descent.

And I'm interested in the persistence of the given name "Isaac Newton" in your branch of the family. Orin's youngest sister, Cynthia, is said to have married an Isaac Newton -- but I don't yet have real confirmation of this marriage. Do you know anything about it?

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Belknap:

1100d
Kettle Falls, Wash.
Oct 19th., 1919.

My dear Mr. Belknap:-

Yours of the 11th. inst. is received, and is indeed welcome: and I note with pleasure your keen appreciation of my own small endeavor to assist you.

Be assured that I only regret my inability to help you farther.

Our firstborn child is :- Byron Albertus: res Kettle Falls, Wash.

In order:- Willis A.:res Bremerton Wash.

Maud; (Mrs. G. E. Wright,) Daisy, Wash.

Bruce: Valley, Wash. (care Arthur Belknap.)

Clyde: (deceased in babynood.)

Paul: (died Aug. 22nd last.) Widow's res Kettle Falls, Wash.

Eeno: (Mrs. Lewis Fuller,)Address Kettle Falls, Wash.

Arthur: res Valley, Wash.

This completes the list.

With kindest regards;

Yours sincerely:

Orin Belknap.

P.S.

I am glad, in my heart, of the lucky wind which blew you into the zone of my own correspondence: and be assured that I value very highly the historical record you so kindly added to the legendary lore which was breathlessly absorbed from the lips of his father by a small boy of about my size, three quarters of a century ago. How I would rejoice to have you seated opposite me by my hunters camp-fire, (for half a century I have been something of a hunter,) while I filled you full of that same legendary lore!

O.B.

Kettle Falls, Wash.,
Sept., 17th., 1919.

Henry W. Belknap,
Salem Mass.,
My dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 11th. inst. just at hand.

It gave me a pleasant surprise, and I only regret my inability to help you more than seems possible at present. However, with the help of the old, blind Remington--bald-headed as is its manipulator-- here goes.

You offer a very tempting bait for my assistance, I am sure. The record of the ancestry of my grandfather, Jonas Belknap, would entice me a long way into the woods.

And I may as well acknowledge that the record of his military services in the most important military struggle this earth has known since Marathon, would lure the aged veteran of the war of the Rebellion very much farther; even into the desert itself.

First, let me correct my own mistake. I wrote to Mr. C. C. Belknap, of Bremerton, Wash., that my father, Crin B. Belknap, son of Jonas Belknap, died in 1872.

He died in 1873. Feb. 15th., (not at Miami, Ohio, as your record shows;) but in Pataskala, Licking Co. Ohio, where he owned a store at the time of his death.

Overhauling a bunch of old letters, stowed away for half a century, for material with which to reply to you, I found two letters on the subject of my father's death: One written by my "Step-mother,, and the other by my step-brother.

I enclose one of these letters, (which please kindly return,) in proof of date; and ask you to please read all you can find on the paper, where names of the different children to be notified of Father's death are given; and this will show you that your list of the children of my father belongs to some other Crin B.

The list given in my letter to C. C. B., of Bremerton, Wash. is correct.

Now my dear Kinsman and Clansman, (for all of the outfit I ever met are clannish to the core; and must have come from Scotland in the long ago), let me say that I was born in the big pine woods of Michigan, 50 miles N.W. of Detroit; that my father's family has always lived on the frontier, that the wild buffalo of the plains, and the skin teepees of the Indians who roamed the old "Buffalo Range" were known to my young manhood; and you can understand that I have met with but few of my own name; and those few were mostly younger members of the Tribe.

Of my own father and his family , I could tell you much: but of the more aged members of the tribe, and of exact dates, &c. , but little. My mothers maiden name was Anna Draper. She married my father in "York-State," near the headwaters of the Susquehanna; (date unknown,) where my father built a flat-boat, in which they floated down the Susquehanna and the Ohio to the vicinity of Louisville, Kentucky; from whence they moved to Central Ohio; to Michigan; to Northern Illinois; and starting from there to join his brother Jesse, in Oregon , proceeded to western Iowa in 1854, where my mothers health failed; and where she died on March 3rd., 1856.

Now I suppose that personal reminiscences are not needed , or desired.

I wish--fervently--that I could be of further assistance to you; but in my ignorance can only explain, (as did the Chinaman, when impertuned to pay a debt,) " If we have, how can?"

And now if I, in return, beg of you to send me the ancestry of my grand grandfather Jonas B. , and the record of his military services, please remember that in complying you will confer a pleasure on an aged veteran, the amount of which I can only leave you to imagine.

If I can be of any further service to you, command me.

Fraternally yours;

Orin Belknap.

Essex

Feb 16 1971

Miss Evelyn Balknap
2201 Oakes Avenue
Everett, Washington 98201

Grandfather's Brother

Dear Cousin:

Here is something you might like to have -- a facsimile copy of a letter written by your ~~great grandfather~~ Orin Jr. I can't send you the original, as it belongs to Essex Institute. ~~ES~~ *ST*

It occurs to me that I have been remiss in not giving you the name of his wife, which is left blank on the chart you sent.

She was Helen Dunbar, said to have been born 1847 in "Yerk State," daughter of Albertus and Deborah Dunbar. She married Orin Jr 14 February 1867 in Petersburg, Jackson County, Minnesota.

I believe that Orin Jr served in the Union army in the Civil war, but I haven't checked on this. If you wish to follow it up, you can write to National Archives, using the form I'm enclosing.

Cordially,

Orin

Jan 22 1971

Miss Evelyn Belknap
2201 Oakes Ave.
Everett, Washington 98201

Dear Cousin:

I'm writing this letter with a very red face. Here's why. . . Yesterday I got a letter containing a tart statement that I hadn't replied to a letter written in February 1969. I had no memory of it. But I started digging in my files. After an hour or so, found that letter -- and along with it, three other unopened letters including one from you dated March 16 1969. I'm abashed, even though I can explain how it happened.

Those letters arrived while I was in hospital for a rather lengthy stay. That Summer, during a slow convalescence, I tried to answer all the many accumulated letters -- and somehow, sometime, must have misfiled a batch of them, in a place where nobody in his right mind would have put them. I apologize.

There is, now, much that I should pass along to you in order to keep my promise to send you your line of descent. But first, I ~~EX~~ should ask you to correct an error in my letter of January 27, 1969, where I said that Orin Belknap married Anna Draper "near the ~~MMMMMMMMMMMM~~ headwaters of the Susquehanna River." I was quoting a letter written in 1919 by his son Orin, Jr. of Kettle Falls, Wash. He had stated a physical impossibility -- saying "Susquehanna" when he should have said "Alleghany." I knew of ~~the~~ this error of his; but somehow failed to correct it when writing to you.

Now, your line of descent. It is shown in three enclosures.

(A) All that is known about the first Belknap in America -- Abraham -- including the known facts about the mystery of the change in family name before he left England. This is, I'm sure, completely accurate. It corrects some of the many past errors about Abraham.

(B) A skeletonized summary of the next six generations in your direct line, including the known facts about Jonas Newton ~~Belknap~~ Belknap's service in the Revolutionary war.

(C) A later and correct statement of the genealogical facts about this Jonas, ~~xxxxxx~~ as known 24 October 1969. This was the result of more than four years of work by many people -- centering primarily around the 20 years or so that our family lived in Ontario County, NY (then the whole western part of NY State). It was there that all of Jonas's children by Esther Parker grew up and married. If you are interested in learning more about that crucial period of the family, there's a little book that you'll want to read. We found it in late 1969 -- a reprint of a little history written in the middle of the 19th century and reprinted recently (amazingly) by a little bookshop in a town of 300 people: Early History of the Town of Springwater, by Orson Walbridge, published by Schnucker's Book Store, Springwater, N Y 14560 -- price \$5, plus 25¢ postage -- but don't order it till Mr and Mrs Schnucker come back from Florida in April. It's fascinating -- and it's the source of the birthdate for your ancestor Orin. . . . Though there are still some unknown things about Jonas Newton Belknap, further work since late 1969 hasn't yet produced answers. But I can guarantee the accuracy of the statement written in October of that year.

You spoke of being in touch with other members of our branch of the family. Please share with them the information in the enclosures. Much of what has been current about Abraham -- and virtually all of what has been said or written about Jonas Newton Belknap -- has been sadly wrong. I'm trying to get the mistakes corrected. (The worst error about Jonas was the statement that he had a wife named "Fanny" -- result of a misreading of the name "Tamar" in one of his pension applications, in which the court clerk's handwriting was a bit old-fashioned in the copy that this clerk made of the original application.)

Now, what else? Let's see.

-- Your letter March 16 1969 -- most helpful. I hope you'll be able to dig up still more dates -- and more names of descendants of Orin. (We have some 300 known descendants of his brother LEMUEL Jesse, my great grandfather; and more than 250 descendants of his brother Elijah. There's a challenge for you.)

-- Here are names of children of the Kettle Falls Orin, as set down by him in 1919:

Byron Albertus -- Kettle Falls
Willis A. -- Bremerton -- aged 45 in 1919
Maud -- Mrs G E Wright, Daisy, Wash.
Ebe -- Mrs Lewis Fuller, Kettle Falls
LEMMUEL Arthur -- Valley, Wash.
Bruce -- living with Arthur in 1919

1919 is long ago -- but maybe these addresses tell you where to ~~XXXX~~ look for your ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ closest cousins.

-- I've just noted another error in my letter of Jan 27 1969. I said that ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Orin (son of Jonas N B) died in western Iowa 15 Feb 1873. I was copying, alas, from an incorrect source. He died (on that date) in Pataskala, Ohio. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ After his first wife died, he returned to Licking County, Ohio, and married again -- as all men with young children did in those days.

-- Enclosure "D" is, I'm sure, a letter from a first cousin of yours, daughter of your uncle Isaac Newton Belknap. It came to me from a great grandson of Jonas Newton Belknap, who received it in 1965 -- and had no further word from its writer. Till today, I had been unable to do anything with it. But comparison with the chart you drew up makes it obvious that this Kathleen Belknap is your cousin. I'll write to her, hoping her address is what it was in 1965. (Clark Belknap, Seattle, mentioned in the letter, died in 1970 -- like me, great grandson of Jesse, brother of your Orin.) I hope you and she will do some teamwork for my benefit.

Cordially.

p S -- I'm very uncertain about the spelling of the name of the wife of your Uncle Isaac Newton Belknap, on your chart. Looks, maybe, like XI "O'Flyng" -- but is it?

Orrin
last page

Des Moines, Ia
July 3-1968

Carroll Belknap
25 - Club Road
Riverside,
Conn 06878

Jane B
file

Mr Carroll Belknap.

It was nice hearing from
you and I am sorry I
have been so long in writing
to you.

The date I have on Esther
Fannie Lincoln Parker is this
we saw the stone when
we were in Alexandria, Ohio
years ago. I am sure it
read 1817-18 and then Reva
Barret dates of Jessie 1792
had this same date.

I have returned recently
from Frankfurt, Ky also
alexandria and Columbus, Ohio.

My son drove me to Alexandria
from Cincinnati and we
spent most of the day there.
We spent hours in the cemetery
but the stone is no longer
standing. They had had a
tornado there which took ^{a lot} out
of trees and damaged lot of
stone.

I was amazed at the condition
of this cemetery. To the north
was many stones piled on
top of each other. We couldn't
of course move any of them.

We went then to a Mr
Davis home. He had a map
of the cemetery and it showed
the number of her lot but
no inscription. I am to write
to Mrs Davis and they are
going to do some research
for me.

I am just sick when I
think of the condition of that

cemetery. we don't do things
like that in Iowa.

I have Samuel Belknap B
as, born 6-13-1731- Enfield, Conn
injured at Valley Forge and
died Cambridge, N.Y. on his
way home. 6-18-1775

I do know Elisha was
married twice but I didn't
know in the begining. I
should do a lot of proof reading
before I pass any on.

I have written to Mr
Sherman and had his reply
today. He is most anxious
to hear from you.

Have you read the
Parker family book. It gives
much information and Jonas
Belknaps family. D.A.R. would
not accept this record and
they say it is tradition only.

I went from Alexandria
to Columbus, Ohio and stayed
at a ~~Hotel~~ hotel and went to
The Historical Bldg for several
days. The record they have
of the Alexandria Cemetery is
not very helpful. I called
a Fario Belknap from the Hotel.
I had corresponded with
him years ago. He was very
nice and will keep in touch
with me. He was going up
to Alexandria soon.

He is of Mr Shermans family.
I do hope you can help
Mr Sherman and oh yes his
address is

6740 1/2 Franklin Place
Hollywood, California 90028.

You say you are a desc.
of Elishas brother Jesse. Reva
Barnet was also a Desc
of Jesse. Reva is gone now.

Reva Barrett - sent me this
book taken from her great-
grand mother diary of the trip
across the plains.

Heturah Renton Belknap
married George Belknap born
in Kentucky Aug 30-1817

Heturah (Aunt Kitty) married Geo
Belknap Oct 1-1839 (^{one place} Oct 3-1837)

George Belknap died 9-17-1897

Heturah Renton Belknap born
Aug 15-1820 - Ohio

This book sent to me by

Reva has 68 pages and it
is just wonderful.

I believe this is your family,

I will keep in touch
with you and I do hope
we can find authentic proof
that Jones the father of our
Elisha. That is the only
thing that Carol Anne - my
grand daughter needs for

D.A.R.,

She goes to Grandview College
here in D.M.

I hope I have helped
you and that you can
help me with Jonas as the
father of Elisha

Sincerely
Jane E. Belknap
4615 - Ovid Ave
Des Moines, Ia

50310

Orin (s. of JMS)

Alexander, Ohio

Orin Belknap - B-1799 ?

Died Licking Co, Ohio Feb 14

1873 - Age 73 yrs 2-mo 23 day

He married a Draper.

Brother of Jesse 1792