

DELLA BELNAP from CYB

March 13 1973

Your letter of March 3 with its helpful enclosures arrived today. It embarrasses me, for I'm the one who should be saying thank-you. I've done little to help you, by comparison with all that you have done for me.

I'm going to try to reply at once, for fear of letting myself get sidetracked by other things.

(1) Thanks for sheets showing entries in Lattob church register. Am returning them, after running off copies for my files.

(2) And thanks for having Mr Smith review my queries about "Loughton." I'll modify my record of Abraham to show him farming at Latton. Incidentally, my apologies for having sent you a poor carbon copy of my memo, instead of the original. Careless handling in putting things together for mailing. Sorry.

(3) The handling of Beltoft and Belknap in our English records? I'll draft a statement of my notions, for your consideration, and will mail it soon.

(4) Chart in QUEEN magazine. Will have a copy made for you.

(5) New material on Seymour Belknap=Lydia Campbell. Agrees with my files except on some dates -- minor differences, not important. . . On the chance that you may possibly have some use for it, I'm enclosing a copy of three sheets on which three present-day descendants of that line sketched their paternal and maternal lineage (with some obvious errors and shortages). Forget who sent it to me, long ago. Sent a copy of it to another descendant, a couple of years ago.

(6) My new sheets on Joseph Belknap=Prudence Morris and their descendants. Will ship to you as soon as some remaining details have been entered. I should assure you that you won't be able to confirm them by anything you find in records previously published -- the point being that all preceding versions have been sadly in error, as result of one of the classic errors in genealogy, "the missing generation."

(7) Pooling of information. Yes, gladly. But don't know just how to go about it right now. Trouble is that I've been primarily interested in two main lines of research: (A) correcting old errors by HWB and others, by digging for original documents not previously taken into account, and (B) extending my basic master file by collecting new material, on ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Belknaps not previously included by HWB and others. . . The result of this two-sided concentration of effort is that I have neglected the drudgery of entering new and revised data in my master file. So there are many hundreds of names in raw material not yet transferred to my master file in organized form. . . What I must do, of course, is to stop searching for more and more Belknaps and put what I've got into systematic form -- and then re-number all entries and index them so that what I have can properly be coordinated with the records you have built up. How I hate this drudgery! But I'll have to submit to it. And it will take a lot of time.

Carol

Ogden, Utah
Mar 3, 1973

Dear Carroll;

Thanks for the information you have sent. I appreciate what you do. Sure have not done much for you, but will try to do what I can.

One can check and double check and still make mistakes. That is in the typing. Have had a lady helping to do the double checking, but one of us slipped up. Maybe you have already noticed on the family group sheets I sent on Benet and Grace Beltoft, that the death date is ~~29~~ 29 Oct 1630. The marriage date was typed in the death date place. Also on the same page the "e" was left out of Edward Doucet. On one of the sheets where Laurence is given as the father, it is spelled wrong. I hope that is all the typing errors made. On these same sheets I have put the last name in parenthesis the the surname that was not found in the parish records, but where entered by others in the Salt Lake Gen. Library. Also to identify our line.

I have found no explanation as to why the name was some times Beltoft or Belknap, Ballnapp, Bealknap, Belkknapp, other than the fact the people could not write and who ever wrote the names wrote them as they thought ~~in~~ it sounded. There are other spellings, but Beltoft has not been explained to my satisfaction.

I know in the N E H G R of Jan 1914 page 83,84 The Will of Bennet Beltoft, father of Abraham Belknap it says "In the Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts, and was entered in the Probate Act Book for 1623-1626 under the name BELKNAP, while it appeared in the Calander of Wills under the name BELTOFT, which is the form used in the Will & etc".

Also my father was in England in 1913. He did much research, also had others do research for him. He said there was no way to tell when the Alias Belknap or alias Beltoft had started. He also talked about a Belknap who had adopted a Beltoft. My father isn't here to ask about these details now, nor did he write it down. Not until I can find something more diffinate, have not mentioned this. We will record the name as found in the records as it is found. Also the name Belknap in parenthesis will be used to identify the line for the rest of the family. This is what we have decided to do until a better or more satisfactory explanation can be found.

We are looking in the Beltoft family's origin. Nothing much is found on this name either. It has been called to our attention by our researchers Beltoft a hamlet in the "Isle of Axholme" in north-west Lincolnshire, in the parish Belton. The report says "It was inhabited by a family taking its name from the hamlet which was translated into Latin as "de Bello Toft". In 1394/5 they found a family of Thomas de Beltoft. They also had a Coat of Arms. This you already know, I'm sure.

Mr. Frank Smith has sent another man to help in Essex. There already is one in Essex and one in Herts. Mr. Fields, who worked for Dr. Dean Belnap, is going to Middlesex and Lincolnshire. Whatever they learn, if it is more than what you sent you will receive a copy of.

You will notice an "X" by the name that is the direct line on the sheets I sent to you. The direct line as Mr. Smith has helped us with is; Bennet & Grace (Adam) Beltoft or Belknap; His father is Richard Beltoft and Elizabeth; His father is Laurence Beltoft and his father is Richard and Christian. Don't know who Henry Beltoft Bur 5 July 1561, is.

Will have to apologize on the Will of Henry. Had the wrong Henry in Mind. Was thinking of the Henry Belknap bur 13 Apr 1686. When I read his Will made 10 Apr 1686, he only mentions his wife Mary; Children, Elizabeth, James and Daniel and a son-in-law Edward Dowsett. Usually this would indicate all the living members of his family at that date, the rest would be dead. However I don't know the death dates of these children Samuel, Benett, Abraham and Sarah. The child Mary was bur 13 Aug 1704. She would be living at the time of the Will. Also this Henry could have had a Bro-in-law Edward Dowsett as his 1st wife was Elizabeth Dowsett. I don't show or know who his Children married, but they could have married into the Dowsett family. After looking at these facts I couldn't be sure the Death Dates in Waltham Abbey are children of Henry who married Mary Pery. Hope to find some other evidence to identify them.

Guess I had better do my own typing and check all family group sheets a little better. In checking ~~Harry~~ Henry Beltnap and Mary Pery 's sheet I see on one sheet the Bur date is typed in the death date. He was Bur 13 Apr 1686, not a death date. I hope There are no more typing errors.

I'm returning your letter on Abraham Beltnap. The comments in green are by Mr. Frank Smith. I'm also sending you a copy of the material found in Latton, Essex, Eng. You can see there were Belknaps there, but evidently had come from some place else as there where no birth or christening dates. Have not learned the relationship of these other Belknaps.

You will notice under the marriages a Daniel Beltnap and Barbara Gulliford. This I believe to be the son of Benet Beltoft and Grace Adam, who married Barberie.

Up to this time we have had nothing on Sir Robert having had a wife Amy. Only wife mentined as Sibbella or Sybill Dorset or Juliana Darset. Which some think is the same person.

Still have not had time to go over the material as I should ~~by~~ that Dr. Belnap obtained. Still trying to get through the material Jimmie Parker sent in. It is too confusing to try too many lines as once.

No we do not have the chart published in Queen Magazine in 1951 showing the line of descent of the Queen of England and that of Shakespear. Have heard about it. Would appreciate having a copy. However I would ~~not~~ want to pay for the copy to be made. Let me know the cost and I will sent it to you.

If you have differences in some families, we would like to know it. That~~it~~ would give us a chance to double check our resources. The family of Joseph Beltnap and Prudence Morris is in my book on page 487. Most of the information is by H. W. B. Some by Glen Evans and now some by Jimmie Parker. Some of the information is conflicting. When you show information that is conflicting, could you give us the source for your information. We could check it out ~~thru~~ in the Salt Lake Gen. Libr.

The Salt Lake Gen. Library have just moved into a beautiful new building. The first 3 floors of a 28 story building. Besides the Library Volts ~~are~~ in a granit wall of a canyon just outside of Salt Lake City. The volts are really somthing to see. All of the genealogy has been duplicated on film and are stored in these volts for protection. It would be nice for you to have a vacation and come out to see it, and some of your relatives too. Dr. W. Dean Belnap is now again on one of the commitees of that Library. Maybe I should say the Salt Lake Genealogical Society. He doesn't have anything to do with running the Library. He has his own medical Clinia in Bountiful, its 8 miles north of Salt Lake City.

At the Belnap Family meeting held Feb 28, it was proposed to the family to continue the research of the Beltnap family in U.S. and Canada. Is is so expensive to get a good researcher. They are so few most of them have more than they can handle. It was proposed to use student researchers under the direction of a teacher or Jimmie Parker. At the Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, about 35 miles south of Salt Lake City, they teach Genealogical and research courses. The University has a student body over 20,000. Dr. Belnap was going to check into this further.

Dr. Belnap also thought it would help if all Beltnap's who are interested, could join together and help each other with the information they already had. Then in return they would receive a copy of the material we found. It would all be documented. You already have a copy of Hyrum Belnap's research. A ~~copy~~ copy of Glen Evans work. And I'm sure more of H.W.B. work than what has been published. What do you think of the idea. *This also would save duplicat mark -*

It is Dr. Belnap's desire to put out a book or books on all material found and stories of any of the people we can find. His goal is four years. I told him you had the same idea of writing a book or do something along that line. We do not want to interfere with any of your plans. You could do as you wished, but we could possibly help you with some information.

Almost forgot, I'm enclosing more information on one of Seymour Beltnap and Lydia Campbell's children. page 277. Received it from Mrs. Betty Joe Barnson Abraham. Her father married Aileen Beltnap as a 2nd wife. I obtained part of this from Glen Evans record. She has verified the information he had and has added what Aileen Beltnap had. Hope you can understand this letter and the typing. Have had so many interruptions. Thanks again for all that you have done for me.

Sincerely,

Della Belnap

March 20 1973

DELLA: from CYB

YOUR 267 & 268

In a letter June 30 1971, you said something I should have answered then, but it escaped me till today.

"The family of Levi Balknap, Franklin's father, the marriages of the father and son Levi are mixed up. . . I'm hoping . . . our New England research will clear some of these questions."

For possible aid, I'm enclosing copies of HWB's final version of his record on these Levis. Same as yours, except for being a little more detailed and for giving family name of second Levi's first wife as Lanson, not Samson.

As I compared them with yours, I underlined in red the differences I noted.

On the first Levi, you'll notice that HWB found two names for mother of Charlotte Boyden, and indicated no opinion on them.

On sheet for second Levi, he found VR not agreeing with information obtained before he consulted the VR -- notably a child Frank with same birthdate as that for child Ray. As he has detailed continuation for FRay, I think he felt the VR had the name wrong. In his records, when he shows a VR date beside a date obtained from other sources instead of crossing out the other date, he seems to have meant he didn't believe the VR. I've had the same problem.

Do you now have any changes I ought to make on these records?

Re: 1

Ogden, Utah
June 30, 1971

Dear Carroll;

Thanks for your letters and the information you have sent. I don't seem to get one thing finished before some thing else starts. Just received your last letter with the information on the parents of Mary Wood & etc. Will answer this latter.

I mailed you June 28, Monday, the Franklin Belknap's record that my father had. I was going to have a xerox copy made of my copy, but when I found my fathers copy I decided to mail it to you. My copy is typed better and have corrected some spelling. You can make the record out ok. This would also save you money to have it copied. I do not know if there was a cover to it. What is written on ~~right~~ left hand side of the pages means nothing. Some relative wrote that to match their copy. They wrote on every thing they touched. If this record of Franklins is of any value to you, you may keep it. The family of this Franklin Belknap is on page 267 in our book we loaned you. He was in Chicago, Ill. when my father met him and obtained this record. This record is a copy of his originals. I do not know where the original records went. Franklin Belknap never married. If any part of it you can't read, refer the page to me and I will check with the copy I have. In this way maybe I could help. I did not have time to check every page with my copy.

The family of Levi Belknap, Franklin's Father, the marriages of the father and the son Levi are mixed up. Haven't had time to check into it. I'm hoping the records I am to receive in July from our New Eng. research will clear some of these questions.

While at the Salt Lake Gen. Library two weeks ago I came across a book "Know thy Self" by Leora Belknap. She lived in Claremont, N.H. latter to a nursing school in Boston, where she is now I would not know. Glen Evans had this record. I see he has taken much information from this record, but failed to give the complete dates and names of towns, when he put it in his record. Leora Belknap gives both her mothers and fathers line of Genealogy. I had the Library copy only the Belknap line for me. Didn't try to have the pages with pictures copied as they would not take off very well. It cost me \$4.20 or 10¢ a page.

I'm adding the rest of the dates and etc to my family group sheets. If you like and if it would help I could make xerox copies for you. I could also make a copy of the book of Leora Belknaps or both. It would be 10¢ a page and postage. If I was able I would love to do these things for you without charge.

I'm also enclosing a page of some things on the Oregon Belknaps I also copied at the Library. Didn't get too much because the Library closed for the day. I don't get to Salt Lake Library as much as I would like.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Nella Belnap



018.

O.H. 273.

7
Levi Balknap & Laura Hewitt. (239, 129.2, 52, 15, 4, 1,)
B. 8 Apl. 1798, B. 11 Apl. 1811, Pomfret, Vt.,
D. 25 Jun. 1880, D. 31 Mar. 1871, Barnard, Vt. No. 59:5:20, VR.
M. 8 May 1833, dan. of Henry Hewitt of Barnard, Vt.
1. Randolph, Vt. &
d. East Barnard, Vt. Hannah Bugbee
res. East Barnard, Vt.
Owned real estate in Barnard 1833, on earlier,
a School Supt. 1828, 32.
Grand Juror, 1833,
Just. of Peace,
Sep. 1830-32,
M. 1 Jul. 1873, Charlotte Boyden,
B. 12 Jul. 1808,
D. 5 Mar. 1881, C Man VR
dan. of Jacob Boyden of East Barnard,
&
Chloe Turner
Hannah Carroll (Boyden Gen.)

Children:

613

1018. Franklin, b. E. Barnard, Vt., res. Chicago Lawn, Ill., unmarried,
B. 15 Mar. 1834, D. 23 Sep. 1906, Pittsburgh, Kan. bur. E. Bar
1019. * Mary Jane, b. East Barnard,
B. 11 Apl. 1833, D.
1020. * Henry Hewitt, b. East Barnard, Vt.,
B. 29 May 1840, D. 30 Jul. 1870, Galesburg, Ill.,
1021. * Levi,
B. 15 Oct. 1842, D. 17. Pittsburgh, Kan. 1910,
1022. * James Monroe, b. East Barnard, Vt.,
B. 17 Jul. 1851, D.

1021.

O.H. 5400.

3

Levi Bulknap & Annette Ellen Lamson, (G13, 280, 120.2, 52, 15, 1
B. 15 Oct. 1842, B. 1 Jan. 1843, Brookfield, Vt.,
D. 18 Feb. 1898,

M. 1 Jan. 1889, dan. of John Lamson

b. East Barnard, Vt. &

d. Mary Crane

res. Pittsburgh, Kan., 1910.

(2) M. 18 Apr. 1902, Farsis H. Pollett

mar. Pittsburgh, Pa. 6 Mar. 1848, Pomfret, Vt.,

dan. of Ammi Pollett of Royalton, Vt.

Lydia Arvilla Dodge of Sharon, Vt.

Children: I.

1871. * Mary L., 1870-1871.
B. 17 Jul. 1871, D.

1872. * Ray Lamson, b. East Barnard, Vt.

B. 20 Sep. 1870, D.
1873. Frank, (VI) b. Barnard, Vt. (note similar dates)
b. 20 Sep. 1870, d.

1021

File *Allen*
Ogden, Utah
May 17, 1971

Dear Carroll;

I hardly know where to start. It would be easier to talk to you than try to write and be understood.

I have a clipping from an old newspaper the "Ogden Standard" published in Ogden. Don't know what year, could be in the 1940's. I know I have had it a long time. OLDEST OF KIND

"Massachusetts Historical Society
founded in August, 1790, by
Jeremy Belknap, and which held
its first meeting in Boston in
January, 1791, is the oldest
historical organization in the
United States."

Thought this was interesting to know.

Have you heard from Mrs. Mansfield's niece or have obtained any more information on the W. Va. Belknaps?

The only new information I have received from Hallie Belknap Weese's family is on Thomas Belknap b. 1779-d. 1883 who md 1st Mary Friend and 2nd Emsey Fisher. They said this Thomas Belknap was born in Little Britian, N. Y. Lived in Hampshire Co., Randolph Co. (no state is mentioned) then to Braxton Co. W.Va.

His wife Mary Friend was born in Elk River. No state is given. I do not find Elk River in N.Y. or the Virginias, but it could be a very small place that is not listed.

By his 2nd wife Emsey Fisher he had a daughter Eliza Belknap who married Simon T. Albert. They gave us the wrong birth date the first time. The correct birth date is 4 Jan 1851 and not 1849. They also sent the names of this Eliza's three daughter-in-laws but no names for the sons. I'm trying to locate these sons. They may be able to give more information on the material she had.

I believe Glen Evans received most of his information on these families from Hallie Belknap Weese and she obtain much of it from the 1850 census.

I have a letter from Mrs Shara Belknap Curry of So. Charleston, W.Va. She is a daughter of Farrell C. Belknap and Elda Blake. They come from Gassaway, W.Va. There evidently are other Belknap in that town yet, but cant get them to answer any letters. Mrs. Curry is a young woman going to college in So. Charleston.

The information sent to you on the Corwins you don't have to return.

I noticed on the pedigree chart made by Richard B. Taylor of Las Vegas, Nev. There is a ~~Ex. Wilcox~~ a David S. Belknap-- 98 Rivergate Dr. --Wilton, Conn. Do you know him, if so does he have any Belknap records.

Some time ago you asked "what is the attitude of L. D. S. on illegitimate descent." I'm not sure what you want to know. If it is on genealogy that you want the information, The genealogy is kept like any one elses. All facts are recorded that are known. The child may not know who the parents are and may have trouble tracing their parents. But the child would know who his descendance are and records his or her family like any one else. If you are asking from a religious stand point, the church does ^{not} approve of the actions of the parents. The children ~~are~~ are not held responsible for the parents actions. The children or their descendance, if they are good people, are treated like any other good child. There is such a thing as true repentance by their parents and forgiveness by God is possible. If the repentant parents sin no more we should forgive them the same as God. Hope that answers your question. If not you had better explain just what you mean.

Now some questions on your direct line. On page 411 in our record of Samuel Belknap & Mary Newton (I know this family in our book is not complete) Glen Evans shows Mary Newton's mother to be Mary Wett or Witt or Gills. What is the correct Name?

On Jonas Newton Belknap's family sheet child #8 is Orin md 1st Anna Draper and 2nd Naomi Carpenter. Do you mean that Carpenter is her maiden name and that she is the widow of Mr. Lyman?

On Jesse Belknap & Jane Garlinghouse family sheet, child #6. Is the name Car or Corrington. In Franklin Belknap's record it is spelt Carrington. Do you have a copy of Franklin Belknap's Record? Without looking it up, Franklin is a cousin to Henry Wyckoff Belknap. He lived in Chicago, Ill. The record contains his letters to relatives & their answers. It is 158 typed pages. I do not know where the original is or another copy. My father had the original from Franklin some years ago and returned it to him. Franklin is dead now and I do not know much about his family. Don't think there is more genealogy in the record than what is in our record. However there are stories and personal information. I think my nephew could have it xeroxed at the place where he works ~~for~~ 5¢ a sheet. It would cost me 10¢ a sheet. Either way it would be a good copy. Thought I would let you know there was a Franklin Belknap record.

Do you have a copy of the direct line of Atty. Nuel D. Belnap of Chicago, Ill/? He is about 80 yrs old. He has been working up to this last year. Now his health is not too good. If you don't I could help you with that line.

Hope you are well and that you are progressing with your record.

Sincerely,

Lella Belnap

DELLA from CYB

Jan 29 1973

Your letter, Jan 23. . . . I, too, "am always behind in letter writing." So, this time, I'm pushing everything else aside in order to deal with your letter and the batch of material from England. If I don't do it at once, I never will.

There's much for me to cover -- many points -- so for your convenience I'll be covering them in separate memos, one for each main topic.

In this present note I'll tackle only general points that don't need extended treatment or documentary evidence.

(1) Money for this sort of copying. Glad to provide it. Please just tell me when you can use it.

(2) You're right about my being familiar with much of the English stuff you sent. But you were right to send it, for there are some important things in it that are new to me. I hope you'll find some or at least a few bits of new information in the stuff I'll be sending to you as fast as I get it put together. . . . And I hope the many erratic variations in some of Mr Field's collections don't mislead you. Secondary sources such as local histories and pseudo genealogies compiled long years afterward are of course pretty unreliable -- with lots of mere hearsay in place of real evidence. Even the Dictionary of National Biography is full of errors resulting from undue reliance on secondary sources. . . . The confusion over Haman and his children is typical. I have never found any proof that he had a son named John, nor one named James. . . . And the naming of a "Radulphi Belknap" in one document, is surely nothing but a blunder resulting from confusing ~~Miles~~ ^{Hamon} and his brother-in-law Radulphi Boteler (Ralph Butler), Lord Sudeley

(3) I think I should warn you against accepting too readily what appears in the records of Visitations of Heralds -- established by Henry VIII to verify pedigrees of those who claimed the right to coats of arms -- attempting to trace back for many generations, often with nothing but hearsay and little or no real evidence. The records of Visitations are helpful in suggesting lines of research -- but often that's all they are good for. In the records Mr Field reported, you'll see plain examples of errors.

(4) New England research: I'm eager to see what Mr Parker has dug up -- in hope that it will contain answers to some of my unsolved puzzles. I should be able to understand his notes, for I've done a lot of work with New England Vital Records -- sometimes unhappily. Those dated before about 1750 are very unreliable, as they weren't always entered correctly. Often, years would elapse until someone tried to bring the record up to date with aid of memory and gossip. . . . Even those that have been edited and reissued by NEHGS still contain provable errors. . . . Is it needless for me to warn you that the statement of a birth in those VR's does not necessarily mean it occurred in that town, unless the record definitely says so?

will

Thanks for address of Dr W Dean Belnap. Wish you give him mine, so he'll feel free to ask for anything I may have.

(5) Evans: Yes, I too sometimes find him right. That's what is damnable about him. If he were always wrong, I could ignore him. But because he is sometimes right I have wasted endless hours proving him wrong.

DELLA:

Other points on your #608:

-- Moses and Obadiah were sons of Ebeneser, not sons of Samuel.

-- The son Samuel, born 1662, did not marry Elizabeth Jones. As I think I've told you before (if my memory is correct) the Samuel who married Elizabeth Jones was son of Joseph, born 1684, as proved by entry of his death in his wife's Bible. So your #609 is also incorrect.

8
CYB March 13 1973

DELLA:

3/11/72

I recently discovered a mistake I had made on my sheets for Abraham. Enclosed is a revised set -- with changes and additions marked red. Please destroy earlier version.

NOTE to you on second sheet means that the spelling without "k" in will of that Henry does not mean that he himself had adopted that spelling. It merely means that the person who wrote that will and set down the name to be signed by mark did not hear a "k" sound and so omitted that letter, as many others did from then on. In register entry for burial of his daughter Mary, three years before date of the will, his name was spelled with "k." So I question naming him "Belnap" on the evidence of the will alone. . . . In early Massachusetts documents, there are many instances of omission of "k" when the name was written by persons not members of the family -- but not in any actual signatures that I have yet seen. All New York documents naming your ancestor Jesse -- as far as I have yet seen -- use the "k". But I have not yet seen any examples of his own personal signature. Have you? (and Connecticut)

Dell

DELLA from CYB:

3/11/72

Attached is copy of a sheet in WHITNEY GENEALOGY, sent to me recently. It refers to the Mary Jane Belknap on your 270 and HMB's 1019. HMB (working from Vermont VR) had it the same except for lacking name of Roswell Durkee's wife Nancy Whitney. (Vermont VR show name as "Dunklee" but HMB and others have deciphered as Durkee, correctly.)

You may wish to correct the parentage for John Durkee on your #270. . . After marriage, he became a physiciab, at Chelsea, Vt.

DELLA from CYB

5/23/71

It's always good to hear from you. And there's much to answer in your letter May 17. So here goes.

JEREMY -- the Rev Jeremy Belknap, D.D. (always with the "DD" to distinguish him from most other ministers, who were just "raised up" by their congregations) was a fascinating character -- and a fine historian, whose books are still worth reading -- and the only American Belknap to be famous enough to be in all the encyclopedias.

MRS MANSFIELD -- I heard from her and from her niece Mrs Hamric, but neither of them has answered my later letters asking for evidence of birth and parentage of the Thomas Belknap who fought in Rev War. My next step, when I find time, will be to try to find a living member of the Newburgh family of Belknap's who can help with the problem of who was the father of that Thomas? -- and was he a legitimate son, or illegitimate? All I know, thus far, is that the father they name was never married. And I can't find any other Newburgh Belknap who could have been his father.Meanwhile, thanks for sending me additional information on this W Va family. I have a full file on it. When and if I get the central puzzle solved, I'll put the whole record together and send a copy to you. . . . The Shara Belknap Curry you mention sounds like a member of that tribe; but I don't recognize the names of her parents. Will look for them and write you if I find them.

ILLEGITIMACY -- My poorly worded query about this question was prompted by the Thomas puzzle (above). I was wondering ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ what is proper practice on the handling of illegitimacy in a published genealogy.

DAVID S BELKNAP -- listed on Tayler's chart. I wrote to him a month or so ago, asking if he is the David who wrote a grumpy letter to Charlene a year or so ago, about the fact that his ancestors weren't on the chart. I had traced the ancestry of that David and wanted to get him to help bring the record up to date. I asked Dick for the address and all he could give me was the address of the David S in Wilton, not sure it was the right David. . . No answer, yet. A young man -- perhaps in Vietnam now? Still don't know whether or not he's the David I want to find.

MOTHER OF MARY NEWTON -- I say her name was Gibbs, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ but I include "Witt" with a question mark because one reliable correspondent has it that way (not Evans but someone trustworthy). Haven't really tried to track this down -- but it looks like one of those instances in which one record shows a widow by her ~~XXXX~~ maiden name and another record shows her by the first husband's name. If so, was she widow of a Gibbs or a Witt? I don't yet know.

WIFE OF ORIN Belknap, son of Jonas Newton Belknap -- sorry my wording isn't clear. She was widow of a Lyman; maiden name Carpenter.

JESSE & JANE, Child 6 -- my grandfather, Cerrington Gavett Belknap. Both of his given names have often been misspelled. Cerrington -- with an O -- was name also given to some children of his aunts and uncles. I've found other similar errors in work by Franklin Belknap, as copied by others. . . Do I understand you to say that you have a set of his 150 page record and can we have a Xerox copy made for me? If so, I'll be delighted to pay the cost -- or perhaps it would be easier for you just to lend it to me for the one day needed for making a copy here in my study.

HUEL BELKNAP -- Copy of most recent letter to him is enclosed.

DELLA from CYB

5/24/71

As I find time, I'll continue typing sheets of my Oregon tribe and send them on to you. Many more to draft.

Meanwhile, here's one just received from another great grandchild of Jesse and Jane, on Hannah Belknap and Lorenzo Dew Gilbert -- who were born on neighboring farms in Ontario Co NY, lived near each other as children in Kentucky, married in Licking County OHIO at the time when all but one of the children of Jonas Newton Belknap were in that county.

This sheet is, I'm sure, completely ~~AMMM~~ accurate on names and dates, though a few such details are left incomplete. I may be able to supply them later on; and will tell you, if I find them. . . . I am not entirely sure the sheet is correct on all the birthplaces. Have asked for proof on some of them. Will tell you if I find corrections to be made.
of the children *****

For your information, I should tell you about a book that you may encounter: author is Edna A Mintenye: They Laughed, Too; published by The Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas. It is mainly the story of the founding and history of Belknap Settlement in Oregon, by Jesse and Jane and their children in 1847 and 1848. A good book in its all

capture of the flavor of the people and their times. But I should warn you that it's a perfect example of the unreliability of local histories, on genealogy. It's full of alleged genealogical data, gathered by hearsay, and almost all of it incorrect. One of my heavy tasks, in recent weeks, has been to try to straighten out a lot of people who have relied on it for genealogy. . . . Me, I learned long ago to regard with acute distrust any genealogical data said to come from a local history -- only very rarely does it turn out to be correct.

Wish so much of my time didn't have to be devoted to tracing and correcting errors. I've got ~~MI~~ to where I trust nothing till I have seen valid evidence supporting it. So I sometimes -- alas -- irritate people like Dick Tayer by refusing to send them information until I have good reason to believe it's substantially correct.

Della Belnap from CYB

Feb 29 1972

In pursuing the record of my gg father Jesse Belknap in War of 1812, I have come across evidence that may lead you to make some changes in your records for the Jesse Jr who was son of Jesse and Eunice Hall. I'm enclosing the papers on this subject and will comment on them. But first let me summarize the genealogical facts that they disclose. (Compare with your ## 58 and 99.)

- The maiden name of the wife of Jesse Jr was not Sarah Camp but Sarah De Camp.
- On 20 July 53 she gave her age as 64. So born presumably in 1789.
But 27 May 1851 she gave her age as 66; which would make her born 1785.
- In 1851 she said she married Jesse Jr in Dec 1802.
But in 1853 she said the marriage was 1 ^{Dec} ~~XXXX~~ 1806, at Genoa, NY (near Locke)
- In 1851 she said Jesse Jr died 1 July 1849, at North East Pa. And a J. L. De Camp, probably her brother, gave that same date. In 1853, she and others gave this date again.
- There is nothing in the papers to help us choose between the varying figures for her age (and birth) -- and the varying dates for her marriage -- as both sets of figures show her as marrying at age 17. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The apparent confirmation by two persons in 1853 can't be taken too literally, as they obviously just signed an affidavit prepared by some one else.
(But see last ~~XXXX~~ on page 2)

Before discussing the papers, maybe I should warn you not to take too seriously the fact that Jesse Jr was a deserter. The record of N Y militia in 1812 was a sad one, with men much dissatisfied with their officers. Many hundreds of men, like Jesse Jr, just got fed up and went home -- so many that no effort to punish them was ever made.

Now, the papers. They divide into three groups.

MILITARY RECORD

Red A and B -- copies from payroll, obtained from NY State offices, Albany -- showing Jesse Jr paid to Nov 28 1812 but having deserted before next pay day.

Red C from National Archives, card copied from muster roll -- showing him present on Dec 20. Red D, same source, copied from payroll Dec 20 showing him paid to Nov 28 (as in Red B).

SARAH'S 1851 APPLICATION for Bounty Land under act of Sept 28, 1850. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

1-a : Application in long hand, prepared by Justice of the Peace, M. Norton,
& b : signed by mark by Sarah. Shows maiden name as De Camp. Sarah then living in Harmony, Chatauqua Co., NY

2-a & b: Affidavit signed by J. L. De Camp (note large C in signature) and accompanying certification of Norton's office -- signed by a clerk named Green, but in Norton's handwriting in body of certification.

DELLA from CYB

July 14 1971

I'm most grateful for the copy of the records of Franklin Belknap. Though I've not yet tried to study them in detail, I've seen enough to assure me that they'll be useful in many ways.

Of course they contain, as I'm sure you know, some stuff that must be disregarded -- such as material copied from the early work of Lewis Felt (long since disproved, especially his invention of a non-existent Jeremy son of Abraham). And there will be problems in weighing some contradictory statements in his notes -- plus points on which the information he got is completely at variance with well-established facts.

But I shouldn't dwell on the errors in his grab bag of miscellaneous information from all sorts of sources.

I should be -- and am -- grateful for the new things in his pages and the way they suggest how to search for reliable confirmation.

Many thanks.

(B-11)

File

DELLA from CYB

July 5 1971

You're a dear -- or have I said this before?

I'm grateful for the sheet of information you sent on June 30 -- most helpful, especially on identification of parentage of the Belknaps at Belknap Springs and Belknap Crater in Oregon -- something I hadn't found before.

And I'll be delighted to have the set of Franklin Belknap's records, which I've been eager to see, for I have a number of questions or doubts about some of the entries credited to him by those who have used his work. . . I hope his sheets name sources, so that I can trace them. Worst problem I have is trouble with questionable data shown with no indication of source -- or, as often in case of Evans, with incorrect statement of source, such as naming a book or other record that I find contains not one word on the person concerned, which leaves me high and dry in my search for confirmation.

Now, your generous offer to have a Xerox copy made of the pages from Leora Belknap's book. I'm delightedly enclosing a check for \$5. to cover copying and postage.

If I can ever help you by making copies of material on my copying machine here in my study, please don't hesitate to say so. I couldn't do my work without this machine -- both for copying records that are lent to me and also for making copies of material I write, for many people who should have it.

I wish I had time to do what you do -- ~~REXNER~~ enter new information in final form in my organized records. I'm kept⁸ busy collecting information from many people that there are possibly 1,000 -- or more -- names that are still just notes, not yet really entered and systematized. . . Plus many sets of detailed notes on corrections of errors made by H W Belknap years ago -- misidentifications of parentage, mostly -- sometimes involving hundreds of names -- requiring almost endless search for original documentation, in order to make sure the revision is needed and warranted.

At the moment, I'm having to defer further work on descendants of Jonas Newton Belknap -- but I'll get back to it when I can⁴, for my files have almost all the data that I need, on this subject. I'll send it along to you, when, as, and if I get back to it.

Thanks again,

Correll

DELLA BELNAP from Carroll T Belnap

Jan 23 1973

Page 1 of the records enclosed with Mr Field's letter 11 Nov 1971 to W D Belnap shows the following transcript from Essex Quarter Sessions Rolls:

Roll No. 247-16: Norrington 29 Oct 1624 at Loughton. stole 7 white ewes each worth 5s. of Abraham Belknappe. Pleads not guilty.

If "at Loughton" indicates where Abraham lived at that time, we then have something that may help to fill the gap between 1620 and 1627, in our knowledge of where he lived in England after his marriage.

I think it likely that "Loughton" is a variant spelling of Latton -- the name of the parish in which Abraham married Mary Stallion. My reasons:

- In the spelling of that time, "su" was a frequent variant of "a." For example, the name Frances was often spelled ~~frances~~ as in the case of Abraham's sister. Frances.
- An "a" may easily have been miscopied as "o." The spelling originally may have been Loughton -- which would have been pronounced just like Latton -- i.e., "lahton."
- Old maps of or near that period show only a Latton in Essex -- no Loughton nor any similar place name.
- All of the places where Abraham has previously been found are close together in a small area -- Sawbridgeworth, Notteswell, Nprth Weald, Epping -- and Latton is in that area, only one mile from Notteswell..

I may be misintepreting the significance of the words "at Loughton." Perhaps they do not indicate Abraham's location. But on the assumption that they do, I have summarized on the attached sheet what is now known -- to myself -- about the places where Abraham was in the years between his marriage and his emigration.

If I err in this matter, I'll be most grateful for comments and corrections.

And I think I should ask a question:

Have the parish records of Latton been searched, for the years between 1620 and 1627?

ABRAHAM BELKNAP
RESIDENCE LOCATIONS IN ENGLAND (as known Jan 1973)

DATE ^{style} (1621-1638)	EVENT	PLACE OF ABRAHAM
1617 26 Oct	Married	Latten, Essex
1618		
1619		
1620 1 Dec	Burial of child Abraham	Nettewell (1 mile from Latten)
1621		
1622		
1623 14 Apr	Bennet's will mentions A's 2nd son Abraham (other names unknown)	
1624 21 May	Death of Bennet (burial)	
20 Oct	Trial of Harrington for theft	Loughton (Latten?)
1625 2 March	Burial of A's son David	North Weald (6 miles from Latten)
1627 31 Jan	Deposition signed by mark "A"	" "
1628 16 March	Baptism of A's son Samuel	" "
1629		
1630 7 Feb	Baptism of A's daughter Dorcas	" "
1631		
1632		
1633 12 May	Baptism of A's son John Joseph	" "
1634		
1635 10 May	Baptism of son John	" "
1636		
1637		
1638	A was allotted land in Lynn, Mass.	

NOTE: Banks, Topographical Dictionary, etc., gives Epping, Essex, as place from which Abraham emigrated, but does not show date and does not name source of his information. This does not necessarily indicate residence at Epping. May merely mean that this was where he signed up for passage to Massachusetts Bay at some time after 10 May 1635, and before ~~1638~~ date of allotment in 1638. Epping is only 4 miles from North Weald, and was nearest large town.

Jan 23 1973

Dear Della:

The copies of the English reports arrived yesterday. I'm immensely grateful. As I dig deeper, I may be able to reciprocate by supplying copies of other records which may not be in the hands of your people. For the moment, I'm enclosing a copy of the deposition made by Abraham at Northwold on the chance that it may be useful, if you want to pass it along. I copied it from HW Belknap's files -- omitting all but the two pages on which Abraham's deposition appears.

In his 1931 piece in the REGISTER, HCB mentioned this deposition but did not reprint it. So perhaps you people don't yet have it.

There are a number of points on which I should comment, in this new material. I'll do it as soon as I can.

Meanwhile, I'm enclosing two copies of a memorandum dealing with one bit of information that is new to me -- one copy for you, and one for you to pass on if you wish to do so. I'll be most grateful for comments on it and additions to it.

Thankfully,

Jan 23 1973

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DATE ^{style} (new style)	EVENT	PLACE OF ABRAHAM
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1632		
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Abraham

26 Oct
1617 Latton - married

6 Dec
1620 Nettesmell - 1st ch. Buried (1 mile from Latton)

14 Apr
1623 ? - Bennetsmell - 2nd son Abraham alive
20 Oct 1622 Kington (Latton?) Trial of Navigation May 1624
Bennet Buried

2 March
1624/25 Northwold - son David Buried
(6 miles from Latton)

31 Jan 1626/7 - Northwold Lane - deposition
16 March
1627/8 Northwold - Samuel Baptized

Dorcas Baptized

7 Feb 1628/30 ✓

12 May 1633 ✓

10 May 1635 ✓

Joseph ✓
John ✓

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