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p. 60

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Reis from Mylissa Dreythaler, 1971

Pilgrim Belknap and Descendants

Pilgrim Belknap married ^{Anna} Ann Colvin
 born 1795-? born 3 January 1799 in Vermont (Anson record, 1860)
 married died 13 March 1881 (G.S.)
 born in, Galway, N.Y. married daughter of
 died in Conquest, N.Y. 23 Feb 1869 at 74 (G.S.) &
~~lived in Vermont as a child~~

Children: (order of birth unknown:) all born in Conquest, New York

1. Mary born died,
2. Franklin " " South during war,
3. Edwin Oscar, " 18 Nov. 1824, died 19 June 1875,
4. Lyman Mortimer, " 16 September 1826, died 29 March 1908, Cass City Mich.
5. Ann, " 1832 died
6. Cordelia, " "
7. Levi, " 22 May 1836 " living 1912, Cats, NY
8. Alsemina, 21? " 28 Oct 1833 " 3 Oct 1882?
9. Matilda, " 1843 "
10. Jane, " 1839 "

1. Mary Belknap married Isaac Beebe,
 married born
 lived in died of
 &

Child:

2. Andrew, born, died,
- Franklin Belknap married Esther Cool,
 married born
 lived in, died
 daughter of
 &

Children:

Fidelia, born, died,
 Henrietta, " " "
 William " " "
 Willis " " "
 Franklin " " "

3. Edwin Oscar Belknap married Ann Evelyn Butler,
 married 1848, born
 lived in, died,
 daughter of Z. Butler
 &

Children:

- Lyman Edwin, born, 13 Nov 1857 died, living 1913 lived in Oregon, Mich.
11. Rhoda, " " " Mich.

4. Lyman Mortimer Belknap married Elizabeth Dodge,
 married 1 Oct. 1854, born
 lived in, ~~Cass City Mich.~~ Mayville, Mich. died, 15 March 1879, Mayville, Mich.
 daughter of
 &

Children:

12. Ida, NY State born, 24 February 1856, died,
13. James Edgar, " " 27 December 1857, "
14. Cordelia, " " 20 August 1860, "
15. Lavinia, Mayville, Mich. " 12 July 1863, "
16. Isaac Alfred, " " 12 February 1866, "
17. Ellsworth Howard, " " 5 May 1869, "

(first 3 born in N.Y. State, last 3 in Mayville, Michigan)

5. Ann Belknap married Philip Goodnote,
 married, born
 lived in, died, Spring Lake, NY
 son of
 &

Child:

6. Flora, born, died, lived in Spring Lake, NY
- Cordelia Belknap married Alpheus Dodge,
 married born
 lived in, died
 son of
 &

no children.

7. Levi Belknap married (1) Adila Shawman daughter of
 married born died,
 married (2) Anna daughter of
 married born died,

1879, Julia Allen
 2 Jan 1855 Richard Allen
 1882 in Mayville, Mich.

Levi, cont'd by 2nd wife Adelbert b 1898

Child: ^{1st wife} Melvin Pilgrim, born, 22 April 1869, died, living 1912, Cato, N.Y.

8. ^{2nd wife} Alsemina Belknap married Norman Goodell, born, 31 July 1826, died, 10 Sept 1880, son of
lived in, Conquest NY

Children:
Adelbert, born, 1866 died, 1951 (8.5) m. Dora 1865-1949 (8.5.)
Levi, J

9. Matilda Belknap married Joseph Thompson, born, died, son of &
lived in,

Children:
Marshall, born, died,
Merton, "
Jane Belknap married Joseph Thompson, born, died, son of &
lived in,

10. Children:
born, died,
" "
" "
Rhoda Belknap married Spencer Harmon, born, died, son of &
married lived in, Tuscola Co., Mich

11. Ida Belknap married William Shay, born, died,
married lived in Cass City, died, married in La Peer, Michigan son of
Children: &
Hugh William, born, died, Edgar, "

12. James Edgar Belknap married Ruth Culver, born, died, daughter of
married 27 March 1880 lived in Cass City, married in Mayville no children. &

13. Cordelia Belknap married John Fiddymont, born, died,
married lived in Plainfield, Illinois son of &

14. Child:
Howard John, born, died,
Lavinia Belknap married James Clark, born, died, 15 September 1910, son of &
married lived in Silverwood, Michigan

15. Children:
Florence, born, died m. 1 March 1908, Arthur Flynn, Cass City, Mich
Lottie, born, died,
Cordelia, born, died,
Isaac Alfred Belknap married Bessie Sugden, born, died, daughter of
married 1 July 1893, lived in Mayville, Mich.

16. Children:
Harmon Ellsworth, born, died,
Elizabeth, " "
Grace, " "
Hazel, " "
Ruth, " "
Dorothy, " "
Ellsworth Howard Belknap married Mary Fiddymont, born, died, daughter of
married 6 Dec. 1892, lived in Detroit, Mich.
married in Joliet, Illinois Children: Plainfield, Ill. &
Laura May, born, 2 Oct. 1893, died,
Leon Ellsworth, born 18 July 1899, died
Ivin Frederick, born 17 Oct. 1902, died

G. Chicago
Haight, Ill.

18.

Melvin Belknap
Eva Belknap - Wife
Children: *Cartner*

Born 1869
Born 1876

Died 1934
Died 1951

1. Emmett

Born 1891

Born: son William
" Kenneth

daughter Irene Lockwood

2. Ruth (Burghduff)

Born 1893

Widowed

Born: daughter Isabelle Vesp

" Freda Warner

3. Clarence

Born 1895

Deceased

Born: son Robert

daughter Mary (Nancy) Shaw

X 4. Judith

Born 1898

died 1909

5. Mylisa (Dreythaler)

Born 1899

Widowed

Born: daughter Lois Foster

6. Roland

Born 1901

died 1968

7. Kieth

Born 1903

single

8. Madeline (O'Brien)

" 1904

widowed

Born: son Frederick

" Thomas

daughter Esther Brock

daughter Mary Jean Norton

" Elizabeth Edmunds

Born 1910

X 9. Dorsell

Born: son Herbert

10. Addie (Coggen)

Born 1911

widowed

Born: daughter Doris McKeon

" Norma Chamberlain

" Mary Lou Bender

X 11. Roscoe

Born 1913

Born: son James

daughter Kay Rice

" Eleanor Babcock

X 12. Paul

Born 1914

Born: son Paul J.

daughter Caro Dudden

*Dates in this were stated by the father,
Melvin P. A. in 1912.*

X Not listed by the father in 1912.

JOHN C. LAPIANA
313 COOPER LANE
DEWITT, N. Y. 13214

30 August 1975

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06876

Dear Carroll:

Thank you for your letter of the 26th, tactless as it was- for I am not easily offended and appreciate the direction you have always been willing to give. I have taken much encouragement from you and am doing my best to turn up bits of new data.

In response to your questions- No, I honestly did not note the parents of Mary Newton as listed in Clinton Belknap's family group sheet. I am not used to that format of sheet and therefore overlooked it! It does seem strange though that two Mary Newton's were born on the same date, you must admit!

As far as making the assumption that someone had overlooked any printed sources- I think it is far worse an error to EVER assume that anyone or two people have ever seen ALL that is in print on any family. I have been into our family in this country and abroad for the past 15 years and am sure that I have not seen nearly all that is in print.

My greatest efforts, by far, for the past six months, have been searching for proof positive that Stephan was the son of Samuel. I have read the entire 1810 New York State Census and there is nothing therein. I am a good ways into the 1820 Census- but that is going slowly because of the volume and due to the fact that our library is closed on Saturdays for the summer-reopening the last Saturday in September. But to date I have not found Stephan.

Further, I have checked local records in all the "probable" areas- for a death records of Stephan- any year. The Archives at Fonda have a good collection of this type data and I had high hopes- their church records are especially good- but I have found nothing.

Finally, I spent a good deal of time trying to recover the records of Mina Beebe and George DeGroff which are cited in the Evans manuscript. At one time I thought that I was going to get into the Beebe records, but am now convinced what ever existed is no longer available. You can be sure that these efforts will continue and I will pass along any "finds". Meanwhile, your encouragement is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


John C. LaPiana

JOHN LAPIANA from CIB

26 Aug 1975

Dear me, dear me. . . How am I to answer your letter of 24 Aug? . . . Should I just be courteous and thank you for sending me the information about Mary Newton? This would be easy to do. But in fairness to you, I don't think I should do it.

Instead, I think, I should try to steer you into the new research that is really needed, rather than encourage you to repeat what has been known for many years. So, some tactless questions:

-- Didn't you note that Clinton Belknap's chart for the Belchertown family showed the parentage of Mary Newton?

-- How could you assume that people who have been working on Belknap genealogy for many years were unacquainted with the printed sources that you examined?

I beg you to devote your time to searching for what is not yet known, rather than wasting it on data long familiar to all Belknap genealogists.

What needs to be tackled is the job of finding acceptable proof of the ^{parentage of the} Stephen who was father of Pilgrim.

Tactlessly.

Bill

24 August 1975

compiled by Ermina Newton Leonard. Therein, p. 72 are listed the five children on Stephan⁴(John³,², Richard¹) and Mary⁴(Witt) Newton:

- "
- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Mary | b. 8 Nov 1737, bapt. 9 Apr 1738 |
| 2. James (or Jonas) | b. 18 Mar 1740; d. 3 Nov 1753,
ae 13 yrs. 7 mos. 16 dys. |
| 3. Oliver | b. 2 Apr 1742 m. Rebecca _____ |
| 4. Sarah | b. 29 Nov 1745 |
| 5. Asa | b. 13 Apr 1748: Asa was a soldier of the Revolution; "Newton, Asa, Belchertown. Private in Capt. John Cowles' Company, of Col. Woodbridge's regiment; marched April 20, 1775 in response to Alarm of April 19, 1775. I have nothing further of him or them except what is recorded in the First United States Census, 1790, which shows the following: "Asa Newton of Belchertown, Mass., head of a family consisting of himself, three males upward of sixteen years, one male under sixteen years, and six females". A large family to leave out of this record. " |

Now, you will note that this family was in Belchertown, which is another plus in our favor. The dates of Asa's birth in the two records are not the same. However, I can always excuse anyone who reads a "3" as an "8" or the other way around.

From this same genealogy, I have the following information:

John³ m. Hannah⁴ Morse (Joseph³,²,¹)

John² m. Elizabeth² Larkin (Edward)

Richard¹ m. Ann² Loker (Henry)

If you like, I can make copies of these data and send them on to you. The whole thing is contained in less than a dozen pages of the genealogy.

As the same time I was searching, I asked a friend of ours in Los Angeles, who does a lot of genealogy as a hobby and being retired, has the time- to look for the lineage of Mary Newton. I gave him only the fact that she was "of E. Windsor, and b. 8 Nov 1737". He came back with a report as I found, which makes me a bit more confident that it is a proper line. We will not cast it into stone yet though!

Will be interested in your comments on the above and thank you for keeping me up to date on your progress.

Most sincerely,


John C. LaPiana

JOHN C. LAPIANA
313 COOPER LANE
DEWITT, N. Y. 13214

24 August 1975

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Carroll:

I am always delighted to hear from you and am afraid that I have not been as prompt at reply as to indicate same. We just got back from a vacation with the older two children and with that done- faced with returning to work- I have resolved to clean up my desk and get caught up before the Labor Day weekend! And then I remember what is said about the best made plans, and try not to despair.

You wrote Jane Bowman that you had some reservations about the Mary Newton whom I believe to be ours- therefore let me tell you what and where I think that I found her and you can poke holes in it as you see fit. I first went to the data you had sent some months ago and all I could find was that she was "of E. Windsor, Conn.". Then I got a copy of a family group sheet from E. Clinton that gave a birth-date of 8 Nov 1737. Armed with those two facts, I went off to the library on a hunt for a Mary Newton who was born at that place on that date. Stiles "Ancient Windsor" gave me the first clue for therein, p. 534 I found Mary Newton, a daughter of Stephan who was b. the right date. Of course, I did not stop hunting there either, even though it made delightful sense that she would name a son after her Dad!

Checking still further in the same book, p. 727, I found a note that Stephan NEWTON, wife not recorded, had the following issue:

1. Mary	b. 8 Nov 1737	
2. James	b. 18 Mar 1740	d. 3 Nov 1753
3. Oliver	b. 2 Apr 1742	
4. Asa	b. 13 Apr 1743	
5. Sarah	b. 29 Nov 1745	

Now, by this time I was getting really excited for this could well be our Mary. Samuel and Mary Belknap's first child was b. 8 Nov 1754- Samuel would have been 24 and she was 18- not impossible by any standard.

I nearly knocked down a bunch of people in a frantic run to get the "Newton Genealogy" by Richard Newton to see if these facts would allow us to "hook on" to the people who were described therein. NO- let me restate the source: Newton Genealogy being a record of the Descendants of Richard Newton of Sudbury and Marlborough, Mass. 1638 as

NAME.

Belknap, Pilgrim

RANK.

Priv.

ORGANIZATION.

Capt. Rufus M. Cady.

CO. OF

Col. Daniel Davis.

REGIMENT.

PAID FROM

June. 29

181

2

TO

July. 10

181

2

\$

2. 66

REMARKS.

N. Allen. P. M.

Yow. 276.

In Service at Lewiston, N. Y.

Roll. 1033.

Genevieve County No.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

ZIP CODE

John C. LaPiana
313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214





MRS. EZRA A. BOWMAN
P.O. BOX 1335
AVALON, CA 90704

Pilgrim

Stephen

May 17 1974

Mrs Ezra A Bowman
P O Box 1335
Avalon, California 90704

Dear Jane:

finding

A progress report⁴ to date -- or rather "no progress." . . . All my efforts to trace Hesekish in hope of ~~finding~~ a link to Stephen and Pilgrim have come up blank, this far. No record in Massachusetts after 1790, when he was at Wardtown, Mass. No record in Vermont. No deeds, will, intestate proceedings there.

Haven't yet tried New Hampshire, to which his oldest brother went. Perhaps Hesekish went there, instead of Vermont.

An unanswered letter from you -- 13 Nov. Many things got neglected in recent months. I apologize. . . Thanks for copies of Bible pages, etc.

You asked about my great great grandfather, Jonas Newton Belknap. A 6th generation descendant of Abraham, through A's son Samuel. Enlisted at 16 -- on Bunker Hill three weeks later, beside his father who died next day -- served through entire Rev War -- was at Saratoga and Yorktown. About 1790, left Belchertown, Mass. for New York State, where he lived till 1816 or 1819. In Kentucky 1820 -- died there in 1824. His son Jesse eventually led a tribe, including all his children and their spouses and children plus various relatives by marriage, to the Willamette Valley in Oregon, in 1848.

Newburgh Belknaps were descendants of Abraham's other son, Joseph. So only very distantly related to my branch. But all Belknaps are cousins in one way or another.

I'm enclosing a copy of a memo on our English ancestors. It was prepared to deal with a problem about inheritance. But it gives the essential facts about line of descent thus far traced. No link has yet been found to the earlier family founded by Sir Robert Belknap, Chief Justice of Common Pleas under Richard II. If such a link were found, we could call ourselves cousins of the present Queen -- and William Shakespeare, too. But it would probably be an illegitimate connection, putting up in the company of a few kings and innumerable dukes.

Yesterday I sent copies of my letters to you -- to John Sherman pp in hope he may help.

Cordially,

Mrs. Ezra A. Bowman,
P.O. Box 1335
Avalon, Ca 90704

Carroll Yorke Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878



13 November 1973

Dear Carroll,

Last Saturday, I planned to visit the Mormon library, but, instead I sat in our beautiful sunshine waiting for a plane that never came. The mainland was fogged in, so there was no transportation to and from the island. John Sherman spent the day at the library expecting me to arrive. Sometimes, it is very inconvenient to live on an island, but it also has advantages. I'll try to get there during my Christmas vacation.

I am sending you copies of the Bible pages and the reference for Uncle Ray. Since I do have the originals, I can have other copies made when I go over again. These are for your files. I am still getting material from the present generation and will send it to you when I am satisfied. So many do not understand the importance of location, even though they know it, and dates do seem to vary.

My cousin, Betty Belknap Barckhoff, took care of her Uncle Steve during his last years. She tells me that Riley had a speech impediment and that he had always said "Lebe" instead of "Steve". I really have nothing but this to explain the Lebe you got from John W. I asked her on the phone a few weeks ago.

Yes, I would like to have a copy of the information you have gathered, if possible. I will be glad to pay for the copy-work. Just let me know. I am quite interested in who Jonas, your grandfather, was. I never heard of either him or of Jesse. Is Isaac Belknap of Newburgh, Ulster County, NY part of this family, too? I have run across him in my research.

I will certainly keep you posted on any information I may find. Since I do work during the winter, my hours on the mainland are limited, but I will do my best.

Sincerely,



Jane Bowman

FAMILY RECORD.

DEATHS.

Little Snow Drop, born to Clara & Herman
came into our hearts and home one day
in August 1903 and departed on the next day
a little angel of purity and love.

Ray Hermore - May 10 - 1918 son

Lula Elizabeth - June 19 - 1929 ^{grand} daughter

Betsy Clarke (Mother) June 22 - 1929

Allen Edward - Oct. 20 - 1932 son

Edward Eastman - Father Aug. 19 - 1939

3)
There is another sheet that
has not been copied yet.
It deals with other births.

FAMILY RECORD.

11-10-1918

BIRTHS.

Children,
Clark Hiram Belknap,
born in Auburn, Ia.,
Iowa, Sunday, Sep. 11, 1876
Ray Hiram Belknap,
Auburn, Fayette Co., Iowa,
August-8, 1878, on Sunday
Arthur Aldrich Belknap,
in Auburn, Fayette Co., Iowa,
Friday, March 16, 1883.
Allen Edward Belknap, born
Auburn, Fayette Co., Iowa, Monday,
September 15, 1884.
Ruel Kendall Belknap, born in
Auburn on Sunday, June 23, 1889
Fayette Co.,
Iowa

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.

Parents.
December 12, 1875, Edward Carl
man Belknap to Betty Watson
Clark in the town of C. Iowa, Payette
County, Iowa.

Children
September 27, 1898, Clark Hiram
Belknap to Genevieve Elizabeth
Stranger, Payette, Payette Co., Iowa.

May 26, 1902, Ray Herman
Belknap to Edith Laura H. Brown
West Union, Payette Co., Iowa.

In Alpha, Arthur Aldrich Belknap
to Sadie Ruth Panch on Monday
Aug 31st 1908 -

In Payette, June 13-17 13, William
Reid Kendall Belknap to Elizabeth
Candler -

In Burlington, Iowa, May 19-1914, Allen
Edward Belknap to Hannah Bangor

a resident of McHenry county, Illinois. During his youth there, on May 7, 1862, he married Amelia Tromblee, who was born in Champlain county, New York, September 29, 1843. In the autumn of 1866 they moved to Fayette county, Iowa, where they made their home until they died. Mrs. Van Bogart died September 4, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Van Bogart were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Curtis was the second child in order of birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis have been blessed with six children: Keith A., born October 1, 1885, and married to Birdie Hayden in 1904; they have two children and reside at Randalia, Iowa; Ella A., born December 24, 1887, wife of Forest Jones, and make their home at Alpha, Iowa; Everett F., born October 27, 1889; Edna O., born March 18, 1891; Hugh C., born May 10, 1893; Harold G., born November 19, 1896. The last four named live with their parents.

R. H. BELKNAP.

A prominent and influential citizen of this locality is R. H. Belknap, the present superintendent of schools of Fayette county. He was born in Auburn township, August 8, 1878, of Scotch-Irish descent. The family records show that Pilgrim and Stephen Belknap, brothers, came from Scotland in an early day and settled in New York state. Hiram Belknap, the son of Stephen Belknap and the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in New York state, September 3, 1808. He was married to Sarah Eastman, a native of New York, in the year 1836. To these were born five sons and two daughters: Charles Hiram, born August 25, 1847, is now a resident of Rapid City, South Dakota; Sarah Jewett, born February 22, 1849, is now living at Petaluma, California; George William, born in 1841, is now a resident of Madison, South Dakota; Stephen Edgar, born March 25, 1848, is now a resident of Waterville, Minnesota; Riley Russell, born December 12, 1849, is now living in Dexter, Kansas; Edward Eastman, born May 18, 1851, lives in Fayette, Iowa; Edith Esula, born January 23, 1854, is now living in Oklauga, South Dakota. These children were all born in New York state. The three eldest brothers served in the United States army during the Civil war.

In 1856 the Hiram Belknap family moved from New York to Wisconsin, which was a great undertaking in those days. From there they moved in 1863 to Auburn, Fayette county, Iowa. At this time, Auburn was one of the largest towns of Fayette county and Hiram plied his trade, that of a shoe-maker, with great success.

A peculiar feature of this family was that both parents were cripples, Hiram having lost a leg in early life, and Sarah having suffered a paralytic stroke at the age of sixteen years from which she never fully recovered. Hiram died in December, 1873, as the result of a fall on the ice, while returning from the village store. After the death of Hiram, Sarah lived with her children the rest of her days. She died at the home of her daughter Edith, at Madison, South Dakota, at the age of eighty-four years.

The ancestry on the mother's side extends back into colonial days and is given briefly as follows:

Joseph Clark, the grandson of a ship carpenter, was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, May 19, 1719. Joseph Clark, the second, married a Miss Taylor, and to them were born three children. Joseph Clark, the third, married a Miss Lane, January 15, 1777, and settled in New Hampshire. He died June 25, 1810, and his widow died January 11, 1825; one child was born to them. James Clark, born February 15, 1784, married Polly Hinton, of Andover, New Hampshire, on October 2, 1808. She was born April 5, 1782, and died November 8, 1857; he died June 15, 1861. There were nine children born to James and Polly Clark, viz: Samuel Adams, Joseph, Charles, Dearborn, Martha, Mary, Kendall, Charlotte, Louisa.

Kendall Peabody Clark, the seventh child of James and Polly Clark, was born in Franklin, New Hampshire, December 6, 1820. At the age of twenty-three he settled in Portland, Dodge county, Wisconsin. On the 7th of May, 1848, he led to the marriage altar Betsey L. Wicker, who was born in Muckwonago, Wisconsin, July 6, 1828. One child was born March 4, 1850, who was named Betsey L. Clark. On the 19th of March of the same year the mother died, leaving the child to the care of the father. The child prospered, and in the course of time was married to Edward Belknap, and became the mother of the subject of this sketch. This will be related later. April 18, 1852, Kendall was again married, this time to Melissa L. Larrabee, who was born in Bennington, New York, June 30, 1832. As a result of this marriage, eight children were born, namely: James K., born June 20, 1853; Mary, born January 19, 1855; died March 29, 1856; Melissa L., born April 12, 1857; Fanny F., born April 9, 1859; Jennie L., born April 26, 1864, and died August 2, 1883; Mattie, born February 8, 1864, and died July 31, 1885; Charles Cyrus, born May 16, 1866; Nellie F., born June 23, 1872, and died July 23, 1892. The mother of this family died October 22, 1884. Kendall Peabody Clark was one of the first settlers in Dodge county, Wisconsin. He, with his brother, Dearborn, and a Mr. Hayes, built the first log house, dug the first well, and broke the first land in Portland township. The following is from

his obituary: "Mr. Clark was a practical surveyor, and for the past twenty years has been successively elected county surveyor of Dodge county. In the exercise of the duties of his position he proved himself reliable and accurate. In public as well as in private affairs the deceased has always borne an honorable part. He has ever enjoyed the implicit confidence of his fellow citizens, and his conduct upon all occasions was never such as to arouse suspicion or create distrust. He represented Dodge county in the Legislature, our village on the county board of supervisors, and has served on the village board and on the school board. In these several positions, strict regard for the interests confided to his care characterized his actions. His sudden loss is regretted by his large circle of friends, who speak of him in terms of praise—the highest tribute at their command. The Masonic fraternity, of which he has long been a member, had charge of the interment of his body. The services were held at his residence on Friday forenoon. His remains were then accompanied by a large procession to the family cemetery near the village of Portland. His death occurred on the 19th of March, 1890."

Betsey L. Clark, the mother of the subject of this sketch, came to the town of Auburn, Fayette county, Iowa, in March, 1873, to visit with her uncle, Ruel Parker. While with him she taught school in the village of Auburn, and it was during this time that she became acquainted with Edward E. Belknap. This acquaintance ripened into love and finally culminated in their marriage.

Edward Belknap was united in marriage to Betsey L. Clark, December 12, 1875. They first set up housekeeping in a log house on the south bank of the Turkey river, in Auburn township, Fayette county, Iowa. Edward has always been a hardworking man, being a farmer, thresher, wood-dealer, store-keeper, stock-dealer, always ready to buy when he could see a chance to make a dollar. He has ever been a man of his word, generous to his competitor, but never seeking quarter for himself. Betsey, his wife, is one of those quiet, unassuming gentlewomen. She has ever been a Christian lady and loving mother. To these, the father and mother of the subject, were born five sons, namely: Clark Hiram, born September 17, 1876, married Genevieve Strayer, September 5, 1898; she was born August 1, 1875. They have two sons, Jamison, aged eleven, and Hugh, aged nine. Clark is now practicing law in the town of McIntosh, South Dakota. The next child, the subject of this sketch, was born August 8, 1878. These two children were born in the log house mentioned above. In the winter of 1878-79 the family moved into a stone house which had been built on a small knoll back of the log house. Arthur Aldrich was born March 16, 1883, and married Sadie Finch.

August 31, 1907. She was born January 29, 1883. Arthur is now superintendent of schools at Strawberry Point, Iowa. Allen Edward, who was born September 15, 1884, is now in Canada. Ruel Kendall, born June 23, 1889, is now attending school at Upper Iowa University. The parents of this family are now residing in Fayette, Iowa, where they moved for the purpose of educating their children.

R. H. Belknap, of this review, was educated in the Fayette public schools and in Upper Iowa University; he also holds a diploma from the American School of Correspondence in the course of municipal engineering. Upon reaching maturity he married Edith Laura McGoon, May 26, 1902. She is a lady of culture and education and is the daughter of R. F. McGoon and wife.

Joseph McGoon was born in New Hampshire, from which state he removed in an early day to New York state. Richard McGoon, his son, was born January 17, 1826, in Cayuga county, New York. On November 4, 1847, at Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin, he led to the marriage altar Maria Wood. To these twelve children were born, of whom R. F. McGoon, the father-in-law of the subject, was the third. He was born January 13, 1852. The other children who are now living are: Andrew, now living in Kilbourn City, Wisconsin; Sadie is a resident of St. Paul; Martha and Ella live in Monticello, Wisconsin; Addie lives in Belleville, Wisconsin; Albert is a resident of Hawkeye, Iowa; Arthur lives in West Union, Iowa, and Ernest in Utah. Maroa, Emma and Etta are deceased. Richard P. McGoon's grandfather participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, and he himself was a member of Company I, Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteers, in the Civil war. He died at Monticello, Wisconsin, in the winter of 1903.

Josiah Pierce was a native of New England. He was born May 21, 1786, and died December 25, 1845. Albert Henry Pierce, son of Josiah Pierce, was born April 28, 1820. He married Elizabeth Becker, who was born August 10, 1834, in the town of Clayton, New York. The marriage was solemnized November 28, 1852, at Washington, Wisconsin. Four children were born to them, of whom three are now living: Irwin and Florence, at Monticello, Wisconsin, and Burton, at Drosshead, Wisconsin. Ruth, who afterward became Mrs. R. F. McGoon, was born September 12, 1853, and died at Hawkeye, Iowa, December 19, 1901. Albert Pierce was a prominent citizen of his community, being twice elected to the Legislature of Wisconsin.

R. F. McGoon was married to Ruth Pierce, February 12, 1873, and, with his wife, drove from Monticello, Wisconsin, to Alpha, Iowa, in the spring of

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
28 September 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Carroll:

Must tell you first off that I am making carbon copies of this letter for Jane Bowman and Paul Belknap. I want to spread all the data I can far and wide and do not have the time to write that many letters! As it is I am about 20 years behind and have so little free time to devote to my avocation. Would quit my job in a minute but the family has grown too used to eating! Have to excuse all the mistakes- but after 7 hours of reading census records, I can not see that well! Made the most of the first searching day I have had since last June! So did a lot of other people- really a crowd there. I am not suprised to read that genealogy is the third most popular hobby in the U.S.- to stamps and coins in that order! Our local "room" can hold 30-35 comfortably and there must have been close to 50 there today. They have but two microfilm readers- and that means that it is really a scrap to get one! I've waited in line for a lot of things- but microfilm readers????

Did the whole 1810 Cayuga County Census- and therein found two BELKNAPS. at p. 1111, Locke were two: viz Jesse Belknap 11101 20010 and Jesse Belknap, Jr., 10101 10100. At page 1254, William BELKNAP with a 00001 010010. Thats all there was there!

Next I turned to the Herkimer County Census for 1810: p. 101, Frankfort, Abel BELKNAP, Jr. 10100 00100; p. 105, German Flats, John: 01011 02001; P. 152, Litchfield, Abel 01101 21210. Page 153, Litchfield: Edward: 00101 01201.. Nothing too exciting, so I went on to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties for 1810 and found NOTHING- going on to 1820 in those two counties there was but one entry, p. 150 of 1820 at Hopkinton, St. Lawrence Co. was Joshua with a male under 10, a male 10-26 and a female also 16-26.

Still able to see, I went to the Ontario County Census for 1810 and therein found: p. 55, Bristol. Jonas 02001 11001. P. 173, Honeoye: Elijah: 10100 10100 and the next entry Elisha 10100 00100. At p. 174, also in Honeoye was: Seth 00101 00010 and (strange) Sally: 00000 20100! NOW WHO WAS SHE?????

Page Two (2)
Continued

By that time, I had read as much as I could and my eyes were ready for a rest- so I turned to printed documents.

Went through ten volumes of cemetery records collected and by those lovely little old women in tennis shoes- and my wife is one of them- so I can say that! But the DAR hit every cemetery- even those with 2-3 people in the WHOLE county. Checked well for any BELKNAP and here is what I found:

Pine Hill Cemetery, Troop: Belknap, Roland 1901-19 ..
his wife Ruth A. 1900-1949.

At Auburn's North Street Cemetery: Belknap, Charles
d. 10 May 1847 ae 76 y, 1 mo 20 d. Sally, his wife
d. 13 Oct 1847 ae 67 y 5 mo 21 d. Ann Elizabeth d. 31
July 1850, ae 3 mo. Charles, d. 8 Sept 1851, ae 13 d.

Spring Lake (in addition to Pilgrim and Anna previously reported): Melvin P. 1865- 1934, his wife Eva, 1876-1951 and Julia 1897-1908. Also, William H. d. 5 Mar 1895, b. 21 Bef 1859 and his wife Emma 1863-1947.

Finally, got into the pension records from the Rev. War and found the whole thing for Jonas Belknap, S 36,408. Probably not news to any of you, but I will copy the whole thing if anyone wants it. He applied once on 20 May 1818 when he was a resident of Naples in Ontario County, at the age of 59. There was an application to keep a pension filed 11 Dec 1820 when he was 62 and living in Hardin Co., Ky., therein he listed a wife: Tanner aged 54 and a daughter Diantha who was NINE! (And I read it several times to be sure of the nine year old daughter! Twenty five years the younger with a nine year old finds me an "old man"!)

Carol and I are leaving on the 5 October for our annual New England trip- going to hit N.E. Genealogical Soc. as well as Essex Institute. On return, plans are to hit the 1820 census records for the above mentioned counties! All suggestions, comments and other suggestions are most welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you all soon!

Once again, excuse all of the mistakes. Can usually do much better than this!

Most sincerely,


John C. LaPiana

BELKNAPS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Mrs. Agnes, 10 Standart Avenue, Auburn 13021
Dorsell, 3369 Franklin Street Road, Auburn 13021
D.S., 297 Sandalwood Drive, Rochester 14616
Earl J., 131 Perrinton, Rochester 14615
Edward M., 129 Dake Avenue, Rockester 14605
Rev. Elmer, 6 Castlewood Drive, Rochester 14624
Elsa K., 1211 Park Street, Syracuse 13208
Francis, 11 Dew Line Road, Liverpool 13088
G. 7940 West Henrietta Road, Rush 14543
Harold J., 563 Hague, Rochester 14606
James, Route 20, Marcellus 13108
James, Sr., Big Bay, Central Square 13036
James F. 1234 Westmoreland Avenue, Syracuse 13210
James L., Solon Road, McGraw 13101
Marianne, 603 Shaver Avenue, North Syracuse 13212
Marjorie, 490 Floral Avenue, Ithica 14850
Mrs. Mary, 5493 Bear Road, North Syracuse 13212
Murry R., 114 Knights Trail, Rochester 14624
Paul J., Green Acres Trailer Park, Elbridge 13060
Paul T., Old State Road, Owasco 13130
Robert, Swamp Road, Brewerton 13029
Robert F., 14 Birmingham Drive, Rochester 14618
Robert J., 5 Alden Avenue, Auburn 13021
Roscoe R., E. Genesee Street Road, Skaneateles 13152
Thomas P., 267 Michigan, Rochester 14606
Vernon, 15 East Main, McGraw 13101
Vernon M. , 5 Roadside Drive, Hamlin 14464
V.M., Little York Lake, Cortland 13045
Wayne, 237 Fulton Avenue, Rochester 14613
Mrs. Willard, Hilton Road, Central Square 13036
Williard F., Jr., John, Brewerton 13024
William, Muskrat Bay Road, Brewerton 13024
William C., 4F Lost Mountain Manor, Rochester 14625
William G, West Monroe 13167

Source: Area telephone directories
26 September 1974

K NOW all Men by these Pre-
sents, That we *Jonas Belnap, of the County of Hampshire,*
both of Belknapton

are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto the Hon. *James Belnap*
Esq; his Successors or Assigns, in the full Sum of *one*
hundred Pounds, in Lawful Money of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts, to be paid unto the said *James Belnap* or
his Successors or Assigns, in the Office of Judge of the Probate of Wills,
and for granting Letters of Administration on the Estates of Persons de-
ceased, in the said County of Hampshire, to the true Payment whereof, we
jointly and severally bind ourselves, and our several and respective Heirs,
Executors and Administrators, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our
Seals. Dated the *twentieth* Day of *November* Anno
Domini, 1785.

THE Condition of this Obligation

is such, That if the above-bounden *Jonas Belnap*
nominated and allowed to be Guardian unto *Stephen Belnap*
a Minor *aged sixteen years son of the said*
Belnap

late of *Belknapton* in the County of Hampshire, deceased, shall and
do well and truly perform and discharge the Trust and Office of Guardian
unto the said Minor, and that in and by all Things according to Law; and
shall render a plain and true Account of his said Guardianship upon
Oath, and all and singular such Estate as shall come to his Hand and Pos-
session by Virtue hereof, and of the Profits and Improvements of the same,
so far as the Law will charge him therewith (when he shall be there-
unto lawfully-required) and shall pay and deliver what and so much of the
said Estate as shall be found remaining upon his Account (the same being
first examined and allowed of by the Judge or Judges, for the Time being,
of the Probate of Wills, &c. within the County of Hampshire aforesaid) unto
the said Minor, when he shall arrive at full Age; or otherwise as the
said Judge or Judges by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law,
shall limit and appoint: Then this Obligation to be void, otherwise to re-
main in full Force.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in Presence of us

Emily Williams
John Phelps Williams

Jonas Belnap

Perfor his said
son

*Charpms of Nov 27 1785 appeared Stephen Belnap
aged sixteen years Son of Jonas Belnap
his Guardian before the said James Belnap*

K NOW all Men by these Pre-
sents, That we *Jonas Belknap, Pastor*
both of Belknap

are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto the Hon. *Esq.* his Successors or Assigns, in the full Sum of *one hundred* Pounds, in Lawful Money of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be paid unto the said *Esq.* or his Successors or Assigns, in the Office of Judge of the Probate of Wills, and for granting Letters of Administration on the Estates of Persons deceased, in the said County of Hampshire, to the true Payment whereof, we jointly and severally bind ourselves, and our several and respective Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated the *fourteenth* Day of *November* Anno Domini, 1785.

THE Condition of this Obligation

is such, That if the above-bounden *Jonas Belknap* nominated and allowed to be Guardian unto a Minor *aged Arthur* *Esq.* *son of* *Esq.* *deceased*

late of *Belknap* in the County of Hampshire, deceased, shall and do well and truly perform and discharge the Trust and Office of Guardian unto the said Minor, and that in and by all Things according to Law; and shall render a plain and true Account of his said Guardianship upon Oath, and all and singular such Estate as shall come to his Hand and Possession by Virtue hereof, and of the Profits and Improvements of the same, so far as the Law will charge him therewith (when he shall be thereunto lawfully required) and shall pay and deliver what and so much of the said Estate as shall be found remaining upon his Account (the same being first examined and allowed of by the Judge or Judges, for the Time being, of the Probate of Wills, &c. within the County of Hampshire aforesaid) unto the said Minor, when he shall arrive at full Age; or otherwise as the said Judge or Judges by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law, shall limit and appoint: Then this Obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full Force.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in Presence of us

Emilia Williams
John Williams

Jonas Belknap
Perfor *his* *Signature*

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
11 November 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Carroll:

Your letter of the 7th of November arrived today. As I have so often said- we can not thank you enough for all the help that you have given us. Please do NOT feel that all of our letters require a supplement or for that matter- a reply. You have been so good to us that we can not ask for more- at least without payment for, unlike you, we are not professionals, just very interested family searchers!

Really appreciate the outline of the BELKNAP historians. It has helped us put them all in place. As I have often said- we are new- and just learning the line. However, before we are done we will hopefully have added considerable data to the file too!

Will continue to pass along data as we are able to make seemingly "finds". These do not require any reply. If we get desperate we will add URGENT to the letter and then give us a collect phone call. Certainly can appreciate the need for time to write your book. How I long for the time! I keep saying that I would be busy full time if I were independently rich. My Dad says that I would be bored to death! I have told him that I would like to be "backed" for a year to try it before I knock it- but to date he has not donated to the cause of eating, etc! It has become quite a habit in our family!

Nothing SOLID yet- but there at this time are LOTS of Beebe and DeGroff people in the area and we are going to hit them all. As I said, we will feed all of the data into you- but KEEP WORKING on your book. Your family will appreciate it as will generations to follow.

Should we buy Clinton's book? Is our line in there??? (Save response for a needed reply).

Most sincerely,



John C. LaPiana

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
14 December 1974

Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

Yours of the 11th arrived yesterday and was much appreciated. I was planning on writing you a short note this weekend anyways. Promised that I was not going to bother you, but I have obtained some information that might be of interest.

Finding no record of Mina Beebe in Auburn, N.Y. I was inspired and went to the Probate Records where low and behold, MINA appeared. She d. 15 May 1960- and the record indicated that two nephews were named as heirs. A local phonebook listed one of these men. So, I wrote a general letter asking what, if anything he knew about Mina's records. Got a nice reply, but not as much as I had hoped for.

Mina was b. 18 July 1878 at Huron, New York, the daughter of Andrew F. Beebe. Andrew was b. 20 Apr 1840 and d. 30 June 1918 both "near Spring Lake"- which is in Cayuga County, N.Y. Mina's mother was Alvaretta Moore, b. 28 Oct 1853 and d. 29 Jan 1922. Andrew and Alvaretta were m. 7 May 1874- she being his second wife.

Mina's grandfather, as I suspected, was Isaac L. Beebe, b. 23 Dec 1819 and d. 8 Jan 1890. He m. OUR Mary Lavina Belknap, b. 26 July 1821, and d. 11 Oct 1908. Mary, of course, is Pilgrim's oldest child.

*Pilgrim's
oldest
child*

I am now trying to make contact with the second nephew who might have more of the records- I hope for big things, but will settle for a little at a time!

You did not detail your ideas for the place "near Albany". Do you recall it? Would appreciate hearing details as you find the time. Meawnhile, please accept our sincere good wishes for a happy holiday season. Good hunting in 1975!

Regards,


John C. LaPiana

CARROLL YORK BELKNAP 25 Club Road Riverside, Connecticut 06878

27 August 1974

MEMO TO:

Mrs Jane⁴ Belknap Bowman, P O Box 1335, Avalon, California 90704
(Descendant of Hiram Belknap, son of Stephen Belknap of Galway)
Mrs Mylissa Dreythaler, P O Box 38, Owasco, N.Y. 13130
(Descendant of Pilgrim, son of Stephen Belknap of Galway)
Mr Paul E Belknap, 691 Greene Drive, Winter Park, Florida 32789
(Descendant of Stephen Belknap of Belchertown)

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF STEPHEN BELKNAP OF GALWAY, SARATOGA COUNTY, N. Y.

I think the time has come for me to set down for you everything I know or surmise that may have any bearing on this subject -- which, essentially, is the question of whether Stephen of Galway and Stephen of Belchertown were the same man. In doing this, I'll have to repeat much of what I've said in earlier letters to some of you. And I may have to ramble a bit, for which I ask pardon.

KNOWN RECORDED FACTS ABOUT STEPHEN OF BELCHERTOWN, MASS.

- Sanuel
- Son of [redacted] Belknap and Mary Newton, born at Belchertown, Mass., 28 June 1769.
 - In 1785, when 16 years old and legally entitled to name a guardian, chose as his guardian his oldest brother Jonas Newton Belknap. This is the only surviving document on which his name appears. [redacted] Its wording suggests that perhaps his father Samuel had followed the family custom of Burough English: bequeathing his land to his youngest son, with his wife Mary to have possession of it till that son came of age, as he would in 1790. However, this inference is merely my surmise; I have no proof for it.
 - No other facts are known for the next 27 years.
 - In 1813, in Hamilton, Ontario, a daughter Susan was born to Stephen and his wife Eleanor Middaugh. Date of marriage unknown -- possibly 1812?
 - In December 1814, Stephen was drowned in Burlington Bay, near Hamilton.
 - In June 1815 a posthumous son [redacted] was born, and was named Stephen by the widow.

These known facts have long posed a question: Where was this Stephen in the years between 1785 when he was 16 and about 1812 when he was 43? Is it likely that he remained unmarried so long?

KNOWN RECORDED FACTS ABOUT STEPHEN OF GALWAY

- He appears in the 1800 Census of Galway, with the following figures for members of his household: Males -- 2 under 10; 1 26-45; Females -- 2 under 10; 1 26-45.
- No other record has yet been found. No deeds are on record in Saratoga County. Surrogate's Court, that county, has no record of a will or of intestate settlement of his estate. Town Clerk, Galway, has no record of him or of members of his family. Town Historian, Galway, has no such records in her files.
- Citing data which apparently came from the family Bible of Stephen's son Hiram and Hiram's wife Sarah R Eastman, a descendant of Hiram -- Clyde Belknap -- named Stephen's children as Pilgrim, Mary Ann (Polly), Minerva, and Hiram. Birthdate of Hiram, 3 September 1808, at Galway. No dates for other children -- but Pilgrim's enlistment in 1812, N Y militia, suggests that he was probably born about 1792 or 1793.
- Stephen does not appear in 1810 and 1820 Censuses, Saratoga County, nor in census records for those years in other N Y counties thus far searched.

THE OBVIOUS INFERENCE

The known facts obviously suggest that the two Stephens were the same man, for the 1800 Census record for Stephen of Galway fits right in the middle of the 27-year gap in the known record of Stephen of Belchertown.

THE POSSIBLE DISPROOF

That inference could be destroyed by finding any evidence indicating that Stephen of Galway was not in Ontario by 1812. For example:

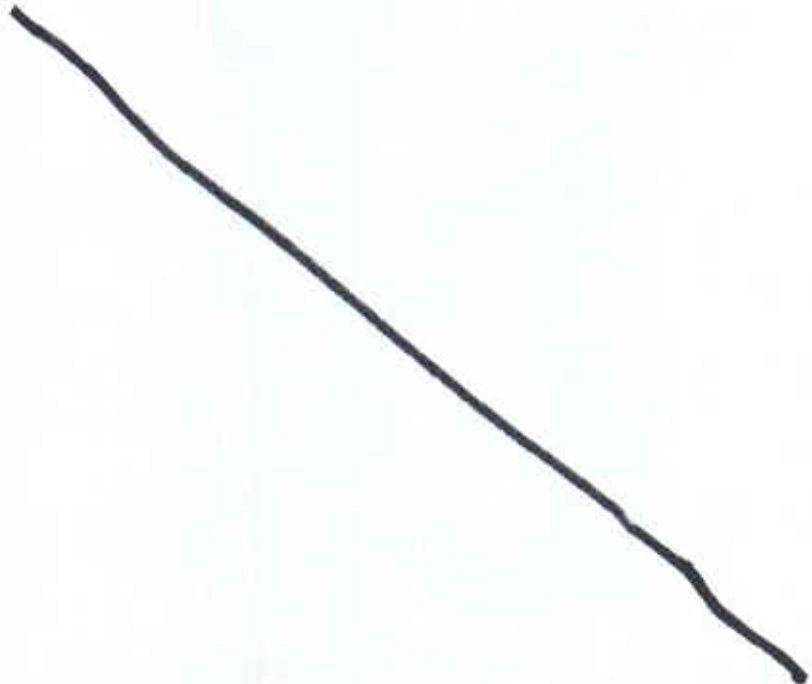
- Evidence of his death in New York before 1812.. . or in any later year.
- A Census record elsewhere in New York in 1810 and 1820.
- Any other evidence that he was in New York in 1812 or later.

Thus far, the only New York counties in which the censuses of 1810 and 1820 have been searched are Saratoga, Lewis, and Oneida. To search the records of other counties will be a laborious task, for there are no indexes to the censuses of 1810 and 1820 and so the record of each county must be examined page by page and line by line.

All that can be said for the moment is that efforts to find such negative evidence, thus far, have not succeeded.

So all that can be done now is to consider carefully and cautiously all of the evidence now in hand -- beyond the coincidence of that "filled gap," which of course could be merely a coincidence.

Some of this evidence is factual. Some is inferential. The task is to see if all of it, cumulatively, justifies a conclusion -- either final or tentative.



- 3 -

Before discussing the evidence bearing on whether or not these two Stephens were identical, I had better digress to tell briefly the story of the Belchertown family, for my [redacted] knowledge of that story (Jonas, son of Samuel, was my own great great grandfather) has been bound to color my thinking and my interpretation of the evidence. Moreover, some of the story is essential background for the evidence.

THE BELCHERTOWN FAMILY

In 1760, Samuel Belknap of Ellington, Conn., and his wife Mary Newton left Ellington where their first three children had been born and moved to Belchertown in central Massachusetts. Their children were: Mary, born 8 Nov 1754; Chloe, 3 January 1757; Jonas Newton, 19 May 1759; Susanna, 3 June 1761; Joseph, 13 Dec 1762; Jonathan, 15 April, 1764; Seth, 19 April 1767; Stephen, 28 June 1769.

On 3 May, 1775, Samuel (aged 45) and his oldest son Jonas (aged 16) enlisted in a militia company. Six weeks later, they were on Bunker Hill together. The next day Samuel died in camp at Cambridge, 18 June 1775. Jonas enlisted in the 7th Massachusetts and served till the end of the war in 1783. As far as the military record shows, the only time he came home was at Christmas time 1782-3.

(during the war)

So, during those war years, Mary Newton Belknap was head of that family. In 1775, when Samuel died, the oldest daughter Mary was 21, -but had married a Belchertown farmer Rufus Kentfield when she was 19 -- 25 Nov 1773. Chloe, 18, would not marry till 1780. Susanna, 14, would die suddenly and tragically in 1781. All the five remaining boys were young, but not too young to help with the farming: Joseph, 13 -- Jonathan, 11 -- Seth, 8 -- Stephen, 6. Somehow, with her children, Mary brought her family through, quite likely with the aid of her son-in-law Rufus Kentfield, who helped meet ^{be} the bond that had to be posted when Jonas became Stephen's guardian.

In June 1783, when Jonas came home for good, after having married Esther Parker of Belchertown when he was there on leave at Christmas, only his brothers were living with his mother, for Chloe had married Levi Shumway in 1780. Joseph was now 20, and would stay at Belchertown till 1785, two years after Jonas returned. Jonathan was 19. Seth was 16, and would get married rather suddenly in 1787, when only 20, and start farming on land given to him, presumably by a relative of the bride as was normal in cases of what has been termed "a marriage of necessity." Stephen was 14. Two years later, when he was legally able to choose a guardian, he would name Joseph first, and then change to Jonas when Joseph decided to leave. And Jonas and his wife Esther would start building their own family and having their first children baptized a bit belatedly.

In 1790, the years at Belchertown come to an end. The census in that year shows not even one Belknap household at Belchertown. Indeed, we do not know with certainty where any of the family except the two married girls was living in that year.

We think (but have no sure proof) that Mary the mother had become the second wife of Jonas's father-in-law Elijah Parker Sr. . . There is evidence to suggest strongly that Jonas and his young family were living with his uncle Abel in Cherry Valley, New York, till Jonas could locate himself in that area. . . Joseph, in that year, was in process of moving from Stafford, Conn., to Lewis County, New York. . . Of the whereabouts of Seth we know nothing till 1800, when he was at Cambridge in Washington

County, N.Y. By 1810 he had joined Jonas in the Honeoye area of Ontario County, N.Y., where Jonas had settled in 1794. . . Jonathan's location, too, remains unknown till 1800, when he was briefly at Charleston in Ontario County (now Lima, Livingston Co.) a few miles from Jonas, before moving to Oswego County where he remained.

Of Stephen in that period -- 1790, 1800, or later -- we know nothing at all except that 1790 was the year in which his inheritance from his father would become his, when he was 21. ~~_____~~

So the question that arises is whether or not Stephen of Belchertown settled in New York after 1790 as his brothers did. On this question our evidence comes from a letter written in 1880, quoting statements made by Jesse Belknap, a son of Jonas.

THE TESTIMONY OF JESSE BELKNAP

In 1847 and 1848 Jesse Belknap and all his children and grandchildren had founded Belknap Settlement in the Willamette Valley in Oregon. In 1880 Edward Belknap, a grandson of Stephen of Belchertown, went from Michigan to Oregon to work at the college at Corvallis. In late May of that year, he went up river to Belknap Settlement, to meet the Belknaps there.

On 1 June 1880, Edward wrote to his ^{told}parents. His letter began: "At last we know who our ancestors were." He had Jesse, the patriarch of the tribe, the only thing that he and his parents knew or ~~thought~~ they knew: the names of his grandfather's brothers -- and the names had matched (almost) the names that Jesse knew.

That "almost" deserves explanation, for it's an interesting example of the typical "confusion of generations" that often occurs when knowledge of ancestry is based solely on memory -- and also because a very similar error was made, for the same reason, by descendants of Stephen of Galway.

In his letter, Edward reminded his parents of the names of the brothers whom they knew -- a correct list except that it included "Samuel." With the passage of time, the name of a father had come to be thought the name of a brother..

The descendants of Stephen of Galway had made precisely the reverse ~~same~~ error -- calling Stephen's son Pilgrim his brother (a mistake which for many years prevented examination of the possibility that this Stephen might be Stephen of Belchertown).

The main point, however, is the light that this error about Samuel may throw on the question of what Stephen in Canada probably told his wife about his own background. I believe we can assume, correctly, that he told Eleanor the name of his father as well as the names of his brothers. In other words, he did not attempt to conceal his background.

It can be argued that if he was Stephen of Galway he may have had something else to conceal from Eleanor -- desertion of a wife and children in Saratoga County -- and that the fact that Eleanor apparently gave no information of this sort to her son may mean that her husband was not Stephen of Galway. Or it can be argued that the meaning is exactly the opposite. . . A bit later in this memo, I may be able to shed a little light on this debatable interpretation.

Meanwhile, something that Jesse said, in 1880, also is worth noting. "Jesse said," wrote Edward in his letter, "that they often wondered what became of (his) Uncle Stephen after he went to Canada." The underlining is mine, to stress that there was nothing secret about Stephen's departure for Canada. His brother Jonas (Jesse's father) knew about it -- and so, probably, did his brother Seth who was living close to Jonas in 1810.

When this Stephen went to Canada, where did he go from? Again that letter of Edward's may provide the answer. He quoted Jesse as saying: "After the Revolutionary War his (Samuel's) sons settled in the State of New York." Although Edward did not write "all sons", I think we can warrantably interpret Jesse's statement as including Stephen. Otherwise Edward would have worded the quotation so as to exclude Stephen; he'd have said "some of the sons" or "the other sons," or something of that kind.

So I believe we can firmly conclude that Stephen of Belchertown settled in New York about 1790 or a bit later and, to at least that extent, might have been Stephen of Galway.

And we can turn our attention to whether or not the ages of the two Stephens, in 1800, were the same.

THE AGES OF THE TWO STEPHENS

In 1800, Stephen of Belchertown was 31 years old.

The 1800 Census figures show Stephen of Galway as aged 26 to 45 -- a broad range which means little. But the number and ages of the children mean a lot: 4 children under 10 years of age. This was a normal figure at that time, for a married man of about 31 or 32 years of age -- provided he married in about 1790 or 1791.

If Stephen of Belchertown married in 1790, when only 21, he was marrying at an earlier age than was then customary for sons of farmers in that part of the country. Normally, such men did not marry till 23 to 26 years old. They waited till they were in position to support a wife, either by a craft or by farming -- which meant waiting till they had accumulated enough money to make at least a partial payment for farm land.

But Stephen of Belchertown was under no compulsion to wait. When he was 21, he would receive his inheritance. There is no surviving record of what he inherited or of its value; but from the terms of his guardianship bond we can judge that it amounted to not less than "100 pounds in lawful Massachusetts currency" -- that is, not in worthless "continental money" but in sound currency, and a sizable sum in those days. So this Stephen was in position to marry at 21, without delay, if he wanted to.

Parenthetically, this fact recalls memory of a tradition among descendants of Stephen of Galway: that he was engaged in teamstering at Galway and owned a number of horses. If he was Stephen of Belchertown, he had the capital to engage in this enterprise -- which may also explain why we find no deeds in his name at Galway, for a teamster could have rented whatever property he needed. But this point need not be taken too seriously; family tradition, much too often, has no truth behind it.

SOME REASONS FOR BELIEVING THAT THEY WERE THE SAME MAN

- (1) They were of about or exactly the same age.
- (2) Both of them are known to have settled in New York, in the period 1790-1800.

(3) In years of searching for the parentage of Stephen of Galway, the only probable father who has been found thus far is Samuel Belknap of Belchertown.

(4) There was no other known Stephen Belknap at that time who could possibly have been Stephen of Galway. All the other known Stephens then living have been identified completely, and their record of marriage and children is known.

(5) No trace of Stephen of Galway has been found, after 1800 -- except the date of 3 Sept 1808 for birth of his son Hiram, as stated by his descendants.

These reasons lack documentary ^{support}. They are entirely inferential. But no evidence contradicting the inferences has yet been found.

There remains one important question to answer -- or try to answer as best we can.

WERE THE CANADIAN CHILDREN LEGITIMATE?

If -- about 1810 -- Stephen of Galway left a wife and children there and married again in Canada, the Canadian children were the product of a bigamous marriage.

This possibility has to be considered. Such evidence as I have found seems to deny it.

For one thing, there's the census of 1810, for Saratoga County. It was a census of households. If there were a Belknap household headed by a woman, it would be shown. But there is no such household in that county in 1810 -- indeed, no Belknap household at all.

The obvious inference is that the Galway wife was either living in some other county -- or had died before 1810.

In this connection there's what may be called "evidence given by Hiram" -- which is most notable for what it does not contain.

What Hiram said about his parentage is known only by inference from the genealogical information stated by Clyde Belknap in 1924. The apparent source of that information was the family Bible maintained by Sarah Eastman Belknap, wife of Hiram. The entries in this Bible appear to have been scrupulously exact and detailed, containing even the full names of Sarah's parents and the dates of their birth. If Sarah had known the name of Hiram's mother, she surely would have entered it and it would be known today.

As her information could have come only from Hiram, the plain conclusion is that while Hiram knew the name of his father he did not know the name of his mother, from ~~which~~ which fact the only sensible inference is that she died either at his birth or shortly afterward.

If I am correct in drawing this conclusion, there's ~~one~~ one more question for me to consider.

WHAT BECAME OF THE GALWAY CHILDREN?

We know little about what happened to the children of Stephen of Galway, after ~~he~~ he vanished from the scene.

Son Hiram, born in 1808, is said to have married in 1835 -- we do not know where. His whereabouts in the 27 intervening years are unknown. He settled in Jefferson County.

Son Pilgrim enlisted in the N Y militia in 1812, in Cayuga County. (not in Genessee County as one militia record erroneously reports). Assuming that he was about 20 when enlisting -- a typical age for enlistment in the War of 1812 -- he was probably born about 1792 or perhaps 1793. We know nothing of how he came to be in Cayuga County -- where he married about 1816 to 1818 and raised a large family.

As to the other children we know nothing but the possibility that a Minerva Belknap who married Rufus Stahton in 1815, in either Cayuga County or Montgomery County, N.Y., might have been Stephen's daughter -- or might have been the daughter of Elijah Belknap and Thankful Lake of Peru, Mass. (if Elijah moved to N. Y.).

Before we leap to the conclusion that Stephen simply abandoned his children we should think of the possibility that he made arrangements to have them live with some other family. Such arrangements sometimes occurred in that period.

One possibility that may deserve exploration is that maybe Stephen left some or all of his children with his brother Joseph, who had settled in Lewis County, at West Leyden, not far from Galway. I have nothing to support this guess but an oddity in H W Belknap's record of the children of that Joseph. At some date after he set down his record of Joseph's children, he added a Mary with a birthdate that would be OK for Stephen's Mary Ann (Polly). The notes showing the source of this belated entry were destroyed when his home burned down in 1914 -- so I know nothing more, and it may mean nothing to us.

So there I end. I have told you everything I know or surmise. My reason for doing so has been that I'm going to have to leave it to you to do any further research that you feel is needed. The time has come when I must reluctantly withdraw from the time-consuming fascination of pursuing puzzles. I must now settle down to the task of preparing for publication what I have assembled on the history of the family.

If any of you wish to go farther, you may want to begin with personal search at Galway. What it will cost I can't predict. But here are the names of two women who are said to be experienced workers in this field: ("Reasonable fee" I'm told.)

Mrs Ira L Alsdorf, 17 Frederick Lane, Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, N Y 12020
Irene G Wood, 111 Saratoga St, Ballston Spa, N Y 12020

As for my own files -- they'll show as "probable" that Stephen of Belchertown married twice, name of first wife unknown. . . I can hope that perhaps you'll do better than I have done.

I'm sending copies of this memo to some of the knowledgeable people who have been most helpful in my work on Belknap genealogy, in the hope that they may run into something that might be useful on this problem.

Camel

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
17 September 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

I can not tell you how pleased we were to hear from you! BELKNAP has been one of our most problem lines for a long time- and it has not gotten any better in the last few years! We must have corresponded with hundreds of people who were interested- but none that had the data you do- or the apparent relationship. Need a "find" like this every once in awhile just to keep you going!

We have a lot of isolated Belknap facts that we are not sure how they fit together- but more than happy to share.

The 1830 Federal Census at Cato, Cayuga County, N.Y. has Pilgrim Belknap males:120001, females, 110001. In the 1840 census they appear at Town of Conquest, also Cayuga Co., N.Y., Pilgrim Belknap, males 1111001, females, 1200001. (The second "1" in the male line looks like it may have been a mistake, and written over!). In the 1850 Census, at dwelling 962 in Conquest, Cayuga Co,N.Y., there is:

Lyman Belknap	23	M	Farmer	B. N.Y.
Pilgrim	54	M	<i>2 1796</i>	"
Anna	54	F		"
Anna	18	F		"
Alsemena	17	F		"
Levi	15	M		"
Jane	11	F		"
Matilda	7	F		"

On to the 1860 Federal Census at Conquest, Cayuga County,N.Y.:

Pilgrim Belknap	64	<i>2 1796</i>	"
Anna	61		Vermont <i>X</i>
Levi P.	24		N.Y.
Matilda	17		"

We had a New York State Census at 1865, and there I find the following recorded:

Page Two (2)
Continued

Town of Conquest, 73/83:

Pilgrim Belknap	70 ¹⁷⁹⁵	b. Saratoga Co., N.Y.
Anna	66 (wife)	b. Vermont
Levi	29 (son)	b. Cayuga Co., N.Y.
Edelice	20	
Adila Sherman	(d. in law)	b. Cayuga Co., N.Y.

In Cemeteries of Cayuga Co., V.III, pg. 44, 1966 (DAR):

Belknap, Pilgrim B. d. 2-23-1869 ae 74

Anna d. 3-18-1881, ae 82 y. 3 mo. 15 d.

Andelusia b. 11-29-1901, d. 11-27-1903

We know for a fact that Alcemena m. our Justin ⁷ GOODELL-
for the GOODELL family we have solid. We are working on
the women in the line now- and having all sorts of pro-
blems. We have been to the cemetery at Conquest where
there are LOTS of GOODELL's - incidentally, the Belknaps
above are in the cemetery at Spring Lake, Cayuga Co., N.Y.

Anyways, at Conquest we found and photographed graves
as follows (would be happy to send a copy of the pictures
if you would like them for your records):

Goodell, Justin: b. 3-5-1801, d. 2-12-1887

Olive (his wife): b. 9-6-1802, d. 12-4-1891

(Justin was the son of Norman Goodell. Olive was a
Harrington)

Goodell, Norman: b. 7-31-1826, d. 9-10-1880

Alcemena b. 10-21-1833, d. 10-3-1882

GOODELL, Justin, Jr.: d. 9-24-1853, ae. 22 y. 2 mo.

Susan d. 12-20-1828 ae 1 y 2 mo. 4 da.

(Children of Justin and Olive)

GOODELL, Susannah: d. 3-2-1855, ae 81 y. 1 mo

(Wife of Sylvester⁶, mother of Justin, nee. Stoddard)

Matilda d. 3-17-1853 ae 40 y.

(dau. Sylvester and Susannah)

Near as we can tell, Norman and Alcemena had but two (2)
children: Levi J. (our relative) b. 1857 my Mary Loveless
d. 1929 at Conquest, N.Y. (Have his Grave too); and Adel-
bert b. 1866, m. Dora. Their graves at Conquest
say: Dora 1865-1949, Adelbert 1866-1951. We just missed
them and sure could have gotten a lot of first hand data
from them if we had gone "genealogy nut" before they died!

Page Three (3)
Continued

As you can see, we have several isolated facts, but not a lot of hard data. Therefore I have a lot of questions. Might I ask how you know that Stephen was the father of Pilgrim? Was Stephan from Saratoga County? Who were the COLVINS- parents of Ann(a) who m. Pilgrim and where did they come from. Since Anna was b. Vermont- we presume that her parents were from there too. More puzzles to solve!

Since we are in the area, I read the obit of Roland and then selected what appeared to the youngest Daughter- Mrs. Thomas H. Coggen and called her! She was cool as could be- said "oh, we get letters like this all the time(despite the fact I was talking to her on the phone) and we really don't have any time for it! CAN YOU IMAGINE! Do you know how/if they were related to Pilgrim et. al. Don't dare call another of them before I know more facts! Really can't get over people who "don't have time" and would like to tell them to ---- in their hats and pull it down over their ears! How can you not have time???? Let me know and I will go through the whole family- like a dose of salts through an old maid!

Hope that I have filled in some blanks for you. Can carry the GOODELL line (from Norman) down to the present date if you are interested! More than happy to spread our data around.

Look forward to hearing from you again soon. Do keep in touch- think that we can make some progress with your ideas and my resources. We have a GOOD library and besides, I am in the area, But need direction!

Most sincerely,



John C. LaPiana

Dear Mr. Belknap;

Enclosed is a poor copy of Glen Evans rec. It is too late to night to get to a copy machine. Had started another letter, but will send this much on now.

Don't think it will help too much, not unless you know some of the people he obtained the material from. He does mention one book besides, census; George De Groff's rec. of Meridian, Cayuga, N.Y.

I have done no research on this line, yet. All I could give Mr. Lew Parker, when he called about Mr. La Piana, was he would be related, and the possible connection to our family.

Hope this little will be of some help.

Deena



Belchertown, Mass

children

mar. 1773 Rufus Kentfield

may. 1780 Levi Shumway

MAJ Tamar Vinton; Esther Parker

1766

MAR. 5-1964

MAR 1977

Personal Belknap #112 enlisted at Grandby, Mass 1825 for Rev. Service. He fought at Bunkerhill where he was badly wounded. He died the following day at Cambridge, Mass. while his son John was trying to get him home. He and his wife were members of the congregation church at Belchertown. In 1861, Julius of St Clair Mich., had his musket and family records. Ref; Belchertown Church rec. Willis Belknap Sargents rec.; Bunker family rec. Winton family rec. Mich. T.R. Adm. Chas. R. rec;

117. Ebenezer Bellnap (5) ger. Susannah

b. 1934 Fairfield, Conn.

for children

258 Chenezer 1760

Note: It is possible that whenever #252 may be the same individual as #202 on page 22. Ref: H.W.C. red.

张其成讲读

114 *Journal of Management Education* 15(1)[illegible]

Children

262 1870

264 1782-1785

• 265	Eurastus	1293-1856
-------	----------	-----------

557 4418 461a 1725-1845

David 1291-1965

His fellow A14 served with

of Roy Clinton who used to

1954年11月1日

(5)-8 Phoebe A. 1847-
 (5)-8 Ella E. 1858-
 Florence A. 1861-
 Willard W. 1863-
 (5)-8 Edgar L. 1865-
 (5)-8 George O. 1867-

mar. Benjamin Gerow
 mar. ~~Al~~ Albert Hart.
 an M.D. at Caramel, Calif.
 mar. Lucinda Sullinger
 mar. Jessie
 mar. Katherine. r. Ann Arbor, Mich

from: Mrs. Burton Belknap's records; Album of Midland Co. Mich. Copeland
 Family Gen.; Mich State V.R.; Mich Pioneer Society's rec.; U.S Census rec.

-101-

Samuel (5) 1731; Stephen (6) 1770; Pilgrim (7) 1794;

Pilgrim Belknap (7)

b. 1794 May 10 N.Y.

d. 1869 Feb 23

at Conquest, N.Y.

bur. Spring Lake, N.Y.

Cayuga County

(8) Children

1072 Mary L. 1821-

-2 1073 Franklin 1823-1865

1074 Edward O. 1825-

1075 Lyman 1826-

1076 Cordelia 1828-

1078 Anna 1832-

1078 (Alsamena) 1833-

-2 1079 Levi 1837-

1080 Jane 1839-

1081 Matilda 1843-

mar. Ann Colvin

b. 1779 N.Y.

d. 18 Mar, 1881

at Conquest, N.Y.

mar. Isaac Beebe

d. Nashville, Tenn. Civil War.

mar. Evelyn Butler

mar. Elisabeth Dodge

mar. Mr. Dodge

mar. Mr. Goodnote

mar. Mr. Goodell (Norman) b. 2 Oct 1833

mar. Adelia r. Conquest, N.Y. d. 3 Oct 1891

mar. Mr. Brayton

mar. Mr. Thompson

see: U.S. Census 1850 Cayuga Co. N.Y.; Mine Beebe's Rec. Auburn, NY.
 G.S. Spring Lake Cemetery.

Samuel (5) 1731; Stephen (6) 1770; Hyrum 1779

-2 6 Hyrum Belknap (7)

mar.-----

b. 1799

d. 1873 r. St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.

(8) Children

(8)-1 1082 Charles Hiram 1839

1083 George

1084 Lebe

1085 Riley

1086 Edward

1087 Cora

mar. Mr. Plowman. r. Alder, Dakota

from: Franklin R. Rec.

b. St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.

r. Madison, S. Dakota

r. Auburn, Maine

Seventh Generation

Samuel (5) 1731; Stephen (6) 1770; Stephen (7) 1804

-2 8 Stephen Belknap (7)

mar.---

b. 1804 Canada.

r. Mich 1843.

(8) Children

1088 Stephen 1843-

1089 Edward W. 1845-

mar. Rosina Hanson

mar. Elisabeth

-102-

*Can't find
 this town
 in my
 Tel. Rec.
 But it
 doesn't
 have
 early
 place*

(2)

Stephen Belknap married Mary.
b. 1770 Canada b. 1770 d. 1858 bur. Cato Cemetery, Meridian
at Cayuga Co., N.Y.
res. St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.

Children

Claracy	b. 1791	
Pilgrim	b. 1794-1869	mar. Anne Colvin
Polly	b. 1797	
Hiram	b. 1799	mar. b. St Lawrence Co., N.Y.
Lavina	b. 1802	mar. Mr. De Groff res. Meridian. N.Y.
Stephen	b. 1804	mar.

From George De Groff's records of Meridian, Cayuga, N.Y.
Burial Lot in Cato Cemetery, Meridian, Cayuga, N.Y.

(2)

✓ Stephen Belknap married Mary.
b. 1770 Canada b. 1770 d. 1858 bur. Cato Cemetery, Meridian
res. St. Lawrence Co. N.Y. at Cayuga Co., N.Y.

Children

Claracy	b. 1791	
Pilgrim	b. 1794-1869	mar. Anne Colvin
Polly	b. 1797	
Hiram	b. 1799	mar. b. St Lawrence Co., N.Y. ?
Lavina	b. 1802	mar. Mr. De Groff res. Meridian. N.Y.
<u>Stephen</u>	<u>b. 1804</u>	mar.

From George De Groff's records of Meridian, Cayuga, N.Y.
Burial Lot in Cato Cemetery, Meridian, Cayuga, N.Y.

*From: Jeffers; Cayuga
County Cemetery
Inscriptions, published
1932. ayb*

29 July, 1975

Carroll York Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Carroll,

I have just received a census report from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin that puts a different light on the possible birthdate of Hiram Belknap, my great grandfather. I am enclosing a photocopy.

As you can see, Hiram's age is given as 57 in 1860 which would indicate that he was born in 1803. Do you have any copies of the Bible pages showing his birth? I believe that Hiram's descendants may have misread 1803 as 1808. What do you think? I have found nothing to substantiate that my ancestor Hiram was born in 1799 as Della Belnap says.

The list of children is correct except that my grandfather, Edward Eastman must be the 9 year old listed as Eugene. The ages are right and the other names all check. Edger is Stephen Edgar, whom younger brothers had called "Lebe".

John LaPiana has written that he has found quite a bit of information about Mary Newton.

I plan to try to find material in Vermont. Possibly that is where Hiram met his wife. She was born in that state.

I am hoping to hear of your publication soon. At this point, I plan to publish what little I know about our families in 1976. The Belknap and Clark lines are the most involved, but I want to give the next generation something to build on. I will continue the research after my book is completed.

Sincerely,

Jane Bowman

Jane Bowman
Box 1335
Avalon, Ca 90704

Inhabitants in Town of Muskego, in the County of Waukesha
State of Wisconsin, enumerated 10th day of July, 1860
Volume 2, page 272

[illegible]

JANE BOWMAN from Carroll Belknap Copy to John La Piana

11 Aug 1975

Thank you for sending me a copy of the 1860 Census showing Hiram aged 57, hence born 1803, not in 1808 as said by Clyde. As you know, I've distrusted that 1808, but I should warn you that ages shown on census returns are highly unreliable and need verification. What I'd do, if I were doing the research, would be to get the 1850 return and the 1870 return (in Iowa), to see if the ages agree with those for 1860.

I'd glad you are trying for documented facts, instead of relying wholly on what the professional genealogists call "what Aunt Hettie said." Perhaps you would like to get a copy of the best little handbook for amateurs like you and me: Searching for Your Ancestors, by Gilbert H Doane, long-time editor of the New England Historic Genealogical Register. The latest edition of this indispensable classic was published by University of Minnesota Press in 1973. Your book seller can get it for you. Costs about \$5, as I recall.

I think you will want to consult the recently issued book by E Clinton Belknap: A Belknap Genealogy -- the only book that contains no major errors. Temple Genealogical Society, Los Angeles, has a copy. Like me, Clinton is a descendant of Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton. As he knows, I differ with him on only some minor details.

You ask if I have Bible pages showing Hiram's birth. No. In my memos to you I merely gave reasons for thinking that the data set down by Clyde might have come from a Bible in Sarah's possession.

You mention the 1799 date for Hiram "as Della Belnap says." Correction, please. Conscientious Della didn't say that. She told LaPiana that Glen Evans said it, which is something quite different -- for Evans was the most unreliable person that ever tinkered with Belknap genealogy. He committed every sin known to genealogists.

You say LaPiana has found "quite a bit of information about Mary Newton." If so, I hope he'll tell me about it. But I wonder if the Mary was not Mary Newton but the Mary that Evans -- and Evans alone -- said was mother of Hiram and Pilgrim. . . from what LaPiana has said in letters to me and to Clinton, I fear that he may be jumping the gun in deciding (without proof) that the line through the Belchertown family is what he is calling "our line." In what you write, I hope you'll be more cautious.

I regret that Clinton recently sent to LaPiana a copy of his chart for the Belchertown family, showing a "Mary" as wife of Stephen, without telling LaPiana that this entry came from Evans -- so that LaPiana might mistakenly regard it as confirmation of Evans.

Looking ahead -- when you've written what you plan to issue in 1976, would you like to have me look at it before you publish or circulate it? If so, I'm at your disposal.

FAMILY GROUP No. *107*Husband's Full Name *Pilgrim Belknap*

This Information Obtained From:

Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
----------------	-----	-------	------	---------------------	--------------------------	------------------	-----------------------

John C. La Pina
313 Casper Lane
DeWitt, N.Y. 13214

Birth			1795	Galway, Saratoga Co.	N.Y.		
Chr'd			-c. 1720				
Mar.							
Death	23 Feb 1869			Spring Lake, Cayuga Co.	N.Y.		
Burial				do			

N.Y. State and Fed.

Census records, Vital
copies in hand, Photo

Places of Residence	Galway, Conquest and Spring Lake
Occupation	Church Affiliation
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	Military Rec.

of graves, in hand; DA

His Father	Stephan Belknap	Mother's Maiden Name	XXXXXX
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Cemetery Records; the

records of Mina Beebe;

GVB, Glen Evans, Della

Belnap, Jane Bowman

and LDS; Malcolm

Goodelle and George

Williams data.

Wife's Full Maiden Name *Anna Colvin*

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	3 Jan 1799			Danby, Vt.			
Chr'd							
Death	18 Mar 1881			Spring Lake, Cayuga Co.	N.Y.		
Burial				do			

Compiler

Address

City, State

Date

Places of Residence

Occupation if other than Housewife

Church Affiliation

Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc.
Make separate sheet for each mar.Her Father *Caleb Colvin*Mother's Maiden Name *Lydia⁴ Colvin*

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Child
1	Mary Full Name of Spouse* Isaac Beebe	Birth				Conquest, Cayuga Co.	N.Y.		
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
2	Franklin Full Name of Spouse* Ester Cool	Birth				"	"	"	"
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
3	Edwin Oscar Full Name of Spouse* Ann E. Butler	Birth	18 Nov	1824		"	"	"	"
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
4	Lyman Mortimer Full Name of Spouse* Eliz. Dodge	Birth	16 Sept	1826		"	"	"	"
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
5	Ann Full Name of Spouse* Philip Goodnote	Birth			1832				
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
6	Alsemina Full Name of Spouse* Norman Goodell	Birth	21 Oct	1833		"	"	"	"
		Mar.			bef. 1857				
		Death	8 Oct	1882		"	"	"	"
		Burial				do			
7	Cordelia Full Name of Spouse* Alpheus Dodge	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
8	Levi Full Name of Spouse* (1) Adelia Sherman (2) Emma Drew	Birth	22 May	1836		"	"	"	"
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
9	Jane Full Name of Spouse* ----- Thompson	Birth			1839	"	"	"	"
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
10	Matilda Full Name of Spouse* Joseph Thompson	Birth			1843	"	"	"	"
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
13 November 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

Many thanks, once again, for your letter of the 11th which arrived today. We placed a free help notice in the most recent issue of the Conn. Society's Newsletter and that has about done us under as far as correspondence is concerned. Somehow we are able to keep up with the barrage of letters- but we are doing our best AND we are still having time to search out Beebe and DeGroff. You would not believe how many unleads we have found to date. With inspiration like that you have given us- we will find SOMETHING. Might not be the "approval" that we are searching for- but we will get to the data and see what is there. And then, if it turns out to be nothing- we can start on another search. Recall that you have some more in your bag of tricks!

Have never felt that you were anything less than most kind, certainly curereous and must admit- that WE were imposing on your time. So be sure that we will never "write that help off" and not keep in touch. You can be sure that you and Jane will be the first to learn of any finds and DON't feel that you have to respond to each of these notes. You need the time for your writing and we WANT your book! You are doing it the way I hope to do ours someday- the human interest first with the hard worked out genealogy as a supplement. Genealogy is only tedious it is the people that are of the most interst and your children and grand children- and US will appreciate it and treasure it- maybe us more- because we KNOW the work that has gone into it and it is surely a labor of love!

PROMISE to continue sending you updates and anything that seems like anything of significance. If/when we ask for direction- drop a line. Otherwise- keep at it! When we run out of clues we will ask for more help!

With best regards,



John C. LaPiana

15 September 1975

You will also be interested in knowing, as we told ECB, we sent the BELKNAP line, as we have it, off to a friend of ours who is a genealogist for the DAR. She is currently working on it and has back a preliminary report that she just can find no error in the first three- back from us- generations!

I do not have to defend any of my data for we have some great collections. Our GOODELL collection is one of the best in the country- and you can check with George Williams on that if you can not take our word for it. He happens to be the Secretary of the Conn. Society. Further, for merit badges, check with Gearld Parsons, Head, Genealogy and Local History, Syracuse Public Library. He is one of about 50 of THE best in the country and he accepts, encourages and also makes helpful suggestions as to research on our lines of interest!

What I am saying, in summary, I guess is- unless you can make some constructive comments FORGET IT! I have a large department at work and learned long ago that one can not constantly tell people they work badly, do things wrong, etc. without suggesting ways in which they can improve!

And one more point- we STILL question the death of Stephan- and that is why the "?" was before the date- for we HAVE read newspapers of the era and can not find it despite the "hearsay" that you have from his relatives! Belond to the Ontraio Society too and none of them have found anything either- just incase you think that we have not looked!

I could go on for pages, but it is hardly worth the effort for we have done our best and you have never accepted an item that we have found only told where we went wrong. It is a sad thing that you could not have had the searching experience that we have- without the armchair quarterbacking that you have done. In our next life we think that we will retire to quarterbacking for it is a lot easier than getting out and reading census records and newspapers!

This all is apt to upset you, and right it should- for then you will know what we have been going through for the past year or more! For a change, send us some data all new, and let us polk holes it it. I will tell you it is wrong because I've never seen it!

Sprry to end on such a sad note- but it has been pent up for a long long time. Check us out anytime you please- Bennington Museum, Salem Institute or those above- you might be suprised!

Oh
Jcl

LaPiana from CYB

16 Sept 1975

Here's an excerpt from a report of investigations in Wayne County, just west of Conquest, etc, showing where some of Pilgrim's children went. The red numbers indicate the numbers of the children, on page 1 of Mrs Drythaler's MS. May be of interest to you -- especially location of Anna Calvin, Pilgrim's widow, 1 year after his death.

JOHN C. LAPIANA
313 COOPER LANE
DEWITT, N. Y. 13214

15 September 1975

Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

This is going to be a very difficult letter to write- for I have written it in my mind several times. I have been through draft after draft and still come up with the same thing- and that is not going to please you!

We have spent the past nine months following your directions to the letter- as far as the BELKNAP line is concerned. We must have spent, totally, over 100 hours reading census returns, following up every single tiny bit of hope and we are no further ahead than we were when we started. You can none the less sit back and pick out all of the mistakes we have made- and NEVER give any encouragement. All of your letters are negative- full of reasons why we will never make it as genealogists and why on one will ever accept our data. Have YOU ever read two whole years of the New York Census in as short a time?? Have you written 100 letters a week in search of anything??? The rest of our research has stood still while we searched BELKNAPS and all you can do is tell us what we have done wrong. Well, frankly, I am sick to death of it and have to tell you about it!

I have tried to be considerate, hopefully that you would be constructive and also someday publish and all we get is the same old stuff. No one can do it like CARROLL does it- well, then, why has he not done it???

Can not resist telling you that your dear old friend E. Clinton had NEVER seen the Mary NEWTON data that we sent him. We don't believe in playing games so write him for yourself- he has changed his records to accept the line as we have found it and we have his letter saying that! Must be that all "old Belknap researchers" have not been as fortunate as you in being able to see all that is in print! We should live so long!

In one of the dozen drafts before this, I went through all of your comments on our data, point by point- and in the end decided that it was not worth typing it all out- for regardless of where we found what- you could and duty bound would polk holes in it!

2 Sept 1976

Much thanks for your memo of 29 Aug with enclosures of your correspondence with LaPiana.

(1) My typing error -- 1799 instead of 1789 -- in memo on Deelittle's #184. Sorry. I'm a damned poor proofreader on my own stuff. Thanks for catching it.

(2) Mother of Mary Newton. Mary Witt is right. James Kibbee, who said Gibbs, was wrong. George May and I agreed on this years ago, chiefly on basis of the Leonard Newton Genealogy. But I apparently neglected to tell you. (Best guess is that she may have been widow Gibbs; but I've found no proof. Nothing but knowledge that Kibbee always had documentary proof for anything he said: 1914 fire, Salem, destroyed the correspondence of this point.) This had gone out of my memory, and I didn't even notice the "Gibbs" on your sheet. Should have.

(3) You ask if LaPiana is right in saying that I have endorsed his notion of the ancestry of Pilgrim. . . Quoting from his letter to you; 31 July: "All evidence indicates that we are right and even CYB has come around to this point of view." . . . And "Jane Bowman is going to publish next year and she has accepted it on the advice of Carroll Y." . . . I am totally unaware of having said anything that justifies either of these statements. All that I have ever said was that I regard it as "probable" that Stephen of Galway was son of Samuel and Mary of Belchertown.

The documentary evidence consists of just one thing: the entry in 18⁰/₁₀ census showing a Stephen Belknap at Galway with four children under 10: 2 M, 2 F. That's all.

Beyond that there's nothing but circumstantial evidence and a list of children of that Stephen, in a letter written in 1927 -- 117 years later -- Clyde Belknap of Spokane to HWB, after meeting Clark Belknap who advised him to contact HWB. HWB, alas, did not follow up by asking Clyde to specify his source. So we have nothing but the sort of family tradition that disqualifies Parker in America.

I haven't yet tackled LaPiana's chart sheets for Stephen and Pilgrim, except to notice a few obviously questionable points, which I should take time to check. . . Trouble with all such charts is the way they are used by most of us amateurs, who disregard the usual printed instructions about using the back of the sheet for precise notes on specific sources, matters of doubt, etc. Result, too often, is that guesses and beliefs and opinions get set down as facts, which they just ain't. . . . That's why I don't use charts: I have too many questions to raise, about what I'm writing.

Of course anyone has the right to say what he believes; but I don't think he should present his opinion as a fact. George May said it the right way, in something he wrote to the man who wrote the Sherman genealogy: "I believe, but cannot prove."

LaPiana spoke of submitting an application to the DAR. I find it hard to believe they'll accept anything with so little firm documentation.

Mention of George May reminds me of something else he has pointed out: the high probability that the Asa Newton who was Tamar Vinton's first husband must have been the son of Mary Newton's brother Oliver, so that when Jonas married Tamar he was marrying the widow of his first cousin -- a not infrequent happening in this family.

Pilgrim descendants contacted

Child	Descendant	Contacted by
Mary	minna Beebe	Evans
Edward		
Frederick		
Edwin O		
Lymon M	Lacey (Sugden) Bellhop - wife of Isaac, son of Lymon	Evans
Ann		
Cordelia		
Levi	Melvin P (Bellhop)	14/13
Alamina	Nyina (Dreythaler)	CyB
	John Lapierre	CyB - DAB
Milda		
Jane		

John LaPlante from CYB

27 Sept 1975

From the third paragraph in your letter of 25 Sept, I judge that my attempt to explain the status of the name of Mary Newton's mother was inadequate. Perhaps I erred in assuming that a commonplace problem was one that you had already encountered.

When we find that two sources of a wife's name agree on her first name but differ on her surname, the instant and obvious suspicion is that we are looking at still another instance of the marriage of a widow. The next step, then, is to determine which surname was her maiden family name. When this has been learned, there still remains the task of finding, if possible, the name of her first husband and the date and place of the first marriage -- if it can be proved to have occurred. If the second part of the investigation is successful, it may either prove that there was no such first marriage or else yield the record of that marriage.

In many such cases, the problem has been resolved completely. In others no progress whatever has yet been made. In others, as in the case that troubles you, only a partial solution has been developed.

At the risk of seeming to discuss a detail that may not be familiar to you, perhaps I should recount, briefly, the history of this case, which begins with James Kibbee, who was a Belknap by descent and had easy access to the family papers and records of the Belknaps still living in Connecticut in the 1880's and early 1900's. At some date before 1914, when Henry Wyckoff Belknap's Salem home burned down, Kibbee reported to Henry that the name of Mary Newton's mother was Mary Gibbs. HWB entered this information on his notes, naming Kibbee as the source but not showing the basis of Kibbee's statement. In what remains of Kibbee's correspondence after the Salem fire, ~~he~~ he always cited the specific original document from which he drew what he reported. . . . Because HWB shared his findings with anyone who asked, the name of Mary Gibbs, as mother of Mary Newton, became widely known and was not questioned until Mrs Leonard's genealogy was examined a few years ago.

In the course of a routine review of all available Newton materials, in search of clues to the parentage of a number of Newtons connected with the Belknap family, Mrs Leonard's naming of Mary Witt was noted for investigation when ~~possible~~ time permitted. Of course, Mrs Leonard's statement was not evidence. It proved nothing but that Mrs Leonard said it. It offered a clue to follow -- nothing more. But was a good clue, and original evidence of Mary Witt's parentage and her marriage under her maiden surname was not hard to find. So we could be sure that we knew her maiden surname.

There remained the need to investigate Kibbee's "Mary Gibbs." Here I came up empty handed. Examination of his surviving letters to HWB contained no mention of this point; so I could only conclude that the letter in which he gave this information to Henry had burned in the Salem fire. Lacking time to search any records of the Gibbs family (not worth while, in my judgment, as there are no other Gibbs connections to justify such effort), all that was possible was to note, on my record of the Belchertown family, that Mary Newton's mother was Mary Witt "possibly Widow Gibbs, as reported by Kibbee."

The point is simply that Kibbee's statement must be acknowledged. It cannot be ignored. We must always keep in mind such ~~instances~~ instances as the one in which the Canadian ~~descendants~~ descendants of one Belknap wife knew her by her previous married surname while the descendants in the USA knew her by her own maiden surname.

To illustrate my handling of this sort of thing, I enclose a copy of the MS on our first Samuel, prepared for Clinton's use. For his needs, I omitted the detailed annotation of sources of facts, such as the will of her father as proof of the maiden name of Samuel's wife. In this instance, I have no faith in the idea that she was a Widow Hill; but can't prove she wasn't; thus must acknowledge the possibility that somebody found something that I haven't found.

E. CLINTON BELKNAP

2019 HARWOOD STREET
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68502

29 August 1975

CYB from ECB

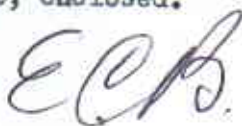
The grand children from Naples are enroute back to Italy with their parents and I shall now return to the routine of everyday living.

Am most grateful for your memo of August 11, 1975, and the enclosures. Also for the copy of your communication to Della Belnap under date 17 August 1975. Am returning a copy of the one to Della with a notation of possible error in typing copy.

Yes, I did supply La Piana with a copy of my Samuel sheet but only after the "?" marks had been removed from above the names of Mary and Chloe, # 38 and 39, and a heavy "?" placed over the name Mary as a possible wife of Stephen, #44. He had made inquiry as to the possibility of purchasing a copy of my book and I had sent him a few copies of certain pages, including Table of Contents, My family heritage graph etc along with a copy of the Samuel, #32, sheet in an honest attempt to let him know the limitations of my book so far as the listing of his particular line were concerned. I pointed out to him that the book did not include Pilgrim in its index.

I am enclosing copies of certain exchange of correspondence with La Piana which may be of interest. You will notice that he challenged my use of the name Mary Gibbs as the mother of Samuel's wife. Since he offered to present copies of his evidence I asked that he send it. See material enclosed, and noted. I had taken my ~~own~~ information from HWB's sheet, upon which he listed Stiles and Kibbe as his sources. It will be noted that La Piana also cites (but does not produce copy of) "Stiles' American Windsor" and other data in an attempt to prove my listing incorrect. Do you agree that he is right re Mary Witt as opposed to Mary Gibbs? Am enclosing copies of material he forwarded including pages from Newton Genealogy by Richard Newton and Early Settlers of Rowley, Mass. by George Brainard Blodgett as revised, edited and published by Amos Everett Jewett.

Please see copy of my letter to him under date of July 24, 1975, in which I ask him specifically if he has followed through on your suggestions. His response is in his letter to me under date of 8 August 1975. I also asked him for sheets showing what he had accepted as being his best information on Stephen, Son of Samuel and Pilgrim, son of Stephen. See copies of sheets he sent, enclosed.



Nphm LaPiana from CYB (Copies to ECB and Jane Bowman)

8 Sept 1975

NRMM MM

After much consideration and reconsideration, I'm enclosing a copy of a memo to Clinton Belknap, 3 Sept. When I wrote it, I automatically headed it "copy to LaPiana" because it dealt with something that you had originated: your chart sheet for Stephen. Reading it before mailing, I felt that it sounded censorious and might offend you -- though what it really reflected was merely sadness. So I set it aside for later examination. What has finally tipped the balance has been, today, my noting of still another instance of a mere supposition being stated as a fact: the statement that Pilgrim was born at Galway, whereas (a) there is no evidence that Stephen was at Galway before 1800, and (b) the census record showing Saratoga County as birthplace of Pilgrim does not say more than just that. So I can't escape feeling that I owe it to you to send the thing to you, even though I realize that it is unlikely to do any good. On the other hand, it can't make things any worse than they already are. So here it is.

This memo and the one to Clinton on 2 Sept were my responses to his shocked reaction to your statement that I was approving what you told him you were doing: "We are convinced that we are right, etc." In effect, Clinton was asking if I had suddenly abandoned the standards that he knows I have tried to live up to. I had to answer him fully and in detail.

Now, perhaps, you'll permit me to explain why it saddens me to see yet another fellow worker choose to join the great majority of amateur genealogists in two of their most prevalent errors: (1) stating inferences, conclusions and opinions as facts; (2) accepting as evidence what someone else has said or written, without verifying it. (One of the main requirements for becoming a Certified Genealogist is, quite properly, proof that the applicant "does not rely on uncompiled genealogies.")

When I suggested that Jane Bowman might find it well to read Gilbert Deane's great handbook, I neglected to say that it has one serious shortcoming. Although it is designed for aid to amateurs, it fails to warn them against these two common errors. Instead, Deane assumes -- in his characteristic fashion -- that his readers are serious workers whose integrity will not let them engage in fudging. But that's typical Deane courtesy. Even when he speaks of such unreliable sources as the Virkus Compendium and Cutter's books about New York genealogy he merely says "Must be used with care" or "Should be used with care and checked against original sources."

The truth is that many amateurs -- I'm tempted to say "most" -- fall into these two traps. Then, later, others accept and copy their errors -- as, for example, relying on what is shown on applications that the DAR has accepted, which were highly unsound in many instances in the society's early years and even up to 1958 when Dr Stephenson tried to reform the headquarters' procedure. (The latest batch I've received, copies of all applications by descendants of one RRV War captain, would seem ludicrously amusing if it didn't present me with a tough problem of hunting for the real facts.) It's like the old saying that "A lie never dies." Today, some 700 Belknaps, in the best-organized branch of the family, firmly believe that their link to Abraham was an Uncle of Stephen, and have recently published a pseudo-genealogy making this statement, which rests entirely on the way one man, in 1912, interpreted a slender bit of circumstantial evidence. HWB, who tried to help that man, finally shrugged him off by characterizing him as "a man most unfitted for that work." Others, including myself, have also tried to correct that unproven claim, but without success. The present-day supporters of the claim just can't accept the word "maybe." The original

supposition has grown and expanded into a full-fledged myth with all the invented trimmings of a holy belief. The harm done by making such conclusions is damnably skating
immortal.

I could go on and on, with endless examples of the results of stating as a fact what is actually only an opinion or an inference. But I'll spare you the pages and pages that such a recital would demand.

Instead, I'll tell you about an instance of the opposite attitude toward an unproven belief.

One of my long-time correspondents, whose genealogical knowledge and expertise are far better than mine, could easily claim to be descended from Mary Newton -- by her possible second marriage to his ancestor Elijah Parker. The circumstantial evidence supporting this claim is much more impressive than the circumstantial evidence about ~~Stephen's~~ parentage of Stephen of Galway -- though it includes some of the same elements, such as census returns in two years and the record of a death of "Mrs Elijah Parker (Mary)" of the right age to have been Mary Newton, in the right place and the right time. But the ~~man~~ who could make this claim commands my respect by resolutely refusing to do so. When I send him another piece of circumstantial evidence to consider, he just replies that it's interesting but isn't proof, and that maybe such-and-such a further effort might yield real original evidence. . . . He and I have been working on this for years and years, and will keep on working at it, meanwhile saying only "perhaps".

Reading what I've been writing, I fear I've been posing as a perfect practitioner of proper genealogical procedure. . . . Heaven knows I'm not. For instance, I sometimes say "probably" when a real genealogist would say "possibly." . . . But I am a good example of an old definition of an expert: "An expert is a man who has already made all these mistakes."

Copy to
C4 B.
7/25/75

16 July 1975

Mr. E. Clinton Belknap
1019 Harwood Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Dear Mr. Belknap:

By way of introduction, we got your name and address from Roberta Harband- whi is now a "friend by mail" too! We have long been working on the BELKNAP line and therefore have "met" lots of people in our search of this and related lines.

We come down through Samuel, Stephan, Pilgrim, etc. Our Pilgram was a brother of Jane Bowman's Hiram and also of Roberta's Jonas. So we have a lot in common.

We are especially interested in your BELKNAP GENEALOGY and wonder if there is any chance that a copy of it would be available, even on the balck market! We do want to add it to our library.

I am sure that through Roberta you are aware of the work that Carroll Y. Belknap is doing- we just hope that he doed not spend too much time searching and finally gets around to publishing. Are you aware of the BELNAP GENEALOGY that has recently been published by W. Dean Belnap of Salt Lake City? It is quite a costly volume, 350 pages for \$39.50- and since it does not contain out immediate linewe have not ordered a copy. If you are interested we can furnish details.

In the event that your book is not available, is it possible that we could buy xerox copies of the pages that contain items directly in our line?

We look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that we can be of some help to you in return.

Most sincerely,



John C. LaPiana

E. CLINTON BELKNAP2019 HARWOOD STREET
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68502

July 24, 1975

To
cy B
7/25/75

Mr. John C. LaPiana
313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214

Dear Mr. LaPiana:

Your letter of 16 July 1975 is at hand in which you tell of your extensive work on your Belknap line and make inquiry as to whether there is a possibility of purchasing a copy of my recent publication - A BELKNAP GENEALOGY.

I financed the publication of this book privately. Only 50 copies were produced, all with a quality hard back binding making it acceptable to librarians for permanent placement on the shelves of Historical and Genealogical sections. The supply still remaining unobligated has rapidly dwindled to the point that I now have only a few copies left and two of them are earmarked for two specific State Historical and Genealogical Libraries.. I am not in the business of selling books but as long as I have even one as yet unobligated copy I suppose I shall find it hard to turn down some one who is a Belknap descendant and truly interested in the book's contents.. It is expensive to publish a 328 page book such as this as a private venture and in such a small quantity and the price for it is \$40, postpaid. I did squeeze out a copy for Roberta Harband and her brother, Arthur, to share and if after reading the remainder of this letter you are still of the opinion that you would like a copy, I shall see that one is sent you if one is still available when your payment is received.

I am enclosing a copy of the book's table of contents together with a copy of its introduction, which includes my direct line chart. And, I am also sending a copy of the family sheet for Samuel (#32 in my compilation), which includes a listing of Stephen, whom I understand to have been the father of Pilgrim. Is that right? I do not extend Stephen's line beyond this listing in my book because there seemed to be some rather real confusion on documentation, and I therefore do not list your Pilgrim ancestor.

I have been exchanging Belknap genealogical material with Carroll Y. Belknap of Riverside, Conn., for a number of years and am aware of his attempt to be of some practical assistance to you in making your search for additional documentation earlier this year. Were you successful in following through on any of his suggestions? Has the matter been finally clarified and documented to your satisfaction? If so I would greatly appreciate any documented information that you have so I can add it to my permanent files.

You comment that your Pilgrim is a brother of Roberta's Jonas. Such a statement would seem to be correct as relates to Stephen if he were the father of Pilgrim but not to Pilgrim so far as I have been able to determine. You ask if I am aware of the current publication by Dr. Dean Belknap of Utah. I am aware of it but have not as yet seen a copy. I am quite willing to hang my hat on the records by Carroll Belknap and, although the narrative material by Dean Belknap may be interesting, I'm quite sure he can't top the records of Carroll for real authenticity and documentation and Carroll was good enough to share his material with me and to criticize and evaluate my work as I went along. I too, am anxious that Carroll complete and publish that which he already has and I feel he is working along that line now but he is so interested in helping others

A BELKNAP GENEALOGY
By
E. CLINTON BELKNAP
- - - -

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E. CLINTON BELKNAP GENEALOGICAL LINEAGE

This is a compilation of the paternal ancestral lineage of the author, E. Clinton Belknap, of Lincoln, Nebraska. It extends back over a period of some ten generations in America, beginning with the immigrant, Abraham Belknap, whose origin was in Sawbridgeworth, Hertford County, England, and who settled in Lynn, Massachusetts by, or possibly slightly before, 1637. It is the culmination of a project begun as a hobby more than twenty-five years ago - a project which has required an increasing amount of time, correspondence, and research in more recent years.

Literally scores of individuals have graciously assisted in the endeavor - some only after considerable urging - while others have readily gone out of their way to be of help. Our inquiries have frequently prompted members of the family to take time to assemble and record accurate data concerning their own segment of the family history which might otherwise have been neglected and eventually perhaps lost to posterity. Thus, they have served themselves as well as this compiler.

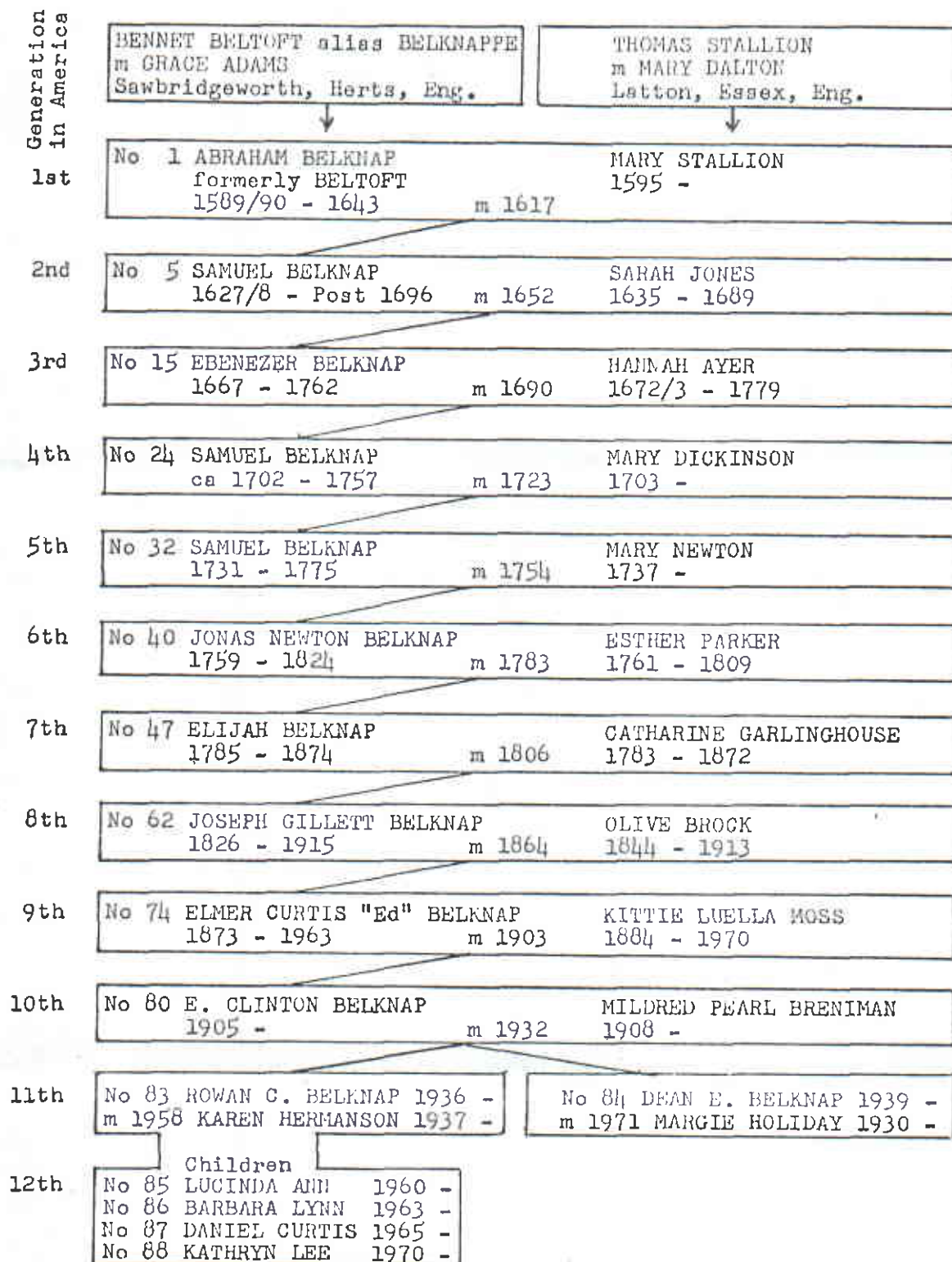
Among those to whom we are most deeply indebted, other than the compiler's father, the late Elmer Curtis "Ed" Belknap No 74, and brothers Glen Noble Belknap No 82, Hay Springs, Nebraska, and Ernest Lee Belknap No 81, Greeley, Colorado, are: Mrs. Jane E. (M.R.) Belknap, Des Moines, Iowa; the late Anna McCormack Belknap No 70, of Cedar Vale, Kansas; Sopha Belknap Eudy No 66-6, of Cisco, Texas, and Mr. Carroll York Belknap (CYB) of Riverside, Connecticut, upon whom we have leaned most heavily. We have also drawn rather generously upon the writings and records of the well known Belknap genealogist, the late Henry Wyckoff Belknap (HWB).

Carroll Belknap, a retired market analyst and sales consultant, has exhibited great interest in the Belknap family history and has in recent years devoted almost full time to the compilation of an accurate record of all branches of the family in America. He is a direct descendant of Jesse Belknap 1792-1881, who was a brother of the compiler's great grandfather, Elijah Belknap No 47. Both Jesse and Elijah were sons of the Revolutionary War soldier, Jonas N. Belknap No 40, and grandsons of Samuel Belknap No 32, also a Revolutionary War soldier, who died at Cambridge, Massachusetts, 18 June 1775, in the service of his country. Henry Wyckoff Belknap, unmarried, devoted much time to recording the ancestral lineage of the American Belknaps. Among other endeavors, he served as Secretary of Essex Institute in Boston and Curator of its museum from 1918 to 1931.

Very sincere credit must also go to the compiler's patient and many talented wife, Mildred B. Belknap (See Family Group No 80) for her help in researching U.S. Census microfilm records as well as other documents and for typing the Family History summaries included in this compilation.

A BELKNAP GENEALOGICAL LINEAGE

2



NUMBERING SYSTEM USED IS ASSIGNING INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATIONS

More complete data on individuals in the direct ancestral line shown on the preceding page will be found in the following pages under Family Group and Family History record numbers indicated. Beginning with the Jonas N. Belknap, No 40, family, some auxiliary records of other than direct line members are included with a rather complete compilation of the descendants of Elijah Belknap No 47, through the ninth, and even later generations of this particular line of Belknaps in America.

In assigning numbers for individual and family group record purposes, full numbers without prefix or suffix, have been provided for those in the direct line outlined and for each member of their own immediate families, such as Jonas N. Belknap No 40, and his children, Samuel No 46, through Orin No 53; Joseph Gillett Belknap No 62, and his many children beginning with Ahijah "Jack" Belknap No 64, oldest child by his first wife, to and including Daisy Belknap Wood No 79, youngest child by his second marriage.

Branches from the direct line shown have been given the full number assigned to the head of this branch, plus a suffix number, usually in chronological order but not necessarily so when some additional units have come to light after other auxiliary units have already been identified and assigned their numbers. Thus, the descendants of Elisha No 49, brother of Elijah No 47, are assigned 49-1, 49-2, 49-3, etc. The suffix numbers continue to grow as the auxiliary family record increases, but the prime whole number ahead of the suffix will always indicate from which direct line member the family or individual sprang.

Reference numbers at the top of each Family Group sheet list the lineal ancestry identification of this particular family back to Abraham No 1, the original founder of the Belknap family in America. Sources of information are identified in connection with each Family Group sheet. By noting and pursuing the identification number (listed in the far left hand margin) for the respective children listed on any given Family Group sheet, one can follow generations subsequent to the family record shown. For example, listed in the far left margin of the Clinton Belknap No 80 Family Group, will be found the assigned individual numbers of this family's two children, Rowan Curtis Belknap No 83, and Dean Edward Belknap No 84, whose subsequent Family Groups will be listed under these son's respective numbers.

Since this is a Belknap genealogical compilation, the listing of descendants has been confined to those family groups carrying the name of Belknap, first, as the head of the family; second, as the maiden name of the wife in the immediate family; or third, as the parent of one or the other of these two.

With the original purpose of this compiler being to pass on to his children a more complete record of family lineage and history than had previously been available, numerous individual notations may sometimes follow a certain entry on the Family History sheets. This is done to more specifically identify sources or background and thus give an even broader base for subsequent research, if and as desired, by those who follow.

References: 24, 15, 5, 1 5th Generation in America
 FAMILY GROUP No. 32 Husband's Full Name SAMUEL BELKNAP

This Information Obtained From: Husband's Date Birth Day Month Year City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or Country Add. Info. on Husband
 Glen Evans, Lansing Birth 13 6 1731 Enfield Hartford Conn. Enlisted Rev.
 Mich; Henry Wyckoff Chr'd 14 7 1731 Somers Church, Tolland, Conn. War from Bel-
 Belknap via Carroll Mar. 19 6 1751 chertown, Mass.
 Y. Belknap, River- Death 18 6 1775 Cambridge Mass.
 side, Conn; Carroll Burial Died in service after fighting on Bunker Hill, June 17.
 Y. Belknap; Belcher Places of Residence Windsor (Ellington), Conn. & Belchertown, Mass.
 town Congregational Occupation Church Affiliation Military Rec.

church records; Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Rev-olutionary War; Mormon Church re-cords, Salt Lake City.

His Father Samuel (1703) #24 Mother's Maiden Name Mary Dickinson

Wife's Full Maiden Name Mary Newton

Wife's Date Birth Day Month Year City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or Country Add. Info. on Wife
 Birth 8 11 1737 E. Windsor, Conn.

Compiler Clinton Belknap Places of Residence

Address 2019 Harwood Occupation if other than Housewife Church Affiliation
 City, State Lincoln, Nebr.

Date 19 July 1970 Her Father Stephen Newton Mother's Maiden Name Mary Gibbs

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date Birth Day Month Year City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or Country Add. Info. on Children
38	1 MARY Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 1751 Mar. 25 11 1773 Death Burial
F	Rufus Kentfield	Birth 1757 Mar. 27 1 1780 Death Burial
39	2 CHLOE Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 1759 Mar. 27 1 1780 Death Burial
F	Levi Shumway	Birth 1761 Mar. Death 1781 Burial
40	3 JONAS NEWTON Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 19 5 1759 Windsor (Ellington) Conn. Bapt. in Bel- Mar. 17 1 1783 Belchertown Mass. chertown Congre- Death 16 2 1824 Hart Co., Ky. gational Church Burial 12 Apr. 1761
M	Esther Parker	Birth 1761 Mar. Death Burial
41	4 SUSANNA Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 1767 Mar. Death Burial
F	SETH	Birth 13 12 1762 Belchertown Mass. Mar. Death 13 8 1854 Burial
42	5 JOSEPH Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 1767 Mar. Death Burial
M	SETH	Birth 1769 Mar. Death Burial
43	6 STEPHEN Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 1769 Mar. Death Burial
M	Mary	Is reported to have drown in Canada, -- Jane E. Belknap & HWB.
44	7 JONATHAN Full Name of Spouse*	Birth 10 4 1764 Belchertown Mass. Some descend- Mar. Death 10 1838 New Milford Pa. ants settled in Burial Mich., Glen Evans letter, 27 June 1950.
M	Sebra Shedd	Birth Mar. Death Burial
45	8	Birth Mar. Death Burial
	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth Mar. Death Burial
10		Birth Mar. Death Burial
	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth Mar. Death Burial

* If married more than once, each mar. (1) (2) etc. and list in "Add. info. on children" column. Use reverse side for additional children, other wives, references or information.

JohnLaPiana from CYB

21 Sept 1975

Beyond expressing my deep regret that my efforts to aid you have angered you, I can't attempt to deal with the main themes of your most recent letter, for there has never been a worthy answer to an argumentum ad hominem. All I can do is to say as gently as possible is that the issue has not been whether I've been heartless and cruel -- nor whether you have done a lot of good genealogical work. The sole and simple issue has been whether what you set down on paper about Stephen of Galway was in accord with normal standard practice.

So the discussion ends where it began.

Now I must turn my attention to the task of drafting a revision of my sheets on the Balchertown family, which I have been deferring till now in hope of receiving evidence that might justify accepting that Stephen as prevably a member of the family. A considerable body of additional data has been accumulated in the past two years, and should be included -- especially for use by Clinton who is planning the printing of Supplement to his book, partly for the purpose of correcting some relatively unimportant errors resulting from his use of statements made by Glenn Evans.

I think I should, in justice to Clinton, make it plain that he was not at fault in having failed to read Mrs Leonard's book. There was no reason for him to see it, as he did no research on the first six generations in his line and mine. He relied on me for that material -- and I let him down by failing to notify him when I finally decided that I was not going to be able to prove that Mary Newton's mother was Widow Gibbs, as was naturally suspected when two researchers of equal skill reported different names. All such cases, and there have been many, trace back to the fact that a marriage record was entered differently in two separate records, such as a church record and a town record, or in the vital records of two different towns. James Kibbee, who reported "Gibbs," was the top authority on Connecticut Belknaps in the period 1890 to 1910, and is not known to have erred on anything he reported finding. We were indebted to him for the correction of errors and omissions in Stiles Ancient Widdser and other published data of early Connecticut families. Failing to find his source, I had to decide to use only the known maiden name, with a note to the effect that she might have been a Widow Gibbs, a necessary precaution for the sake of descendants whose records and traditions might have her as "Gibbs." A man preparing a comprehensive genealogy covering about 4500 Belknaps of unquestioned lineage, plus a number of "suspected but not proved" such as Stephen of Galway, is not writing for those now living but for those who will be living a hundred years from now and will need every known clue. I regret that I'm unable to name her first husband -- if there was one.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

I think I should add one more comment, in fairness to Evans. He never claimed that his work was accurate. He did just the reverse. In the prefaces to material that he issued, he consistently said that he had simply copied what he found, wherever he found it, with only a few rare ~~essays~~ at verification, and that even the lineages he showed might be incorrect. We can't say he didn't warn us.

*File
LaPiana*

July 24, 1975

Mr. John C. LaPiana
313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York, 13214

(Near Syracuse - N.Y.)

Dear Mr. LaPiana:

Your letter of 16 July 1975 is at hand in which you tell of your extensive work on your Belknap line and make inquiry as to whether there is a possibility of purchasing a copy of my recent publication - A BELKNAP GENEALOGY.

I financed the publication of this book privately. Only 50 copies were produced, all with a quality hard back binding making it *acceptable* to librarians for permanent placement on the shelves of Historical and Genealogical sections. The supply still remaining unobligated has rapidly dwindled to the point that I now have only a few copies left and two of them are earmarked for two specific State Historical and Genealogical Libraries.. I am not in the business of selling books but as long as I have even one ~~copy~~ yet unobligated copy I suppose I shall find it hard to turn down some one who is a Belknap descendant and truly interested in the book's contents.. It is expensive to publish a 328 page book such as this as a private venture and in such a small quantity and the price for it is \$40, postpaid. I did squeeze out a copy for Roberta Harband and her brother, Arthur, to share and if after reading the remainder of this letter you are still of the opinion that you would like a copy, I shall see that one is sent you if one is still available when your payment is received.

I am enclosing a copy of the book's table of contents together with a copy of its introduction, which includes my direct line chart. And, I am also sending a copy of the family sheet for Samuel (#32 in my compilation), which includes a listing of Stephen, whom I understand to have been the father of Pilgrim. Is that right? I do not extend Stephen's line beyond this listing in my book because there seemed to be some rather real confusion on documentation, and I therefore do not list your Pilgrim ancestor.

I have been exchanging Belknap genealogical material with Carroll Y. Belknap of Riverside, Conn., for a number of years and am aware of his attempt to be of some practical assistance to you in making your search for additional documentation earlier this year. Were you successful in following through on any of his suggestions? Has the matter been finally clarified and documented to your satisfaction? If so I would greatly appreciate any documented information that you have so I can add it to my permanent files.

You comment that your Pilgrim is a brother of Roberta's Jonas. Such a statement would seem to be correct as relates to Stephen if he were the father of Pilgrim but not to Pilgrim so far as I have been able to determine. You ask if I am aware of the current publication by Dr. Dean Belnap of Utah. I am aware of it but have not as yet seen a copy. I am quite willing to hang my hat on the records of Carroll Belknap and, although the narrative material by Dean Belnap may be interesting, I'm quite sure he can't copy the records of Carroll for real authenticity and documentation and Carroll was good enough to share his material with me and to criticize and evaluate my work as I went along. I too, am anxious that Carroll complete and publish that which he already has and I feel he is working along that line now but he is so interested in helping others develop accurate data that

July 24, 1975

develop accurate data on their own lines that the completion of his own compilation may suffer as a result. There is no doubt in my mind that Carroll is the most knowledgeable and most highly motivated Belknap genealogist of this generation.

You may be interested in knowing that copies of my book have been deposited in the following libraries in the NE area of the country: New York Genealogical and Biographical; New England Historic Genealogical Library, Boston and the Library of Congress, Card Catalogue # 75-299036.

Good to hear from you and, if after reading what I have written, you are still interested in purchasing a copy of my publication - A Belknap Genealogy,

I shall see that you get one if a copy is still unobligated when the payment is received. And if you have new information on your family as relates to Pilgrim and his father Stephen please do share it with me sometime when it is convenient.

Sincerely

copy

JOHN C. LATHROP
ST. JOHNS
NEW YORK

31 July 1975

Mr. E. Clinton Belknap
2019 Harwood Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Dear Mr. Belknap:

Many, many thanks for your letter of the 24th of July and please do not judge the time interval that it has taken for reply as an index of interest. We have been very busy and have also had tropical weather for the past week- which is not the best inducement to correspondence. It is now well after 10^{PM} and the inside temperature is still over 90°. Most unusual for us this time of the year- or any time of the year for that matter- usually have more SNOW than nice weather around here!

Have been working on little other than the BELKNAP line for the last six months and that means that we have covered a lot of area. We have read most of the New York State Census records for the periods that Stephan was missing and are now convinced, beyond any doubt of the connection between him and Samuel. All evidence indicates that we are right and even CYB has come around to this point of view. We have run down Glen Evans records, George DeGroff's records and Mina Bebee's records. We have been through land records by the foot and ALL of the available probate records. It just was the ONLY Stephan in New York State. We were firmly convinced when we found a 1855 State Census record that listed Pilgrim as having been b. in Saratoga County, N.Y.- for that is JUST the right place- we had found his father in Galway, Saratoga County prior to finding the census record. So we are going to stop our all out search and accept this line. It is only an indirect anyways and we have spent long enough on it now. Jane Bowman is going to publish next year and she has accepted it on the advice of Carroll Y. Finally- we will be in print- and believe me- it has taken a lot of work!

True?
H. J. G.

Yes, I did make a mistake in my letter to you, for our Stephan, NOT Pilgrim is a brother to Roberta's Jonas! I am working so many lines at the same time that I often am getting the wrong people into a line- at least this time it was the same line- excuse it if you will.

Now that I admit to a mistake, I think that I have to point out one that you have made- Mary NEWTON was infact the dau. of Stephan- but her mother was NOT Mary GIBBS as you state but rather, Mary⁴ WITT, the daughter of Jonathan³ and Lydia (Matthews) Witt. *through vitals as well as the NEWTON GEN-
EALOGY, by Ermina Newton Leonard, 1915. Would be glad to send you a copy- for I have it- if you are interested. Also have Hannah AYERS and the DICKINSON (Wood) line if you want.

31 July 1975

There I go doing it again. I was trying to get all of this on one page and because I am so verbose- I ran out of space. I usually sit down and expect that I am going to get a dozen letters written in a given evening and am always left wondering why I am stuck at two! I am also having a severe problem with this ribbon- just got a new one and apparently it is not the right size- for it hangs up on the shift- andz that makes for all sorts of odd problems. The kids don't help either for they love to get into things and are always "typing" too. Ours are a bit younger than yours- in fact I come about between your two- b. 28 Aug 1937. Our Julie will be 10 in October- Jeffrey was 8 in April; David is just about 6 MONTHS old and then there is Mark who was two in May! Somy dear friends, you can see that we have our hands full and almost have two families too.--- all from the same parents I might add!

We have published (limited editions all) on our GOODELL line, on the Women in our GOODELL line etc. Also have a RAUBER and LANDER line that is in print. In the meantime- we have abstracted DAR papers, indexed Boyd's History of Conesus, New York, as well as the genealogical swops in the YANKEE magazine for the 5 years that they have carried the same. Have an old scrapbook of the Livingston County, New York area- 1880-1912- that is also indexed in depth. We HAVE been busy! Managed to work up 8 DAR supplements for my wife, as well as her papers for Daughters of Founders and Patriots, Colonial Dames and New England Women- ALL using a different line. Have lots of supplements for both lines that we can work on- but for the time and, of course, the money involved.

As long as Jane is going to publish next year- and she has a line closer to ours- we think we will wait for her book. Appreciate your offer to reserve one and will be more than willing to exchange data on related lines if that is of interest.

Look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Most sincerely,


John C. LaPiana

copy

8 August 1975

Mr. E. Clinton Belknap
2019 Harwood Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Dear Mr. Belknap:

This is definately a BELKNAP year for I just finished a letter to Jane Belknap Bowman (P.O. Box 1335, Avalon, CA) She is about to publish on our line, as I believe I have told you and therefore we have to "feed" her all of the data that we discover so that she can have more reason to delay publication. Know so many people who are working on books- we are working on our Rauber-Lander line- and it seems that about the time you settle down to write it all up the flood gates open and all sorts of new data sift in. How did you decide when to stop looking and when to start writing???

We feel quite strongly that we are right about the parents of Mary Newton- and we will hold this off until Monday when we have a chance to get copies of the data we have to send along to you. Think that you too will be convinced, for the b. date of Mary Newton is right and there are several other references- check Stiles "Ancient Windsor" for it is in there twice- p. 534 and also p. 725. That is in addition to the data in the enclosures! Never like to "argue" with anyone- but in this regard, we think that we are right. Carol has a DAR supplement pending on this line- so we can see if it is proven and then will sort of be able to relax. Meantime we welcome and look forward to your comments.

I will try to complete the family group sheets best that I can and will also enclose those with this letter- it is going to be a bulky package at this rate!

Appreciate your comments, consideration and interest and do look forward to hearing from you again. Anything we can forward or find is always a plus!

Most sincerely,

John C. LaPiana
John C. LaPiana

Enclosures

ECB from CYB

Copy to John Larianna

3 Feb 1975

In filing my copy of memo to you written yesterday, I've noted another blunder by my fingers: 5th paragraph, "1810 census" should have been 1800, of course -- as you've probably noted already.

Yesterday I said that the sheet for Stephen, from Larianna, seemed to need examination. Today I've looked at it in detail. Here are my comments.

This sheet ^(annotated) ~~(annotated)~~ copy attached) is typical of hundreds that I've received from correspondents -- presenting alleged statements of facts that need support and/or explanation of their true nature. Always, my task is to distinguish between what seems valid and what isn't. Usually the task is baffling, as in this instance, except on points about which I have prior knowledge.

The difficulties always begin at the spot I've marked "A" on the attached copy: the space for statement of source or sources. Here, as on this sheet, I usually find an unfathomable jumble of a lot of so-called sources -- without indication of just what entry came from what source -- and many of the so-called sources are merely names of secondary things such as somebody else's compilation -- amounting to nothing more than "so-and-so said," which isn't evidence. Often, the compiler of the sheet seems to have been making an heroic effort to show that his sheet must be OK -- but the nature of the jumble of so-called sources merely arouses doubt.

Now, more specific comments:

"A 1" -- What DAR record supports this sheet? I'm curious, for I know of no DAR member who claims Stephen as an ancestor. Maybe I'm wrong. An exact reference is needed.

"B" -- Mary ---- as wife shown without? On what basis? What is needed is a note that Evans said the Mary buried near Conquest was Stephen's wife, without proof.

"C" -- In effect, this line states as a fact that the Stephen born in Belchertown was parent of children shown below. What's needed is a proper note giving reasons for making this unproven assumption. (But people who use such printed forms hardly ever supply explanatory notes on the back of the sheet, as they are instructed to do.)

"D" -- Married 1790 --- Source of this entry? If this is a fact, then there's proof of the basic claim. Where did 1790 come from?

"E" -- What is the meaning of the "!" before date of death? I know of no reason for questioning it -- but what I'd add, if I were doing the preparation of such a sheet, would be a note that the date and place of the death of Stephen traces back to a statement made by his posthumous son Stephen, born in Canada, who presumably got the information from his mother. (One present-day descendant of the Canadian son has said, acridly, "Maybe that supposed drowning was a fake and he deserted his Canadian wife and children as well as his Galway wife" -- but, again, there's no known basis for this suspicion. No one has yet studied Hamilton newspapers of that date to see if there's a record of that drowning.)

"F" -- Galway, -- The sheet provides no justification for stating -- as a fact -- that the son of Samuel and Mary lived at Galway. Nor any indication that this is an assumption.

Husband's Full Name Stephen Belknap

This Information Obtained From:

John C LaPiana
313 Cooper Lane
DeWitt, N.Y. 13214

B-AUG-75

N.Y. State and Fed
Census records- CYB

Records, Jane Bowman
Records, Della Belna
Records, DAN Census
Grave(Records-
photos of graves

Handwritten Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	Other Location	Add. Info. on Deaths
Birth	28 June 1769	Belchertown, Mass.	(C)		
Chr'd					
Mar.	1790	(D)			
Death	? Dec 1811	drowned, Burlington Bay	(E)		
Burial		Hamilton, Ont., Canada			

Places of Residence Belchertown, Galway, N.Y., Canada
Occupation Church Affiliation (F) Military Rec.

Other given, if any, No. (1) (5) (6)
Make separate sheet for each race.

His Father **Samuel Belknap** Mother's Maiden Name **Mary Newton**

Wife's Full Maiden Name (1) Mary B (2) Eleanor

Wife's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth					
Chr'd					
Death					
Burial					

Places of Residence	Church Affiliation
Occupation if other than Housewife	

Her Father _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

Children's	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Child
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Children's Names to Follow
(Arrange in order of birth)

1 boy

2 Polly (Mary(ann

3 **Minerva**
Full Name of Request

4 Pilgrim
Full Name of Spouse?

Abner Colvin

5 Hiram

Full Name of Spouse
Sarah R. Eastman

6 Son (70 2 (m)

Full Name of Spouse*

7
Full Name of Sponsor*

8	Full Name of Spouse*
---	----------------------

9

Full Name of Donor

10	Full Name of Spouse*
----	----------------------

Birth		
Mar.		
Death		
Burial		
Birth		
Mar.		
Death		
Burial		
Birth		
Mar.		
Death		
Burial		
Birth		
Mar.		
Death		
Burial		
Birth	1795	Galway, Saratoga Co., N.Y.
Mar.	c. 1720	
Death	23 Feb 1869	Spring Lake, Cayuga Co., N.Y.
Burial		
Birth	3 Sept 1808	Galway, Saratoga Co. n.y.

[illegible]

Burial
Birth
Mar.
Death
Burial

Birth	
Mar.	
Death	
Burial	

Birth
Mar.
Death
Burial

Birth	
Mar.	
Death	
Burial	

Birth	
Mar.	
Death	
Burial	

Donna LaPiana from CYB (Copies to KCH and Jane Bowman)

8 Sept 1975

After much consideration and reconsideration, I'm enclosing a copy of a memo to Clinton Belknap, 3 Sept. When I wrote it, I automatically headed it "copy to LaPiana" because it dealt with something that you had originated: your chart sheet for Stephen. Reading it before mailing, I felt that it sounded censorious and might offend you -- though what it really reflected was merely sadness. So I set it aside for later examination. What has finally tipped the balance has been, today, my noting of still another instance of a mere supposition being stated as a fact: the statement that Pilgrim was born at Galway, whereas (a) there is no evidence that Stephen was at Galway before 1800, and (b) the census record showing Saratoga County as birthplace of Pilgrim does not say more than just that. So I can't escape feeling that I owe it to you to send the thing to you, even though I realize that it is unlikely to do any good. On the other hand, it can't make things any worse than they already are. So here it is.

~~That~~ memo and the one to Clinton on 2 Sept were my responses to his shocked reaction to your statement that I was approving what you told him you were doing: "We are convinced that we are right, etc." In effect, Clinton was asking if I had suddenly abandoned the standards that he knows I have tried to live up to. I had to answer him fully and in detail.

Now, perhaps, you'll permit me to explain why it saddens me to see yet another fellow worker choose to join the great majority of amateur genealogists in two of their most prevalent errors; (1) stating inferences, conclusions and opinions as facts; (2) accepting as evidence what someone else has said or written, without verifying it. (One of the main requirements for becoming a Certified Genealogist is, quite properly, proof that the applicant "does not rely on compiled genealogies.")

When I suggested that Jane Bowman might find it well to read Gilbert Doane's great handbook, I neglected to say that it has one serious shortcoming. Although it is designed for aid to amateurs, it fails to warn them against those two common errors. Instead, Doane assumes -- in his characteristic fashion -- that his readers are serious workers whose integrity will not let them engage in fudging. But that's typical Doane courtesy. Even when he speaks of such unreliable sources as the Virkus Compendium and Cutter's books about New York genealogy he merely says "Must be used with care" or "Should be used with care and checked against original sources."

The truth is that many amateurs -- I'm tempted to say ~~most~~ ^{almost all} -- fall into those two traps. Then, later, others accept and copy their errors -- as, for example, relying on what is shown on applications that the DAR has accepted, which were highly unsound in many instances in the society's early years and even up to 1958 when Dr Stephenson tried to reform the headquarters' procedure. (The latest batch I've received, copies of all applications by descendants of one Rev War captain, would seem ludicrously amusing if it didn't present me with a tough problem of hunting for the real facts.) It's like the old saying that "A lie never dies." Today, some 700 Belknaps, in the best-organized branch of the family, firmly believe that their link to Abraham was an Uncle of Stephen, and have recently published a pseudo-genealogy making this statement, which rests entirely on the way one man, in 1912, interpreted a slender bit of circumstantial evidence. HWS, who tried to help that man, finally shrugged him off by characterizing him as "a man most unfitted for this work." Others, including myself, have also tried to correct that unproven claim, but without success. The present-day supporters of the claim just can't accept the word "maybe." The original

supposition has grown and expanded into a full-fledged myth with all the invented trimmings of a holy belief. The harm done by ~~making~~ ^{stating} such conclusions is damnably immortal.

I could go on and on, with endless examples of the results of stating as a fact what is actually only an opinion or an inference. But I'll spare you the pages and pages that such a recital would demand.

Instead, I'll tell you about an instance of the opposite attitude toward an unproven belief.

One of my long-time correspondents, whose genealogical knowledge and expertise are far better than mine, could easily claim to be descended from Mary Newton -- by her possible second marriage to his ancestor Elijah Parker. The circumstantial evidence supporting this claim is much more impressive than the circumstantial evidence about the ~~possible~~ parentage of Stephen of Galway -- though it includes some of the same elements, such as census returns in two years and the record of a death of "Mrs. Elijah Parker (Mary)" of the right age to have been Mary Newton, in the right place and the right time. But the man who could make this claim commands my respect by resolutely refusing to do so. When I send him another piece of circumstantial evidence to consider, he just replies that it's interesting but isn't proof, and that maybe such-and-such a further effort might yield real original evidence. . . . He and I have been working on this for years and years, and will keep on working at it, meanwhile saying only "perhaps".

Reading what I've been writing, I fear I've been posing as a perfect practitioner of proper genealogical procedure. . . . Heaven knows I'm not. For instance, I sometimes say "probably" when a real genealogist would say "possibly." . . . But I am a good example of an old definition of an expert: "An expert is a man who has already made all those mistakes."

JOHN C. LAPIANA
313 COOPER LANE
DEWITT, N. Y. 13214

24 September 1975

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

Your VERY NICE letter of the 21st arrived today and I today and it makes me even sadder that I wrote that BAD letter. However, I was in the pit of depression and had had a whole string of letters only telling me that we were making no progress! You are one of the best genealogists we have ever met- and you have inspired us despite the apparent despiration! We will never go down in history as far more than family historians- but at least we are giving it a good try. (Have to admit that once I can retire and get into this full time- I might try to be certified! But don't tell anyone about it yet- for I am still making all of the mistakes of a novice!)

We did not know, until you told us that Clinton was going to publish a supplement. Matter of fact, we have not seen the first that he did since we did not think that it was that close to our line! And you know, we are convinced, if not proven, that our line is OUR LINE!


Dumb as I am, must admit that I still do not understand the GIBBS-NEWTON set up! We understand that you do not agree with us- but still have never found Mary's mother as the "widow Gibbs" and would like direction toward that end! And this is certainly not in aged anger!

Hope that you will accept this as "sorry" and will not write us off your list forever- despite enough to cause it! You can be sure that we will continue to search the line and will PROMISE you to write- "we think this is written right" on all the conclusions that we draw.

Keep up the good work ole friend, and do not let young things like us upset the apple cart! It is only people like you that, despite upsets, keep us going!

Thanks for your letter and stick in there!

Carol and the children join me in sending you our best!

Most sincerely,

John C. LaPiana

E. CLINTON BELKNAP

2019 HARWOOD STREET
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68502

16 September 1975

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

Thank you for your memo dated 3 August 1975 but actually written 3 September. Your message regarding the importance of factual verification and documentation and your personal evaluation of printed forms for recording genealogical data came through loud and clear. It would make an excellent first chapter to any introduction to basic instructions for every beginning would be genealogist!

Personally I like the prepared forms, backed up by an attached sheet or sheets of notes and documentations. I like to look at the face of the form as I make my notes to accompany same, and do not like to write on the back. But, of course, your point is that the actual recording of such notations of sources and specific proof regarding the various entries is so very important and this I have learned the hard way.

Now, let me mount my soap box as I have done once or twice before concerning a matter close to my heart. You have already collected, documented and have, I think, probably recorded in a form suitable for publication a tremendous volume of information on the Belknap ~~family~~ ^{Genealogical} family that should be published, or at least bound in final form and placed with the New England Historic Society and NOW! Especially those early generations concerning which you have labored so long and with such zeal and integrity..

Quit letting others, including myself, unintentionally or otherwise, trap you into dropping your major endeavor to search out or skirmish over some much less important detail. Carroll, you will be 83 the 29th of this month, if I am not mistaken, and as one who has had the rare privilege of corresponding with you over a period of years, I detect in you a growing sensitivity and impatience with the short comings of others who dabble with Belknap genealogy.

I sincerely hope that you live to at least 110 but damn it, Carroll, no man lives forever and if you don't get the meaty part of your material published NOW, the way you want it, while there is yet time, you will wind up with the project left dangling as others before you have, with history recording your ~~your~~ endless labors and good intentions but with amateurs in the field left to run wild because your firm foundation of factual, documented data has gone by the way for lack of the final punch of publication.

My best to you always!

Sincerely,



25 February 1976

Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn 06878

Dear Carroll,

I am enclosing the material that I expect to include in my booklet of family history. You had once mentioned that you would be willing to correct errors that I may have made. I do not feel that I have "jumped to conclusions" although I may have. I tried to always indicate where records have not been found.

I am not sending my bibliography, although I could do so. Do you want to see it? What about the generations after Hiram? I have those also.

This is not a book of Belknap lineage, but rather the background I have been able to find about all of our children's ancestors. Publication is planned for June, but I may need to delay the date a bit.

I was able to buy Clinton's book. It is a scholarly treatment of the Belknap lineage. I am glad to have it. Thank you for letting me know about it.

Sincerely,



Jane Bowman

Mrs. Ezra A. Bowman
P.O. Box 1335
Avalon, Ca 90704

JANE BOWMAN from CYB

4 March 1976

Thank you for sending me your draft on the earlier generations. Just as soon as I can, I'll send you some suggestions for minor revisions. I wish Clinton had given me this sort of opportunity before he published his book; I might have spared him the necessity of issuing a list of Errata, as he is now preparing to do.

For the moment, a few comments.

Many of the errors in your manuscript are not your fault, for they merely repeat incorrect details in Clinton's book. In the main, his errors derive from his repetition of data he obtained from Glen Evans in the 1950's. Till he came in contact with me, in the 1960s, Evans was the only source he knew -- and he stuck with Evans out of a sense of loyalty that Evans did not deserve. The work done by Evans contains every sin known to genealogy -- even to the point of fraudulent alteration of documents. In the many hundreds of pages of his compilations, in my study, I haven't seen a single page that is free from error. He did no real research. He merely copied whatever he found, no matter how grotesque -- added his own whims -- altered dates to fit his notions -- stated approximate dates as correct dates -- and over and over, made identifications based on nothing but similarity of name -- and named as sources books that contain not one supporting word and documents that do not exist. . . I say these things to warn you that in relying on Evans in your section about Stephen the risk of error is great.

I'm enclosing, as illustration, my final version of my record of Ebenezer -- which Clinton did not reproduce. In his chart for Ebenezer, he used a number of details from Evans -- which are not in accord with the documentary records that I followed.

In defence of Clinton, let me stress that his book is by far the most accurate Belknap genealogy yet published. Its errors are minor and merely typify the mistakes that are bound to occur in any compiled genealogy based on secondary sources. Aside from tracing descendants of his own ancestor Elijah, Clinton did no real research but relied on others for the information that he assembled. It's just too bad that he clung so loyally to his faithful Evans.

I'm also enclosing a copy of a memo on our English ancestry, because I think you may possibly wish to prepare some summary of the background of the change of name, instead of leaving it unexplained. This memo was written to steer our Mormon cousins away from mistakes they were making in preparing the book they were getting ready to publish. I'm glad to say that they printed the memo in full, verbatim. . . Page 3 may be of interest to you, for it deals directly with the mystery of our true ancestry: was the first Richard Beltoft actually a descendant of the Sir Robert Belknap who was chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas under Richard II? If he was (and even if illegitimately), then we number among our distant cousins Elizabeth's Earl of Essex, Sir Francis Bacon, William Shakespeare, and the present Queen and her children. Someday this mystery will be solved, I'm sure. Are you sure you wish to ignore it?

Stephen

JOHN SHERMAN from CYB

28 June 1974

Status of investigation of the Saratoga County Stephen Belknap, to date:

- No deeds or will or intestate proceedings on record in that county, for him, or any other Belknap, in period 1790 to 1830.
any other Stephen
- No trace of ~~him~~ in ~~1820~~ census in other counties of N Y.
1800
- No indexes available for NY Census 1810 and 1820; so have abandoned effort to see if a Stephen appears in any other NY county in those years.

Problem: if the Saratoga Stephen was the one born at Belchertown Mass in 1769, who next shows up in Hamilton Ontario in 1813, what became of the children he left behind in Saratoga County? One of them, Pilgrim, appears in Cayuga County in 1812. The other son, Hiram, next shows up in St Lawrence County (in the part now Jefferson County) in 1835. Where was this Hiram in years between 1810 and 1835? One possibility is that when Stephen left for Canada, he might have put his children in hands of his brother Joseph who was in Lewis County -- next to Jefferson Co.

So, a question for you:

In a letter to me Oct 19 1969, you gave the following information on census records of Lewis County, for that Joseph and his sons:

1810 -- "Joseph Belknap over 45 and family"

1820 -- " " " " "

" -- "Jacob Belknap 26-45 and family"

" -- "Ezra Belknap in Turin 26-45 and family"

In my copies of data you sent me last year, I have found Joseph in 1820, with details of family. But can't find the others listed above.

If you have the details for "and family" I'll be grateful for them. Maybe in these details I'll find indications of the children of Stephen. There were four or possibly five of them, at Saratoga, ~~and~~ and I know their birth dates of approximate dates.

Main problem in this puzzle: I can think of ways of proving that my surmise is wrong, and am pursuing all of them. But can't think of a way of proving that the guess is right.

I'll welcome suggestions.

Stephen



Saratoga County Historical Society
Ballston Spa
New York 12020

Mr. Carroll York Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

One line in your recent letter really caught my eye..."what's involved is the legitimacy of the lineage." It's something I've been wondering about for at least four decades, the legitimacy of the lineage of several people. Many have turned out to be illegitimate.

But, more pertinent to your inquiry, I would suggest that you contact either of the two following ladies who deal exclusively in such matters:

Mrs. Ira L. Alsdorf
17 Frederick Lane
Ballston Spa, New York 12020

Irene G. Wood
111 Saratoga Avenue
Ballston Spa, New York 12020.

Both will charge for their services, but are far better equipped than we to give you answers.

I hope that this information will be helpful. Also, I would like to run a "blind" paragraph in our September newsletter asking about who has studied the custom of Burrough English.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Crolius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P".

Peter C. Crolius
Director of Development

-- I don't have our initial exchange of correspondence in front of me, so I apologize if I've repeated myself above.

February 28 1971

Mrs Mylisa Dreythaler
P O Box 38
Owasco, N. Y. 13130

Dear Mrs Dreythaler:

Thank you very much for the family records you so kindly sent me.

The fact that Pilgrim spent his childhood in Vermont is new to me. Perhaps this clue may help me trace his parentage. I'm sure he was descended from Abraham Balknap, who came to Massachusetts Bay about 1635, from England.

The only additional information I have yet found, on Pilgrim, is that he served in the War of 1812. Thus far, I've not found the place where he enlisted, which might help in discovering his parentage.

Cordially,



JOHN L. OSTRANDER
SURROGATE

*Chambers of the Surrogate's Court
Saratoga County Municipal Center
Ballston Spa, N. Y. 12020*

EVELYN WALDRON
CHIEF CLERK

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

September 4, 1973

RE: Stephen Balknap

Mr. Carroll York Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

In searching our indices, we find no record of estate proceedings of any kind, in connection with the above.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Kalwa
Clerk

1 August 1973

C.Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap,

It has been brought to my attention that you are or were working on a Belknap genealogy. If this has been completed, I would like to try to fit my family into it. If it is still in preparation, would you be interested in my family?

Family records show that Pilgrim and Stephen Belknap, brothers settled in New York State.

Hiram Belknap, son of Stephen, was born in New York state 3 September 1808. He married Sarah Eastman in 1836. They had seven children, all born in New York state before 1856 when they moved to Wisconsin. From there, Hiram and his wife went to Iowa. Hiram died in Iowa, his wife in South Dakota. Th

Their children: (1) Charles Hiram moved to Rapid City, South Dakota, (2) Sarah Jeanette went to Petaluma, California, (3) George William went to Madison, South Dakota, (4) Stephen Edgar went to Waterville, Minnesota, (5) Riley Resell went to Dexter, Kansas, (6) Edward Eastman stayed in Fayette, Iowa. (7) Edith Esuba went to Oldham, South Dakota.

My grandfather was Edward Eastman Belknap. He and his wife had five sons, Clark and Ray who moved to North Dakota, Arthur who stayed in Iowa, Allen who went to Richmond, Virginia and Ruel who died in Avalon, California.

My father was Ruel Kendall Belknap.

I have information on dates, places and so forth for many of these people because I have the family Bible. I am merely listing their names at this time because I do not know whether you can correlate this material or not.

I am enclosing a stamped envelope for your reply.

Sincerely,

Jane Belknap Bowman

Mrs. Ezra A. Bowman
P.O. Box 1335
Avalon, Ca 90704

John C LaPiana from CYB

(Copy to Mrs Bowman)

14 March 1976

The purpose of this memo is to suggest that by extending some of your early research in Cayuga County (as reported in letter to me 17 Sept 1974 and in letter to Mrs Bowman 25 October 1974) you might be able to solve the Stephen problem -- or at least come close to solving it, perhaps even close enough to warrant accepting massive circumstantial evidence as reasonable proof, risky though this might be. Of course, you may already have done what I'm going to suggest, and may have found it fruitless, but I hope not.

What prompts this memo is that Mrs Bowman sent me her manuscript for review and I've been going over it in the past few days in what time was available. In many ways, it's admirable, with no major errors -- just some minor points to question, on some of which she was misled by errors in the sources she followed. But when she came to write a section on Stephen, she ran into the same basic difficulties that have kept me from trying to draft a comparable version, in the hope that something to answer the troublesome questions might turn up.

Here are some of those questions, as they have pestered my mind for a long time -- ever since I last wrote to you or heard from you -- plus some comments by me, for whatever they may be worth.

or his family

1. Why is there no record of Stephen in Saratoga County after 1800, except the statement that his son Hiram was born there in 1808?

Obviously, perhaps, because neither Stephen nor any of his family were there as late as 1810. And while Mrs Bowman has proved that Hiram was born in 1808, there is no certainty that his birth was in Saratoga County -- though there's also no visible reason to question this statement which must have come from Hiram himself.

2. Why has no record of Stephen been found in any other county after 1800? Especially, why no record in 1810 in Cayuga County census, where Pilgrim was in 1812 and where that Mrs Mary Belknap was buried in 1858?

Could be he was missed by 1810 census taker, as often happened in NY in that year. But also could be that, if he was ever in Cayuga County, he was gone from there by census-taking time (midsummer usually) in 1810.

3. Why was Pilgrim in Cayuga County in 1812, and why did he settle there, permanently, after returning from service in the militia in 1812?

Was there a "family reason" for being there and staying there?

4. How did Hiram, born 1808, get from Saratoga County to Ellisburg?

Almost surely, not directly, but by some route westward along the Mohawk River toward or into the Finger Lakes region -- or some I assume from the known travels of others in that time.

5. How and when and where did Hiram get his information about Saratoga County and the names of his brothers and sisters, as reported by his descendant Clyde Belknap in 1924? What Clyde said must have originated with Hiram.

It was the sort of information that he would not be likely to remember with such exactitude unless he was, shall we say, at least about 9 or 10 years old when he heard it. So, where was he between 1808 and 1818 -- and with whom? Surely he had to be with someone who knew a lot about the Saratoga County part of the story.

6. Where

6. Where did Stephen meet Eleanor Middaugh (If our two Stephens were the same man)?

When you reported finding Middaugh only in Ulster County or Orange County (I forget which) in 1800. I abandoned the notion that this meeting took place in Saratoga County. In that period, people who moved from the lower Hudson area ~~where most unlikely to go to Saratoga County.~~ In all the many instances that I know about, they went either to NE Pennsylvania or to the Finger Lakes district via the Cherry Valley road or the Mohawk Valley route. So -- did the meeting take place in Cayuga County?

7. What became of the girls born in Saratoga County?

Back in August 1974 I advanced the slender possibility that maybe they went to relatives of Stephen -- merely because I've found similar things occurring when a widower ~~was~~ left with very young children on his hands and didn't promptly remarry. I didn't have much faith in the notion, and still don't.

8. Why was there no record of that Mrs Mary Belknap in Cayuga County before her death in 1858?

In those times, a widow with young children usually remarried promptly. But if that Mary was just a deserted wife, she couldn't remarry -- and would either bring up the children by her own exertions as some women did, rather heroically, or else live with relatives. If she should ~~have~~ the responsibility herself, we should find her in the censuses of 1810 or 1820 -- but we haven't. So who was she living with?

9. ~~Whether~~ two Stephens were the same man, where was he in the critical period between March 1808 (when Hiram was conceived) and late 1812 or early 1813, when his daughter Susan by Eleanor Middaugh was conceived? Or perhaps in the narrower period between March 1808 and midsummer 1810 (census-taking time)?

No evidence -- no comment.

(I think)

There are other questions but these are the important ones that have to be answered before we can write a worthwhile history of Stephen.

Long years ago, I asked the top physicist in this country "How do you arrive at your findings? He replied: "Oh, you have a hunch. Then you set up an experiment to see if there's anything in it. And once in a while ~~it~~ turns out you're right." Conant of Harvard not long ago wrote a book on this theme, calling it "the scientific method." based on setting up an hypothesis.

So here's an hypothesis to be tested:

Abandon Saratoga County and look only at Cayuga County. . . Suppose that in or about 1809 or very early 1810 Stephen and his whole family moved to northern Cayuga County. By that time, one of his daughters was old enough to have married and she and her husband went along to Cayuga County; or this daughter got married in Cayuga County, soon after arriving there. Sometime before late 1812 or early 1813, or perhaps before midsummer 1810, Stephen eloped with Eleanor Middaugh whom he had met in Cayuga County a- leaving his wife Mary with infant Hiram to rear, and perhaps another child not much older than Hiram. Mary and her child or children went to live with her married daughter.

Just an hypothesis, which has only the merit of providing an answer for all those questions, which is what it has been designed to do.

How to see if it holds water:

(A) Examine all households in the 1850 census for the area containing Cato, Meridian, Conquest, Spring Lake, and perhaps Victory and Emerson. Look for a family with a Mary Balknap included, of the right age or thereabouts: 80 (but bearing in mind that it was not uncommon for women to whittle down their ages for the census taker). Also bear in mind that the census taker may have listed her as merely "Mary," without a surname. So if no Mary Balknap is found, copy the family record of any family in which there's an older woman, about 80, shown as "Mary." Note the name of the wife of that household, to see if it agrees with any of the names said to be those of Stephen's daughters: Mary Ann (or Polly); Minerva; Cleracy; Lavina. . . Of course the first families to look at are those with husbands named De Groff. If you find Mary aged 80 in one of those families, this part of the search is ended. If she's not there, then the task may be long -- going over all families in that area in 1850, to see if any of them has a Mary who is about the right age to be older than the household's wife. If more than one family of this kind is found, copy both of them.

(B) Second stage: Having found the right family (or possible family) in 1850, look up the same household in earlier censuses: 1840, 1830, 1820, perhaps even 1810, in order to see if the figures indicate the presence of that older woman in any of those years. With luck, maybe can trace her back to 1810 or 1820 -- and may find indications of probable presence of one or two of her youngest children. . . And though you have shown that Mary was not in Pilgrim's household in 1850, it would do no harm to look at the census figures for him in earlier years; this Mary may have moved around among her married children. . .

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Of course this search may yield nothing; but in research, zero is a valid answer.

The hypothesis is just a sweeping guess -- not a statement of fact. But there are some justifications for it. . . Northern Cayuga county was a logical place to Stephen to move to, if he was Jonas Balknap's brother, for all but one of J's brothers habitually followed his lead and settled near him, after first trying some place in eastern NY. At Cato, Stephen would have been within about 39 miles of Jonas, and still closer to brother Seth. . . There is nothing to contradict the assumption that Eleanor Middaugh was not married to Jonas, for there's no record of any such marriage (nor, for that matter, of most other marriages in NY in those years, before there were churches with records in western NY state).

46-

I'll be grateful if you'll tell me whether or not you want to tackle this search as an aid to Mrs Bowman. I am suggesting it to you, first, because you are the person most qualified for it, both by experience with these census records and by ready access to them. But there are others whose help I can ask for, if you don't want the task.

14 March 1976

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040

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
25 October 1974

Mrs. Ezra A. Bowman
Box 1335
Avalon, California 90704

Dear Jane:

This time, in response to your recent letter, you get the original and I will send a carbon to Carroll! I was pleased to hear from you and delayed reply so I could get to the library today and check out some additional Census records. Read until I was sure my eyes were about to fall out of my head and came home to get a few letters off before it is time to race off to Mass. We have a wild weekend with kids going in all directions at various times and a Birthday party here for Julie tomorrow. Involved in a Church project which means one or more of us have to hit two Masses today and five tomorrow! That should take care of the rest of the year!

Got the long awaited letter from Della Belnap of 815 East 32nd Street, Ogden, Utah 84403. Our line is the same through Samuel and Mary Dickinson Belknap- she then follows with Jesse and we, of course, pick up Samuel who m. Mary Newton. She is about to print 600 copies of a book on her Belnap line- and says it will be available the first of the year at \$25.00 per copy. After seeing some of her dietates, I am going to have to ask Carroll if he thinks it would be worth buying it! Will pass along his comments.

Anyways, Della says that she has been able to get a considerable amount of data from the files of one Glen Evans of Lansing, Michigan, who is, I understand, now dead. I am enclosing three pages that she sent to me- a set for each of you.

Well, I was absolutely elated when I got this- especially with the data on Stephen- and could hardly wait until today when I got a chance to get to the library to make the BIG find, verification of the family in the St. Lawrence County census. I carefully read ALL of 1800, 1810 and 1820. There was NOTHING in the first two. In 1820, at p. 149 in the Town of Hopkinton appears Joshua Belknap 100200; 00100 and that is ALL of the Belknap data in this 30 year period. At the same time, as long as I was reading them I kept an eye out for any Middaugh's too. Again, there was

Nothing!

Page Two (2)
Continued

Eye weary and with tears of disappointment soaking my my blank recordbook, I thought about the problems awhile longer and read and reread the Belnap data. Stuck on that d. bur. 1858 Cato Cemetery, Meridian, Cato Co., N.Y.- because I had been through all of the Cayuga Cemetery records. I know this Cemetery and remembered that it is not filed with the others but along with some records for the Town of Ira. Got ahold of "Cayuga County Cemetery Inscriptions" by Lesley E. Voorhees, June 1932 and at Cato-Meridian Cemetery in the Town of Ira, Cayuga County found: Mary Belnap, d. 8 Oct 1858 ae 87-11-0. That seems to match the data Della sent- but WHO is this Mary Belnap who was, then, b. circa 8 Nov 1771. Never heard a thing about Stephen m(1) any Mary. Have you? If I had had time I would have reread the 1850 Cayuga County Census to see if there was anyone surname Belnap there other than Pilgrim et al. Worthwhile?

This is also a longer listing of Children of Stephen than I have seen before and brings up some more questions. The children of Pilgrim and Anna seems to match a list that Carroll had previously sent me, except for the order of birth. I will have to check on these children for doubtless some of them stayed in this area. Just not enough time in a given day- especially on the weekend.

Will be most interested in both of your comments on this questionable find. Can not see, at this point, that we know that much more- unless this Mary turns out to be significant.

On another problem, I was into Otsego County records and happened on Records of the First Presbyterian Church of Worcester, Otsego Co., N.Y. printed in "Early Settlers of New York State", v. 5, p. 375: List of Members: 1798 Belnap, Jonas and wife. Significant?

Our library's Local History and Genealogy Department has also been collecting and binding copies of Bible records for several years. Therein are some records copies by Hattie C. Barton of Winthrop, Mass, from an old Bible she found in the Public Library at Shelters Island, New York.

Page Three (3)
Continued

I can give you a Xerox of these records -if you think that they are a significant find. They deal with the Belknap-Whiting-Prescott families all of whom seem to be inter-related. The Bible is dated 1789, and written on the flyleaf is the name Mary Belknap and the inscription "This Bible is to be given to my son Henry Belknap on my death". Boston, March 7, 1838 "Written on the Eve of Departure for Europe via New York".

Further, and among lots of other Prescott data: Died in this city on Thursday, Feb 7th 1856, John Belknap in the 80th year of his age. Mary Belknap, widow of John Belknap died August 16 1879, ae 84. Edward Belknap married Caroline L. Haven, 1838. John Belknap, son of Jeremy Belknap, D.D., of Boston and Mary Prescott, daughter of Oliver Prescott, M.D. of Newburyport, were married 23 June 1825. Their son Henry was b at Boston 7 Sept 1826. Their son George was b at Boston 24 Oct 1828.

The genealogy on the Vinton Family in America seems to verify some of Della's facts but I was not able to find anything in the Parker Genealogy. That is all earlier, not contested data anyways.

Have rambeled on long enough now- must get moving. Do give me your comments on the above as well as the enclosed.

Best regards.

Most sincerely,



John C. LaPiana

17 March 1976

JANE BOWMAN from CYB

I'm mailing to you, separately, my comments on your draft -- with my great thanks for letting me see it.

It's fine in many ways -- certainly far better than most such manuscripts about the lineage of a branch of the family -- professional in format and containing no major errors affecting descent.

In commenting on it, I've dealt with minor miscues that seem worth bringing to your attention -- some of which are not yours but come from the source you used -- and one of them is entirely my own fault.

In some cases, these minor points have led me to discuss at possibly boring length the background that I've thought you should know. Forgive wordiness that I couldn't avoid.

Above all, I hope you won't be offended by my effort to help you get things right. As you seem to have had professional experience, perhaps you've long since rid yourself of author's vanity just as I have. In any event, I hope you'll be like Alastair Cooke.

When the BBC first showed his TV series on America, Britishers flooded the BBC's magazine, The Listener, with letters about his errors -- some of which were real howlers. This flood ended when Cooke replied with a letter gratefully thanking the critics for correcting his mistakes in time for him to make the same corrections in the galley proofs of the book and urging those who hadn't yet commented to write to him directly as soon as possible.

Do I want you to send me your pages on later generations? Indeed YES. I'll need them to use in extending my highly skeletonized records, which I tried to summarize in a family-tree chart that I sent to you a year or two ago.

I'm making a copy of your MS and my comments, for ^{my} use if you find points on which you feel I'm wrong. I'll be grateful for corrections.

Danell

Suggestions for Jane Bowman

(1) I hope you will discard this threadbare remnant of 19th century pseudo-etymology. It is merely one of a number of baseless attempts to say "what the name means," similar to the fictitious alleged derivations in Webster's dictionaries, which tried to explain words by assuming meanings for parts of words. True derivations can be found only by getting back to beginnings. Example, Sawbridgeworth, which has nothing to do with a saw or a bridge. Earliest known form was "Sæbeorht's worp," meaning "Sæbeorht's enclosed farm." Later corrupted to "Sebrig's worth" which eventually got spelled "Sawbridgeworth" though still pronounced "Sapsearth" by the locals. We can't go back that far for Belknap. No known appearance of the name before the 14th century, when it was written "Beleknape," which was probably pronounced something like "Bay-lay-ka-nop-eh." In the French-speaking court of Henry V and Henry VI it was spelled "Bealknap" or "Bealknape," which shrank to "Belknap" in the reign of Henry VIII, with the "ay" sound of "Beal" flattened to the "eh" sound of "Bel" -- which never at any ~~time~~ time had any connection with the French word "belle". The derivation is completely unknown. And it can't be solved by claiming Norman origin from a knight who "came over with the Conqueror," as is implied by the obsolete D.N.B. (British Dictionary of National Biography), on the basis of the name of a so-called "Robert de BealKnape" in the Battle Abbey Roll. The truth is that this was a forged insertion in just one of three copies of the Roll, in late 14th century or early 15th century -- when everyone of prominence wanted descent from someone who "came over with the Conqueror." There were many such forgeries.

(2) It is not true that "one form of Belknap was Beltoft." This assumption is completely unwarranted. How and why the Beltofts at Sawbridgeworth used that name is unknown. All that has been proved is that they were not descended from the "de Beltoft" family of Lincolnshire, which took its name from the inconspicuous village of Beltoft when surnames began to be used in England in the 12th century. That family died out in or about 1395. . . The Sawbridgeworth Beltofts may have used that name as an easy alias for Belknap, since one meaning of "toft" was similar to one meaning of "knap" -- but this is mere speculation, with no trace of proof. What we actually know -- and all that we know -- is stated accurately in the memo on English Ancestry, which I have sent to you. I hope you won't join the throng of eager amateurs who have muddled the waters by substituting guesswork for facts. . . I think you'd be wise to eliminate this first paragraph and write, instead, a concise statement of the facts, foregoing all speculation. If this implies illegitimacy somewhere along the line, so what? When kings of England have been of illegitimate birth, why should we shudder at it?

(3) "First to settle" means that other Belknaps came later. Not true. No other Belknap immigrant has ever been found. That's why all American Belknaps are cousins, "whether they like it or not." And I think you should insert "formerly Beltoft" or "ex-Beltoft" after Abraham's name, as others are doing.

(4) Insert "Latton," after Netteswell -- where Abraham was living when his name was first recorded as Belknap. (Sawbridgeworth, Latton, and Netteswell were contiguous parishes.)

(5) The voyage may have been long and hard -- or maybe easy and smooth. Who knows? We don't even know the name of the ship he came on. Amateurs like you and me must try to resist the constant temptation to embroider the facts in the hope of adding "human interest."

Every
10 times

TIME OUT, to deal with a point that may or may not be of interest to you. Looking back at your statement that the name "has been written in many forms," it occurs to me that perhaps I should warn you against the common misunderstanding of this diversity. Many amateurs seem to enjoy listing the various spellings that have been found, thus encouraging belief that the name itself has often varied. The truth is that all but a very few of those many variants were not written by members of the family, but were written by others -- law clerks, officials, scribes, etc. -- who were merely trying to write down what they thought they heard, using phonetic symbols in accord with the sound-values of those symbols at that time in that place, which often depended on the dialect known by the writer-- who himself was often semi-illiterate. Since the late 15th century, only four variants are known to have been written by members of the family: Belknap, Belknappe, Belnap, and Bellnap (the last two coming after 1640, when k before n generally became silent). All the many other variants were merely what non-Belknaps wrote -- and have no real place in our family history, beyond hinting at the probable pronunciation of the name -- when we know the phonetic values of the letters at that time, as we do in Chaucer's age in the Midland dialect that Chaucer used. . . . Mere pedantry? Perhaps.

(6) "Mary may have remarried." More embroidery? Or perhaps an effort to explain what you think is a puzzling silence about her death? No explanation needed; dates of death were not often recorded in those years. This sort of comment is best reserved for use when there is a good reason to ~~to~~ believe that something happened although there is no firm proof. It shouldn't be used for mere guesswork. . . . Beyond the fact that she must have died before 1671 sale of Abraham's house lot, there's nothing more to say.

(7) "Hannah born about 1639/40." Elsewhere you properly use this form of year date for Old Style/New Style dates before 25 March, in years before 1752, as in 16 March 1627/8 for baptism of Samuel. In Hannah's case, what is meant is "1639 or 1640." Better say it that way, instead of using the symbol for OS/NS.

(8) When I first saw it, I was inclined to question "1626/8" for birthdate of Samuel, because this form is ordinarily used only when the day and month are shown --as only dates before 25 March are affected. But on second thought, I guess it's all right, as the full date is shown two lines below.

(9) Samuel "followed this trade as long as he lived." Here I must try to correct an error that I made, some years ago, for in making this statement you have have been guided by what I wrote back in 1971 and did not alter in what I gave to Clinton in 1974, although I then knew better. In the middle of Clinton's page 70, I said: "... the trade of a joiner, which he followed for the rest of his life -- being termed 'joyner' in deeds as late as 1696 when he was almost 70." In saying this, I was following the practice of my predecessors, identifying a man's occupation by what was said in deeds and wills. By 1973, as I have written rather fully elsewhere, I became sure that this practice was wrong and misleading. So let me try, now, to condense a long discussion. . . After Abraham died, his two surviving sons took diametrically opposite paths, which influenced their descendants for at least six generations. The younger son, Joseph, adopted a craft that could be practiced in a city and became a townsman (with an interval in western Massachusetts) and his sons and grandsons did the same thing -- becoming town-dwellers, not landowners, in all but one instance. Samuel and his descendants, by contrast, were dominantly men who wanted land. They began by learning a skilled craft -- joiner, turner, shoemaker, cooper, tailor, etc. -- which they followed until they had accumulated enough money to buy land or at least make a down payment on land. Then they married and became farmers, with far too much land to leave them time for doing anything but farming in a time when there were very seldom "hired men" available to help. But plainly they were proud of their early craftsmanship, for they usually continued to identify themselves by naming their crafts in land deeds long after they had become large landowners -- and even in the wills they signed as they neared death. (Of course, I'm simplifying a complex record, but the dominant trends were consistent.) . . . The outcome was far-reaching. The descendants of Joseph became and tended to remain townspeople, sticking close to their birthplaces and playing a relatively small part in ~~in~~ the westward movement that populated first New York and then the Middle West and the Pacific Coast. And, naturally, they were first to enter professional careers. . . The descendants of Samuel, quite differently, continually moved on to new areas in search of more and better land, played a big role in extending the country westward, and (with a few notable exceptions) did not enter the learned professions until about the middle of the 19th century. Generally they acquired large land-holdings -- 100 acres or more -- by the time they were 23 or 24 and promptly got married and turned to farming. . . The first Samuel, it seems, probably moved less rapidly. He may have continued working as a joiner till he was in his fifties. But from then on, he had a lot of farming to do. So, if I were now rewriting what I wrongly said in the material I gave to Clinton, I'd say "the trade that he apparently followed until he became a land-owner and farmer in his middle fifties -- although he still continued to call himself a joiner in later years."

(10) Exact date of Samuel's marriage is not known. Should read "about 1652."

(11) "In 1670" should be "In 1670 or 1671."

(12) Ebenezer "had worked closely with his father." Forgive me for saying "embroidery" again. I have to say it, because such interpolations have a way of becoming accepted Gospel as time passes. Like many others, you may think you are writing only for the eyes of your own relatives. But all such documents, eventually, get passed around and are copied by all sorts of people, with the result that innocent surmises get turned into presumed facts which from then on mislead posterity. My study has copies of many such legacies of guessing.

(13) "Mary m Nathaniel Singleterry." Clinton got this from Evans, who was the only compiler who ever said it. Suggest you remodel your section on Samuel's children to conform to the the list shown on page 68 of Clinton's book and Note 3 on his page 70. The marriage record shows "Sarah." On page 68, I had a question mark before Sarah's name, but Clinton's typist inadvertently omitted it. There's no certainty that she was Samuel's daughter.

"did not appear to have much contact with his family for many years, (and) it is possible that his actions were frowned on by his brothers." What little I know, primarily from what was said by his nephew Jesse (my great grandfather) runs opposite to this guess.

(28) "... where he was a teamster, etc." Unless you have information that I haven't seen, all that is justified is "where according to a family tradition he was a teamster, etc." When you've found that family traditions are usually just not so, as I so often have, you become reluctant to even mention them -- especially when they come from a descendant several generations later. . . . But I know how hard it is to resist using every scrap of possible information when very little is actually known.

(29) "Family tradition says that Stephen's wife died when her son Hiram was born." Is this true? My impression is that this was merely a surmise that I volunteered in the memo I wrote in August 1974 -- on no better grounds than the fact that there's no documentary record that Hiram mentioned his mother's name. I offered it as a guess -- nothing more.

(30) "A Mary Belknap, wife of Stephen." We only know that Evans said she was his wife. People like Della Belnap and me, who have staggered for years through the morass of Evan's improvisations, never accept a statement by him till we have found proof of its truth. To date, in exploring scores and scores of things said by Evans and by nobody else, I have found just one instance in which one of his speculations proved to be correct. In all other cases, the final evidence proved that he was wrong. . . . Maybe -- maybe -- this may be one more case in which he was right.

(31) "... her children were apparently unaware of her existence." The truth is much less sweeping. All we know is that neither of two sons of Stephen, Hiram and Pilgrim, left a known record of the name of their mother. We know nothing of what was said or not said by any other children, except the possibility that a daughter named Lavina who married a De Groff may ^(have) named her mother -- if Evans wasn't just guessing.

(32) "... the difficulty between Stephen and his brothers" What difficulty? I know of none.

(33) "... left his children with various brothers and friends." In August 1974 I said this was a possibility -- nothing more. Do you have real information?

(34) "Stephen's marriage in Hamilton." We don't know that there was such a marriage and we don't know where it took place, if at all.

(35) Nor do we know that any such marriage was "after 1810." If it occurred, it could have been at any time after Dec. 1808, when Hiram was born.

(36) We don't know that Stephen was drowned, etc. We know merely that his posthumous son Stephen said this, and presumably got it from his mother Eleanor. I've never tried to find proof.

(27) List of children. Here, indeed, you're on thin ice. The only children that we know about were Hiram and Pilgrim, and then Stephen and Susan. The rest is not yet substantiated. . . . On Stephen and Susan, we don't know where they were born. . . . For Mary Ann (Polly) and Minerva, we have only what Clyde wrote in 1824, more than a hundred years later. For Cleracy, Lavina, and a Stephen b 1804, we have only Evans, alas.

HIRAM -- As this section seems to be incomplete, I shan't try to comment on it, beyond saying that when you look at it yourself you will see that it contains some statements of opinion that go beyond the known facts -- what I've called embroidery. You must be tired of having me talk about such things.

At point 39, however, there may be something of importance, as a clue to follow in solving the basic problem of Stephen. "They moved to Ellisburg." This implies that you know where they moved from. If so, please tell me. Hiram's whereabouts between his birth and his marriage, if known, could be important in our search.

THE BELKNAP LINEAGE

The name "Belknap" is English and means "beautiful hill-top". The word has been written in many different forms, one of which was "Beltoft".

ABRAHAM BELKNAP (1589/90-1643)

Abraham Belknap¹ was the first of this name to settle in America. He, his wife and their three sons, Samuel, Joseph and John crossed the ocean from Epping, County Essex, England to settle near Lynn, Massachusetts by 1637.

Abraham was the son of Bennet Beltoft and Grace Addam. His baptism was recorded at ~~St~~ Pawbridgeworth, County Hertford, England on 15 March 1589/90. As Abraham Beltoft, he married Mary Stallion at Latton, Essex on 28 October 1617. His wife had been baptised 24 December 1595, the daughter of Thomas Stallion and Mary Dalton. The young couple lived at Netteswell and at North Weald, both in Essex. They began to use the name Belknap sometime between 6 December 1620 and 2 March 1624/5.

When Abraham and Mary sailed for America, their children were quite small. Although Samuel could not have been more than ten years old, he must have seemed a man beside the other two. Joseph was a toddler and John still a baby. The voyage was long and hard.

Records of Lynn, Massachusetts list Abraham Belknap as one of those to whom original land was allotted. He received 40 acres in 1638. This land he farmed. At the time of his death in September 1643, Abraham's estate was valued at 47 pounds sterling. The inventory shows a total of 45 acres listed in five parcels:

"The houses and 5 acres of land
2 acres of planting land
2 acres of salt marsh
6 akers salt marsh at Fox Hill
30 akers at the village"

Disposition of a part of this land by Abraham's children in 1671 indicates that his wife Mary had died, but the date of her death has not been found. Since she was 48 years old when Abraham died, it is possible that she remarried and had another name when she died.

Children of Abraham Belknap and Mary Stallion were:

1. Abraham - died 1620, buried as Beltoft 6 December 1620 at Netteswell, England.
2. Abraham - born before 14 April 1623, died young.
3. David - born after 14 April 1623, buried 2 March 1624/5 at North Weald, Essex.
- *4. Samuel - baptised as Immanuel 16 March 1627/8 at North Weald, Essex.
5. Dorcas - baptised 7 February 1629/30 at North Weald, Essex, died young.
6. Joseph - baptised 12 May 1633 North Weald, Essex, died 14 November 1712 at Boston, Massachusetts, married (1) Ruth Williams, (2) Lydia Ingalls, (3) Hannah Meakins.

- (7) 7. John - baptised 10 May 1635 at North Weald, Essex, died in Massachusetts after 27 March 1655 and before 14 April 1671.
8. Hannah - born about 1639/40 presumably at Lynn, Massachusetts, married 6 December 1663 to Christopher Osgood of Andover, Massachusetts, died 21 November 1679.

(8) SAMUEL BELKNAP (1627/8-after 1701)

Samuel Belknap² (Abraham¹) was baptised at North Weald, Essex on 16 March 1627/8. He came to America with his parents Abraham Belknap and Mary Stallion when he was a child.

When Samuel was fifteen years old, his father died. Since his brothers and sister were very young, we can assume that he became the "man of the house" and helped his mother support the family on the farm they inherited. Little of his father's property at Lynn was much good for farming, so Samuel learned the trade of joiner or cabinetmaker. He followed this trade as long as he lived.

(9) In 1652, Samuel married Sarah Jones, daughter of Robert Jones and Elizabeth Soane. She had been born about 1627 in Reading, Berkshire and had also come to America as a child with her parents.

About the time of his marriage, Samuel went to eastern Long Island with a party of men who intended to settle there and in 1653 he owned two small lots in Southampton. He was a resident of Salem, Massachusetts before 20 October 1657 and by 1660 he owned a large parcel of land in what is now the center of the city. Until 1669, Samuel is on record as living in Salem. In 1670, he moved to Malden which is nearer to Boston, but did not stay long. In 1673, he bought 2½ acres of land in Haverhill. This land was sold in 1685 for 80 pounds sterling, but the Belknaps stayed in Haverhill for the remainder of their lives. Sarah died 18 April 1689.

(12) By 1695, Samuel owned land totaling 127 acres and had already given his son Ebenezer some land. That year, Samuel started to dispose of his estate. He gave property to his sons Abraham and Ebenezer. His other living son Samuel had moved to southern New Jersey and acquired land there. Samuel's final step was to give Ebenezer the homestead of 27 acres and buildings, probably with the understanding that he could live there the rest of his life. Ebenezer had become a joiner and had worked closely with his father. Five years later, Ebenezer bought more land that his father had originally given to Abraham, and Samuel witnessed the deed. Nothing more is known about Samuel and his death date has not been found.

Children of Samuel Belknap and Sarah Jones were"

- (13)
1. Mary - born 17 August 1653, died young.
 2. Mary - born 14 October 1656, married Nathaniel Singletary.
 3. Abraham - born 4 June 1660 at Salem, married Elizabeth Ayer.
 4. Samuel - born 1 May 1662, died after 1697 in southern New Jersey, married Mary Pease.
 - *5. Ebenezer - born December 1667.
 6. Joseph - born 25 March 1672, died 28 August 1672 at Haverhill, Massachusetts.
 7. Patience - born 17 September 1673 at Haverhill, died after 21 November 1695.
- (14)

SAMUEL BELKNAP (1731-1775)

Samuel Belknap⁵ (Samuel⁴, Ebenezer³, Samuel², Abraham¹) was born at Enfield, Connecticut, the son of Samuel Belknap and Mary Dickinson. He was baptised at Somers, Connecticut on 13 June 1731.

On 19 June 1754, Samuel married Mary Newton, daughter of Stephen Newton and Mary Witt. They established their home at Belchertown, Massachusetts where Samuel was a farmer. They were members of the Congregational Church.

On 3 May 1775, Samuel enlisted in the Massachusetts Militia at Granby, Massachusetts. He participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill which took place on a very hot day in June. He was a large and heavy man and was overcome by the exertion and heat. The following day, 18 June 1775, Samuel died at the military camp in Cambridge. Cause of death was said to be heat prostration.

Children of Samuel Belknap and Mary Witt were:

1. Mary - born 1754, married 25 November 1773 to Rufus Kenfield.

2. Chloe - born 1757, married 27 January 1780 to Levi Shumway.

3. Jonas Newton - born 19 May 1759 at Windsor, Connecticut, died 16 February 1824 in Hart County, Kentucky, married 17 January 1783 to Esther Parker.

4. Susanna - born 1761, died 1781.

5. Joseph - born 13 December 1762, died 13 August 1854.

6. Seth - born 1767.

*7. Stephen - born 1769, died 1814, married (1) Mary, (2) Eleanor Middaugh.

8. Jonathan - born 10 April 1774, died October 1838, married Sebra Shedd.

STEPHEN BELKNAP (1769-1814)

Stephen Belknap⁶ (Samuel⁵, Samuel⁴, Ebenezer³, Samuel², Abraham¹) was born 28 June 1769 at Belchertown, Massachusetts, the son of Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton.

In 1785, when he was 16 years old and legally entitled to name a guardian, Stephen chose his brother, Jonas Newton Belknap. This is the only surviving document on which his name appears. The guardianship bond indicates that Stephen would receive "not less than 100 pounds in lawful Massachusetts currency" when he reached the age of 21.

Circumstantial evidence would indicate that Stephen took his inheritance and married about 1790, although proof has not been found. Since he did not appear to have much contact with his family for many years, it is possible that his actions were frowned upon by his brothers.

Stephen Belknap is listed in the 1800 Federal Census of Galway, Saratoga County, New York where he was a teamster or freighter and owned many fine horses. He had a wife and four children under ten years of age. He has not been found in subsequent census counts.

Family tradition says that Stephen's wife died when her son Hiram was born. However, there is a Mary Belknap, wife of Stephen buried in Cato Cemetery, Meridian, Cayuga County, New York. She had lived to be 88 years old. If this was Stephen's first wife, her children were apparently unaware of her existence.

No record of divorce or early death of Stephen's wife has been found, but about 1810 the difficulty between Stephen and his brothers was resolved. At this time he left his children with various brothers and friends while he went to Canada.

The date of Stephen's marriage to Eleanor Middaugh in Hamilton, Ontario is unknown, but it was apparently after 1810. In December 1814, Stephen was drowned in Burlington Bay near Hamilton.

Children of Stephen and Mary were:

1. Claracy - born 1791.
2. Pilgrim - born 1794, died 1869, married Anne Colvin, lived in Conquest, New York.
3. Mary Ann (Polly) - born 1797.
4. a son - born 1799, possibly named Hiram.
5. Lavina - born 1803, married George DeGroff, lived in Cayuga County, New York.
6. Stephen - born 1804.
- *7. Hiram - born 1808, died 1873, married Sarah R. Eastman.

Children of Stephen Belknap and Eleanor Middaugh were:

1. Susan - born 1813, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
2. Stephen - born June 1815 after his father's death.

HIRAM BELKNAP (1808-1873)

Hiram Belknap⁷ (Stephen⁶, Samuel⁵, Samuel⁴, Ebenezer³, Samuel², Abraham¹) was born 3 September 1808 at Galway, Saratoga County, New York, the son of Stephen Belknap. Hiram never knew his mother's name and family tradition says that she died when he was an infant. Evidence indicates that this may not have been the case, but Hiram was raised with the families of his uncles and his brother Pilgrim. These generations became confused and Hiram's children had the impression that Pilgrim was his father's brother rather than his own.

In 1835, Hiram married Sarah R. Eastman, daughter of Justin Eastman and his wife, Azubah. They moved to Ellisburgh, New York where all of their children were born. Early in life, Hiram had lost his right leg and wore a wooden peg. Sarah had been crippled by disease at the age of sixteen. Hiram was a shoemaker by trade, whether from necessity or by choice is not known.

The 1850 Federal Census for Ellisburgh, New York is incomplete, but it does give the following information:

BELKNAP, Hiram	41	M	Shoemaker
Sarah	41	F	
Charles	10	M	
Sarah	8	F	
George	6	M	
Alvin	4	M	
Seba E.	2	M	
Infant		M	

Other records would indicate that "Seba E" should read "Stephen Edgar" and that the infant was Riley Rosell.

In 1855, Hiram and Sarah gathered their belongings and moved with their children to the town of Muskego, Waukesha County, Wisconsin. The 1860 Census there says:

BELKNAP, Hiram	57	Shoemaker, born New York
Sarah	52	Vermont
Edgar	13	
Riely	11	
Eugene	9	
Edith	6	

Thank you for the copy of Bible entries of the marriage of ~~Henry~~ Belknap, son of Rev Jeremy -- who was the only American Belknap famous enough to get into all encyclopedias. When I can find time, I'll check these entries against my files, for confirmation or correction. Bible records (when accurate, which isn't always the case) are priceless.

Your questions in letter 24 Nov:

- (1) "Proof of parentage of Stephen of Belchertown?" Two parts of the proof are mentioned in the summary memo I sent to Mrs Bowman et al. (A) Mutual identification of Stephen's brothers, by Jesse (son of Jonas) and Edward (grandson of Stephen). (B) Guardianship bond signed by Jonas, naming Stephen as son and heir of Samuel. Date of birth, naming Stephen as son of Samuel and Mary, is in unpublished MS VR Belchertown, on file at NEHGS, Boston.
- (2) "Proof that Stephen of Galway died in Burlington Bay?" I suppose you meant to write "Stephen of Belchertown", for otherwise the question is meaningless. The source of this information was his posthumous son Stephen, who presumably got it from his mother Eleanor. No reason to doubt it has been found.
- (3) "Samuel's Rev War Record?" A muddled record appears in Mass Soldiers and Sailors, p 916. In my judgment, that record is a typically unreliable militia record, showing probability that the name was carried on the rolls for the sake of drawing rations etc, after the man was no longer with the company. But the date of enlistment and the name of the outfit are correct.

Of course the answers to these questions have no practical value to you until when and if there is acceptable evidence that this Stephen was father of Pilgrim.

So, for the moment, the only immediate question is whether or not Glen Evans was faking when he named this Stephen as Pilgrim's father.

We know he got no justifying evidence from Franklin Belknap's records. The section containing information said to have been obtained from De Groff contains questionable data which make it look dubious. And there is no certainty that the information obtained from Mina Beebe (or from someone who cited this Mina's records) went beyond merely saying that the name of Pilgrim's father was Stephen -- without stating Stephen's parentage. We can hope that Mina had real evidence and gave it to Evans -- but the prevalence of fakery in Evans' work has to be borne in mind.

Evans habitually made identifications that were merely guesswork based on a man's first name. In years of familiarity with his output, I have found far too many instances in which his only justification for identifying a man's parentage was the fact that the man's first name was the same as that of a son for whom he had found no record beyond that of birth. For example, he found the record of a marriage of a Joseph Belknap at Stafford, Conn., and decided this man was a Joseph who lived in Massachusetts -- whereas the Joseph concerned was actually a son of Samuel and Mary of Belchertown, who left Belchertown and went to Stafford in 1785. But the outstanding example of the way Evans indulged in sheer guesswork is his record of the marriage of an Eli Belknap in Renssalaer County NY in the early 1800s -- in which he combined three unrelated Elis and said they were all the same man, and was wrong on all three.

ECB from CYB 20 Jan 1975

I think you should have the set of material that I'm enclosing.

"A" -- memo 27 Aug 1974, summarizing results of years of investigation of the problem of the marriages of Stephen, son of Samuel and Mary of Belchertown. In this memo, I confined my self to the known facts -- making no reference to the confusing data in Evans' 1950 version of his compilation. Reasons for this omission: (1) I wanted the living descendants to continue field research, which they might not do if they fell into the trap of accepting the identification made by Evans; (2) I didn't want them to be confused by the many ~~visable~~ errors in what Evans said.

My intention was to withdraw from pursuit of this puzzle. But this proved impossible, for a descendant of Pilgrim Belknap, John LaPiana of Syracuse, got in touch with Della Belnap and me, asking for help and guidance.

Della disagreed with me, and sent to LaPiana three pages of Evans material, feeling that she should supplement what I had said in my memo "A" -- of which she had a copy, of course. I now think she was right in doing this.

"B" is the set of sheets that Della sent to LaPiana, with the comments that they indicated only that he "might" be a descendant of Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton.

"C" -- memo from me to LaPiana 30 Oct 1974. He had been hopelessly confused by the Evans sheets, and asked for help on them. (He and I had exchanged letters a number of times.)

This memo 30 Oct is self-explanatory, I think. But I should add an obvious comment. If Evans was correct in naming as wife of Stephen the "Mary Belknap" who was buried in Cayuga County in 1858, then the posthumous son Stephen born 1815 in Canada was illegitimate. Thus far, I have said nothing about this to Paul Belknap, for there's nothing he could do about it and I do not wish to disturb his mind without proof.

La Piana is now struggling with the task of finding the records of Mina Belknap and George DeGroot -- which Evans cited. No progress so far. Mina died in 1950; George not yet traced after 1950.

So you can understand why I come close to assuming that Evans was making just a guesswork identification of the Stephen who was Pilgrim's father. I also think that it was probably a correct guess (which would be the result of the fact that Stephen of Belchertown was, at that time, the only known Stephen Belknap of the right age to have been father of Pilgrim -- i.e., Evans couldn't have made any other guess). But a guess is only a guess and has no standing in tracing lineage.

I hope it wasn't just a guess.

A brief note from Mrs Bowman says she has been writing to Della. As she thus may have received the same Evans excerpts that Della sent to you, I think I'd better send a copy of this memo to Mrs Bowman, for I don't want any of you to think that the problem has been solved by what Evans wrote. Evans has no standing in the field of genealogy. (In the only instances in which I know he was cited in D.A.R. applications, the applications were rejected and I found myself stuck with the task of supplying acceptable data.)

And perhaps I should add that -- among all the many people who have worked on Belknap genealogy -- Evans was the only one who ever made this identification.

JOHN LaPIANA from CYB 30 Oct 1974

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Mrs Bowman and copies of the three Xerox sheets that Della sent to you. From your letter, I judge that those sheets have confused you a bit. So I should try to comment on them.

First, as of course you have noted, they offer no evidence that Pilgrim's father Stephen was a son of Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton. They merely say so. Unfortunately, we can't take it for granted that Evans was right in making this identification. His track record, on credibility, is not too good. I learned, years ago, that when Evans said something that nobody had said the only thing to do was to try to go back to his sources and see if there was any justification for his statement. Sometimes there was. Sometimes there wasn't. *else*

Two
I suppose I must digress to discuss Glen Evans, though unwillingly and unhappily. He was an employee of Michigan State Library, who got into the field of Belknap genealogy back in the 1940s and 1950s, beginning by doing jobs for Belknaps who were trying to trace their ancestry. From that beginning, he went on to accumulate a huge mass of data on Belknaps, partly from library research, partly by correspondence. Eventually he produced compilations -- the main ones being one at Grand Rapids Public Library and ~~also~~ on file at Michigan State Library. The sheets Della sent to you come from a copy of a file at Michigan State Library. *by*

Evans was an industrious reader and accumulated a great deal of stuff from all sorts of publications. He also got material ~~from~~ other compilers -- notably Flora Belnap (Della's sister, now dead) and Admiral Charles Belknap, plus some early and unreliable work by Henry Wyckoff Belknap of Salem (before Henry rewrote his notes and corrected many early errors). Whatever he found, he accepted and repeated, making no effort to verify. In what he issued, he consistently disclaimed any pretence of accuracy, saying that he just repeated what he had found.

But that wasn't all he did. He also committed every sin known to genealogy. He augmented facts by guesswork. He altered and falsified documents to fit his own notions. He invented Belknaps who never existed, as result of misunderstanding what he had read. And he made forced identifications without any evidence to support them -- jumping to conclusions and then stating them as facts.

On top of all that, he was a careless worker and an inaccurate copier -- but his errors in copying are easy to remedy, if one knows the truth -- as perhaps you have seen in several spots in those sheets that Della sent to you.

I summed up the case in a letter to Della, long ago, by saying that nothing said by Evans alone should ever be printed, unless it had been verified by independent research.

Now let me try to discuss the pertinent portions of the pages that Della sent to you. I may be able to help you appraise them for yourself.

Page marked (1) -- Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton. . . This is a mixture of fact and questionable data. His primary source was one of the notebooks of Admiral Charles Belknap -- page 8 of the admiral's final summary. But he didn't follow that source consistently -- for example, gave 1770 as birthdate of Stephen, instead of 1769 (the proven date shown by the admiral). From the admiral's record he got "Mary" as name of Stephen's wife. To the best of my knowledge, this name appears nowhere else; and the admiral, who worked on genealogy in the 1890s, did not indicate the source of that "Mary." I've no idea where it originally came from. And the admiral entered it only that one time, on his page 8. Later, on his page 35, he showed that Stephen had a son Stephen, but did not name the mother. . . However, what I need to emphasize is that Evans got his "Mary" from the admiral, and then tried to use it at a later point --

which I'll come to, a bit farther on. . . . There are other errors in the main part of this section, wrong dates, and misspellings such as "Endfield" and "Sussana." There are also errors in the paragraph following the names. Samuel did not enlist "at Granby." Nor was he "badly wounded" on Bunker Hill. He died from heat prostration. ~~misleading bit of "family tradition"~~ In another version, it seems that Evans got that misleading bit of "family tradition" from Mrs Nellie Belknap Sargent, a granddaughter of Samuel's son ~~Benjamin~~ Nathan. She died in the early 1950s, if my memory is correct. "His son John" is just a typing error by Evans; the son with him on Bunker Hill was Jonas.

On another version of Samuel and Mary, Evans names as one of his sources "Records of George De Groff." This is a point I'll come back to, later.

Xerox sheet marked (2) -- Pilgrim Belknap and Ann Colvin... For lack of proof, we must disregard Evans's indication that Pilgrim was a son of the Belchertown Stephen. But this section is interesting, for it suggests a possible way to find the proof we need. . . He names as his source Mina Beebe of Auburn. The full birthdate for Pilgrim probably came from her. No doubt she was a descendant of Pilgrim's daughter Mary, who married Isaac Beebe. If she had records more detailed than those which Melvin Pilgrim Belknap gave to Henry Wyckoff Belknap in 1912, she may also have had information on the parentage of Pilgrim's father Stephen.

I'm enclosing, for your information, copy of sheets given to me by Mrs Dreythaler in 1971, with additions and annotations showing information from you and from her father, back in 1912.

It seems to me that an effort to find the records that were in Mina Beebe's possession about 1950 would be a worthwhile expenditure of your time. For lack of time, I've had to forego the luxury of this sort of personal contact. Maybe you have the time, for Auburn is near.

Same sheet -- children of Hiram (misspelled "Hyrum" by Evans). Evans' source, as he indicates, was the typed copy of the notes set down by Franklin Belknap ~~himself~~ in the early 1900s, which he got from Flora Belnap. What he copied, not always accurately, was on p. 54 of that typescript. It had come to Franklin Belknap in a letter from J W Belknap, in 1906. . . I covered these names in a "tree" sketch sent to Mrs Bowman. . . What's important, now, is something that Evans did not copy from Franklin -- the birthdate 1799 for Hiram. It was not in Franklin's notes. Where Evans got it, I do not know. It differs greatly from the date given by Clyde Belknap and cited in my final memo on this problem. As the date of Hiram's birth may have a direct bearing on interpretation of the known record, I think the accuracy of this date must be studied.

This same birthdate appears in another section, on the third sheet you sent.

~~same~~
Bottom of sheet (2) -- Stephen's son Stephen and his children . . . This was the posthumous son born in Canada -- not in 1804 as Evans says, but in June 1815. List of children is incomplete -- some dates wrong -- sequence of birth wrong. Full facts on this were established completely long ago, and I have records down to the present. . . . Not important to you, except as in connection with next page of this memo.

Sheet marked (2) -- Stephen Belknap married Mary.

This sheet is a puzzle to me. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

At first glance, it looks like a typical instance of Evans hokeypokey -- having a name "Mary" (from Adm Charles p 8), finding an unattached Mary -- marrying her offhand, on paper, to the Stephen who had been said to have a wife named Mary.

As you found out, the puzzle was complicated by saying this Stephen lived in St Lawrence County (possibly meaning in the area that is now Jefferson County?). Source of this guess might have been that Hiram was known to have settled in Ellisburg -- maybe?

Still further complicated by including a Stephen born 1804 -- i.e., the posthumous son of Stephen and Eleanor Middaugh, born June 1815 in Canada. Looks like a guesswork lumping together of unrelated bits and pieces -- typical Evans legerdemain.

But it may be more than that. The source named is "George De Groff's records, ~~NY~~ Meridian, Cayuga County" -- with the ~~implication~~ statement that the Lavina "b 1802" married a DeGroff.

Elsewhere, as I have said, Evans named George DeGroff's records as a source of other information about the Belchertown family. So it may be that those records, if they can now be found, may contain the proof we need --- or at least a clue to follow.

Questions: What is the proof that this Lavina was a daughter of Stephen of Galway? What is the proof that he was also Stephen of Belchertown? What link is there between DeGroff and the Belchertown family?

(As far as I know, Evans did not know of the marriage to Eleanor Middaugh.)

So, what to do next?

If I were you, I'd put ahead of everything else the job of establishing contact with the records that Evans said he found in the possession of these persons:

George De Groff, Meridian
Mina Beebe, Auburn

These people may now be dead. Yet you might find descendants who have the records.

But I should warn you. Many times, I have found that a source named by Evans was no good -- either did not exist or did not have any information on the subject to which he linked it. You may be engaging in a wild goose chase, as I so often have. Yet, now and then, Evans has turned out to be right. I think the chance is worth taking.

Casey

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
24 November 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

Nothing new to report- other than the fact that I have NOT made any great finds. I have closed up work on ALL lines but BELKNAP for the next few months. Took awhile to turn the fires down- had a lot of irons in there. I am still doing some work for a few friends, but that is not going to make a dent in my time. So until I am sure that there is nothing in the record, I am dedicated to BELKNAP. While I hesitate to bother you again and take you from your writing, I have a couple of questions.

1. Where is the proof that Stephan of Belchertown, Mass. was the son of Samuel and Mary Newton Belknap? I can find no Vitals for Belchertown, so have discounted that possibility. If from unpublished records, might I have a copy of same?
2. Where is the proof that Stephan of Galway d. near Burlington Bay, Ontario? Again, if not published, might I have a copy?
3. Aside from the brief mention in the Belchertown Congregational Church records, can you reference Samuel's Rev. War record? I think that I have found Jesse's in Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution. However, the Samuel that is contained therein looks, to me, to be from another line- those that ended up in the Newburgh, N.Y. area.

Figure that IF I have some of the knowns it will make finding the unknowns a bit easier.

Meanwhile, I have contacted one John Dorrance Morrell- a professional librarian and Beebe expert. The Beebe genealogy is very difficult due to cousin marriages, third and fifth cousins in the same area etc. But he claims to have all of the Beebe families listed in the 1850 Census for Cayuga County, New York. Therein no Mina Beebe or any possible variant of the name. That does not disturb me too much, for it was a bit early to have hoped to find her. I like to think that she was alive at the time Glen Evans was doing his work.

Page Two (2)
Continued

Mr. Morrell tells me that there is yet another professional librarian, Mr. Blodgett, who is the most knowledgable person concerning the Beebe family history. He promised to check with him the next time he sees him- and see if he ever encountered a "Mina".

As you pointed out sometime ago, Mary Belknap, the oldest sister of our Alsemina, married Isaac Beebe. Could not one of their childrn/ grandchildren have been named after the sister and nicknamed "Mina"- sounds logical- but almost too easy. But a BELKNAP-BEEBE relationship definately existed.

I am waiting for an answer to the letter I wrote to Jed Beebe who is living in California. He is said, by local relatives, to have extensive data on the family- especially those that once lived in this area. So- things are moving slowly ahead.

In one of your earlier letters you said that you had something to look at in, I believe, it was the Albany area- concerning this mystery. As long as I am now dedicated, and if you can remember what it was, let me have that clue too and I will get on it.

Have Friday off this week- and that will give me a good chance to get into some of the Public Offices that are closed on weekends. Hope for a find- but then- don't we all- always???

I am sending a copy of this to Della- so she can know of the lack of progress to date as well as the dedication! Sure you won't mind for we Belknap searchers all share data so well.

As I said above, I PROMISE not to bother you again until there is something noteworthy to report. Armed with a few more facts, I can do a better job.

Thanks for your help and have an enjoyable Holiday!

Most sincerely,



John C. LaPiana

Stephen

JANE BOWMAN from CYB 22 July 1974

Thanks for your letter 17 July, clearing up points I had raised. Clyde's birthdate for George William, which I had failed to mention, was 21 Nov 1843.

In a day or so, I'll be attempting to summarize the evidence now in hand on the identity of Hiram's father Stephen. Though some of my inquiries will probably be still unanswered, this won't matter too much, for their results will probably be negative as so many others have.

I think I should tell you, now, that the heavy weight of the circumstantial evidence (which is all there is) falls on the side of identifying your Stephen as the son of Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton of Belchertown, Mass. -- my own g g grandparents. This means indentifying him as the Stephen who died near Hamilton, Ontario, in 1813, leaving an infant daughter and a wife who bore a posthumous son a few months later. In truth, this amounts to saying that he had left a young family behind in Saratoga County -- quite probably after the death of his first wife, who (I think) did not live long after the birth of Hiram in 1808. . . . I hope you'll suspend judgment on ethics and morality until you have all the facts and that I can supply -- bearing in mind that I'll be talking about a brother of my own g g grandfather, who was Stephen's legal guardian. . . I'll have to speak, too, of their father Samuel, who served on Bunker Hill beside his 16-year old son Jonas, and died in camp next day.

Dec. 1814

In advance of that summary I'm now enclosing copies of letters to H W Belknap from Clyde Belknap and Ruth Regan, 1924 and 1930. I should explain their background. (As they are copies of copies, they are pretty dim; but I think you can read them.)

In the first quarter of this century, Henry Wyckoff Belknap was engaged in developing a comprehensive Belknap genealogy. By 1925, he had notes covering about 2500 persons. Then his health and the pressure of his duties as curator of Essex Institute in Salem forced him to cease active work on this genealogy. From then on, he merely filed whatever new information he received, without revising his notes. But what he had accomplished already was the source of virtually all current knowledge of the history of the family, for he had generously shared what he learned -- including, alas, the mistakes he made in his early years.

When I undertook active work on Belknap genealogy, some years ago, I sought and found the body of material he had left, and was permitted to make copies of thousands of pages and sheets of notes, correspondence, and documents. Since then, I've been engaged in correcting and revising his work and in expanding it so that my files now include some 4500 names.

Among his notes, I found a large section devoted to what he called "detached lines", including individuals and groups whose ancestry had not yet been determined. One group, labelled "C", included Pilgrim Belknap and Ann Colvin and a sizable number of their descendants. Another group, labelled "H", consisted of Hiram and his descendants, with HWB's notation that ~~HEIR~~ was brother of Pilgrim.

Stephen

I accepted that identification without studying the notes, and turned my attention to other matters. From time to time, I queried many helpful correspondents -- asking if they had found anything about brothers named Stephen and Pilgrim, without results. When I received a newspaper clipping naming a known descendant of Pilgrim, I asked her for any additional information about his parentage -- and got none.

There the matter rested till I heard from you. And finally, when I came up empty-handed

in my effort to follow the clue provided by a statement that Pilgrim's boyhood had been spent in Vermont, I did what I should have done long before. I began to study fully and carefully the notes set down by HWB on Pilgrim and Stephen.

I began with Pilgrim. At once I found that the known birthdates of his children indicated that he was much too young to have been Stephen's brother. I wrote "Looks like a son of Stephen, a brother of Hiram."

Then I dug up, from the copies of old correspondence, a series of letters from Clyde Belknap of Spokane in 1924 -- and found that Pilgrim was listed as a brother of Hiram just as I had suspected, in the last letter that Clyde wrote to HWB.

In those letters, Clyde kept repeating that statement that Stephen had a brother named Pilgrim. But this now seemed to me to be merely another typical instance of the "confusion of generations" that is common among people who lack a documented record of their ancestry. And I knew that the one and only Pilgrim Belknap who has ever been found during 75 years of searching was the Pilgrim who was surely ~~not~~ a brother of Stephen but almost certainly his son.

Let me defend HWB. . . . As you will see on the first letter he received from Clyde, ~~which said~~ only that Stephen and Pilgrim were "brothers," he sketched a little diagram showing this relationship. This was the basis of his notes on the relationship of descendants of Pilgrim and descendants of Hiram. He did not take time to re-examine the record of Pilgrim's dates, which would have steered him straight. I can readily understand why he didn't. At that time in 1924, he was devoting less and less time to genealogy. Soon he would abandon it, saying "I no longer have the time and the strength to continue this task; someone else, some day, will have to carry on."

So I understand why he did not answer Clyde's final letter, but merely filed it after no more than a glance. I think he never really read it, for if he had read it he surely would have made at least a note of some sort in his file on Hiram or the one on Pilgrim. (In his material, there's lots of other unused stuff that he received and filed between 1924 and 1946 when he died.)

Forgive all this detail. I thought it unfair to dump Clyde's letters on you without giving you the background.

I think my first name troubles you. Answer: 1 r and 1 l = she. 2 r's and 2 l's = he.

Yours,

CARROLL YORK BELKNAP

25 Club Road

Riverajde, Connecticut 06878

13 Sept 1974

Mr John C LaPiana
313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt N Y 13214

Dear Mr LaPiana:

Jane Bowman has kindly sent me a copy of your letter to her, 24 Aug. I suppose she has told you of my belief that Stephen Belknap, father of Pilgrim, was a brother of my own great great grandfather.

I'm enclosing:

A 1967 clipping naming great grandchildren of Pilgrim who lived within a few miles of your home. As they were in their 70s then, I don't know how many of them are alive today,

I also enclose a copy of parts of ^{the} record supplied to me in 1971 by one of them, Mrs Mylissa Dreythaler, who now lives in Owasso, just west of Scarsdale Lake. I hope you can fill in some of the missing dates and other data for me. The records in her hands were put together in 1912 by her father Melvin Pilgrim Belknap. They contain lots of names but few dates.

I'll be grateful for any aid you can give me. If you'll like to have a copy of the rest of the record now in my hands, just ask for it.

As to your relationship to Dr Trimmer, it's as distant as possible. He's a descendant of Abraham's son Joseph, baptized 1633. If I'm right about Stephen, you are a descendant of the other son, Samuel, baptized 1627/8 -- both in England.

Cordially,

DELLA from CYB 29 Oct 1974

I'm forced to ask you to do something for me. Will you, please, have a commercial copying company make a Xerox copy, for me, of your entire set of Evans's records? I'm enclosing a check to cover the cost ... if not big enough, tell me.

Here's why:

When I got your note enclosing a copy of one page, I thought I had erred in thinking your Evans records showed a connection between Stephen and Pilgrim. But today I received from LaPiana copies of three Evans pages that you sent to him -- which put a different light on the whole problem.

The Evans records, on these three sheets, are full of errors -- but they may put me on the track that can lead to finding acceptable proof (which they do not contain, as I must now explain to LaPiana).

Now I'm wondering how much other material there is, in your set of Evans, which may bear on some other problems I've not yet solved.

For years, I've tried again and again to get the Michigan State Library to make me a copy of Evans final collection -- which must differ greatly from the one I possess (copy of the set in Grand Rapids library).

So, please help me this way.

JANE BOWMAN from CYB 13 Sept 1974

I'm sorry that I wasn't courteous enough to acknowledge receipt of the material you sent in late July. My error. Preoccupation with other work was no excuse.

I enclose, as possibly of interest to you:

- Copy of letter to LaPlana
- Thoughtful letter from Paul Balknap

As to my publication date -- at my age one doesn't make such predictions. I'll be fortunate if I manage to complete a preliminary task, a private narrative of the family story for my children and grandchildren relegating the begats to a mere APPENDIX.

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
26 September 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Carroll:

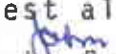
I have all but slept with that wonderful resume of the Stephan Belknap problem- and have a few ideas of my own. Our local library has been on summer hours since the end of May- closed on Saturdays. However, this week they reopen and I plan to camp there for the whole day! I have spent almost as many hours there as I have spent here at home- but still make finds from time to time. Really proud of the collection- believe it is one of the best in the State.

Just for your files- in the off chance that I can help you any in your searching- we have the Vermont Vitals, the Barber records, all of the N.Y. Federal Census- most of New England, part of Pennsylvania and about half of the pension files (Rev. War) on microfilm. Now working on the various State Census records and trying to get copies of copies and handwritten copies. It is a long, tedious process- but will be most helpful. In addition, I would guess that we have 75% of the references in the Index- plus MUCH MUCH more. Of course, the New York (Onondaga County) collection is the best- but we are almost as strong in New England. Do therefore let me know if there is ever anything I can do for you- after all you have done for us, and I am sure others!

As I said, I have some plans for Census record searching- to find or not find Stephan! Will also be interested in land records and probates in Cayuga County to see if he was ever there! Will keep you posted. I like HARD ones line this so you can be sure I will give it my best.

Meanwhile, I have collected a listing of Central New York BELKNAPS and am enclosing two copies of the list. Check off those that you know- I will contact the others for I am as interested as you and will also share copies of all relpies!

Hope you do not think we are pests- just most interested. Leaving 5 October for a Massachussetts "haunt". Hope to be in Salem for a few days at Essex Institute- anything we can pick up there for you???

Best always,

John C. LaPiana

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
13 October 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Carroll:

Once again, I am going to kill two birds with one stone and plan to send a copy of this, mistakes and all, to Jane! We've just returned from our combination vacation and field trip and I am way behind. Have had a marathon session at the machine and therefore, more mistakes than usual. Stick with me though, I will try to make some sense and tell you about our unfinds!

The Essex Institute gave us considerable help on lines other than BELKNAP. The holdings on this surname were miserable. Certainly is a need for a good BELKNAP book- and it looks like we will soon have one. Read the report you wrote on Elisha Belknap 1789-1839 but could not see any relationship to our line. Right?

The Belchertown, Mass. Congregational Church records, compiled by Mark Doolittle, 1852 did contain some data- but I fear it is all well known already. This assigned marginal numbers to church members, gave names and any information of interest, to wit:

- 94 Samuel Belknap, was a soldier in the Rev. War.
died in Service at Cambridge, 1775.
- 95 Mary, his wife, removed after his death.
- 227 Jonas N. Belknap, son of (94)
- 228 Ester (Parker), wife of (227)

Then checked all of the recorded history for that area including: "History of the Conn. Valley, Mass."; "History of Western Massachusetts"; "History and Genealogy of Ancient Windsor, Conn, 1635-1891" which were cross referenced to Belchertown and found again, nothing.

Perley's "History of Salem" (V.I, p.313) did record that Samuel Belknap owned lot #16 in Salem, at the original layout of the town.

Page Two (2)
Continued

We took the "northern route" on the way home and thereby had a chance to stop briefly in Belchertown. Drew a blank, but by this time, I had begun to expect that. So we came on back to New York and just quickly side tripped through Granby. What a desolate spot that is...have a woman there working on our problem and promise to keep you posted on any finds.

As you may know, there is quite a respectable collection of records in the Montgomery County Archives at Fonda. They hold records for the old Montgomery County, which covered most of upstate New York. I spent quite a bit of time there going through old church records, cemetery records, etc., and was not able to find anything on our BELKNAPs. Has anyone done the Saratoga County land records yet? Might turn up something.

I will be back at the local library this weekend- and will continue census reading to prove or disprove something. Am really interested in this line and will keep on it until we exhaust all possible sources. Meanwhile, looking for anyone with any data that might help us. Do you know Miss Dora Belnap in Ogden, Utah? No- just checked, it's Della, not Dora! A friend of mine who lives there says she claims the line through Pilgrim and has proven it. Naturally, I have already written to her.

Thats about it on the no finds! As I said though, I will keep at it and would appreciate any comments or direction/suggestions you might have enroute. Do keep in touch.

Most sincerely,



John C. LaPiana

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
4 November 1974

Mr. Carroll York Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

Your letter of 1 November arrived today and I have to admit- it was nice to hear from you and hear that we have drawn about the same conclusions. I am already hard at work on the BELKNAP contacts in Cayuga County and have high hopes for some BIG finds. I think you are right about Mina and her family- and hope that we can all find something that will help us. Be sure that I will not let you down and will keep at this until I am convinced that it is hopeless- and after all this time I am hard to convince that anything is hopeless!

Reread my last letter to you as I filed a copy away and realized that I did not answer one of your few questions. You asked about the source of the data on "Page 2" of Della's data. She had obviously typed it onto the back of page one. It was an "original type job" and I have no idea where she got the data from. Do you want me to play dumb and ask her for a source? I am a pro at playing dumb! After all, most of the time there is not that much "play" involved.

Plan to get to Auburn this weekend, meanwhile I have several old friends there working on the problem. One of them is in the County Historian's office which can not hurt. We will visit all of the Beebe's and DeGroffs in the area if necessary- and a preliminary check of the area phonebooks show there are LOTS. To date no Mina or George- but we will go to it.

Carroll, we can not thank you enough for your help to date and hope that we can continue this mutually, we hope, beneficial exchange.

Best regards,



John C. LaPiana

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
2 November 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Carroll:

MANY thanks for your letter of the 30th which arrived while I was at the library today. I should have waited for the mailman and then could have used the day for a trip to the Cayuga County area. Appreciate your valuable suggestions and will do everything I can to locate the records, if they are still around, of Mina Beebe of Auburn and George DeGroff of Meridian. It just seems that someone, someplace, must have a shred of paper that will help solve this puzzle.


For the time being, I have given up reading Census Records -until we have a better idea where the time might be well-spent, I could read the entire file and not find anything. And, as you know, it is not the easiest task in the world.

Your analysis of the "Della data" is MOST appreciated. You see, we are new enough to this line not to know anything about Glen Evans and his wonderful work! I feel quite sure that we will not want to invest in a copy of that work. With your analytical mind and obviously years of research, we will wait for your book meanwhile continuing to search for a proof to bridge Belchertown to Galway! A problem like this is almost as exciting as genealogy itself- and once you get onto it- it's impossible to give up!

Nothing new to report- so this will be brief. Can not thank you enough for your help and analysis of data at hand. This is one of the hardest that I have worked on and I am sure I could not untangle it as rapidly alone. Really admire your grasp of the data and rapid, accurate analysis of a situation. I have to sit and puzzle over data for days before I can see where I should be going.

Be sure that I will let you know about the smallest find! Keep up the good work- we look forward to your book soon!

Best regards,


John C. LaPiana

JOHN LAPIANA from CYB 21 Sept 1974

Thanks for your letter of 17 Sept. Census data in it may prove helpful in arriving at approximate dates for some of Pilgrim's descendants.

Don't expect much from those in or near Syracuse. The only one who ever replied to my letters was Mrs Dreythaler -- and I suppose she's dead now, as my recent memos have drawn no replies from her.

I think the best way to answer your question about why I name Stephen as Pilgrim's father is to send you a copy of my final memorandum on this subject, 27 August. But perhaps I should add that no other Pilgrim Belknap has ever been found in the many years of search that have built up my files of about 4500 names. So it's warranted to conclude that the Pilgrim who appeared in Cayuga County in 1812 was the Pilgrim named (in 1914) as a son of Stephen of Galway, Saratoga County (in a letter from a descendant of Stephen in Spokane) and must have been the same man. I find this confirmed by the census entry showing Saratoga County as Pilgrim's birthplace.

I hope the enclosed memo will spur you to tackle the Saratoga County end of the search. I don't believe Mrs Bowman will do anything about it. Paul Belknap, in Florida, is interested -- but far away. And what's needed is the sort of localized digging that you know so well.

I've made no effort to trace parentage of Ann Colvin. Had no clue to follow. But the census statement (in your letter) giving Vermont as her birthplace does provide a clue, suggesting search of Vermont census 1790, which might locate a Colvin family that later moved to NY. Have you checked 1800 and 1810 censuses, Cayuga County, for Colvins?

Stephen file

17 July 1974

Dear Carroll,

The material I have asked for from cousins is finally in my hands. I will try to have it all organized for you within the next two weeks. It deals with descendants of Edward Eastman Belknap.

Now for the points we need to clarify. The wife of Edward Belknap was a rather strange person. She apparently resented having been orphaned. At any rate, I have letters she wrote to my father that give that indication. As I have the story from her, she was not named at birth. Her mother, Betsey L. Wicker, was dying and all attention was on trying to save the mother. She was named for her mother, Betsey L. Wicker Clark, but when she got older, she decided to drop the Wicker and to have the L stand for Lordorski. My father said there was an opera singer with the name for which his mother had great admiration. I do not know what the L stood for originally. Wisconsin records fail to acknowledge Betsey's legitimacy. She was born in 1850 and her father's second marriage two years later is recorded as "no previous marriages". I did find a book published in 1880 that lists both marriages and the DAR accepted it as proof.

Betsey was flowery in her choice of names. She named her son, Ray Hermon. However, Ray's daughter, Betty, says he always spelled the middle name with an a. She named Ray's children. The first was Betsey Ruth, but when the second daughter was born, she changed that to Betsey Beatrice so that the second girl could be called Ruth. You will notice the change on the Bible record page.

I do not have a primary source for Hiram's marriage. All I have is a scrap of paper that says "1836-1861 - 25 years of married life". It was given to me stuck on the bottom of what is supposed to have been Hiram and Sarah's cake plate. I do not know even who wrote it.

Hiram's record of death is in Auburn, or rather in Fayette, the county seat of Fayette County, Iowa. He was injured in a fall and then died. He is buried at Auburn.

I imagine Clyde's dates are probably more accurate than mine. My father was the youngest son of the youngest son, and, while he did tell me about his aunts and uncles, he could easily have been mistaken. He knew two uncles very well, but the others he had seen only a few times. Steve lived with Betsey, daughter of Ray, in his last years. Both Betsey and Jamie of this generation remember him well, but have no concrete information. What does Clyde say about George William? If the infant Justin was born in January 1841, my date of 1841 for George William may be in error. Of course, it would have been possible for George to have been born in December of the same year.

My father said that his grandmother had died in South Dakota where she lived with Edith. I did not find the Fayette Co. history until recently.

I will work over the papers I have now and make you an accurate copy of what my cousins have added. I have found relatives I never knew existed.

Jane

9/21/92
1972
5/29

DELLA from CYB 2 Sept 1974

w/Stephen memo

This isn't urgent. Put it aside till you have idle time on your hands. It's just something that I think should be in your files, even though you can't make use of it at this time.

Were or

The memo attached deals with the lines of descent of some 200 to 300 Belknaps whose names you do not have. All of them are, in my judgment, descendants of Stephen the youngest brother of my great great grand father Jonas Newton Belknap. They divide into two groups: (1) those who are or were descendants of Stephen by a marriage that may have been bigamous, hence illegitimate; (2) those who are probably but not fully proven to be Stephen's descendants. Of course I can't release the data on them, in my files, until there's more certainty on both groups. . . . But I think you should know about this partially solved problem, just in case you encounter it in some form, in the future. (I doubt that you have bumped into it yet.)

It's an old problem. HWB tackled it, and got nowhere because he misunderstood the true nature of the problem. Franklin Belknap's notes contained a fragment of it, which led nowhere. My files had more on it, uselessly, for some years. . . . Four or five years ago one of the many requests for aid that come to me was written by a man who was plainly a good candidate for "most distinguished living Belknap" and knew nothing of his ancestry but the names of his father and mother. Two years later, I was able to prove that he was a descendant of Stephen Belknap son of Samuel Belknap and Mary Newton -- and in the past twelve months I've been able to track two other inquiries to a "probable" descent from the same Stephen.

The attached memo, explaining the present status of the problem, may possibly interest you -- even if it only illustrates the nature of much of the work that has consumed a lot of my time in recent years.

I think I must stipulate that there must be no correspondence with the three persons to whom the memo is addressed. I have no right to expose them to any annoyance beyond having to listen to my views -- with which they may not agree.

DELLA from CYB

11 Oct 1974

URGENT.

Knowing how busy you are, I hate to use that word "Urgent." But I must.

I need, as soon as practicable, a copy of the pages in Glen Evans' records showing what he set down on the relation between Stephen, son of Samuel B and Mary Newton, and the Pilgrim B who married Anne Colvin. Your memo 6 Oct names the pages as "26, 54, 101."

Reason for urgency: my hope that Evans may have found at least a clue to the missing proof that the Stephen who was Pilgrim's father was the Stephen from Belchertown. If so, I must pass this information -- at once -- to the Syracuse descendant of Pilgrim whom you mention: John LaPiana, grandson of the Norman Goodell who married Pilgrim's daughter Alsemena.

Since I wrote my memo on the identification of Stephen Belknap of Galway (copy was sent to you) I've come in touch with LaPiana, and have induced him to tackle the job of finding valid evidence to support or disprove the conclusion I reached on the basis of circumstantial evidence. He is now working on it. As he's the sort of eager-beaver searcher who may find the documentary evidence that I lack, I owe it to him to tell him whatever may aid his search.

Of course I may find that this is just another instance of Evans' habit of making identifications on guesswork -- needing a Stephen and seizing any Stephen who was alive at the right time (as he did on Stephen's brother Joseph).

But I'm hoping that Evans really had the proof that I've been unable to find.

It was kind of you to send me the sheets of material on Elisha and his descendants. But I'm thinking that perhaps you are the one who needs help on this subject. So I'm taking the liberty of annotating and augmenting the material you sent, and will return it to you as soon as I can get copies of two charts that can't be copied on my machine.

additional

Meanwhile, a suggestion. You mention the possibility of writing to Jane Belknap (Mrs Milton R). Better not. I'll tell you why not, when I send back your Elisha's sheets. And I'll tell you how to get a lot more material on Elisha's descendants, if you want it. . . (I don't really know anything about the scope of the book you're planning to publish.)

Have received that new English records from Dr W Dean B. Can't see that they add anything to our background knowledge. But maybe I misunderstood what I thought he said when he phoned me.

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
24 September 1974

Mr. Carroll Y. Kelknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn, 06878

Dear Carroll:

I still have to fully digest your letter of the 21st- for this has been a very busy week. I am holding down the home fort while Carol is at the State DAR Convention! Since we have three little ones here that is quite a big job! Have come home the past two nights to lots of mail and even more chores! Must admit that I have not read your letter enclosures too well- but will do it ~~xx~~ in the next couple of days.

We are going to leave soon for our annual New England Vacation/genealogy trip and want to make the most of it too! Therefore, we must be sure that we know all of the best locations to check. We will be in Salem for a couple of days and plan to spend the time at the Essex Institute. We have already done a genealogical-vacation in Vermont and Massachusetts- but never hit the far Eastern part before. Since that is where our GODELL line began, we will be most interested in seeing what they have there.

If we can, we will spend some time in SARATOGA county too- for we really are interested in running down the line in that area. We also have reason to believe that Pilgram was born there- but to date have not been able to prove it. You can be sure that we will send you all of the things that we find. Meanwhile, do you want our BELKNAP line down to the present? Would love to be in your book!

Let us know about New England and anything that we should check there- and also instruct us on what we should be looking for in Saratoga County. We readily admit to being new searchers and need all of the pointers we can get.

Look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Most sincerely,


John C- LaPiana

313 Cooper Lane
Dewitt, New York 13214
24 August 1974

Mrs. Ezra A. Bowman
P. O. Box 1335
Avalon, California 90704

Dear Mrs. Bowman:

You have no idea how delighted I was to receive your letter of the 20th of August in the morning mail today! We have long been hunting for our BELKNAP ancestors and have had nothing but brick walls. Bob Trimmer and I have been corresponding for over a year trying to help each other. Began while he was living here in New York State and continues, as we find information which is helpful to the other. So far we have not been able to relate our lines.

YES, we do have a Pilgrim BELKNAP. But that is about all we have. He was born in New York State- place as yet unknown 1796/7. Could well be a brother of your Hiram, b. 3 Sept 1808 for there is only about ten years between these two people.

Pilgrim m. Anna _____, who was d. 18 Mar 1881
b. 3 Jan 1799. Pilgrim died 23 Feb 1869 and both are burried at the cemetery in Spring Lake, Cayuga County, New York. They appear in several of the census records and at least, had the following kids:

Lyman	b. 1827
Anna	b. 1832
Alscemena	b. 26 Oct 1833
Levi	b. 1835
Jane	b. 1839
Matilda	b. 1843

Alscemena married our Norman⁸ GOODSELL, and that is our interest in the whole BELKNAP line. We have been able to trace all but two of the women in the line back to colonial times- Alscemena is one of these two!

Promise to do research for you on my next trip to the library- do let me know if you can verify any of the above data and DO KEEP IN TOUCH.

Most sincerely,


John C. LaPiana

JOHN LAPIANA from CYB 7 Nov 1974

Your letter 2 Nov:

I'm delighted to hear that you'll follow up on Mina Beebe and George de Groff.

Your letter makes me fear that I may have misled you about Della Belnap, who is the capable and devoted secretary of the Mormon "Belnap Family Organization." In writing to me about the Evans material she was mailing to you, she said "All I can say to Lapiana is that he may be descended from our branch." By "our" she meant the Samuel division of the family. Della knows as well as I do that nothing said by Evans can be accepted without confirmation -- and she is a trustworthy worker. The book for which she is preparing copy will cover, mainly, the ancestry of the Mormon descendants of the Jesse B who was a cousin of Stephen of Belchertown. That Jesse's grandson Gilbert, who became a Mormon, dropped the "k" from the name.

I think perhaps I should sketch for you, briefly, the history of the main compilations of Belnap genealogy -- omitting the many minor ones that cover only single lines.

(1) Admiral Charles Belnap -- beginning in the 1880s and continuing in the 1890s, he did a lot of careful research, centering primarily around his own ancestry but also including a lot on other branches. For years, his records remained inaccessible but eventually they were deposited at NEHGS, and Della and I (who work very cooperatively) have Xerox copies of all 600 pages of them.

(2) Henry Wyckoff Belnap, curator of Essex Institute -- from 1900 to 1926, he did sound work on the American Belnaps and their ancestry in England. The English ancestry is covered in articles by him in NEHG Register 1914 and 1938. His notes on about 2500 American Belnaps fell out of sight till I found them in 1964 and was permitted to make Xeroxcopies of all notes and correspondence. This material forms the core of my collection, which now includes about 4500 to 5000 names. . . . Della's files contain material obtained from Henry by Della's father about 1914, before Henry rewrote his notes and corrected many early errors he had made (but not all of them, as I had to discover in working with his notes). So I often have to question the accuracy of entries by Della that are based on what her father got from Henry -- who generously shared what he learned as he went along, including his early blunders when he was learning how to be a genealogist.

(3) Hiram Belnap -- Della's father -- ^{covering} for religious motives, began tracing his ancestry in the early 1900s, with the aid of what Henry could give him at that time. Hiram built up a large body of notes ~~among~~ ^{covering} all main branches of the family. His work was carried on by his daughter Flora and then by Della, after Flora's death. Much of Della's painstaking effort has focused on correcting errors made by Hiram and Flora, plus extending the Mormon lines to the present day.

(4) Glen Evans -- in the 1940s, began working on Belnap genealogy for a Belnap relative of his, in Michigan. Eventually broadened out to include everything he saw or found. Based much of his file on material obtained from Flora, thus perpetuating many errors that had been made by Hiram. To those errors, he added a lot of his own. Completely unreliable, but now and then found something that everyone else missed -- so Della and I spend a lot of time tracking down the sources he named, to see if maybe he was right, as sometimes he is. Too often, we find no support for his imaginative guesses. . . . I said nothing about Evans in drafting my Summary on Stephen, for I'm all too aware of the avidity with which people accept as true whatever someone has published in any form. I didn't want to tempt Stephen's descendants by offering dubious bait. Della felt differently -- she thought you ought to see what Evans said, even though you shouldn't rely on it. Maybe she was right.

These four main compilations are the foundation on which present-day work can be based. All of them, of course, contain errors -- and often differ in details that are hard to reconcile. Between us, Della and I have all this basic material, plus a raft of other stuff of varying value. And Della also has ready access to the huge files of the Salt Lake genealogical library and its staff of experts. So, to the limit of our ability Della and I work closely together, arguing amicably about our differences in judgment and sharing whatever new we learn.

The chief minor compilation, by Clinton Belknap (like me, a great great grandson of Jonas Newton Belknap) has just been published. It covers our common ancestry down to Jonas, then the children and grandchildren of Jonas's children and finally all known descendants of his son Elijah down to and including Clinton's children. It's a good book, though I differ with Clinton on some details.

have been

This brief sketch, perhaps, will help you understand what has been accomplished thus far. Of course it's not complete -- there are thousands of Belknaps who haven't been gathered by our nets. But all the main branches are pretty well covered.

In your search for proof on Stephen, I urge you not to be discouraged by defeat. It took me three years of hard work to prove something that I had known all my life -- that my great grandfather had a brother named Elisha.

At the moment, I'm suspending all further genealogical study in order to make time for writing for my children and grandchildren the narrative of our people from 1300 to date, concentrating on the story of the people and relegating mere genealogy to an appendix. . . So don't take it amiss if I fail to write to you again.

JOHN LAPIANA from CYB

1 Nov 1974

While filing the memo I sent to you yesterday, I have noted two inadequacies that I want to remedy.

(1) I didn't make it fully clear that the portion of Evans' work showing some descendants of Hiram should be disregarded because it supplies no indication of a probable clue.

If you will look at the enclosed copies of two pages in Franklin Belknap's records, you will see that the information given to him by J W Belknap in 1906 began with the date of Hiram's death and contained nothing prior to that date. As I said yesterday, Evans added the year 1799 as Hiram's birthdate. I should also have pointed out that the line above that date, showing Hiram's ancestors as Samuel, Stephen, was also an addition by Evans alone. . . What this means is that before drafting that section, Evans had already either guessed about Stephen or found evidence for Stephen's parentage, plus evidence that Hiram was son of Stephen.

We can hope he wasn't just guessing. This brings me to my other point.

(2) I hope that in my earlier memo I didn't seem to condemn Evans for guessing. All of us have to do a lot of it -- and then seek evidence to support or deny the guess. My complaint against Evans is that much too often he didn't seek such evidence, but stated his guess as a fact -- where an responsible worker would say merely "maybe" or perhaps "probably."

Evans was not the first or the last to guess that Stephen at Galway was son of the Samuel at Belchertown. It was an obvious guess, which lots of us have made in past years but have foreborne to rely on, partly because it questions the legitimacy of the children born in Canada. Being unaware of the Canadian marriage, Evans may have thought his guess worth adopting.

Or, as I hope, he may have found real evidence in the records of Mina Beebe or those of George De Groff.

Mina Beebe looks like a good bet. The Mary Belknap from whom she was descended was Pilgrim's oldest daughter -- i.e., the child most likely to have preserved what her father may have said about his parentage -- and apparently did preserve a record of his birthdate, which encourages us to look for further information in whatever records she left.

If both Mina and DeGroff prove unhelpful, I'll have another possible source to suggest -- in a town near Albany -- a long shot, but perhaps worth trying.

HHHHHLaPIANA fromCWB 11 Nov 1974

It occurs to me that in my concentration on points affecting the identification of Stephen I may have conveyed a wrong impression by failing to answer some of the questions you have asked. This failure may have made you feel that I'm not interested in the sorts of information that you pick up as you go along -- whereas I'm always grateful for all bits of data, even when I see no immediate use for them. Years later, a fragment previously unused may prove to be of great value. . . . So now I'm going to try to deal with points not previously covered in my memos to you.

Your letter 26 Sept -- list of living Belknaps in central NY. Glad to have it, though not likely to make use of it at once, for I'm deferring further contact with present-day Belknaps. Am returning the duplicate copy of the list, as you wished.

28 Sept -- 1810 Census, Cayuga Co. -- the Jesse's at Locke were ancestors of Della and thus cousins of Stephen. William was in a different branch of the family.

Same letter -- Belknaps in Herkimer Co, 1810 census -- sons of Stephen's uncle Abel, who lived at Cherry Valley after Rev War.

Same letter -- 1810 Census, Ontario Co. -- all named were Stephen's brothers (Jonas, and Seth) and children of Jonas. Sally Belknap was Sarah Hunt, widow of Jonas's eldest son Samuel. She later married Artemas Lincoln.

Same letter, p 2 -- Jonas pension record -- in that application, as copied by the court's clerk, "Tanner" was the clerk's misspelling of Tamar, third wife of Jonas. She was widow of Jonas's cousin Asa Newton. When Asa died, Jonas (then about 60) married the widow -- a not uncommon practice in our family. "Diantha" appears to have been daughter of Asa Newton -- full name, at time of marriage years later and at time of death in Iowa, was given both as "Diantha Phoebe" and as "Phoebe Diantha Newton." (Tamar's full name, Tamar Vinton -- born Charlton, Mass., married Asa Newton in Belchertown.)

Letter 13 Oct -- Elisha -- son of Jonas and thus ~~unrelated~~ Stephen.

-- Entries in Doolittle: these and other entries are well known.

-- p 2: Land records Saratoga Co., no deeds etc for Stephen, as said in my summary memo.

Your letter to Mrs Bowman, 25 Oct -- p 2 -- Mary Belknap, in Cayuga County Cemetery Inscriptions. Interesting, as indicating the source of Evans's information about her. He was an assiduous reader of that sort of published material, often with erratic results. The inference from the wording on Evans's record (the DeGross one) is that Evans did not get this Mary from DeGross but added ~~her~~ on his own initiative, to whatever he did get from DeGross, thus lessening her, your hope of learning much from DeGross's records.

Same letter: Jonas and wife at Worcester in Otsego County in church record 1798. The 1798 is obviously an error by the person who copied the church record -- possibly was 1793. In 1794 and continuously till 1819, Jonas was in the Canandaigua area of Ontario County. I've dealt with this error in my record on Jonas, long ago.

Same letter, p 3 -- first para. and second para. -- I'll be grateful for a copy of the Bible pages you mentioned -- Belknap-Whiting-Prescott connections -- as they may correct my entries based on possibly less valid sources. At your convenience; no hurry?

By all means continue sending me whatever you run into -- even if I'm not courteous enough to say Thank You.

9 September 1974

Dear Carroll,

Thank you so much for the information you have collected about the possibility of the two Stephen's being the same man. I will see what I can do about continuing the search.

42
Did you receive the material I sent about Hiram's descendants? It was mailed from here in July, so please let me know if it may have been lost in the mails. I do have carbon copies, so I can make up another for you if necessary.

This letter from a John C. LaPiana whose name had been given me earlier shows his interest in Pilgrim Belknap. I am answering his letter today and am sending you this copy for your files. I will tell him that you are planning to publish a family history and tell him what I have learned about Pilgrim so that you do not have this added problem unless you wish to contact him yourself.

I will be interested in purchasing your book on publication. When do you expect that will be? Is it possible to reserve a copy so that I will be sure to have one?

Thank you for all your help and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Jane Bowman

Jane Bowman

Other ^{NY} counties that have been
searched w/o finding
Stephen:

1810 Ontario, Onondaga, Otsego

1820 Oswego

Other counties to be searched first:

St Lawrence, Cayuga, Montgomery

Fulton Co., Schenectady, Albany

PAUL E. BELKNAP
681 GREENE DRIVE
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA 32789

Dear Carroll,

September 7, 1974

Congratulations on your superlative job of research and reasoning as set forth in your document of August 27. On the basis of what you say, I am prepared to accept as probable:

1. Stephen of Belchertown and Stephen of Galway were the same man.
2. He was married twice.
3. Stephen's first wife died at the birth of Hiram or during his infancy (otherwise it is preposterous that Hiram did not know her name).
4. When Stephen went to Canada openly, he left his children with one of ^{or more} his brothers probably Joseph (Joseph and he were not only close geographically but must have been so emotionally, as Joseph was his first choice as guardian). At any event Jonas, his former guardian, and Seth who both visits to know of his departure could fairly easily have been included in a trip to Hamilton. Any the younger children would have been involved. Assuming a departure in 1810, Pilgrim must have been 18 or 19 and able to fend for himself.

One nagging doubt clouds all the foregoing. Jesse would have been 18 in 1810. He would have had personal recollection of Stephen's departure. Why didn't he tell Edward about the first marriage?
(over)

An interesting support of your thesis that Stephen went to Canada openly, did not hide his background from his second wife and she knew no reason to conceal his origins! In one letter my father referred to his paternal grandmother as Eleanor Hinton although he repeatedly wrote, before and after this particular letter, that her maiden name was Eleanor Midgough. This suggests that Eleanor remarried after Stephen's death. With two very young children, it would have been relatively easy to tell them nothing about their real father and even to have them use the surname of her second husband. Instead, she had them keep their father's name and told Stephen the name of his grandfather and the correct names of the ~~grand~~ brothers (from internal evidence of my father's papers, he knew his great grandfather was Samuel. In a list he had, the brothers are correctly listed and a Samuel seems to have been added later. Possibly my Uncle Edward confused the matter). So, far from appearing to have anything to hide, Eleanor did all in her power to keep the Belknap connection alive.

Thank you for all your work. Good luck on your history. I look forward to it eagerly. Perhaps if I get all my affairs in order here, I will take up the search in New York, Canada and Michigan. If so, I will surely call on you for guidance.

Sincerely,
Paul J.

Mrs Bowman from CYB

11 July 1974

One more question to ask today. Then I'll stop.

Do you have names of children of Stephen, in addition to Hiram?

1800 Census shows: Males, 2 under 10, 1 26-45; Females, 2 under 10, 1 26-45.

This is a rather typical household for a man of about 30 to 32, in those days. But it is a household -- not necessarily including only children of the head of the household. Some of those young children might have been those of the wife, by a preceding marriage, if she was a widow.

But if we assume all 4 children were Stephen's, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and if we accept the 1800 birthdate for ~~XXXX~~ Hiram, then Hiram had at least two brothers and two sisters who had been born in the 1790's. He might also have had others, born after the 1790's.

That census record is the only documentary evidence yet found, about this family. Stephen does not appear in the 1810 or 1820 census of Saratoga County. And that county has no other records of him -- no recorded deeds -- no will -- no intestate proceedings -- which might have given us names of his children. Thus far, no record of him has been found in any other counties of New York (but all counties have not yet been searched for records after 1800).

Of the people who have supplied information about Stephen's descendants, the only one to provide a list of his children has been Clyde in 1924. If the 1800 census was correct, and if Hiram was born after 1800, then Clyde's list was incomplete.

So we are in need of more lists -- not copied from Clyde's files, but with other sources. in Cayuga County.

I'm stressing this need because it seems obvious that if we are to find the truth about Stephen we must discover and trace the movements of members of his family, whoever they may have been. It isn't enough to say that 12 years after 1800, his son Pilgrim enlisted as a private in the N Y militia -- and that 27 or 28 years after 1808 his son Hiram got married in a county many miles from Galway. And even if I'm right in guessing that a daughter of Stephen was married in Cayuga County or in Montgomery County in 1815, this doesn't add much to our knowledge.

If you don't have a list, do you know anyone who might?

MRS. ARTHUR JAMES BOYCE
1613 SOUTH DULUTH AVENUE
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Sept. 23,
1930

Mr. Henry W. Belknap
87 Federal St.
Salem, Mass.

No 2cendants
of Stephen -
Pilgrims brother

My dear Sir:

At hand I have the
letters my uncle, Clyde Belknap of Spokane,
Wash. and you wrote in 1924. Your
study and knowledge of the Belknap family
makes me wonder if, by any chance, you
can give me any information as to family,
wife or children of our ancestor - Stephen
Belknap - or if you can direct me to any
published records that would help in
the search to trace our Belknap records.

I have conflicting notes as to whether
Stephen Belknap was born in N.Y. or Scotland.
He lived in Galway, Saratoga Co. N.Y. and

was a wealthy teamster or freighter who
owned 100 teams of horses. We do not
know whom he married. We know
he had a brother Pligium. His son
Hiram (my great grandfather) was born
Sept 3, 1808, Galaway N.Y. - d. Dec 14, 1873

Am giving you these dates as
means of identifying the son.

Any advice or help you might
give would be appreciated,

Sincerely yours,

(Ruth Regan) Mrs. A. J. Boyce
1613 S. D. Street
Sioux Falls

CLYDE H. BELKNAP
LAWYER
1114 PAULSEN BUILDING
SPOKANE, WASH.

August 12th, 1924.

Mr. Henry W. Belknap,
31 Warren St.,
Salem, Mass.

Dear Sir:

A friend of mine handed me a letter written by you dated November 6th, 1913 to Clark Russell Belknap in which you set forth the Belknap ancestry. Until this statement was furnished me I had supposed that the Belknaps all originated from Stephen Belknap, my great-grandfather and Pilgrim Belknap, his brother, who came from Scotland. It would be interesting to me to know if you discovered, in your research, any branch of the Belknaps coming from Scotland.

I know practically nothing of my ^{great} grand father except that he is supposed to have been a horseman and owned many fine horses. His son, my grandfather was Hiram Belknap, born September 3rd, 1808 in Gallway, Saratoga County, New York. Hiram had nine children of whom my father George William was one, born in 1843 in Rochester, New York State.

Thanking you in advance for any information you may have that would tend to connect the Scottish and English line of ancestry, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Clyde H. Belknap

CHB/EP.

Stephen Belknap
Hiram
3. 1808
John Geo. Wm
1. 1843

CLYDE H. BELKNAP

LAWYER

1114 PAULSEN BUILDING

SPOKANE, WASH.

August 27, 1924.

Mr. Henry W. Belknap,
87 Federal Building,
Salem, Mass.

My dear Sir:

I received your postal card asking if I knew anything as to "Pilgrim" Belknap. According to information received by me from my Father's sister Pilgrim Belknap and Stephen Belknap both came from Scotland. She seems to remember having heard my grandfather Hiram Belknap tell her this. We have no other way of knowing anything about him.

CHB/EP.

Respectfully yours,

Clyde H. Belknap



Saratoga County Historical Society

Ballston Spa

New York 12020

Dear Mr. Belknap —

A quickie, informal reply to your inquiry of July 12th. To wit...

Local histories. Sylvester's "Saratoga County", Grose's "Ballston Spa", and histories of many surrounding towns & villages.

Historical societies. About 12 in the county: Saratoga Springs, Schuylerville, Watford, Clifton Park, Charlton, etc, but this organization can make referrals.

Special historical searches. Depends on the nature of the search. Mrs. Ira L. Alsdorf, 17 Frederick Lane, Ballston Spa frequently does them at a reasonable fee.

Perhaps this Society could help
you -- and, if not, we probably could
put you on the right track.

Apologies for the longhand.

Peter C. Grohms
Development Director



Saratoga County Historical Society

Town of Galway

SARATOGA COUNTY

GALWAY, NEW YORK 12074

July 12, 1974

Mr. C. Y. Belnap
25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878

Dear Mr. Belnap:

I am writing with regard to your request for information from the office of the Galway Town Historian concerning the Stephen Belnap family.

There is no information about this family in the Galway file. To date I have been unable to locate any information relative to your request.

I can refer you to the following sources as a possible direction for your continued search.

1 - Genealogy Dept.
State Education Bldg.
Albany, New York 12223

2 - Shirley Hustel
Office of the County Clerk
County Office Bldg.
Rochester, N.Y. 14614

P.S. Shirley is in contact with a genealogical firm which promises to do research on your family history. She can give you more information on this firm.

Good Luck !

Phyllis J. Keeler
Galway Town Historian

Stephen

17 July 1974

Miss Phyllis J. Keeler
Galway Town Historian
Galway, N. Y. 12074

Dear Miss Keeler:

It was most kind of you to answer so fully my query about Stephen Belknap, who was at Galway in 1800. I'm grateful.

It seems obvious now that if this puzzle is to be solved, the solution will be found only by someone who knows all the possible ways of searching for long-forgotten information at Galway. Perhaps you can suggest what I should do next -- if I tell you the little that is now known. So please forgive me for imposing still more on your courtesy.

What's known: Merely that the 1800 Census shows Stephen Belknap at Galway, with four children Under 10 and a wife aged 26-45 (same as age shown for him). . . . Beyond this, nothing. No recorded deeds. No record of a will or of intestate proceedings. No record in Censuses 1810 or 1820. Wife's name unknown.

What's said by his descendants: That his children included two sons, Hiram and Pilgrim. That in 1835 the son Hiram settled at Ellensburg, then in St. Lawrence County. That the other son, Pilgrim, settled in Cayuga County about 1818. (Nothing on them, for the years back to 1800.)

The question: Was this Stephen the Stephen who died in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1814, leaving a wife and a year-old daughter? A son was born posthumously. The Canadian wife did not know her husband's parentage. His descendants did not learn their ancestry until 1880, when his parentage was established beyond question.

In other words, did the Galway Stephen leave a young family about 1808 and go to Canada and start a new family? Had his Galway wife died? What happened to his Galway children, about 1808 and in later years -- before they reappeared elsewhere? And so on and on.

I'd abandon hope of finding the answers, but for the fact that lucky miracles do sometimes happen. Years ago, an equally baffling puzzle was solved because ~~so~~ incredibly -- a small bookstore in a town of 300 population republished a history of the town's earliest years. That little book contained information taken from a family Bible which had vanished more than 120 years ago. Miracles do happen. Lost records of old gravestones -- paragraphs from long-dead newspapers -- such things do sometimes get resurrected.

If you can suggest local searches that might possibly be worth trying, I'll be very grateful.

Cordially,

C. Y. Belknap:

1 Aug 1974

Mr Peter C Grollius
Saratoga County Historical Society
Balston Spa, N Y 12030

Dear Mr Grollius:

When an amateur receives an offer of aid from someone who knows more than he does, he naturally leaps at the opportunity. So I'm not hesitating to impose on your kindness. But first, I think, I must try to outline the background of my inquiry, for I've found that some New York County Historians look with disfavor on searches that impinge on genealogy -- as this one does. Indeed, it's a rather odd mixture of historical research and genealogical research.

Some years ago I got drawn into work on the genealogy of the Belknap family, with the result that I get many requests for aid in establishing ancestry. One of them is the outcome of my effort along a different line.

For some time, now, I've been centering my interest on an aspect of the so-called "Western movement" that seems not to have been given adequate consideration. In trying to state the primary issue, I'll have to be guilty of over-simplification -- else I'd inflict a long essay on you.

Thus over-simplified, this issue is the underlying influence of the survival in America of the pre-Conquest custom, in England, of Borough English -- inheritance of land by the youngest son, rather than by the Norman practice of primogeniture. Demonstrably, this survival persisted in New England for many years, and even as late as 1880 in some western areas. Its visible outcome was that the sons who moved west from Massachusetts and other New England sections were the older sons; and, dominantly, the sons who stayed behind were the youngest sons. Indeed, it's not impossible to say that the older sons had to move, because they had no future where they were born. They wouldn't inherit land; and the nearby land had become too costly for them.

Of course this generalization applies to the families whose occupation was farming. In my family, for example, there was a sharp division between the branches founded by two brothers in the early 1600's. One branch became dominantly townspeople, and made little or no use of the custom of Borough English. The other branch turned to farming, and followed Borough English for generation after generation -- thus becoming the branch that played a major role in the Westward movement, whereas the town-dwelling branch pretty much stayed put.

The instance that has led me to need information from Saratoga County concerns the Stephen Belknap who was born in 1769 in Belchertown, Mass., and the Stephen Belknap who was living at Galway in 1860. Were they the same man? If so, what's involved is the legitimacy of the lineage of two main groups of present-day Belknaps, who look to me for an answer.

The facts of documented record are few.

one of

The Belchertown Stephen: Youngest of five sons of ^{the} Samuel Belknap who fought on Bunker Hill and died the following day. Ten years later, in 1785, this Stephen (possibly sole heir of his father) named his oldest brother as his guardian until his inheritance would become due (five years later). . . . Next on record when a daughter was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1813. . . Nothing of record in the intervening 27 years between 1785 and 1813.

The Galway Stephen: Only documented record is 1800 Census, which shows him at Galway with a wife and four children under 10 years of age. . . No record in 1810 and 1820 Censuses of Saratoga County, nor in any other NY county yet examined for those census years. . . No deeds of record in Saratoga County. No records of disposition of estate, in Surrogate's Court, Saratoga County.

Beyond that 1800 Census record, we have only the names of his children, as stated by a son, Hiram, who is said to have been born in 1808 at Galway. This son named the other children as Pilgrim, Mary Ann (Polly), and Minerva.

The son Pilgrim appears in 1812, in Cayuga County, where he later married and settled. Nothing known of years before 1812. (Probably born abt 1793).

^{Hiram,}
~~Stephen~~ said to have been born in 1808, appears in 1835 in St Lawrence County (in part now Jefferson County) where he ~~settled~~ settled at Ellensburg. Nothing known of the years between 1810 and 1835.

Nothing known of the girls, although a Minerva Belknap who married in Cayuga County about 1815 may have been daughter of the Galway Stephen.

Now, following up on my interest in survivals of Burrough English and also on the genealogical interests of two groups of descendants who want the solution of the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the Canadian children, I'm in need of facts such as these:

- Did the Galway Stephen die in Saratoga County (between 1800 and 1810)?
- Did his wife die there? When?
- What was his occupation at Galway?
- After 1800, were his children in the care of some other family?
- Dates of birth of children, especially that of son Hiram?

And so on and on.

I'll be most grateful if you can suggest ways of digging for this sort of facts.

Also, I'll be grateful if your wider knowledge of historical writing can suggest any published material bearing on my main point: the American survival of Burrough English. I can't be the first ~~one~~ to have noted it.

Very truly yours,

C. T. Belknap:

Pilgrim
Stephen

May
May 23 1974

Mrs Mylissa Dreythaler
P O Box 38
Owaseo N Y 13130

Dear Mrs Dreythaler:

We have finally made some progress in the search for ancestors of Pilgrim Belknap, on which your father worked so hard in 1912.

Yesterday, with the aid of people who have been helping in this search, it came possible to name Pilgrim's father. He was Stephen Belknap, who was living at Galway in 1800. Stephen had five known children: Pilgrim, Hiram, Mary Ann, Polly, Minerva. The only child whose birthdate has yet been found is Hiram, born 3 September 1803, at Galway. 8

As Pilgrim served in the War of 1812, he doubtless was born before Hiram -- some time in the 1790's, probably, ~~at Galway, N.Y.~~

I shan't try to include in this brief note the facts substantiating what I've been telling you, for there is more work to be done before setting down the whole story.

What needs to be done next is to explore the strong possibility that Stephen was a son of Samuel Belknap of Belchertown, Mass., who fought on Bunker Hill beside his 16-year old son Jonas and died in camp at Cambridge the next day.

It may take a few weeks to take these next steps. Meanwhile, I have considerable interest in them, for that Jonas was my own great great grandfather.

Cordially.

Query: "Polly" was short for Mary Ann?
(Samuel's wife Mary Weston was called Polly.) If so, only 4 chn, as shown in 1800 Census.



JOHN L. OSTRANDER
SURROGATE

*Chambers of the Surrogate's Court
Saratoga County Municipal Center
Ballston Spa, N. Y. 12020*

EVELYN WALDRON
CHIEF CLERK

June 6, 1974

RE: Bellknap, Bellnap, Belnap, Bilknap Estate

Mr. Carroll York Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

A search of our Indices do not reveal any Estate Proceedings for any Bellknap, etc., during the period 1790 to 1830.

We do have a guardianship for a Lewis Bellknap, Jr. in the year 1934. If you would like information on this file, we would be glad to send it to you.

Enclosed find your receipt for \$10.00 for the searching fee.

Very truly yours

(Miss) Evelyn Waldron
Chief Clerk

EW:dd
Encl.

HOME ADDRESS
25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878

Mr. Dorselle Belknap
114 Cottington Drive
Syracuse, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Belknap:

Your name was given to me by Miss Gladys Gray of Canandaigua at the time of the death of your brother Roland. I got your address from the phone book.

My reason for writing to you is that I am engaged in editing and extending the Belknap genealogy left unfinished by Henry Wyckoff Belknap, of Salem, Massachusetts, at his death in 1946.

One of his sources of information was your father Melvin P. Belknap, who corresponded with him in 1912. The record resulting from that correspondence ends with the birth of Addie in 1911 and does not include your name nor those of your brothers Emmett, Keith, Roscoe and Paul (named in the clipping that Miss Gray sent to me) unless Keith is the "Heath, born 1906" who is shown in the record in my possession. It does show the birth dates of your sisters Ruth and Madeline and Mylisa (spelled Melissa in my record).

If you and your brothers and sisters would be willing to help me, I'll gladly send you a copy of the record, beginning with the marriage of Pilgrim Belknap and Ann Colvin at (I assume) some time near 1820 — so that you can correct it and amplify ~~ix~~ it.

Meanwhile there's a question that I hope you can answer. Can you tell me the names of Pilgrim's parents? This is one of the questions that Henry Wyckoff Belknap left unanswered; and I'd like to answer it, for what I'm trying to do is to compile a record that will enable Belknaps of the present day to know how they are related. The only other mention of Pilgrim is in letters from descendants of his brother Stephen — whose parentage is also not shown. Possibly both were closely related to my own ancestors, who were living in the area around Hone/oye in 1810.

I'll be most grateful for any information you can give me.

Cordially yours,

Carroll Belknap:

January 29 1971

Mrs Mylissa Dreythaler
Skanateles, N. Y.

Dear Mrs Dreythaler:

Back in 1967, I wrote to your brother Dorselle, hoping he might help me on my work of preparing a Balknap genealogy covering all branches of our family. I didn't receive a reply.

So I'm enclosing a copy of that letter of mine, in the hope that you or somebody else in your family will want to help me bring the record up to date.

What has made me dig up this old letter has been the receipt of information about other descendants of Pilgrim Balknap -- in Iowa.

I haven't yet found the parentage of Pilgrim, but I believe there's no doubt that he was a descendant of Abraham Balknap, who settled at Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1637.

Cordially,

O. Y. Laitman

8/30/73

From CYB

Here is something I think I should send to you -- copy of the appointment of Jonas Newton Belknep as guardian of his younger brother Stephen, 17 Nov 1785. For one thing, it bears Jonas's actual signature -- not just a clerk's copy, as on other documents. And several points are worth explanation.

- (1) Originally, ^{the} paper was prepared to make Stephen's brother Joseph the guardian, but Jonas's name was substituted at two places.
- (2) This change is explained by the marginal note showing that the choice of Jonas (the oldest brother) was made by Stephen, who had now become old enough (15 or over) to be entitled to choose a guardian under old Massachusetts law.
- (3) The designation of Stephen as an heir of Samuel implies that there was either will or (more likely) a record of intestate proceedings; but the arch County, Mass., don't have either sort of documents. (The only other known Samuel and his family, in the offices of that county, is a deed signed in 1788.)
- (4) The Rufus Kentfield who signed as bondsman was husband of Jonas 25 Nov 1773. He died ~~some time before 1788~~ (termed "deceased" 1787).
- (5) The bond required -- 100 pounds -- was rather unusually large areas like Belchertown. This suggests that Samuel's estate was would have been only one of a number of heirs. ?
- (6) The bond money would be returnable when Stephen became 21 -- i suggests a possible indication that 1790 was the year in which Jonas and moved west to Cherry Valley -- where the census figures of the indicate that Jonas and his young family lived with his uncle Abel property of their own, nearby. Jonas's share of the refunded bond helped finance the move. (As I have stressed a number of times, the moved from New England were those who could finance travel and purchase didn't move till they could bear such expense. And I should add wife, received the proceeds of her share of her mother's estate which were at Cherry Valley or nearby -- which may have helped in the new County.)
- (7) This document of 1785 is the last glimpse of Stephen, till the daughter Susie in 1813, in Canada. The 28 intervening years are blank (There was a Stephen with a young family in Saratoga Co. NY, in 1800 not Jonas's brother -- though his father is not yet known.) ?

Roland Belknep

SENECA FALLS. -- Funeral services for Roland Belknep, 68, of the Denison Colony, Rt. 89, who died Saturday in Taylor-Brown Memorial Hospital after an illness of several months will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Sanderson Funeral Home.

The Rev. LeRoy C. Hertzog, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will officiate. Burial will be in Pine Hill Cemetery, Throop.

Friends may call at the funeral home today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Mr. Belknep was born in Waterloo Feb. 22, 1901, the son of Melvin P. and Eva Cartner Belknep. He was a lifelong resident of this area. He was a farmer and also drove school bus for the Seneca Falls Central School District for several years until forced to retire due to ill health.

He is survived by five stepsons, Wayne Learo of Cayuga, Donald Learo of Weedsport, Alvin Learo of Savannah, Robert Learo of Cayuga and Gerald Learo of Auburn; four stepdaughters, Mrs. Stewart VanWie of Weedsport, Mrs. Anita J. Densley of Auburn, Mrs. Wesley Larsen of Cayuga and Mrs. William Withers of Seneca Falls; five brothers, Emmett Belknep of Syracuse, Keith of Skaneateles, Dorsell of Syracuse, Roscoe and Paul, both of Skaneateles; four sisters, Mrs. Ruth Burghdoff of Fort Plain; Mrs. Mylisa Dreythaler, Mrs. Madeline O'Brien, and Mrs. T. Herbert Coggen, all of Skaneateles.

Sept? / 1967

16 August 1973

Dear Mr. Belknap,

At least the Belknaps were consistent! They all come up with the story that Bilgrim and Stephen came from Scotland and settled in New York. I have tried to tie them in with Abraham and his two brothers also, but without success.

My uncle was the subject for a biography when he was superintendent of schools in Fayette, Iowa. If you cannot find a copy of this book, I will be glad to have it copied when I next go to the mainland. It is in the Los Angeles Library.

_____, PAST AND PRESENT OF FAYETTE COUNTY
IOWA, illus., volume II, B.F. Bowen & Company,
c1910, page 1170

In checking the Bibles we have, I found only one that deals with the Belknaps. I am sorry to have raised your hopes. Again, I will make copies of what I have when I get to the mainland.

I have written to my cousins for information about their families. Hopefully, they will answer. I will let you know what I find out.

My great grandfather married a girl from Sanbornton, New Hampshire. Although, I haven't seen the Belknap name in the area, it may be a possibility. This book is also in the L.A. Library.

Runnels, Rev. M.T., HISTORY OF SANBORNTON, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, Volume II - Genealogies, Alfred
Mudge & Son, Printers, Boston, Mass. c1881.

My own biography has been included in the 8th edition of WHO'S WHO ON AMERICAN WOMEN. That's not important at this point, but I thought you might be interested.

I am enclosing what information I have at hand. Maybe we'll get there yet.

Sincerely,

Jane Bowman

Jane Bowman

Jane Bowman from CYB


12 July 1974

Today, for your information as well as mine, I've been trying to put together what I have about descendants of Hiram. One result is the sketch outline I'm enclosing. I count on you to tell me about any errors you note. . . In that outline, IX the "son?" in line for Stephen's children is a bow to the 1800 census figures. I have not shown "Stratton" as spouse of Minerva, because I'm not yet sure that the Minerva who married Ralph Stratton was S's daughter. She may have been dau of Elijah Belknap of Peru, Mass.

The main function of the sketch is to indicate how little I yet know about Hiram's descendants. I'll be grateful if you and your cousins can supply more of 'em.

Now some points on which I must consult you:

Betsy Clark's mother: In your letter 3 July you speak of obtaining a new line "through Edward Eastman's wife Betsy Wicker Clark." Am I correct in thinking you meant to say "through the mother of Edward's wife"? I have in my file a note from an unknown source, giving the wife of Kendall P Clark as Betsy Wicker. She is not named in the records you sent to me. So forgive me for stressing that parentage of spouses is just as important as any other fact in genealogy, please.

Betsy Clark's middle name: Do you know the source of "Landowski"? 

Ray H. Your typed material gives middle name as Herman. Your Bible pages for births and deaths show it as Hermen. On page for marriages, could be either a or o. Which is correct?

Hiram's marriage: You show 1836. Clyde said 1835? Do you have a primary source for the date, not just the entry in Fayette County history?

Hiram's death: You show Dec 1873. Both Clyde and John W said 14 Dec 1873. OK?

Birthdates of Hiram's children: A few differences, here.

You and Clyde agree on birthdates of Charles Hiram, Riley Rosell, Edward E and Edith Esuba. But John W says date for his father Charles Hiram was 25 Aug 1832 -- not 1837. I think he was wrong.

Sarah: You say 22 Feb 1839. Clyde says 22 Feb 1842. Not named by John W.

Stephen E -- You say 25 March 1848. Clyde said 25 March 1842.

or by John W,

Clyde names two, not named by you, who died young: Justin J b 21 Jan 1841, d 6 May 1841; and Alvin I, b 3 Oct 1845, d 11 July 1852.

Clyde shows parentage of Hiram's wife, which is not in your material: dau of Justin Eastman b 1777 and Azubah ----- b 1779. (This explains son Justin and possibly middle name of Edith Esuba.)

I am inclined to accept Clyde's dates as more reliable than yours, for two reasons. (1) Yours seems to have come from History Fayette County. Local histories are notoriously inaccurate of such data. DAR won't accept dates from them, unless supported by better evidence. At best, information in a local history is only hearsay -- what someone is said to have said -- unless a source such as a family Bible is named. (2) Clyde's dates look just like the sort of dates that came from a Bible record -- detail on sons who d y -- detail on parentage of Hiram's wife. If Fayette Co History was right in saying that Sarah lived with Edith Esuba in her old age -- and if Edith Esuba was source of Clyde's information (i.e., the sister he named in his letter to HW Belknap) -- then it's reasonable to believe Edith had access to the Bible of Hiram and Sarah and got from it the information that Clyde reported in 1923. . . But I must give you a chance to disagree.

Stephen

5 July 1974

Miss Anne Borden Harding
NEHGS, Boston

Dear Miss Harding:

This letter, I know, is an imposition on your time. My only excuse for it is that when I met you once, long ago, you seemed to be the sort of person who might lend a helping hand to an earnest amateur.

In studying what may be another instance of the survival of Burrough English in early Massachusetts, I've ended with questions that I can't answer -- but I'm sure you can answer instantly.

The facts: In 1775, Samuel Belknap of Belchertown died in Cambridge after serving on Bunker Hill. He left a family including his wife and eight children, all but one of whom were living ten years later, 1785. The only surviving clue to the disposition of his estate is a bond signed in 1785 by his oldest son, Jonas, ~~who~~ became guardian of Samuel's youngest son, Stephen.

In this bond, Stephen is described as "a minor aged Sixteen Years Son & Heir of Samuel Belknap." He had chosen Jonas to be his guardian.

The amount of the bond was "one hundred Pounds, in lawful money of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

My questions: which I think you can answer readily by just checking Yes or No.

- (1) Was the amount of the bond somewhat large for the estate of a farmer? Yes No
- (2) Does the fact that Jonas could be the guardian mean that he could not be a co-heir? Yes No
- (3) Does the wording "Son and Heir" -- instead of "a Son and Heir" -- plus the answer to (2) -- warrant an assumption that ~~the settlement of the estate would~~ the settlement of the estate would not be by intestate proceedings but in accord with a will? Yes No

I'll be most grateful for your aid.

Very truly yours,

Py Burton