

SENDER: Be sure to follow instructions on other side

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☐ Show to whom, date and address
where delivered

☐ Deliver ONLY
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RECEIPT

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SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE (Must always be filled in)

CERTIFIED NO.

1

Walter R. Kershner

INSURED NO.

2

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1-13-72

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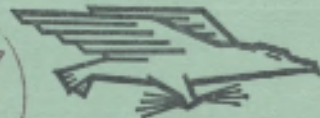
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1-13-72

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
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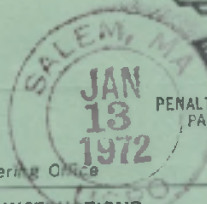
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**RETURN
TO**

C.Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside Conn 06878

PS Form 3811 Nov. 1970 c55-10-81277-1

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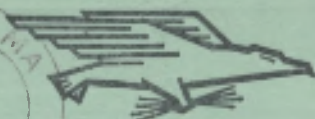
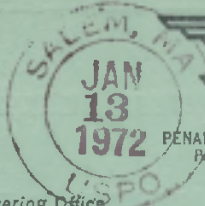
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MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. POTTER, ESSEX INSTITUTE

January 12, 1972

All of the Belknap genealogical material prepared by Henry Warkoff Belknap is being shipped to you today, by first class mail, registered.

The shipment includes four packages:

- # 1 -- 11 pounds, 8 ounces -- contains five binders of typed notes by H W Belknap.
- # 2 -- 16 pounds, 8 ounces -- contains files of correspondence from and to him, and his notes on spurces, etc.
- # 3 -- 24 pounds, 4 ounces -- contains three trays of his index cards.
- # 4 -- 2 pounds -- contains additional material similar to that in #2.

No alterations or additions have been made on any of these documents.

Whoever makes use of them in the future should be warned that they contain many errors, including incorrect attributions of parentage and incorrect statements of marriages and incomplete lists of children.

A receipt for all this material has been given to the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, which had custody of it.

The enclosed copy of this memorandum may be used to acknowledge receipt of this shipment.

Carroll Belknap:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

Received: Jan. 13, 1972

Signature Dorothy M. Potter (Mrs. Charles A.) for Essex Institute

Librarian

January 11 1972

Received from the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, all files of Belknap Genealogical Notes, Correspondence, and Indexes prepared by H. N. Belknap and deposited with the society by Essex Institute, now to be returned to Essex Institute by me, in accordance with instructions from Mrs. Charles A. Potter, Librarian of the Institute.

SENDER: Be sure to follow instructions on other side

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Wallace L. Lusk

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INSURED NO.

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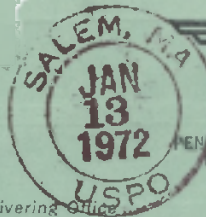
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The enclosed copy of this memorandum may be used to acknowledge receipt of this shipment.

Carroll Belknap:

P.S.: The files of H W Belknap's correspondence, etc., relating to other families were returned to Essex Institute at the time when the Belknap index cards were lent.

//

January 10 1971 ✓

Mrs Charles A Potter
Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Dear Mrs Potter:

Your letter dated January 6 has been received.

When the building of our local historical society is open tomorrow, I will get the files of H W Belknap's notes and index cards and package them for shipment to you. United Parcel Service tell me that they can pick up the cartons on Thursday. Between tomorrow and Thursday, the cartons will have to be here in my home, in order to comply with your instructions as to the method of shipment.

Very truly yours,

Carroll Belknap:

Phoned Rex 1/12/72 and got permission
to ship by 1st class mail —



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

JAMES DUNCAN PHILLIPS LIBRARY

January 6, 1972

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

Dear Mr. Belknap:

When we talked about lending you the material a six month period was envisioned by you. We never had in mind that the time would go into years. September, 1967 to January, 1972 is far more than we expected, and as the time goes by the risk is greater for not getting the material back to our library.

I understand your problems and know the time involved in checking errors. However, I do feel that we must recall the material. It will be here for consultation and can be used when you can make a visit here.

I am sorry to be so firm about this, but in my twenty-six years here material has been lost track of under the same circumstances.

The United Parcel Service goes through Connecticut. I suggest that you put everything in a carton, address it to us and the U.P.S. will pick it up. We shall pay all costs on this end.

Incidentally, Mr. Little's statement, "We will hold you to no deadline," was referring to a reasonable time.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Potter
Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Librarian

DMP/enh

January 3 1972

Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Dear Mrs. Potter:

My debt to your courtesy and kindness is so great that it distresses me to hear that you think I failed to answer a letter from you -- the one dated July 30, 1969. Please, I must plead not guilty. So forgive me now for enclosing copies of all letters in that file since that date in 1969.

- (1) Your letter on that date
- (2) My reply, August 4 1969
- (3) Letter from you, November 13 1969
- (4) My reply Nov 25 1969
- (5) My letter Jan 1 1970

And, to add to the record, Mr. Little's letter 5 September 1968, saying "We will hold you to no deadline" -- a courtesy on which I've doubtless too much presumed.

Of course I'll comply immediately with your demand that I ship back the material; but I can't do it today, as the Historical Society building is closed on Mondays. Indeed, on second thought, I think I'd better pause to ask a question that I don't know how to answer. You tell me to ship by "insured mail." I have no notion of the proper amount of insurance on irreplaceable material. What amount do you wish me to get it insured for?

It's easy to ship H W Belknap's bound notes and files of correspondence, for as I said in my letter of January 1 1970 the task of making copies of them for my own file was completed long ago. I could have brought them back to you a year ago, but waited to complete the long task of making copies of the thousands of index cards.

That task is still incomplete. Every time I've managed to get knee deep in it, some new correspondence has burdened me with a much more urgent task of solving some problem while the correspondent still lived and could aid me.

Can you possibly bend just a little, on your statement that "A renewal at this time now, is out of the question"? If I ship back the notes and correspondence files, can you let me have until Spring to finish copying the index cards? Please. . . It's not as easy as it sounds, for again and again I find errors on those cards, and it takes time to make the corrections as I go along.

Of course I'll pay the cost of shipment. You shouldn't have to do this.

Sincerely,

Carroll Belknap:



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

JAMES DUNCAN PHILLIPS LIBRARY

December 30, 1971

Carroll Belknap & Associates
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06876

Dear Mr. Belknap:

I have not received an answer to the enclosed xerox copy of my letter to you on July 30, 1969.

We would like to have the Belknap material returned at once. Will you kindly return it by insured mail. We are willing to pay the postage.

Do hope that you understand the situation. The material was left in our care and it is impossible to keep a check on it when it is not on our premises.

Your request was an unusual one and we extended a special privilege to you because you were doing a worthwhile project. A renewal at this time is out of the question.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Librarian

DNP/mec

July 30, 1969


Carroll ~~Belknap~~ & Associates
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

I am interested in knowing how much longer you will need our Belknap material since it was picked up by you September 28, 1967. I know the time involved in the work that you are doing, however, I am interested in having the material returned.

If needed, we can, of course, renew.

Sincerely yours,


Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Librarian

Nov 25 1969

Dear Mrs. Potter:

I could write a book in reply to your question about progress of the "Bellnap Project." But I'll try to be mercifully brief. Like this:

-- Fine progress on developing a group of willing helpers, who are eager beavers in searching for primary sources of acceptable evidence.

-- Sizable progress in expanding the list of about 2500 names left by H W Bellnap. I now have a total of something like 4,000 or more, thus ~~XXXXXXXX~~ continuing a lot of lines that were dead-ends in his notes.

-- Some progress in correcting some of his errors; but many more questionable entries to verify or alter.

-- All told, pretty good progress on the merely creative sides of the job.

-- By contrast, very poor progress ~~on~~ on the necessary routine work, with fat files of new data not yet transferred to systematic notes.

-- And poor, very poor, progress on getting ~~XXX~~ H W B's index cards copied, which must be done before returning his material to you.

-- Mixed progress in combatting the many erroneous statements that have been published and/or are current among members of the family.

All of which, I suppose, means that sooner or later I'll have to stop exploratory efforts and concentrate -- with regret -- on systematizing what I already ~~XXXXXXXX~~ possess.

This, in ~~XXXX~~ turn, will center attention on the old question of how far to go in striving for accuracy -- and how much to yield to the temptation to publish something that cannot be completely accurate.

Wish me well.

Sincerely,

Jan. 1, 1970

Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass. 01970

Dear Mrs. Potter:

Caribbean,
Before we leave for a short vacation in the ~~Caribbean~~ I ought to tell you that I still have some thousands of index cards to copy. When we get back, I'll concentrate on that slow task and stop answering letters till it's done.

Of course, all the other records -- notes and files of letters -- could be shipped to you at any time, for they've all been copied in order to give me opportunity to make corrections without harming the originals.

But if you can wait till Spring, then I can bring everything back to you at one time. Meanwhile, my grateful thanks for your tolerance.

Cordially,

Aug. 4, 1969

Dear Mrs. Potter:

I've been most remiss in keeping you informed about my progress on Bellknap genealogy. I meant to do better.

Unfortunately, it was June before I could get back to work on it. After we returned from Crete in late November, both Mrs. Bellknap and I fell ill with flu — then with bronchial pneumonia. And then I had to spend all of April in hospital, and all ~~of~~ of May recuperating from a couple of operations. So, this Summer, I'm trying to catch up on masses of correspondence, virtually neglected since last September, with members of the family who keep writing to me for aid in tracing their lineage. It's a bit of a task, for the reply to a single query may sometimes involve a full day's work. I'm making progress, however.

Since these letters seemed to demand first priority, I set aside for the moment the pick and shovel work of making copies of the records you so courteously lent. But now I can get back to this task; and I should have it ~~done~~ by the end of 1969.
completed

I wish I lived nearer to Salem. There ~~are~~ are many problems on which, too often, I'd like to be able to ask for advice from a sympathetic expert. The most troublesome one is the nagging question of how far one may justifiably go in relying on inference when direct proof does not exist.

Cordially,

Carroll Bellknap:





ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

July 30, 1969

Carroll Belknap & Associates
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

I am interested in knowing how much longer you will need our Belknap material since it was picked up by you September 28, 1967. I know the time involved in the work that you are doing, however, I am interested in having the material returned.

If needed, we can, of course, renew.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy M. Potter

Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Librarian



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

5 September 1968

Carroll Y. Belknap, Esq.
Carroll Belknap & Associates
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Belknap:

We are happy to extend our loan to you of the Belknap family papers of Henry Wykoff Belknap in the firm belief that your task of editing and completing them is too important to be diminished in its quality by hasty preparation. We will hold you to no deadline. The fruits of your labors are worth waiting for.

The correspondence from present-day descendents is encouraging both from the standpoint of learning lines of descent and of a market for your completed work.

Mrs. Potter joins me in expressing our sympathy to you and to Mrs. Belknap for the long illness and death of her mother. The many letters of condolence must be heart-warming, however, even though acknowledging them all is a long job.

Sincerely yours,

David B. Little

DBL:mkc

Mrs. Potter:

Here are copies of letter and enclosures, to Mr. Little.

Sorry about the delay. It couldn't be avoided.

Carroll Bellnap 9/20/67

SUMMARY OF EXPLANATION TO MRS POTTER, AUG. 25, 1967

My original interest in examining the Belknap Family papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap stemmed from desire to correct and improve some rather misleading genealogy that has been getting into circulation in recent years.

For many years I have been accumulating a sizable body of historical and genealogical data. But until about a year ago I did nothing with this material except to draft, for my children, a record of our own immediate branch of our family.

Then, last year, I received from distant cousins in California an offer of a so-called "family tree." Out of curiosity, I asked for a copy. On its arrival, I found it worth having, for it contained a lot of recent data not previously published. But I also found it dismayingly full of obvious errors and major omissions, which I began trying to correct -- for I was distressed to learn that that copies of this erroneous chart had been placed in a number of libraries and other institutions in this country and in England.

So I began, for the first time, serious work on the record of the family. After a few months, I saw that the most sensible step to take before going farther would be to search for the papers left behind by Henry Wyckoff Belknap after his many years of research; and I was fortunate enough to find that they were at Essex Institute.

Finally, in this past August and through the courtesy of Mr. Proper and Mrs. Potter, I had an opportunity to examine those papers. What I found was not what I had hopefully expected. I had thought that I might find a complete file of carbon copies of the many informative letters that Mr. Belknap wrote to members of the family between 1910 and 1930 -- some of which were already in my files. If that was what I found, I thought, I might spend a few weeks at Salem, transcribing data that I did not yet possess. But what I found was radically different -- detailed workmanlike records and notes on sources and other files that will demand months of painstaking study in an effort to correlate his data with what is in my own files -- for there are many points of uncertainty, both in his records and in mine.

Fortunately, the files that he left contain detailed records of sources, just as mine do. So I think I should be able to take a bit farther the work to which he devoted so many years -- enough farther, at least, to leave a clear trail for later generations to follow. And in many instances I can take the record at least two generations beyond the point at which he stopped. Beyond that, I'm sure, I can provide provable corrections of some of the many errors that have managed to creep into print in the past century or more.

What may prove worth doing, with the outcome of the work I want to tackle, cannot yet be foreseen. How widely to publish it will have to be determined when I can judge the scope and accuracy of what I have done.

Now, perhaps, it may be well for me to say something about my qualifications for attempting what I have in mind. Of course I'm not a professional genealogist. But till my retirement from active business I was for years a professional research man, working directly with the presidents and other chief executives of

many of the best-known companies in America and Canada -- and before that I had taught for a while at two universities: Chicago and Northwestern. If I had to select examples of my work as credentials, I suppose I'd choose the report of a non-profit study made years ago for the Metropolitan Opera, which played some part in rescuing the organization from bankruptcy and also in altering the repertory during the years of crisis -- or, possibly, the report of a two-year study made for a group of leading text-book publishers (including Houghton Mifflin) who published the report and distributed it to educators all over the country.

In 1920, in a letter to my father, Henry Wyckoff Bellmap seemed to feel that he was coming close to being able to write a book on the history of our family. But a few years later, in 1927 when he was 67 years old, he wrote rather sadly to Mr. Bernau, the English record agent who had been helping him for many years, saying that the book "presents too big a task for my present energy or time and will doubtless never get any farther, so far as I am concerned. Someone else will have to carry on."

Actually, he did not stop in 1927. He kept on at it till at least 1931 -- and I think beyond that year. And now I should like to think that I may be the "someone" whom he had in mind, at least to the extent of taking his work a bit farther.

HOME ADDRESS

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878
Sept. 20, 1967

Mr. David B. Little
Director
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

This letter is written at the suggestion of Mrs. Charles Potter, with whom I talked at Salem on August 24 and 25. She advised me to send you a request that the Bellnap Family papers left by Henry Wyckoff Bellnap and now at Essex Institute be lent to the Greenwich Historical Society so that I can have access to them during coming months.

I have discussed this proposal with the Society. A letter to you from the Curator — Mr. William Finch — is enclosed, for your convenience.

The papers to which I need access include five binders of genealogical data and approximately 12 to 20 file folders of correspondence and notes on sources. If this request is approved, I should come again to Salem to identify the documents and enable Mrs. Potter to inventory them before shipping them to our society.

Of course I will conform to any rules and regulations that govern my use of the material.

Our Curator, Mr. Finch, tells me that I should not burden you with an explanation of my reasons for requesting the loan, as Mrs. Potter knows all about them. However, I enclose a summary of what I said to her, in case you wish to look at it.

To avoid possible confusion, I think I should explain that Cos Cob, where the home of the society is located, and Riverside, where I live, are sections of the Town of Greenwich, ~~which~~ which has seven or eight differently-named postoffices in its 48 square miles.

Very truly yours,

Carroll Bellnap

COPIED

CARROLL BELKNAP & ASSOCIATES

Sales Research
Investigative Services
100 State Street, Suite 200
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

7 EAST POTNAM AVENUE

GREENWICH

CONNECTICUT

HOME ADDRESS

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878
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Salem, Massachusetts

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Very truly yours,

Carroll Belknap:





The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Inc.
Bush-Holley House, Strickland Road, Cos Cob, Connecticut

Sept. 15, 1967

Mr. David B. Little, Director
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Little:

Mr. Carroll Belknap, a member of our society, has talked with us about the possibility of our acting as temporary custodians of the Belknap Family papers left to Mr. Henry Wyckoff Belknap.

We will be glad to do this on any terms that you wish to specify.

Very truly yours,


William E. Finch, Jr.
Curator-Historian

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My original interest in examining the Belknap Family papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap stemmed from desire to correct and improve some rather misleading genealogy that has been getting into circulation in recent years.

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Then, last year, I received from distant cousins in California an offer of a so-called "family tree." Out of curiosity, I asked for a copy. On its arrival, I found it worth having, for it contained a lot of recent data not previously published. But I also found it dismayingly full of obvious errors and major omissions, which I began trying to correct -- for I was distressed to learn that that copies of this erroneous chart had been placed in a number of libraries and other institutions in this country and in England.

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Now, perhaps, it may be well for me to say something about my qualifications for attempting what I have in mind. Of course I'm not a professional genealogist. But till my retirement from active business I was for years a professional research man, working directly with the presidents and other chief executives of

many of the best-known companies in America and Canada — and before that I had taught for a while at two universities: Chicago and Northwestern. If I had to select examples of my work as credentials, I suppose I'd choose the report of a non-profit study made years ago for the Metropolitan Opera, which played some part in rescuing the organisation from bankruptcy and also in altering the repertory during the years of crisis — or, possibly, the report of a two-year study made for a group of leading text-book publishers (including Houghton Mifflin) who published the report and distributed it to educators all over the country.

In 1920, in a letter to my father, Henry Wyckoff Belknap seemed to feel that he was coming close to being able to write a book on the history of our family. But a few years later, in 1927 when he was 67 years old, he wrote rather sadly to Mr. Bernau, the English record agent who had been helping him for many years, saying that the book "presents too big a task for my present energy or time and will doubtless never get any farther, so far as I am concerned. Someone else will have to carry on."

Actually, he did not stop in 1927. He kept on at it till at least 1931 -- and I think beyond that year. And now I should like to think that I may be the "someone" whom he had in mind, at least to the extent of taking his work a bit farther.

Mr. David B. Little
Director
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass. 01970

25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878
Aug. 30, 1968

Dear Mr. Little:

I must reluctantly ask you to extend again the period of the loan of the Belknap family papers of Henry Warkoff Belknap, for two reasons.

The most immediate reason is that the long illness and death of my wife's mother has prevented much work on those papers in the past month or more and will continue to do so during September. She was known all over the country for her work in finding, buying and restoring Carl Sandburg's birthplace, and the flood of letters about her from almost everywhere in America shows small signs of ~~diminishing~~ diminishing -- and they have to be answered. . . . The emotional strain on my wife has been heavy; so as soon as the final memorial service has been held, late in September, I must take her away for the vacation she has felt she couldn't take at any time in the past five years.

The other reason is that I'm far behind my planned schedule in my work on this task. The only way to tackle Mr. Belknap's dead-ends of 100 years ago or more has been to find present-day descendants; and as word gets around about what I'm doing, I receive more and more requests for aid from persons ~~what~~ who are trying to establish their Belknap lineage. Result: a fat file of letters not yet answered, some of them two months old. And they must be answered. So much of the correction of errors in the records has still to be done -- and I have to go examine Mr. Belknap's originals sometimes, when my facsimile copies of his faded typing and handwriting aren't easy to read with certainty.

I've just been reading with rueful amusement Walter Whitehill's comment on his Peabody genealogy: "By 1962, . . . I had, after six years of nagging correspondence, 602 entries! Let this be a warning to anyone who thinks of bringing family records up to date." . . . 602? Alas, I now have somewhere between 2500 and 4000, I think -- and still many old dead ends.

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Y. Belknap:

(Copy to Mrs. Potter)



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

16 March 1968

Mr. Carroll Belknap
Carroll Belknap & Associates
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

Thank you for your letter of March 9 informing me of the work you are doing to translate Henry Wykoff Belknap's genealogical papers on the Belknap family to usable form. It is indeed a prodigious undertaking.

Please by all means do take an additional six months loan from us of the Belknap papers, and we can review the situation again at the end of that period.

Mrs. Potter is looking forward to your next visit. We will do all we can to help you with this most important undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

David B. Little

DBL:mkc

Essex Inst. 5/2/68

- ← General Plans
- ① Format
 - ② Re-numbering / (a) Now - (b) Future
 - ③ Biographical material
 - ④ Illegitimacy
 - ⑤ Unconnected
 - Individuals
 - Lines
 - ⑥ Conflicting dates

Mr. David B. Little
Director
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts

25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878
March 9, 1968

Dear Mr. Little:

On September 21, when you wrote to me, giving permission for the Belknap family papers of Henry Wykoff Belknap to be lent to the Historical Society of the town of Greenwich, you wisely foresaw that six months wouldn't be long enough for the task I was undertaking. You wrote: "At the end of six months our tickler file will remind us to ask how much longer you want it."

I think I shouldn't wait for you to ask. Instead I should ask you, now, for an extension of six months.

And I suppose I should give you a sort of progress report on what I've done thus far.

When I first studied the files of notes and correspondence, I saw many obvious errors and questionable entries -- some being factual errors or possible errors, and some being merely troublesome mistakes in typing, when Mr. Belknap at some stage in his work re-typed all his thousands of pages of notes in order to reorganize his numbering of the persons in his records. So, as I should not deface his notes in any way, I've been making -- bit by bit -- facsimile copies of his sheets in order to be able to make necessary corrections and additions.

This task of making copies to work with is almost complete. But meanwhile I've been assembling, here, all known sets of comparable material -- the longest of which covers some thousand names or more. Naturally, none of the six sets of other genealogical data agrees wholly with Mr. Belknap's records; and thus I have the long chore of comparing conflicting data and trying to decide who is right (or more nearly right, perhaps).

I've been fortunate in drawing a number of people into helping me; but to get help I've had to give help. The resulting correspondence has been well worth while, but it has delayed my work and will continue to do so.

I've just about reached the point at which I can't go farther without returning to Salem to see if I can find Mr. Belknap's big index -- which I have learned that he recode after it had been destroyed in the Salem Fire in 1914. When I come to Salem, I'll also be seeking guidance on a number of technical problems on which I need professional counsel -- instead of relying on my amateur judgment, which of course I distrust.

Very truly yours,

Carroll Belknap:

(Copy to Mrs. Potter)



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

September 21, 1967

Carroll Belknap, Esq.
25 Club Road
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Dear Mr. Belknap:

We are happy to lend our file of Belknap Family papers to the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Inc., for your use, believing this action to be in the best interests of scholarship and one of which the donor Henry Wyckoff Belknap would have approved.

I note from your letter that you plan to return to Salem to identify with Mrs. Potter the papers that you want. If an adequate inventory can be made during this process, perhaps you would be willing to transport the lot in your car to Greenwich. I distrust public transportation.

We expect that you will give this material the same care that you would give it if it were your own property. We prefer that you do not remove it from the premises of the Greenwich Historical Society. At the end of six months our tickler file will remind us to ask you how much longer you want it.

I hope that I may have the pleasure of meeting you during one of your visits to Salem.

Sincerely yours,

David B. Little
David B. Little, Director

Copy to William E. Finch, Jr.

Essex File

121

October 30, 1941

Mr. John A. Sherman,
Hollywood, Cal.

Dear Mr. Sherman:-

Your's of 24th. received and i dare say that you are entirely right in regard to my records. A genealogist cannot escape errors where it is impossible for him to reach original records and has to depend upon what he gets from secondary sources.

I shall place what you send with my records so that anyone consulting them may benefit.

It is many years since I collected what I have when I was working on all of the name. At the time of the great Salem fire in 1917 I was able to save only the typed collected records; all the undigested notes, every address, indexes &c. was lost. This made it impossible to continue the work and except that I remade the huge index on cards I have never done anything more.

The Morris Belknaps were my very good friends whom I greatly admired after our chance meeting in Paris in 1900 and apart from what they gave me I was compelled to take what other members of the family gave me and what I could find in printed records. My papers are all deposited with the Essex Institute here where anyone interested can see them.

I am sorry that I cannot help you as to the Leone family. I don't think I even have his name. Hoping you will be able to fill out what you lack I am-

Yours very truly,

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
Jan. 9, 1968

Mrs. Charles Potter
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Potter:

I owe you an apology.

While you were on vacation, I wrote you that I needed to return to Salem in order to see if I could find the index that Henry Wokoff Belknap prepared.

I expected to do this in November; but some illnesses in our family made it impossible to be away from home.

I'll come as soon as I can -- but at a time convenient for you, as there are some technical problems on which I greatly need your counsel.

So I'll phone you one of these days, to set a date that will be OK for you.

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Belknap

25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878
March 18, 1968

Mr. David B. Little
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass. 01970

Dear Mr. Little:

Thank you for your letter extending the loan period
for the papers of Henry Wyckoff Ballnap. I have
sent your letter to Mr. Finch, curator of our
historical society, for his files.

I have just located, I'm sorry to say, another large
collection of Ballnap genealogy — missing since 1901.
As I know it disagrees with other records at some
points, I'll have to go see if I can borrow it.

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Ballnap:

25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878
May 8, 1968

Mrs. Charles Potter
Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Potter:

For your record: I have deposited with the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich the index cards for the Belknap family records prepared by Henry Nyckoff Belknap.

I'm sending a copy of this note to Mr. Finch, the curator of the Society.

Gratefully,

Carroll Y. Belknap

Topics - Essex

① Format

- English background

- 1016 + origin of name

- Sir R's family

- Beltoft +
change of
name

Am.
St. J.

② Illegitimacy

③ Dates

④ Denumeration

Coronet 1.677-774-2200

25 Club Road
Riverside, CONN.
Oct. 6, 1967

Mrs. Charles Potter
Research Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Potter:

Soon after you return from vacation, I'll have to return to Salem to remedy an error of mine. It was a stupid error, based on a preconception. No excuse for it.

I had long known that Mr. Bellknap's alphabetical index to his many sheets ~~INDEX~~ of data had been destroyed by fire. So I didn't look for it, for I had assumed that I'd have to prepare such an index as an essential working tool.

Today I found a sad note that he wrote in 1941, when he was 81 years old — saying that he had remade that index and that it was at Essex Institute. To my deep chagrin, I realized that I saw that index when I was in Salem on August 24, but didn't recognize it.

So I'll have to return to Salem, sometime in late October or early November (bringing back, incidentally, some non-Bellknap papers that I am finding in the manila folders).

I'm sure I know exactly where the index is — in 3 x 5 card files next to the window in that storage room. Perhaps you might wish take a brief look at it, to verify my opinion.

I do not remember accurately the nature of the entries on the cards, for I glanced at them only very briefly. But I recall that they contained many family names — the names of spouses — which I didn't understand at that time. Perhaps the cards might read something like this:

Bellknap, Jeremy — 4 — (18,5,1)	#57
and Foadick, Sarah (his wife)	#57

Meanwhile, I hope that those index files won't be moved from where they were when I saw them.

Most sincerely,

Carroll Bellknap:



6.7
744-3390

ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

August 19 1967

Caro!l Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.

Dear Mr. Belknap,

Received your letter of August 12, 1967.
I shall gladly make available the Henry W. Belknap
papers for your examination.

I shall be expecting you around August
24. You know our hours in the library? If not, they
are:

Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 9:00 to
4:30. Closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays.

I shall be looking forward to meeting
you.

Sincerely yours,
Dorothy M. Potter
Dorothy M. Potter
Reference Librarian

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
August 8, 1967

Mr. David R. Proper, Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Dear Mr. Proper:

In January, you were so kind as to write to me about the possible availability of the papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap.

What I need to do, when possible, is to take a look at the notes and manuscripts that he left as the ~~monetary~~ result of his years of work on Belknap genealogy, so that I can judge what can be done to draw from them some of the information that I lack.

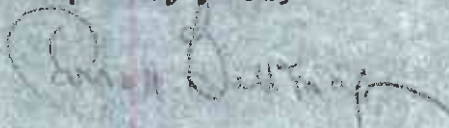
As it happens, I shall have to be in eastern Massachusetts between August 20 and 25. Would it be ~~feasible~~ for me to spend a day or so examining the papers at that time?

feasible

For your convenience, I enclose a copy of your letter to me, on this subject.

Very truly yours,

Carroll Belknap:





ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

DEAN A. FALES, JR., *Director*

January 31, 1967

Mr. Carroll Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.

Dear Mr. Belknap,

With regard to your question on the papers and manuscripts of Henry Wyckoff Belknap, the Essex Institute does hold many of the notes and research materials of Mr. Belknap. This is a collection dealing in large part with his historical researches, and also his genealogical work, but it forms a part of our manuscript collection which has never been fully described, and I am unable at this time to be sure just what families are represented.

Currently the Essex Institute is involved with major building construction and these papers are unavailable. It is our hope that with more room that we can move these and other papers to areas in which further work may be carried out with them. At present, however, we are unable to affirm the contents.

I suggest that you contact Mrs. Charles A. Potter, our reference and manuscript librarian who is on vacation just now, and ask for his assistance. We cannot offer research assistance nor can we undertake projects into individual family history, but when these papers have been placed it may be possible for individuals to work with them for you. Mrs. Ralph L. Thresher of 13 Strathmore Road, Wakefield, Mass., has frequently taken on projects of this nature and knows our collections fairly well. Perhaps at a later date with Mrs. Potter's cooperation Mrs. Thresher could "dig" into this material.

Mr. Belknap died Sept. 19, 1946 but I cannot locate when his manuscripts came to us. We have recognized the need for work with this material, but to date have had neither space nor staff for all of the work necessary. Then too, collections of genealogical material are often difficult to fully evaluate and require more attention than we have been able to devote, unfortunately.

Mrs. Thomas Barry of 29 Lee St., Marblehead, Mass., is a neice of the late Mr. Belknap, the only relative we know of in this area. If you keep in touch, perhaps later we can be of more help to you.

Yours very truly,

David R. Proper

David R. Proper, Librarian



SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

01970

In May 1966, major renovations were started on the main buildings of the Essex Institute. These affect the library, museum, and front hall and will necessitate the temporary closing of certain areas of the building during the construction, which will last a year. The museum will be closed until fall; and the library will be open on a limited basis during the summer, closing for a six months' period probably in the fall. The buildings in the garden, including the Ward House, will be closed for the summer of 1966. However, the Crowninshield-Bentley House, the Pingree House, and the Peirce-Nichols House *will* remain open, and regular hours and fees will not be affected by the construction work.

Since most records and files will be unavailable during the work and moving, we will be unable to provide many normal services during this twelve-month period. We ask for your patience and indulgence during this time, and by the summer of 1967 we will have restored full services—in buildings containing a new library stack, improved visitors' facilities, and increased exhibition space!

HOME ADDRESS

25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut

Jan. 28, 1967

The Curator
The Essex Institute
132 Essex
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

May I ask your aid in tracing some papers that may have been left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap who was, I believe, the curator of Essex Institute about 1920?

In a letter to my father in that year, he said he was engaged in preparing a genealogy of the Belknap family and was collecting data on all living members of the family and their descent from Abraham Belknap (1589-1643). From the information he gave in that letter, I think he must have assembled some hundreds of pages of detailed data. I don't think he ever published anything as the result of this accumulation (beyond his papers on the English ancestry, in NE H & G R 1914 and 1931).

So may I ask these questions:

- (1) Did these papers remain in the files of Essex Institute?
- (2) If not, do you know where they might be found?
- (3) Or can you give me the names and addresses of any of his descendants who are now living?

I shall be grateful for any information you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Belknap:

Mrs. Charles Potter
Research Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

25 Club Road
Riverside
Connecticut 06878
Sept. 28, 1967

Dear Mrs. Potter:

For your records, though I fear this note won't reach you
before you leave for your vacation:

This morning I deposited with the Greenwich Historical
Society all of the Belknap Family papers that you and
I put together yesterday.

At the risk of seeming needlessly repetitious, may I
say "Thank you" again, for your courtesy and kindness
and most of all for your intuitive understanding of what
I'll be trying to do?

Most sincerely,

Carroll Belknap:

(Copy to Mr. Little)



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

September 28, 1967

Mr. William E. Finch, Jr.
Curator-Historian
The Historical Society of the
Town of Greenwich, Inc.
Bush-Holley House, Strickland Road,
Cos Cob, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Finch:

The enclosed is a Summary of the Belknap material that Mr. Carroll Belknap picked up to put on deposit in your Society for his use and examination.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter as taking on the responsibility of temporary custodians. It is certainly a tremendous and worthwhile task that Mr. Belknap has before him.

If at anytime Mr. Belknap needs to take a few items to his home for copying or comparing, you have our permission to grant his request. Knowing the collection with its quantity of scrap notes on dates, etc. we understand that it will be necessary for him to do this at one time or other. We have every confidence in Mr. Belknap's ability and know that he will take every precaution and care.

We are looking forward to the completed work, it will have a welcome place in our library.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy M. Potter

Dorothy M. Potter
Reference Librarian

DMP:eml



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

September 28, 1967

Belknap material picked up by Carroll Belknap on Sept. 27, 1967:

Belknap Genealogy - Oblong Spring binders 2 Vols.

5 Vols. Belknap - Beltoft (English families)
in all 1 Vol.

" Genealogy - Detached names - 1 Vol.
" " lines - 1 Vol.

Lettersize folders - Correspondence and genealogical
notes.

1 folder English Reference & Records of Belknap, Beltoft, Burnap,
Waterhouse families - 1 folder

2 folders 2 Small unmarked folders

1 folder C. A. Bernan, English notes and letters (1 large folder)

1 bundle 1 large bundle marked miscellaneous
(correspondence and genealogical notes)

1 item Small brown envelope - Correspondence & genealogical notes.
1 folder - unmarked
1914-1923

52 - 52 Folders on sources of genealogical material
52 (some only 1 item to folder)

Dorothy M. Potter

Dorothy M. Potter
Reference Librarian

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
August 12, 1967

Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Reference Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Potter:

Mr. Proper has suggested that I ask you about the possibility of my taking a look at the papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap, which are now in storage.

I won't bore you with the reasons why I rather urgently need to find out how much of his voluminous correspondence with members of my family, from as far back as 1911, has been preserved.

All I need, at this time, is an opportunity to see what sorts of papers the storage files contain. Then I can know what kind of study of them is worth having done.

I have to be in New Bedford on August 26. I could readily drive on to Salem a couple of days before that, if the papers soon can be seen.

If any expense is involved in making the stored papers available for this temporary examination, I'll be most glad to pay it.

Very truly yours,

Garrett Belknap:

P. S. I'm quite trustworthy -- a research man for many years and one-time member of the faculties of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.



ESSEX INSTITUTE
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
01970

DEAN A. FALES, JR., Director

August 9, 1967

Mr. Carroll Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.

Dear Mr. Belknap,

As I have written to you before, the genealogical notes and working papers of Henry Wyckoff Belknap are not an organized collection here, and I am not sure if would be available to you for research or not. The library has only just been open again from major building construction and the relocation of much of its collections. We have not as yet organized the entire library, and I am in some doubt that the Belknap materials will be ready by the time you are in our area.

However, I suggest that when in our region that you contact Mrs. Charles A. Potter, Reference Librarian of the Essex Institute who may be able to give you some idea of what possibilities there may be for you to see these materials. She is somewhat familiar with resources of this nature here, and may be able to tell you more definitely when it would be possible for you to consult the Belknap genealogical notes and working papers.

Yours very truly,

David R. Proper

David R. Proper
Librarian

25 Club Road
Riverside
August 27, 1967

Mrs. Charles A. Potter
Reference Librarian
Essex Institute
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Potter:

I'm most grateful ~~XXXX~~ for your help and kindness.

As soon as Mr. Finch, the Curator of the Greenwich Historical Society, comes back from Litchfield, I'll talk with him about arranging for custody of the papers. Then I'll write to Mr. Little as you suggested.

After many years of feeling indebted to your Mr. Balknap for much of what I know about my family, it pleases me to think that I may be the "someone" he was thinking of when he wrote, in 1927, "Someone else will have to carry on."

Most cordially and thankfully,

The Bush-Holley House

BY SADYEBETH H. LOWITZ, *Trustee*, and
ANSON C. LOWITZ, *President, 1956-1966*,
The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Inc.

Reprinted from ANTIQUES, June 1967

The Bush-Holley House

BY SADYEBETH H. LOWITZ, *Trustee*, and

ANSON C. LOWITZ, *President, 1956-1966, The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Inc.*

In April 1958 the restoration of the Bush-Holley House was described as just beginning (*ANTIQUES*, April 1958, p. 361). Mr. and Mrs. Lowitz here bring the record up to date.

UNLIKE SUCH NATIONAL landmarks as Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello, the Bush-Holley House is identified with no specific individual, period, or event. For nearly three centuries, however, it has sheltered generations whose contributions to the events and culture of their times added to the traditions and memories of a house that has never stopped living.

The Greenwich Historical Society acquired the house on July 1, 1957, from the late Mrs. Emma Constant (Holley) MacRae. Her father, Edward P. Holley, had purchased the house, with its early tide mill and dependencies, in 1882, when Mrs. MacRae was a little girl. In

later years she recalled the days when oxcarts plodded down to the Lower Landing, in front of the house, where sloops were loaded with farmers' produce for the New York market.

Although research has failed to reveal the builder of the house or the year in which it was built, architectural historians date it about 1685. Some have suggested that the house was built earlier, by the Dutch, as it incorporates many Dutch features (Greenwich was under the jurisdiction of New Netherlands from 1642 to 1650). Others contend it was built by the town's first parson, Eliphalet Jones, who was granted land in this locality in 1668. In any event, Justus Bush Jr. of Horseneck (Greenwich)—whose great-grandfather, Heinrich Bosch, came to New Amsterdam from Leyden in 1660-1661—acquired a house on this site on April 15, 1738. In his will, dated 1746, Justus Bush Jr. specified that "the house at Cos Cob" was to pass to his eldest son, David, who inherited it in 1760. (Cos Cob is a district in the Town of Greenwich.)

On December 19, 1763, David Bush petitioned to construct a tide gristmill "on the Landing opposite or nearly opposite my Dwelling House on Strickland Brook." The mill operated for 136 years, until destroyed by fire in 1899; the millpond and dam still exist. During the Revolution this mill was to be vitally important to the Continental cause, as were the saltworks nearby and the boat yard.

When David Bush inherited the house it was a great saltbox with a keeping room and parlor, connected by a "porch" or entry with pulpit staircase. Behind these were a large kitchen with beehive oven, a pantry, a burning room, and a back stairway. Upstairs were two paneled bedrooms and a lean-to.

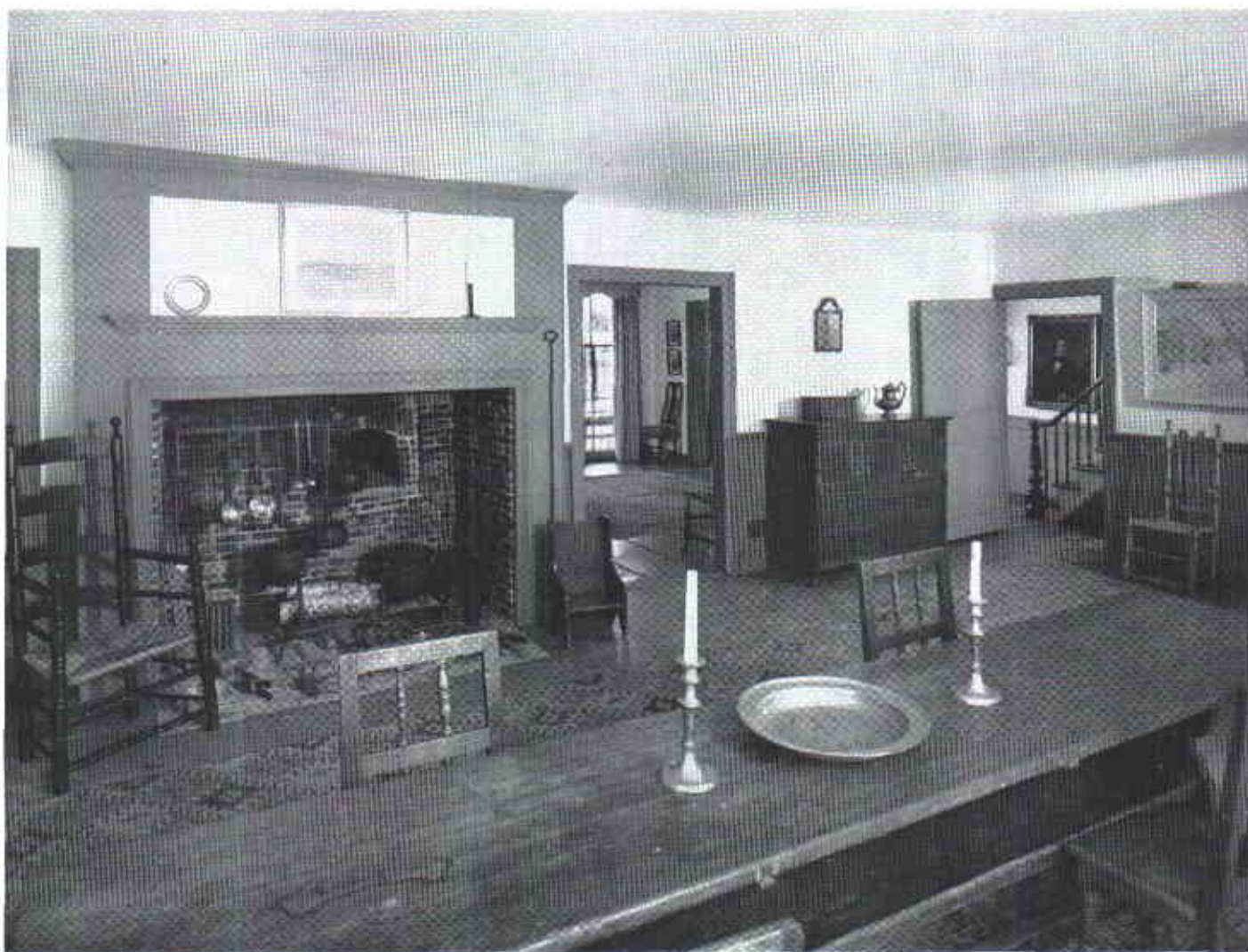


The Bush-Holley House in Cos Cob, Connecticut. The great two-story porches, facing the water front, subjects of many paintings and etchings, were added about 1850, when the 12-over-12 sashes on the first-floor front were replaced by the then-popular French windows.

All photographs are by Taylor and Dull.

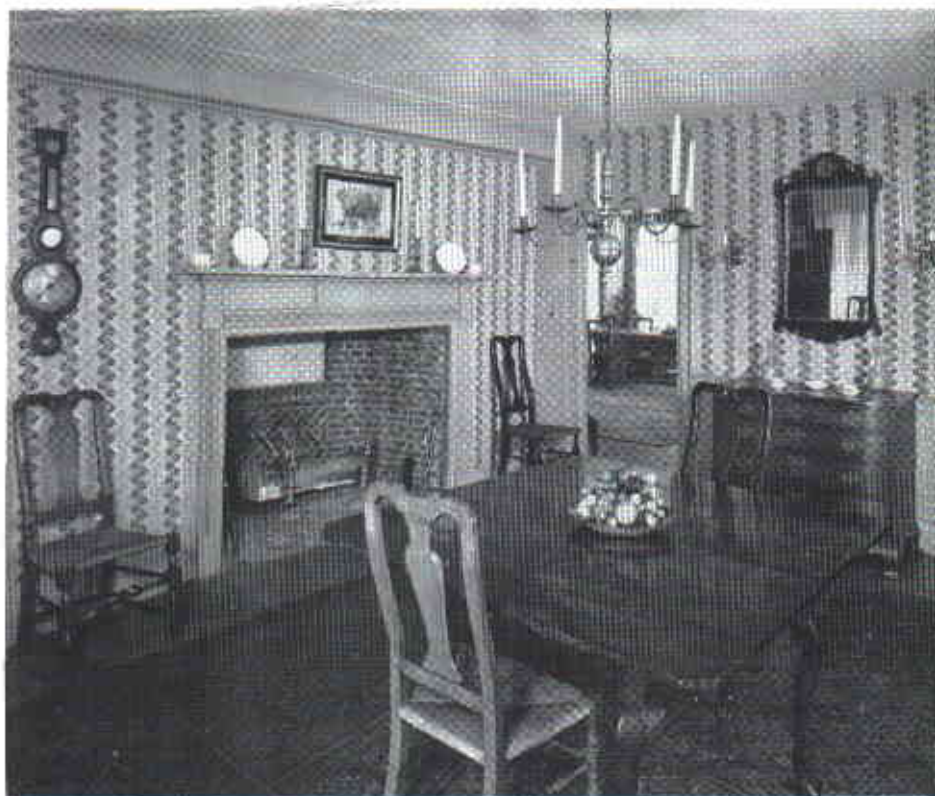
The northwest side of the house provides the finest view of the wide attic overhang and great roof of the original saltbox. The bay was added in 1901 to provide a larger dining room for guests when the house became the Holley Inn. The bench with back was made, carved, and painted by Elmer Livingston MacRae.





The long room once consisted of two rooms—a pantry and a kitchen with great fireplace and beehive oven. In 1957 only a small fireplace, with fieldstone back, was visible. Investigation disclosed three fireplaces, one inside the other, the last being the original. Many of the utensils shown were used in the house, as was the banister-back chair. Seventeenth-century Salem chairs surround the pine trestle table, c. 1700. The painted ladder-back, c. 1750, has fine sausage turnings on all rungs. The carved Hadley chest, gift of Hugh B. Vanderbilt, bears the initials NDM and the date 1700 (see *The Hadley Chest*, C. F. Luther, No. 55). Paintings are by MacRae.

Originally paneled, the parlor was “modernized” about 1820, and its fireplace, with bricks set in a herringbone pattern and rounded corners, was framed by the Adam mantel later made famous in paintings and etchings by Childe Hassam. A Chippendale mirror from the Luke Vincent Lockwood collection, flanked by a pair of pewter sconces, hangs above an inlaid cherry serpentine chest with ogee feet, c. 1780. Below the pewter chandelier, c. 1750, is a butternut drop-leaf table with drake feet; Philadelphia, c. 1735. The painting on velvet was done in 1828 by Sarah Bush, age 10, granddaughter of David Bush. The wallpaper (*Bush-Holley*) is a reproduction of that found in the countinghouse.





Looking down from the wall in the keeping room, where it first hung 150 years ago, is William Dunlap's portrait of Sarah St. John Scudder (Isaacs) Bush (1742-1824), second wife of David, whom she married April 9, 1777. The portrait was presented to the society by her descendants in 1960. Photographs of portraits of her son, Dr. Ralph Isaacs Bush, and his wife hang at the left. The gilt-trimmed piano bears the label of Astor & Norwood, London (c. 1779). The small bird-cage table is of cherry.

On the opposite wall of the keeping room the paneling is painted to simulate wood grain. The chimney breast, with its pilasters topped with double capitals and balanced, raised panels, provides a handsome frame for the generous fireplace. Acorn andirons, a trivet which hangs or stands, and a curved fender complete the appointments. A Connecticut wing chair, c. 1750, and a painted Queen Anne side chair with flame-stitch upholstery grace the hearth. Books of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including a complete set of *The Spectator*, fill the shelves of the Connecticut cherry secretary. A letter of 1777 written by General Israel Putnam, who visited the house often, hangs on the wall.





During his occupancy, David Bush made two additions to accommodate his ever-increasing family and his slaves. Both additions, as well as all rooms and their contents, were described in the inventory of his property, filed in Probate Court, Stamford, November 8, 1797. One paragraph allocated "to the widow of s'd dec'd, viz: In the Dwelling House where the dec'd lived, the parlor, the North Chamber, the cinter chamber back of s'd North room, with the privilege of the Hall and Long Room to pass through and sit in when and so often as she shall chuse, also the southwest bedroom and the use of the Kitchen and oven and the use of the North part of the cellar as far as the South part of the chimney."

Two sons, Justus Luke and Dr. Ralph Isaacs Bush, inherited the house. Justus Luke Bush lived there until his death in 1844. It then changed hands several times before it was bought by the Holleys in 1882.

Cos Cob had a picturesque charm, so that when the house became the Holley Inn in 1890 it was soon a favorite summering place for budding artists, writers, and publishers. Among them was Elmer Livingston MacRae, who, in 1900, married the Holleys' only daughter. MacRae was a talented young painter whose friends included most of the now-famous American artists of the early twentieth century. He was a founder and treasurer of both the Pastellists and the Association of American Painters and Sculptors. With Walt Kuhn, Henry Fitch Taylor, and Jerome Myers, at the Bush-Holley House, he conceived the idea for the Armory Show of 1913, which served to stimulate America's first interest in modern art.

Among the artists who came to the inn were Childe Hassam, John and Alden Twachtman, Walt Kuhn, J. Alden Weir, George Luks, Arthur B. Davies, William Glackens, Ernest Thompson Seton, Jo Davidson, Jerome

Myers, Louis Comfort Tiffany, H. B. Eddy, Walter A. Fitch, Paul Cornoyer, Gutzon Borglum, George Bellows, Leon Dabo, C. C. Cooper, and others. Writers included Willa Cather, Jean Webster, Wallace Irvin, Bert Liston Taylor, and Lincoln Steffens, who devoted an entire chapter in his *Autobiography* to the place, calling it "This great, rambling, beautiful, old accident." Editors who came were Don Seitz of the *World*, Moody of the *Sun*, and Gilman Hall of *Ainslee's* and *Everybody's*.

In the 1920's, MacRae turned to wood carving, and for nearly thirty-five years his association with the Armory Show—and his oil paintings and pastels—were forgotten. Following discovery of a cache of his works in the barn and attic in 1957, many have been purchased from the society by leading museums and private collectors.

The Bush-Holley house now has visitors from every state and many foreign lands. The historical society offers sixteen lectures a year, an educational program for school children, guided tours, and the use of a fine genealogical library. These activities have helped to keep the house alive; more than one visitor has said that it is more home than museum.



The "new" kitchen, in the ell, came into use around 1780. Displayed in the dresser is the Herbert H. Ferris collection of early pewter. A pair of Windsor chairs, with the name *Bertine* and *New York* burned into the bottom of the seats, stand at either end of the hospitable table. On the hutch table are a butter-working bowl, rush-light holder, mortar and pestle, and wooden mixer. The chairs, wag-on-wall clock, gun and powder horn, and other early utensils were used in the house. The drying herbs were grown in the garden given and maintained by the Old Greenwich Garden Club.



The south bedroom, like the keeping room below it, has grained paneling on the chimney breast, which is framed by grooved pilasters with triple capitals. Small yellow Dutch bricks line the fireplace and make the hearth. The inlaid Sheraton chest, prayer bench, steeple andirons, and cherry candlestand were all found in the house. From the society's extensive collection of early Greenwich hand-made quilts comes the example, c. 1800, that covers the Chippendale four-poster. At the windows are a pair of country Chippendale chairs offering far less comfort than the sturdy New England wing chair by the fire.