

John I

April 4 1973

Mr Roy V Sherman  
840 Warren Way  
Palo Alto  
California 94303

Dear Mr Sherman:

Thank you for telling me about the statement that Eunice Belknap was widow of Elijah Sherman when she married Jeremiah Sherman. It seems to be a plausible explanation of the apparent error in Brimfield VR, if I can verify the accuracy of the entry in F.D.S.

But I must admit ignorance. Will you please give me the full wording for the initials "F.D.S"? It's something I've not yet encountered. I must get a copy of it, to see if it contains a clue to the source of the entry.

I can't give you any worthwhile information about the Elizabeth who married Eunice's father John Belknap. The records of Holland, then a parish of South Brimfield, are sketchy, and do not give her surname in any form. Brimfield VR, which contain some data for Holland, show her in two copies. One copy, called the "town copy," shows her as "Elizabeth [?Ball]" -- which nobody believes. The other copy is mutilated and what it shows is printed in Brimfield VR as "Elizabeth W (torn)". Morris Belknap, who examined that record about 1910 -- when it was in slightly better condition -- thought it might look something like Wills or Willis or Wallis, but distrusted his guesses. Since then, all efforts to find a prior record of an Elizabeth of the right age in Holland or Brimfield with a surname beginning with W, who might be the one who married John, have failed. Those who have worked on the problem recently, including me, have agreed to use only her first name, with no guess at the surname.

Cordially,

C. Y. Belknap:

ROY V. SHERMAN

840 WARREN WAY  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94303

Dear Mr. Belknap:

March 24, 1973

Of course records are correct. By co-  
incidence I just finished typing my  
copy of Jeremiah<sup>5</sup> Sherman (Bereah<sup>4</sup>  
John<sup>3</sup> James<sup>2</sup> Rev. John<sup>1</sup>) who  
was born June 12, 1781

I think I can settle your  
puzzle. F. D. S. says Jeremiah  
married Nov 28, 1782 Eunice  
(Belknap) Lumbard widow of Elijah  
Lumbard.

I didn't have the name of her  
father & mother. Do you have  
the maiden name of Elizabeth, her mother?

I have a much more complete  
record than Charles Pomeroy Sherman  
He traced only his own line.

Sincerely

Roy Sherman

I was able to get it in my copy!

JOHN BELKNAP (S<sub>N</sub>)  
Son of Joseph Belknap  
& Prudence Morris

& ELIZABETH (BALL?) (W-----?) (NOTE 2)  
d probably between 1790 and 1800, ca.

b 21 Sept 1725, Woodstock, Conn.  
d 1812, before 13 Feb, Holland, Mass. (NOTE 1)  
m 24 April 1747

Lived at Holland, then at Wales, Mass. Like his father, served in French & Indian War, 1755: Capt Merrick's Co., and in Rev War: Capt Davidson's Co., to Cambridge April 19 1775, in siege of Boston till evacuation by British. Served till 1780, aged 55. Inventory of possessions after death indicates he may have been a carpenter. In 1800, after his wife and died and his sons had left, was probably living with his brother William, then a selectman of town of Holland. At time of death, was probably living in home of his daughter Eunice and her husband Jeremiah Sherman in Holland.

# CHILDREN: (NOTE 3)

- i \*John Jr b 6 April 1748, Holland, Mass. d in Oneida Co., NY, probably in 1806  
m Lavina Brock, widow Hinds (NOTE 4)
- ii \*Eunice b 6 April 1753, Holland d ----- m (1) Elijah Lumbard, (2) Jeremiah  
Sherman, 28 Nov 1782, Brimfield, Mass. (NOTE 5)
- iii Joseph b 12 Oct 1755, Holland. (NOTE 6)
- iv \*Thomas b 6 Sept 1758, Holland. d----- m Chloe Lumbard 26 Aug 1790
- v \*Elizabeth (Betsey) b Wales 31 Aug 1760. d----- m Daniel Burnett Jr 10 Feb 1791
- vi \*Abigail b Wales 27 Sept 1761. d 28 April 1827 m William Jones (NOTE 7)
- vii Eli b Wales 12 Dec 1762. Died young.
- viii Prudence b Wales, date not known. Known only from list of John's children in  
record of administration of his estate.
- ix \*Elijah b Wales 17 Dec 1770. d----- m Thankful Lake 28 Aug 1794, apparently at  
Holland or Brimfield, as Brimfield VR says "both of Holland".

NOTE 1: 13 Feb 1812 is date of intestate probate of his estate.

NOTE 2: Town copy of Brimfield VR shows her last name as Ball. Another copy shows it  
as W---- with notation "torn." At a time when this second copy may have been in  
better condition, William Belknap of Louisville thought it might have read "Wallis."  
What seems most likely is that she was a widow Ball whose maiden name began with W,  
or vice versa. No confirming record has been found.

NOTE 3: This list of children differs from all other lists now current, which  
contain names of some of the children of John's son, John Jr. It derives directly  
from the list of John's children named as his heirs in the record of the administration  
of his intestate estate.

NOTE 4: Much of the widespread confusion about John's children, in past and present  
lists, has been a mistaken belief that the John Belknap recorded as marrying a "Lavina"  
was ~~second wife~~ this John (S<sub>N</sub>). But this John married only once. The "Lavina" who  
was erroneously assumed to be his second wife was Lavina Brock, daughter of David Brock,  
and widow Hinds, who married John Jr. The result of this assumption was a typical  
instance of a "lost generation."

NOTE 5: Brimfield VR shows marriage to Sherman as "Eunice Lumbard," her name as  
widow. List of John's children in administration of his estate shows Eunice Belknap  
as wife of Jeremiah Sherman who was the administrator appointed by the court.

NOTE 6: Some present-day compilations show this Joseph as marrying Esther Snow,  
daughter of Jabez Snow and Keziah Newton. Esther's husband was the Joseph who  
was son of John Belknap and Ruth Farr of Westboro, Mass. No record beyond date of



July 22 1971

LINE OF DESCENT, p. 1

5 John Belknap

Born 21 Sept 1725, Woodstock, Conn.  
Married 24 April 1747, Brimfield,  
Mass. Lived at Holland, Mass. Died  
at Holland, in early 1812 (before  
13 February).

& Elizabeth (last name uncertain; shown as  
"Ball" in one Brimfield vital record and  
as "W-torn" in another copy, the "torn"  
being a description of the defacement of  
the entry; said to have looked something  
like "Wallis" by one investigator who  
examined the record about 1870). Probably  
died between 1790 and 1800, at Holland.

LETTER DATED June 15 1971

5. John -- first child of Joseph and Prudence. Lived at Holland ~~till his death in~~  
~~early 1812~~. Like his father, served in the French & Indian War in 1755. Also served  
in Revolutionary War in 1755-77, as did his son John Jr. Was in troops besieging  
Boston, till evacuation by British. Inventory of his possessions, after death,  
indicates that he may have been a carpenter by trade. In 1800, after his wife had  
died and all his sons had left ~~Holland~~, he apparently was living with his younger  
brother William, then a selectman of the town. At time of his death, was probably  
living in home of his oldest daughter Eunice and her husband Jeremiah Sherman, who  
was administrator of his estate.

6. Thomas -- This son of John married a Brimfield girl, Chloe Lombard (some of that  
family spelled it Lombard) and moved to the Berkshire Mountains in NW Massachusetts.  
His youngest brother Elijah settled in a nearby town in the same area, Peru. Another  
brother, John Jr, went to Oneida County, N. Y., and two of his sons eventually settled  
in western N. Y., near Buffalo. Occupation of Thomas is not known.

HWB 115 (48, 15, 4, 1) Sources same as for his father, plus will of David Brock

JOHN BELKNAP

Son of Joseph Belknap &  
Prudence Morris

b 21 Sept 1725, Woodstock, Conn.

d 1812, before 13 Feb., Holland, Mass.

m 24 April 1747

(NOTE 1)

ELIZABETH (Ball?) (W----?)

(See note on record for Joseph Belknap  
and Prudence Morris.)

(NOTE 2)

CHILDREN:

- i \*John b 6 April 1748, Holland, Mass. d. Probably between 1803 and 1811.  
m Lavina Brock, widow Hinds. (NOTE 3) (NOTE 4)
- ii \*Eunice b 6 April 1753, Holland m Jeremiah Sherman 28 Nov 1782, in Brimfield Mass.  
(NOTE 4) (1) *Eunice Lumbard*
- iii Joseph, b 12 <sup>Oct.</sup> 1755, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Holland (NOTE 5)
- iv \*Thomas b 6 Sept 1758, Holland. d ---- m Chloe Lumbard 26 Aug 1790.
- v \*Elizabeth (Betsey) b Wales, Mass. 31 Aug 1760. m Daniel Burnett Jr 10 Feb 1791.
- vi \*Abigail b Wales 27 Sept 1761 d 28 April 1827 m William Janes (NOTE 6)
- vii Eli, b Wales 12 Dec 1762. Died young.
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ix \*Elijah [ b Wales 17 Dec 1770. [ d --- [ m Thankful Lake 28 Aug 1794 (both of  
Holland")

NOTE 4: Much of the confusion on this family has come from thinking that Lavina Brock (variously Lavina, etc) was second wife of John the father of the man she married. Will of her father makes the truth plain. The John who married Elizabeth did not marry again -- and did not have ~~XXXXXXXX~~ the children erroneously attributed to him but actually children of his son John and Lavina Brock. (i, above)

NOTE 5: Brimfield VR show Jeremiah Sherman marrying Eunice Lumbard -- an obvious error. Court records on intestate proceedings of John Belknap name this man as husband of John's daughter Eunice Belknap. There was no Eunice Lumbard of right age for marriage with Jeremiah. *Son of John Belknap + Ruth Lane, Westboro, Mass.*

NOTE 6: Some amateurs show this Joseph as marrying Esther Snow, daughter of Jabez Snow and Keziah Newton. Esther's husband was a Joseph from a different branch of the Belknaps. No record for the Joseph at Holland has been found beyond his birth.

NOTE 7: Some records show husband's name as James. Correct spelling is James -- one of a very large Brimfield family. . . Some records show Abigail as marrying (2) Daniel Thompson, which is not correct. She lived with husband William Janes all her life and he was buried beside her. ~~XX~~ This error probably results from a mistake in Brimfield VR: entry of an undated marriage, in a church record only, of "Abigail Belknap and Daniel Thompson," which is plainly error for the marriage of Hannah (daughter of Joseph and Prudence) Belknap and Daniel Thompson. There was no other Daniel Thompson on record in that area in that period.

JOHN served in Fitch and Indian War 1756, Capt. ~~Davidson's~~ *Merrick's* Company -- and in Rev War, Capt Davidson's company, to Cambridge 19 April 1775; served till 1780 (aged 55).





Children: I.

115

241. Elizabeth, b. Wales,  
B. 31 Aug. 1760,

242. Eli, b. Wales,  
B. 12 Dec. ?

243. Prudence, b. Wales,  
B.

244. \* Abigail, b. Wales,  
B. Sep. 1765,

245. \* Elijah, b. Wales,  
B. 11 Jun. 1770,

246. \* Eli, b. Wales,  
B. 15 Sep. 1780,

247. \* Timothy, b. Wales,  
B. 29 Jul. 1788,

247.1\* John,

B.

B.

*John had him as I in Long Park*

*20. young*

*D. 28. Apl. 1827*

*John Jr.*

HWB 115 11 (115, 48, 15, 4, 1)

**EUNICE BELKNAP**

Daughter of John Belknap

& Elizabeth (Ball?) (W----?)

b 6 April 1753, Holland, Mass

d

m 28 Nov 1782, Brimfield, Mass.

&

**JEREMIAH SHERMAN**

Son of Beriah and Mary Sherman, Brimfield, Mass.

b 12 June 1751

d

Jeremiah was appointed administrator of estate of Eunice's father, 13 Feb 1812. Court records show him as husband of Eunice. (Brimfield VR in error by showing him marrying a Eunice Lombard,)~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

**CHILDREN (SHERMAN)**

i Polly b 4 Sept 1783 m Amasa Webber 7 April 1796

ii Elisabeth (Eliza) b 12 June 1785 <sup>d 16 May 1811, Brimfield ("w of Daniel Burt Jr")</sup> m int. 20 Oct 1805 with "Daniel Burt of Brimfield?"

iii Prudence (Pruda) b 28 Nov 1789 m 6 April 1813 Julius Burt of Brimfield

iv Eunice b 8 Sept 1793 m int. 18 Aug 1811 with Isaac Church "beth of Holland"

v Nancy b 15 July 1795 d 26 Jan 1852 m ----- Fletcher (Zebina?)



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*Birth has been found.*

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115 v (48, 15, 4, 1)

Lovering; Hist Holland

ELIZABETH BELKNAP

Dau of John Belknap

& Elizabeth (Ball?) (W---?)

b Wales, Mass. 31 Aug 1760

d

m 16 Feb 1791 ("both of Holland")

&

(DAVID?)

DANIEL<sup>A</sup> BURNETT JR

(Lovering: Daniel on p 262; David on p 277)

CHILDREN:

i Erasmus b 13 Sept 1791