

CORRECTION OF SOME MISIDENTIFICATIONS MADE BY H W BELKNAP

- ON: -- The Eli Belknap who married Clarissa (Cleracy) Lyman.
-- The Asa Belknap who married Abia Deverix
-- The John Belknap whose sons were Eli, Timothy, John, and Foris

The correction of these erroneous identifications is the result of years of research by John A Sherman, beginning about 1934, and by him and C Y Belknap cooperatively 1968 to 1972. The findings rest entirely on primary sources-- wills, land deeds, court proceedings, and other original contemporary records.

These misidentifications are the most serious errors in H W Belknap's work, as they have led to the statement of incorrect lineage for ~~some~~ scores of Belknaps.

The root of the errors was that HWB had no record of the second John Belknap in the list of three Johns descended from Joseph Belknap and Prudence Morris:

- John (Sr), son of Joseph and Prudence, born Woodstock, Conn., 21 Sept 1725.
- John Jr, son of the above, born at Holland, Mass., 6 April 1748.
- John (III), son of John Jr, born at Holland 12 April 1784.

Lacking a record of the second John (John Jr), HWB assumed that the John Belknap who was reported to have married a "Lovina" was John (Sr) and that she was that elder John's second wife. He therefore assigned to John (Sr) three sons -- Eli, Timothy, and John (III) -- who were actually sons of John Jr and Lavina Brock (widow of John Hinds), as proved by the will of Lavina's father David Brock of Woodstock, Conn. This Lavina was the so-called "Lovina" that HWB thought had been second wife of John (Sr). (HWB also misassigned another son of John Jr and Lavina Brock: Foris, whom HWB listed as son of Foris's uncle William and Anna Burke.)

In 1935, John Sherman directed HWB's attention to this error. HWB acknowledged the error but did not alter his records, as he had ceased active work on Belknap genealogy in 1926. (After 1926, he merely filed new data without entering them in his systematic records.) So those who have relied on his notes have perpetuated his errors.

By the end of 1913, HWB had found the record of the marriage of an Eli Belknap and Clarissa (Cleracy) Lyman at Peru, Mass. (called Partridgefield at the time of that marriage in 1800). He assumed -- with no supporting evidence -- that this Eli was the Eli in his records of the family at Holland, Mass., and entered this marriage on his card for that Eli (whom he showed as son of John Sr, incorrectly).

On 24 Feb 1914, the Boston Transcript carried an inquiry signed H.L.C. (H. L. Conlee of New York City) asking for the parentage and date of marriage of a John Belknap and a Lydia, and for the date of marriage of their son Eli to Clarissa Lyman.

On 15 March 1914, in the Transcript, HWB replied: "John born Sept 21 1725 married second(?) perhaps Lovina -- (the correspondent says Lydia), and had Eli by second wife, born Sept 15, 1780, married Cleracy Lyman. Eli was born at Wales, Mass. and married at Peru, Mass., being then of Stevens Town, Mass."

(NOTE: The name of the town was an error for Stephen Town, New York. There was no town of that or similar name in Massachusetts.)

On 16 March 1914, the Transcript carried a lengthy communication from Conlee, beginning: "John Belknap of Rensselaer County (New York) married Lydia. They had several children, one of whom was Eli." Then followed names of descendants of that Eli and Clarissa Lyman.

HWB ignored Conlee's repetition of "Lydia" and entered the children of that Eli and Clarissa (named by Conlee) as children of the Eli whom he believed to be the son of John Belknap (Sr) and a second wife named "Lovina" (but who was actually son of John Jr and Lavina Brock).

Conlee stuck with "Lydia." But in correspondence with him, HWB did not alter his insistence that "Lydia" was really "Lovina."

There was no evidence to support this insistence. But HWB clung to it.

He was completely in error. Years of research by John A Sherman and recent cooperative research by him and C Y Belknap have established the following unquestionable facts:

- Court records of the intestate settlement of the estate of John Belknap (Sr) of Holland, Mass. show that he married only once -- had a son named John (who is shown as John Jr in various records at Holland) -- and did not have sons named Eli, Timothy, ~~and~~ and Foris.
- Other records make it plain that these sons and ^{another son and} several daughters were children of John Jr and Lavina Brock.
- The Eli who married Clarissa Lyman could not possibly have been the Eli who was born at Wales, Mass. in 1780. Census records at Stephen Town NY show that Clarissa's husband Eli was born not later than 1774.
- That Eli (Clarissa's husband) moved from Oakham, Mass. about 1799 and in 1800 was settled at Stephen Town NY on land adjacent to the properties of his brother Asa and his father John.
- His father John was the oldest son of John Belknap and Ruth Farr of Westboro, Mass. He does not appear in Westboro VR, but HWB obtained acceptable evidence confirming his birth in 1740. He married Sarah Walker and lived in Oakham till 1799, then moved to Stephen Town NY with Sarah and their children.

The following facts have also been established:

- In 1803, while the Eli who married Clarissa Lyman was living at Stephen Town in Rensselaer County, John Belknap Jr of Holland, Mass. was in Oneida County NY with his sons Eli, Timothy, and John (III). His youngest son, Foris, had gone to Ohio with a young couple from Lanesborough, Joseph and Anna (Sherman) Devereaux -- probably not long after the death of his mother Lavina Brock, which occurred at some time before 25 Nov 1795 (the date of her father's will, indicating that she was dead by that date).
- In 1803, John Jr bought land at Lee, in the Town of Western, Oneida County NY. Three years later, his sons Eli and Timothy jointly bought land adjacent to the land that John Jr had bought in 1803. In 1808, Timothy who had moved to Smithfield in Madison County NY sold his half of that jointly owned land to Eli.
- Eli bought more land at Lee and remained there till 1817, when he moved to French Creek, Chataqua County NY. Timothy moved to Cambria in Niagara County ~~about~~ ^{by} 1820.

- During the entire period in which the Eli who married Clarissa Lyman was at Stephen Town in Renssalaer County, the Eli who was born at Wales, Mass. in 1780 was in different counties of New York.

In the process of correcting those misidentifications, a correction for a related error by HWB has been found:

- When HWB found the record of marriage of an Asa Belknap to Abia Devetix (of "Stephenton, Mass." according to his notes) he entered this marriage on his page for the Asa who was son of Daniel Belknap of Dummerston, Vermont. But Abia Deverix was of Stephen Town, NY (there was no such town as "Stephenton, Mass.") and the Asa who married her was the brother of the Eli who married Clarissa Lyman and lived on the farm adjoining that Eli's at Stephen Town. (No record beyond birthdate has yet been found for the Asa born at Dummerston.)
- In this instance, HWB indicated by "(?)" on his notes that he was merely guessing in his identification of the Asa who married Abia Deverix. But many people have omitted that (?) when copying his notes.

In the Census records for Stephen Town, NY, there seems to be a probable explanation of the "Lydia" named by Conlee as wife of the John Belknap whose son married Clarissa Lyman.

- That John Belknap, of Oakham, Mass., married Sarah Walker at Brookfield, Mass. 15 Feb 1769. She was presumably with him when he moved to Stephen Town, being the female Over 45 shown in the 1800 Census of his household. In the 1810 Census, the oldest female in this household was shown as aged only 26-45. As there was no daughter of that age, this was probably the Lydia named by Conlee -- second wife of John, and not mother of Eli as Conlee believed. On this assumption, Sarah had died between 1800 and 1810, and the marriage to Lydia had taken place during that same period. The 1810 census indicates that this second wife was probably a widow with one small child.

C. Y. Belknap, 6 March 1973

JOHN SHERMAN from CYB

March 6 1973

I'm now approaching the end of the road you put me on, back in 1968 -- five years ago. It has led me to revamping the lineage of scores and scores of Belknaps.

Today, I paused in the task of rewriting the notes on the key people involved in this wide change -- in order to draft a memo explaining why the changes are needed, by explaining how the errors happened to be made.

The aim of the memo is to convince some people -- most notably at Salt Lake -- that they should alter their erroneous records in accord with detailed sheets that I'll be able to send to them.

Before I mail this memo to them, I should of course submit it to you. Everything in it stems from work done by you. All the evidence was located by you. Your persistence was what kept me going. All I've contributed is a point of view in analyzing and interpreting the evidence.

In this memo, I've tried to include only points on which I believe you and I are in agreement. Those on which we may still differ will appear in the sheets on certain individuals.

Please read the memo with a critical eye and tell me what changes you think I should make in it.

MEMO to George May

March 6 1973

Long ago, you kindly sent me copies of some notes from the Boston Transcript.

Two or three of these notes bore directly on a major problem -- the reassignment of the lineage of scores and scores of Balknaps.

Since early 1968, I'd been working with John Sherman of Hollywood on an effort to correct some serious misidentifications made by H W Balknap of Salem -- whose files have been the foundation of my work on a Balknap genealogy.

We have finally arrived at solutions of the varied problems. And in the enclosed memo I have tried to explain (mainly for the benefit of people at Salt Lake) how and why HWB made the errors that so many people have perpetuated.

Perhaps it may interest you.

HWB records; VR Woodstock, Holland, Wales; Morris Belknap records; John Sherman records; Lovering, Hist Holland; Brimfield VR; Court Records, John Belknap intestate; Woodstock deeds.

JOSEPH BELKNAP
Son of Ebenezer Belknap
& Hannah Ayer
b Abt 1700, Haverhill, Mass.
d 20 July 1788, Holland, Mass.
m 17 March 1724/5, Woodstock, Conn.
(int. 12 March 1724/5)

PRUDENCE MORRIS
B 9 Aug 1702 D 7 Jan 1780, Holland, Mass.
daughter of Deacon Edward Morris of Woodstock, Conn.
b -- March 1658/7 d 29 Aug 1727
& Elizabeth Bowen, b Roxbury 26 Jan 1660
d 20 Nov 1743 (Woodstock ?)

Was member of a scouting party at Haverhill, in 1722 (4 to 31, Aug.)
Came to Woodstock 1723 as a cordwainer (shoemaker). Was given 20 acres at Woodstock by Prudence's father, the deacon, on 1 April 1726. Remained in Woodstock till 1742, when sold that land and moved to Holland, Mass. (then a parish of ~~South~~ Brimfield). With sons William and John, served in French and Indian War 1756. With sons William, Daniel, John, signed petitions for separation from ~~South~~ Brimfield in 1762 and 1764. At Holland, built and operated a mill (first Belknap mill-owner). (NOTE 5)

CHILDREN

i *John b 21 Sept 1725, Woodstock d before 13 Feb 1812, Holland (NOTE 1)
m Elizabeth -----, 24 April 1747 (NOTE 2)

ii William b 7 March 1726/7 ^{South} d 17 Sept 1727 (6 months old), Woodstock

iii *Hannah b 21 Oct 1728, Woodstock. d --- m Daniel Thompson

iv Sybil b abt 1730, Woodstock d 3 June 1739, Woodstock

v Mary b abt 1734, Woodstock

vi *William b --- 1735, Woodstock. d 17 March 1820, Clinton, NY
m (1) Elizabeth McNall (NOTE 3) ~~17 Nov 1762~~ 17 Nov 1761
(2) Anna Burke 27 May 1766

vii *Daniel b abt 1740, Woodstock d ----- (after 1802, last year on Dummerston tax list)
m Polly Whipple

viii *Jonathan b abt 1745, Holland (NOTE 4) m. Olive

NOTE 1: Death date from date of appointment of administrator of his estate -- his son in law ~~John Sherman~~ Jeremiah Sherman (2nd husband of Eunice).

NOTE 2: Shown as "Elizabeth Ball" in one VR, as "Elizabeth W (torn)" in another Brimfield VR.

NOTE 3: Daughter of William & Elizabeth McNall of Union, Conn. "McNeill," in some later records, is incorrect.

NOTE 4: Identification of Jonathan as son of John and Prudence was made by Lovering. He joined church at Holland in 1781, ^{and their children were} baptized there 1782. Wife's name unknown.

NOTE 5: Holland and Wales, Mass., were parishes of what was then ^{South} ~~South~~ Brimfield. ^{West} Both Holland and Wales became independent towns. Early records (VR etc) of Holland, Wales and Brimfield are poor and often confused. Present edition of Brimfield VR does not indicate these places clearly or consistently.

NOTE 6: An Asa Belknap was a private on muster roll of Capt Davis' Company, Holland, 1756. No other mention of him in records Holland, Wales, Brimfield. No other Holland Belknap was in that Company. About 1890, William Burke Belknap of Louisville wrote that "there is reason to believe" Asa was son of Joseph and Prudence; but did not state the reason. No other identification has been found -- hence omitted from list of children above.

NOTE 7: Approximate birthdates for Sybil, Mary, Daniel & Jonathan are possible dates conforming to known sequence of birth, with regard to time of appearance on other records, such as: military service, petition signings, tax lists, lists of property owners, etc.

HWB 48 viii (48,15,4,1)

JONATHAN BELKNAP

& Olive -----

Son of Joseph Belknap

& Prudence Morris

b abt 1745, Holland, Mass.

Known only from documents reprinted by Lovering, who identified him as son of Joseph and Prudence. On list of taxpayers, Holland, 1782; list of householders 1783. He and wife Olive joined church, Holland, 1781. He was baptized there 4 Aug 1782.

CHILDREN: (Sequence as in church record, at baptism, 8 Sept 1782)

i Mary

ii Kate

iii Oliver

iv Lois

HWB ~~115~~ 48 iii (15.4, 1)

HANNAH BELKNAP

Dau of Joseph Belknap
& Prudence Morris
b 21 Oct 1728 Woodstock, Conn.

d m

CHILDREN:

i Sibbil b 14 Oct 1750

ii Daniel b 30 Aug 1752

iii Lucy 8 Feb 1758 ("Luce")

& DANIEL THOMPSON

Son of James & Mary Thompson (Tompson)

b 3 Oct 1725

~~REDACTED~~

HWB 118 (48,15,4,1)

WILLIAM BELKNAP

Son of Joseph Belknap

& Prudence Morris

b 1735, Woodstock, Conn.

d 17 March 1820, Clinton, NY

m (1) 17 Nov 1761, Holland, Mass

m (2) 27 March 1766

& (1) ELIZABETH McNALL

Dau of William & Elizabeth McNall of Union, Ct.

b

d 1784, Holland, Mass.

No children

(2) Anna Burke

dau of Jonathan Burke & Thankful Wait

b 2 Sept 1742, Brimfield, Mass

d

Pvt in Capt Moulton's Co., 15 Sept to 10 Dec 1755; this company in Col Pomeroy's Regt to Crown Point, 1755. Town Clerk, Holland, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793. On School Committee, 1784. Town Treasurer 1799. Selectman 1784, 1787, 1788, 1790, 1795, 1797, 1798, 1800. (A town clerk in 20th century said that William removed from Holland in 1787. That obviously incorrect statement has been widely copied.)

No record in Holland after 1800.

CHILDREN: By second wife

248 *Elizabeth b 31 March 1767 m Rinaldo Webber 3 April 1784

249 Rosinah b 20 April 1769 (Said to have m ----- Parmely. Confirmation not found)

250 Amorelle (Amarilla) b 24 July 1771 m Thomas Chapman 30 Nov 1797

231 *Elfleeda b 16 June 1773 m David Anderson

252 *Calista b 8 Aug 1775 m Moses Graham

253 *Lucena (NOTE 1) b 27 Sept 1777 m Amasa Anderson 1 March 1798

254 *Morris Burke b 25 June 1780 d 26 July 1837, Smithland, Ky

NOTE 1: Some recent writers give name as "Serena." Original record reprinted by Lovering shows "Lucena."

NOTE 2: Some recent writers have copied an error by H W Belknap, showing Foris Belknap as son of William. Foris was son of William's ~~son~~ nephew John *Belknap*.

NOTE 3: Some recent writers show name of first wife as "McNeill." Correct name, as shown by her parentage, is McNall.

LUCENA BELKNAP (Note 1)
Dau of William Belknap
& Anna Burke
b 27 Sept 1777 Holland Mass
d ~~6 May 1801~~
m 1 March 1798

& AMASA ANDERSON
Son of John Anderson & Mary Wight
b
d 6 May 1801 in Brimfield

CHILDREN (ANDERSON)

i Lurvey

ii Melzo b 19 March 1800

Note 1: Appears as "Derena" in some secondary sources.

ELFLEDA BELKNAP

Dau of William Belknap

& Anna Burke

b 18 June 1773 (167) *Holland*

m 7 Nov 1793

d ---- ~~1811~~

& DAVID ANDERSON

Son of John & Mary Anderson

b 24 Feb 1744

d 5 March 1817

m (1) Irene Janes 27 Nov 1766 -- son by

her: Lyman, b 21 April 1789

~~CHILDREN OF ANDERSON~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

CHILDREN (ANDERSON)

i Zimri b 24 April 1795

ii Almada 17 Sept 1797

HWB 248 (118)

ELIZABETH BELKNAP

Dau of William Belknap

& Anna Burke

b 31 March 1767

d

m 3 April 1784

&

RINALDO WEBBER

Son of Henry Webber & Hannah Stearns (Starnes)
of Holland, Mass.

b

d

Holland, Mass.

CHILDREN: (WEBBER)

i Annah b 6 Oct 1784 d

1789

ii Arsenal b 25 March 1787 d

iii Julius b 19 May 1790 1791 d

m Benjamin Fay 29 Nov 1804

m ----- Sherman

birth

NOTE: Lovering shows correct dates on page ~~224~~ 275, from Book No. 9, Town Records.

HWB 252 (118)

CALISTA BELKNAP

&

MOSES GRAHAM

Dau of William Belknap

& Anna Burke

b 8 Aug 1775 Holland Mass.

d

m 19 Nov 1795 ("both of Holland")

CHILD (GRAHAM):

i ~~i~~ Anson b 9 April 1797

ii Electa b 19 Feb 1799

JOHN BELKNAP (Sr)

Son of Joseph Belknap

& Prudence Morris

b 21 Sept 1725, Woodstock, Conn.

d 1812, before 13 Feb, Holland, Mass. (NOTE 1)

m 24 April 1747

& ELIZABETH (BALL?) (W-----?) (NOTE 2)

d probably between 1790 and 1800.

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 Janes (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 "Lovina" was ~~this John's~~ this John's. But this John married only once. The "Lovina" 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

Birth has been found.

HMB 115 continued

NOTE 7: Some present-day compilations contain two errors about Abigail. (1) Showing name of her husband as "James" instead of Janes. He was member of the large Janes family at Brimfield. (2) Showing Abigail as marrying, second, Daniel Thompson. She married only once and her husband William Janes was buried beside her. This error has been the result of an incorrect entry in Brimfield VR: entry of an undated marriage, in a church record only, of "Abigail Belknap and Daniel Thompson" which is plainly an erroneous entry of the marriage of Daniel Thompson and Abigail's aunt Hannah, daughter of Joseph Belknap and Prudence Morris,

THOMAS BELKNAP

Son of John Belknap, Sr
and Elizabeth Ball (W----?)
b 6 Sept 1758, Holland, Mass.
d

m 26 Aug 1790, Holland, Mass.

resided: Holland, Windsor, Cheshire, Mass.

&

CHLOE LUMBARD

dau of Joseph Lumbard & Lydia ----

b 6 March 1768, Brimfield, Mass.

d 5 Aug 1816, Windsor, Mass., of "King's Evil"
ae 47, Church Record

CHILDREN

i *Alvin b 19 Nov 1790, Holland (incorrectly shown as 1791 in Windsor VR)
d 17 Feb 1873

ii Sarah, unmarried b 6 Sept 1793 d 8 Aug 1873, Eden NY

iii *Porter b 12 Aug 1795, Stafford, Mass. d 28 Feb 1878, Eden, NY

iv *Phila b 20 Aug 1797, Cheshire d ----

v *Amanda b 5 June 1798

vi Cena b 21 March 1800, Cheshire d 5 May 1800 (aged 6 weeks)

vii Thomas b 12 Nov 1801 d 30 Sept 1810 (8 Oct ae 10, Church Record)

viii *Chloe b ----- Cheshire d ---1828

ix *Madison b 2 Oct 1810, Cheshire d 8 Sept 1890, Eden NY

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

EUNICE BELKNAP

Daughter of John Belknap ^{Sn.}

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

b 6 April 1753, Holland, Mass

d .

m 28 Nov 1782, Brimfield, Mass. (1) 2/4 1773?

& (2) 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 ~~showing~~ show^{ing} him marrying ~~Eunice~~ Eunice Lumbard.) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{Belknap}

CHILDREN (SHERMAN)

- i Polly b 4 Sept 1783 m Amasa Webber 7 April 1796
d 16 May 1811, Brimfield ("w of Daniel Burt Jr")
- ii Elizabeth (Eliza) b 12 June 1785 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 "both of Holland"
- v Nancy b 15 July 1795 d 26 Jan 1852 m ----- Fletcher (Zebina?)

(LUMBARD)

- ~~See letter to Brim V P~~
- " Eli 11 Oct 1774 d. 1778
 - " Elijah 17 Dec 1775
 - " James 5 Apr 1778

Lovering, Hist Holland

115 v (48, 15, 4, 1)

(DAVID?)

ELIZABETH BELKNAP

&

DANIEL BURNETT JR

Dau of John Belknap Sⁿ.

& Elisabeth (Ball?) (W---?)

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

b Wales, Mass. 31 Aug 1760

d

m 16 Feb 1791 ("both of Holland")

CHILDREN:

i Erasmus b 13 Sept 1791

2413 115-i (115) *his father*

Sources same as on sheets for his father and grandfather, plus deeds of land transactions in Oneida Co., NY

JOHN BELKNAP JR. (NOTE 1) & LAVINA BROCK
Son of John Belknap and Daughter of David Brock and Mary Southwick
Elizabeth (Ball?) (W----?) *Before* of Woodstock, Conn.
b Holland Mass 6 April 1748 b 31 March 1749
~~d Probably between 1803 and 1806~~ d 25 Nov 1795 (date of her father's will)
Shortly before 13 Oct. 1806 (NOTE 2) Widow of John Hinds, whom she married in 1770. *March*
m Probably about 1778 Daughter: Lucretia Hinds.
Lived at Wales, Mass, in 1780 and 1783. Moved to Holland in 1783. ~~1784~~
At Holland: Signed petition for separation from Wales, 1764. Rev War service 1775-77
On list of householders 1783. Wife Lavina joined church Brimfield 1785. Birth of
twins Foris & Caphira, 12 Aug 1788. Thereafter no record in Holland. Not found in
census 1790, in any state. Next known when bought land at Lee, in Town of Western, Oneida
Co NY, 8 Aug 1803. No provable record thereafter; but see NOTE 2 for subsequent history
of land at Lee.

Pvt. Capt. Moulton's Co.

CHILDREN:

- i *Eli b Wales 16 Sept 1780 (NOTE 3) m Lydia ----- (NOTE 4)
- ii *Timothy b Wales 29 July 1783 m Annis (Candis? Candace?)
- iii *John b Holland 12 April 1784 ~~m Sarah A. (?)~~
- iv Lavina b Holland 5 April 1786
- v *Foris b Holland 12 Aug 1788 (NOTE 5) m Sarah Bateman
- vi Caphira b Holland 12 Aug 1788 (twin of Foris)

NOTE 1: In later life, known as John, ^{*shown*} But as John Jr on records at Holland, such as enlistment for military service, list of householders, etc. Term Jr is used here.

NOTE 2: Probable date of death is inferred from land deeds in Oneida County, NY, which contain some curious and unusual features. . . On 3 August 1803, John Jr (father of Eli, Timothy, John and Foris) bought land at Lee in Town of Western from Jotham Worden. Contrary to normal usage at that time, the seller did not make formal acknowledgement of the act when signing the deed. Three years later, 15 October 1806, Jotham Worden and wife Fanny appeared before a judge and signed the customary acknowledgement of their action. This was not done to facilitate a sale of the property; it was not sold till 1811. The question of why the acknowledgement was made in 1806 seems to require consideration. Some light may come from something that had happened just two days earlier. On 13 October 1806, Eli and Timothy had bought 24 acres adjoining the land that had been bought by their father in 1803 -- their first land purchase. An obvious implication is that Eli and Timothy had come into money and that there was a change in the ownership of the land their father had bought in 1803 -- making a confirmation of his purchase essential. It seems likely that the father (John Jr) had died. . . This inference is strengthened ~~XX~~ by the fact that at about that time or soon thereafter, Eli ~~XX~~ bought more land -- location known but not the date, except as not later than 1810. . . Further support comes from

what next happened to the land that had been bought in 1803. On 27 August 1811, this 30-acre property was sold to Foris (who was in Ohio and had been for some years) by a John Belknap who seems sure to have Foris's brother John, not his father John. At the time when the deed was signed, a major change was made in its wording. Originally, the deed had read that the land was the property that had been sold by Jotham Worden in 1803 to "the said John Belknap" -- i. e. the John Belknap now selling it. But before signing, the words "the said John Belknap" were erased and merely "John Belknap" was substituted -- an apparent indication that the John Belknap now selling the land was not the John Belknap who had bought it in 1803. It seems reasonable to conclude that the father had died between 3 August 1803 and 13 October 1806, and probably not long before that 1806 date. . . However, there is one bit of contrary evidence. When Foris came from Ohio to sell that land in 1816, the original wording "the said John Belknap" was not altered in the deed he signed. As this could be merely an oversight by a very young man, in a hurry to sell the land and return to Ohio, its significance should not be overweighted. . . The net conclusion seems to be that on the death of John Jr his estate was shared by the sons who were in Oneida County, with the youngest of them taking the land and the older two taking the money -- and it is possible that the son John was merely taking the land in trust for his still younger brother Foris, at a time when Foris was still a minor (18 years old), and transferred it to Foris. ~~Foris had come of age, [redacted]~~. The fact that the consideration mentioned in the deed transferring title to Foris was only the amount that had been paid for the land in 1803, may indicate that the named consideration (\$200) was merely fictitious -- for normally the land would have sold at an increased price eight years after the original purchase. The 1811 deed may well have been not a sale but a gift, carried out in accordance with a father's wish. (Very frequently, in early years in America, it was common practice for ~~Belknap~~ fathers to convey their land to their youngest sons rather than leaving it to the oldest son or letting it be merely a part of their estates. In such instances, the father usually transferred his land to the youngest son late in his own life, when death might come soon. In one branch of the Belknap family, this practice persisted "as was customary" as late as 1881. It was an American survival of the pre-Norman custom in England called "Burrough English" -- in Norman French, Tenure en burgh anglais -- land inheritance by the youngest son -- which survived in England for centuries after the Norman Conquest.) (parts of

NOTE 3: Eli remained in Oneida County till 1817. Last known date there was 22 Sept 1817, sale of land before moving to French Creek, Erie Co., NY, where he remained till his death.

NOTE 4: Name of Lydia, as wife of Eli, appears on deeds of 1814 and 1817, covering sales of land at Lee. Also in census records 1820 and later, at French Creek, and in family records kept by present-day descendants (1972).

NOTE 5: Foris (variously spelled Forris, Forest, Forace but shown as Foris in deed he signed in Oneida Co. in 1816) ~~[redacted]~~ probably was not with his father and his brothers when they came to Oneida County. At a date not known but possibly as early as 1789 or 1793 he was taken to Ohio by Joseph and Anna (Sherman) Devereaux, who were married 30 Nov 1788 at Lanesborough, Mass., and are said to have gone to Ohio soon after marriage. This may suggest that his mother Lavina may have died at or near Lanesborough (on the old Mohawk Trail, the usual route from central Mass. to eastern NY) as early as 1789 or 1790, when Foris would have been not more than two years old, and the young Devereaux couple may have relieved his father of the care of this very young child. Nothing is known of what became of his twin sister Caphira. . . . H W Belknap, who was not aware of the existence of Foris' father John Jr, named William Belknap, Foris' uncle, as his father. Others have repeated this error.

cyB 2/19/73

Follow 115-i

ELI BELKNAP
Son of John Belknap Jr and
Lavina Brock
b 16 Sept 1780, Wales, Mass.
d 15 Nov 1864, FrenchCreek, NY
m Before 1814

&

LYDIA -----

Dau of

b 1784 Conn.
d 25 May 1866 (?) French Creek NY

Chatanqua

Eli served briefly in 1812, War of 1812, from Oneida Co. In 1814 and 1817 he and wife Lydia sold land in Oneida Co., NY. In 1817 moved to French Creek, ~~Oneida~~ Co., NY., having bought land there from Willink & Co, of Amsterdam NY -- same company from which his brother Timothy bought land at Cambria, Niagara Co. NY. Appeared in various land transactions at French Creek. Commissioner of Schools, French Creek, 1830.

CHILDREN:

i *Joseph b 1820, French Creek

ii *Squire b 1823, French Creek

iii Edward b 1824, French Creek. Did not marry. Was ^{at} Greenville, Pa in 1870. d 1893.

iv *Andrew (Andy, Andee) b 1826 French Creek

*Bought land in Oneida Co. with Bro. Timothy 1806
✓ Timothy's 1/2 1808 - Sold in 1814 - \$180
✓ Land in O. Co ~~1810~~ 1810 for 301.50
Sold in 1817*

Follow 115-i after Eli

JOSEPH BELKNAP

Son of Eli Belknap and

Lydia-----.

b 1820, French Creek N Y

d after 16 June 1880, French Creek

m abt 1854

& SARAH -----

Dau of

b 1825

d after 16 June 1880, French Creek

Farmer at French Creek. On record in land transactions there.

CHILDREN:

i Elnora (Delnoria) b 1855
(twins)

ii Victoria b 1855

Follow 115-1 after Morris Lincoln

CLARENCE EDWARD BELKNAP (Sr)
Son of Morris Lincoln Belknap
and Jennie Groters
b 30 Sept 1895, Durkeyville, NY

&

PAULINE MARGUERITE RHOADES
Dau of

b 25 Aug 1900, French Creek, NY

CHILDREN:

i *Clarence Edward, Jr. b 31 ^{Aug} 1921, French Creek NY

(Only child known on 20 Feb 1973)

Follow 115-i after Joseph

SQUIRE BELKNAP

Son of Eli Belknap and
Lydia-----.

b. 1823, French Creek, NY

d. *Sept 27 Oct 1870*

m

& ALICE -----

(Possibly widow Jellis with daughter Elizabeth
Jellis b 1861)

*(probably grandson
of brother Andrew?)*

No children shown in census reports.

Heirs (from Orders of Administration 27 Oct 1870):

Alice (widow)

George - address unknown (not yet identified);

David - " " (grandson of a brother)

Joseph - French Creek

Andrew - " " } (brothers)

Edward - Greenville, Tenn.

Lavinia - of the west

Follow, 115-1 after Squire

ANDREW BELKNAP

&

SARAH ROUSE

Son of Eli Belknap and
Lydia -----

Dau of

b 1826, French Creek NY

b 7 July 1829, Corydon, Pa.

d 1904, Durkeyville NY

d 1 Dec 1902, French Creek NY

m abt 1852

and Durkeyville,

Farmer at French Creek, with his brother Edward. Various land transactions there.

CHILDREN:

i Lois A. b 1854

m. ——— Moore

ii Louisa D b 1857

m. ——— Manley

iii *Morris Lincoln b 11 June 1863, Durkeyville NY

Follow 115-i after Andrew

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| MORRIS LINCOLN BELKNAP (NOTE 1) | & | JENNIE GROTERS |
| Son of Edt Andrew Belknap | | Dau of |
| and Sarah Rouse | | |
| b 11 June 1863, Durkeyville NY | | b 15 June 1873, Clymer NY |
| d 5 March 1936 | | d 1965 |

CHILDREN:

i *Clarence Edward, , b 30 Sept 1895, Durkeyville NY

(Only child known to date, 20 Feb 1973)

NOTE 1: Court record, administration of estate, 6 July 1901, gives name as Morris. One grandson, 1970, spelled name "Maurice."

Follow 115-i after Clarence Edward Sr

CLARENCE EDWARD BELKNAP, JR.
Son of Clarence Edward Belknap, Sr.
and Pauline M. Rhoades
b 31 Aug 1921, French Creek NY

& JEANNE AGNES CARSON
Dau of
b 2 April 1919, Erie, Pa.

CHILDREN:

1 David b 14 June 1945 Erie Pa.

(Only child known, 20 Feb 1973)

Draft only

FORIS BELKNAP

Son of John Belknap Jr
and Lavina Brockb 12 Aug 1788, Holland, Mass.
d 29 April 1875, Columbus, Ohio
m 21 Feb 1813

& SARAH BATEMAN

Daughter of William Bateman & Rachel Teall
b 10 June 1793, Chenango Co. NY
d 23 Dec 1872, Alexandria, Ohio

Foris separated from his family while young, probably not long after the death of his mother in or about 1795. A young couple who had married in Lanesborough, Mass., Joseph and Anna (Sherman) Devereaux, took him to Washington County, Ohio. In 1911, his brother John deeded to him the farm land that their father had bought at Lee, Oneida Co., NY, in 1803. In 1916, Foris went to Oneida County to sell that property. His brothers Eli, Timothy and John settled in NY. Foris lived in Washington County and then in Licking County, Ohio.

CHILDREN:

- i *Lavina b 13 January 1814 d 7 June 1842 m ~~William~~ Queen
- ~~ii *William b 1 Feb 1819~~
- ii Infant b 4 Dec 1815 d 8 Dec 1815
- iii William ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ b 10 Dec 1816 d 20 June 1818
- iv *William Bateman 1 (2?) Feb 1819 d 11 June 1903 m Elizabeth Brumback
- v David B. b 5 March 1821 d 7 Oct 1826 ~~1830~~ William O
- vi *Lucretia D. b 8 Sept 1823 d 8 Nov 1895 m John Queen, 14 Dec 1841
- vii *Sarah Ann b 13 April 1825 d 26 (27?) April 1901 m Christopher Shoemaker
- viii Sophia b 28 July 1827 d 5 Oct Little Sandusky, Ohio
- ix *John Wesley (Wilson?) b 23 Oct 1829 d 28 Oct 1908 m Delilah Wickiser
- x *Joseph Devereaux b 26 June 1832 d 28 Oct 1908 m Hannah Bonham
- xi *Anna Devereaux b 4 Oct 1835 d 2 May 1910 m Wells Wickiser
- xii Eli b 7 Sept 1837 d 6 Sept 1891 unmarried

CORRECTION OF SOME MISIDENTIFICATIONS MADE BY H W BELKNAP

- ON: -- The Eli Belknap who married Clarissa (Clara) Lyman.
-- The Asa Belknap who married Abia Deverix
-- The John Belknap whose sons were Eli, Timothy, John, and Foris

The correction of these erroneous identifications is the result of years of research by John A Sherman beginning about 1934, and by him and C Y Belknap cooperatively 1968 to 1972. The findings rest entirely on primary sources-- wills, land deeds, court proceedings, and other original contemporary records.

These misidentifications are the most serious errors in H W Belknap's work, as they have led to the statement of incorrect lineage for some scores of Belknaps.

The root of the errors was that HWB had no record of the second John Belknap in the list of three Johns descended from Joseph Belknap and Prudence Morris:

- John (Sr), son of Joseph and Prudence, born Woodstock, Conn., 21 Sept 1725.
- John Jr, son of the above, born at Holland, Mass., 6 April 1748.
- John (III), son of John Jr, born at Holland 12 April 1784.

Lacking a record of the second John (John Jr), HWB assumed that the John Belknap who was reported to have married a "Lovina" was John (Sr) and that she was that elder John's second wife. He therefore assigned to John (Sr) three sons -- Eli, Timothy, and John (III) -- who were actually sons of John Jr and Lavina Brock (widow of John Hinds), as proved by the will of Lavina's father David Brock of Woodstock, Conn. This Lavina was the so-called "Lovina" that HWB thought had been second wife of John (Sr). (HWB also misassigned another son of John Jr and Lavina Brock: Foris, whom HWB listed as son of Foris's uncle William and Anna Burke.)

By 1895 and about 1913, HWB directed HWB's attention to this error. HWB acknowledged the error but did not alter his records, as he had ceased active work on Belknap genealogy in 1926. (After 1926, he merely filed new data without entering them in his systematic records.) So those who have relied on his notes have perpetuated his errors.

By the end of 1913, HWB had found the record of the marriage of an Eli Belknap and Clarissa (Clara) Lyman at Peru, Mass. (called Partridgefield at the time of that marriage in 1800). He assumed -- with no supporting evidence -- that this Eli was the Eli in his records of the family at Holland, Mass., and entered this marriage on his card for that Eli (whom he showed as son of John Sr, incorrectly).

On 24 Feb 1914, the Boston Transcript carried an inquiry signed H.L.C. (H. L. Conlee of New York City) asking for the parentage and date of marriage of a John Belknap and a Lydia, and for the date of marriage of their son Eli to Clarissa Lyman.

On 15 March 1914, in the Transcript, HWB replied: "John born Sept 21 1725 married second(?) perhaps Lovina -- (the correspondent says Lydia), and had Eli by second wife, born Sept 15, 1780, married Clara Lyman. Eli was born at Wales, Mass. and married at Peru, Mass., being then of Stevens Town, Mass."

(NOTE: The name of the town was an error for Stephen Town, New York. There was no town of that or similar name in Massachusetts.)

On 16 March 1914, the Transcript carried a lengthy communication from Conlee, beginning: "John Belknap of Rensselaer County (New York) married Lydia. They had several children, one of whom was Eli." Then followed names of descendants of that Eli and Clarissa Lyman.

HWB ignored Conlee's repetition of "Lydia" and entered the children of that Eli and Clarissa (named by Conlee) as children of the Eli whom he believed to be the son of John Belknap (Sr) and a second wife named "Lovina" (but who was actually son of John Jr and Lavina Brook).

Conlee stuck with "Lydia." But in correspondence with him, HWB did not alter his insistence that "Lydia" was really "Lovina."

There was no evidence to support this insistence. But HWB clung to it.

He was completely in error. Years of research by John A Sherman and recent cooperative research by him and C Y Belknap have established the following unquestionable facts:

- Court records of the intestate settlement of the estate of John Belknap (Sr) of Holland, Mass. show that he married only once -- had a son named John (who is shown as John Jr in various records at Holland) -- and did not have sons named Eli, Timothy, ~~James~~ and Foris.
- Other records make it plain that these sons and several daughters were children of John Jr and Lavina Brook.
- The Eli who married Clarissa Lyman could not possibly have been the Eli who was born at Wales, Mass. in 1780. Census records at Stephen Town NY show that Clarissa's husband Eli was born not later than 1774.
- That Eli (Clarissa's husband) moved from Oakham, Mass. about 1799 and in 1800 was settled at Stephen Town NY on land adjacent to the properties of his brother Asa and his father John.
- His father John was the oldest son of John Belknap and Ruth Farr of Westboro, Mass. He does not appear in Westboro VR, but HWB obtained acceptable evidence confirming his birth in 1740. He married Sarah Walker and lived in Oakham till 1799, then moved to Stephen Town NY with Sarah and their children.

The following facts have also been established:

- In 1803, while the Eli who married Clarissa Lyman was living at Stephen Town in Rensselaer County, John Belknap Jr of Holland, Mass. was in Oneida County NY with his sons Eli, Timothy, and John (III). His youngest son, Foris, had gone to Ohio with a young couple from Lanesborough, Joseph and Anna (Sherman) Devereaux -- probably not long after the death of his mother Lavina Brook, which occurred at some time before 25 Nov 1795 (the date of her father's will, indicating that she was dead by that date).
- In 1803, John Jr bought land at Lee, in the Town of Western, Oneida County NY. Three years later, his sons Eli and Timothy jointly bought land adjacent to the land that John Jr had bought in 1803. In 1808, Timothy who had moved to Smithfield in Madison County NY sold his half of that jointly owned land to Eli.
- Eli bought more land at Lee and remained there till 1817, when he moved to French Creek, Chatauqua County NY. Timothy moved to Cambria in Niagara County about 1822.

- During the entire period in which the Eli who married Clarissa Lyman was at Stephen Town in Rensselaer County, the Eli who was born at Wales, Mass. in 1780 was in different counties of New York.

In the process of correcting those misidentifications, a correction for a related error by HMB has been found:

- When HMB found the record of marriage of an Asa Belknap to Abia Deverix (of "Stephenton, Mass." according to his notes) he entered this marriage on his page for the Asa who was son of Daniel Belknap of Dummerston Vermont. But Abia Deverix was of Stephen Town, NY (there was no such town as "Stephenton, Mass.") and the Asa who married her was the brother of the Eli who married Clarissa Lyman and lived on the farm adjoining that Eli's at Stephen Town. (No record beyond birthdate has yet been found for the Asa born at Dummerston.)
- In this instance, HMB indicated by "(?)" on his notes that he was merely guessing in his identification of the Asa who married Abia Deverix. But many people have omitted that (?) when copying his notes.

In the Census records for Stephen Town, NY, there seems to be a probable explanation of the "Lydia" named by Conlee as wife of the John Belknap whose son married Clarissa Lyman.

- That John Belknap, of Oakham, Mass., married Sarah Walker at Brookfield, Mass. 15 Feb 1769. She was presumably with him when he moved to Stephen Town, being the female Over 45 shown in the 1820 Census of his household. In the 1810 Census, the oldest female in this household was shown as aged only 26-45. As there was no daughter of that age, this was probably the Lydia named by Conlee -- second wife of John, and not mother of Eli as Conlee believed. On this assumption, Sarah had died between 1800 and 1810, and the marriage to Lydia had taken place during that same period. The 1810 census indicates that this second wife was probably a widow with one small child.

C. Y. Belknap, 6 March 1973