

✓ Ebenezer (3) 1665; Samuel (4) 1703; Samuel (5) 1731;  
112 Samuel Belknap (5) mar. Mary Newton  
b. 1731 Windfield, Conn.  
d. 1775 Cambridge, Mass.  
r. Belchertown, Mass.

(6) Children

250 Mary 1754 mar. 1773 Rufus Kentfield  
251 Chloe 1757 mar. 1780. Levi Shumway  
\*252 Jonas 1759 -1824 mar. Tamar Vinton; rather Parker  
253 Susanna 1761-1781  
254 Joseph 1764  
255 Seth 1766  
\*256 Jonathan 1767 mar. Sabra Shedd  
\*257 Stephen 1770 mar. Mary

✓ Samuel Belknap #112 enlisted at Grandby, Mass 1775 for Rev. Service. He fought atunkerhill where he was badly wounded. He died the following day at Cambridge, Mass. while his son John was trying to get him home. He and his wife were members of the congregation Church at Belchertown in 1761. Julius of St Clair Mich. had his musket and family records. Ref; Belchertown Church rec. Nellie Belknap Sargants rec. Parker Family rec. Vinton family rec. Mich. T.R. Adm. Chas. R. rec;

Fifth Generation

1/ Ebenezer (3) 1665; Samuel (4) 1703; Ebenezer 1735;  
113 Ebenezer Belknap (5) mar. Susannah  
b. 1734 Enfield, Conn.

(6) Children

258 Ebenezer 1760  
note; It is possible that Ebenezer #258 may be the same individual as #200 on page 22. Ref; N.W.R. red.

\*\*\*\*\*

✓ Ebenezer (3) 1665; Samuel (4) 1703; Able (5) 1736;  
114 Able Belknap (5) mar. 1st Elizabeth Stevens  
d. 1818 Clarkeville N.Y. 2nd Anna Gray Belknap  
r. Stillwater, N.Y.  
otesozo col N.Y.

(6) Children

259 Elizabeth 1771-1850 mar. W. Paul  
260 Abigail 1773-1849 mar. W. Weed  
261 Sarah 1777 mar. William Rice  
262 Mary 1780 mar. Forder Rice  
\*263 Ebenezer 1782-1872 mar. Henrietta Rice  
264 Anna 1787-1787  
265 Catherine 1789-1796  
\*266 Eurastus 1793-1868 mar. Fanna Jackson  
267 David Able 1775-1845 mar. Electa Carey; Betsey Norman  
\*268 David 1791-1852

Able Belknap #114 served with N.Y. troops in the Rev. He was a close friend of Gov. Clinton who used Able's house as his headquarters before the British destroyed it. On the following page is some of the history of

21-8 Ella K. 1858-  
 Florence A. 1861-  
 21-8 Willard W. 1863-  
 21-9 Edgar L. 1865-  
 21-9 George O. 1867-

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

-101-

Samuel (5) 1751; Stephen (6) 1770; Pilgrim (7) 1794;  
 Pilgrim Belknap (7) mar. Ann Colvin  
 b. 1794 May 18 N.Y. b. 1779 N.Y.  
 d. 1869 Feb 23 d. 18 Mar, 1881  
 at Conquest, N.Y. at Conquest, N.Y.  
 bur. Spring Lake, N.Y.  
 Cayuga County

(8) children

1072 Mary L.	1821-	mar. Isaac Beebe
21-2 1073 Franklin	1823-1865	d. Nashville, Tenn. Civil war.
21-2 1074 Edward O.	1825-	mar. Evelyn Butler
21-2 1075 Lyman	1826-	mar. Elisabeth Dodge
1076 Cordelia	1828-	mar. Mr. Dodge
1078 Anna	1832-	mar. Mr. Goodnote
1078 Alasmena	1833-	mar. Mr. Goodel (Norman) b. 21 Oct 1833
21-2 1079 Levi	1837-	mar. Adelia r. Conquest, N.Y. d. 3 Oct 1891
1080 Jane	1839-	mar. Mr. Brayton
1081 Matilda	1843-	mar. Mr. Thompson

U.S. census 1850 Cayuga Co. N.Y.; Mina Beebe's Rec. Auburn, N.Y.  
 C.S. Spring Lake Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Samuel (5) 1751; Stephen (6) 1770; Hyrum 1779  
 Hyrum Belknap (7) mar.-----  
 b. 1799  
 d. 1873 r. St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.  
 (8) children

21-1 1082 Charles Hiram	1839	b. St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.
1083 George		r. Madison, S. Dakota
1084 Lebe		
1085 Riley		
1086 Edward		r. Auburn Iowa.
1087 Cora	mar. Mr. Plowman.	r. Oldham, S. Dakota

; Franklin R. Rec.

\*\*\*\*\*

-102-

Seventh Generation

Samuel (5) 1751; Stephen (6) 1770; Stephen (7) 1804  
 Stephen Belknap (7) mar.---  
 b. 1804 Canada.  
 r. Mich 1843.

(8) children

1088 Stephen	1843-	mar. Rosina Munson
1089 Edward M.	1845-	mar. Elisabeth Wooper. r. Corvallis, Ore.
1090 Thomas Lee	1847-	mar. Phoebe Crawford. r. Oscoda, Mich
1091 Joseph H.	1854-	mar. Mary Collins. r. Omar, Mich.
1092 Willard	1860-	



21 April 1976

Congratulations and thanks for your success in finding Mary in household ~~of~~ Uriah De ~~CONQUEST~~ in 1950 -- but not in that hh in 1840. This is a big first step in the search for proof that she was wife of Stephen.

Of course we must warn ourselves that it is not final evidence. It tells us that the Mary Belknap who was buried in 1858 had a daughter named Lavina, born abt 1803 or 1804, and was living with that daughter in 1850, when Mary was 80. This is all it tells us -- but it also suggests the path to follow in the continuing search.

So it's worthwhile, now, to restate the objective of that search as defined in the hypothesis I advanced a while ago. The objective is to prove that Stephen and his family were in northern Cayuga county in or about 1810.

Ideally, the proof would be documentary evidence on Stephen himself, such as mention in 1810 census or a land deed for a purchase at about that time.

Lacking such evidence, we may be able to accept as reasonable proof the presence of members of his family in that area in that period or seen afterward.

So, in answering your question about what to do next, I'm going to turn to the second of these two alternatives. And I'm going to modify rather sharply the "second stage" that I mapped out in my preceding memo to you. For clarity, I'll state my suggestions first -- before trying to show the reasons for them. . . I hope they don't appall you.

- (2) Search the 1820 census for the towns in the area, looking for all of the following entries:
  - (a)
  - (a) hh headed by Mary Belknap, aged 50
  - (b) hhs ~~known~~ elder woman who was in right age group to have been Mary
  - (c) ~~hhs known~~ as husbands of Minerva and/or Mary Ann (Polly)
  - (d) hh headed by Justin Eastman, father of the wife of Hiram
- (1) Re-examine census 1850, looking for hhs in which the name of the wife is Minerva or Mary Ann (Polly) or just Mary or Ann, as wife of John DeGreff at Conquest 1850 -- thus identifying husbands of these daughters of Stephen, in hope of tracing them in a much earlier year as in 2-c below.
- (3) If (2) produces no results, repeat it for 1830 census.
- (4) If 2-c produces results, search 1810 census for these hhs.

Of course it's possible that 2-a alone might give us all the evidence we need. But to avoid going through the same census pages again and again, I've suggested simultaneous search ~~and~~ all the things we may hope to find in the 1820 census.

The reason why I have some hope that 2-a may be productive is the information about Lavina, in the 1850 census: born about 1803 or 1804; married about 1828 or 1829, probably. To my mind (in the light of analogous cases in my records) this suggests that between about 1810 and 1830 Mary was supporting her children and thus should appear as head of household in 1820. . . . In 1810 and 1820, the ages of her children were

as follows;

	<u>1810</u>	<u>1820</u>	<u>1830</u>
MARY	40	50	60
Pilgrim	16	26	36 -- married
Minerva & Polly	11-19	21-29 -- married?	
Hiram	2	12	22 not yet married
Lavina	6 or 7	16 or 17	26 or 27 -- married

(If the 1800 census Galway was correct there may have been another son born before 1800 -- but as we have no sure mention of him it seems possible that he died young. So, for the moment, I'm ignoring him. Nevertheless, keep an eye out for him in the Cayuga county census.)

In 1810, if that was about the time when Stephen eloped with Eleanor Middaugh, Mary was left with at least three and possibly four or five children too young to support themselves -- and no married child likely to be well-enough established to provide a home for Mary and her young children (though either Minerva or Polly (Mary Ann) might have been married very recently.) In this situation, the likeliest outcome would be that Mary -- like other women in similar cases in central NY in that period -- would turn to such occupations as weaving, laundry work, dressmaking, and tailoring (men's clothing), in order to support her family and would continue working till her youngest daughter married and an older child was well enough established to provide a home for her. Thus, between 1810 and 1830 we might well hope to find her as head of a household -- though the shortcomings and omissions in censuses of NY in these years were notorious. So, hopefully, I suggest taking a careful look at 1820.

I think there is good reason for hoping that this further exploration may turn up enough dependable data to enable us to say that Mary was obviously wife of the Stephen who was at Galway and eventually in Canada.

Lots of work? Yes, certainly. But I think you'll agree that this drudgery is worth doing -- though it may take a long time to do it. In what moments you can spare for it, this Spring and Summer, you may bring to a triumphant conclusion a problem that has baffled every honest searcher for three-fourths of a century.

\*\*\*\*\*

Postscript: Is it necessary for me to warn that your find -- Mary in household of Uriah DeGroff -- doesn't validate Evans's list of her children, which rests on unknown sources -- or on guesswork?

QUERY: Did Uriah DeGroff household 1850 show birthplace of Lavina?



ECB from CYB

20 April 1976

A hurried note to tell you that new evidence seems to justify removing from your sheet of corrections the section on Mary as supposed wife of Stephen.

Following a line of search that I suggested some weeks ago, LaPiana has found that in 1850, in Cats NY, the household of Uriah DeGreff -- whose wife was named Lavina -- included a Mary Belknap aged 80.

The obvious assumption is that the Lavina was daughter of this Mary.

Next steps will be to try to trace the Mary back through earlier years. This far, all that is known is that she was not shown in Uriah's household in 1840."

The evidence for 1850 does not prove that this Mary was wife of Stephen. But it supports the possible belief that she may have been his wife. To this extent, it justifies letting her stand -- with or without a questionmark -- whichever you prefer -- in your book.

I hope it is not too late to make this deletion in your sheet of corrections.

313 Cooper Lane  
Dewitt, New York 13214  
24 April 1976

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

Dear Carroll:

Your letter of the 21st of April arrived just in time to send me down to the library for a full day of long searching. Naturally, I was pleased to learn that you think we are headed in the right direction. Not as good a report to make this time, I am afraid.

Please refer back to my last letter wherein I sent you data on one John DeGroff, from the 1850 Census at Conquest, Cayuga, Co., N.Y. His wife is listed as "Ann"- and he appears to fill requirements outlined in Plan one of your current letter. What do you think?

I spent most of the day reading the entire Cayuga Co. Census for 1820 and made a couple of finds. Nothing as GREAT as last week. There was no Mary Belknap as head of a household, unless I missed her. I will want to re-read the whole thing again before I write it off as a "done" item. Have read so many so far that the names I am searching almost jump out of the pages when they do appear.

1820 Federal Census, Cayuga County, New York

p. 31, Town of Brutus ?

Hiram C. (?) BELKNAP

Male head of household,  
living alone, 18-26 and  
engaged in manufacturing.

(Jane Bowman may already have this entry, I will have to go back through her letters. If not, it is certain to be a "find" for her. Suprised to find such a young man on his own. There was merely one mark, under 16-26; he would have been entered twice, under 16-18 and 16-26 if he was less than 18- right? What does this do to his birthdate? I am not sure of the middle initial, that is why I have the question mark after it.)

1820 p. 90, Town of Aurelius: ?

John DeGroff 31---1 11-1--2--

(If I read this correctly there are three males under 10, one 10-16, and one over 45; famales, one under 10, one 10-16 and one under 45. Family engaged in agriculture.)

Paygion  
(Bew. rec.)

Ann? ?

and  
no other  
7 th

to 1794  
to 1802

to 1799  
was 21  
in 1820

24 April 1976

Having read census records for almost three hours, I could not face either 1810 or all of 1830, so I gave me eyes a bit of a rest and went into the Cayuga Co. Cemetery Records. We have ten volumes of them- well done by two DAR women a few years ago.

Volume 3, Meridian Cemetery, p. 5:

DeGroff, Uriah d. 27 May 1883 ae 84-7-16  
 Fanny (wife) d. 13 May 1842 ae 30-3-19  
 Lovina (wife) d. 10 Aug 1873 ae 70-9-  
 Horatio d. 25 Sep 1837, ae 4-6-2  
 Catherine d. 4 May 1850. ae 21-7-24  
 George N. 1840-1920  
 Julia, his wife 1844-1912

(Horatio and Catherine were not in the 1850 Census as they had died before it was taken. George N. is listed as 10 in 1850 census so he was b. 1840- as gravestone states).

From this record it also appears that Lavina was the second wife of Uriah and I question if this union resulted in any children. Since Fanny d. 1842 and the 1850 census shows no children under 8, there definately (well, apparently is a better word) were none to this date, I can check the 1855 State and 1860 Federal Census records on this point. Mary Belknap should be someplace in the 1855 Census since she did not d. until 1858.

Volume 3, Conquest, N.Y. Cemetery, p. 6:

DeGroff, John d. 15 Jul 1851 ae 52-4-28  
 his dau. Jane d. 7 Aug 1847 ae 13-2-2

(Could this be John of the 1850 Census at the same place? Ages are almost right. Jane did not appear in the 1850 census and seems to fill the "gap" between John, Jr. and Harriet. Wife could then have remarried and been bur. elsewhere. Thoughts????)

Volume 4, Ira Cemetery, p. 1 (Formerly called Cato-meridian or Dutton Cemetery; see N.Y. Hist. Gen. vol. 80, p. 10 and 75)

Belknap, Mary d. 8 Oct 1858, ae 87y 11 mo

These are ALL of the apparently related Belknaps and DeGroff's in the Cemetery Records.

2 1798  
 b. 1802  
 m abt 1841  
 ae 40  
 1873-8-10  
 70-9  
 1802-8  
 11

2 1799  
 Ann's  
 age in 1850

2 1770

24 April 1976

where?

One other minor interest point. As I checked Abstracts of Cayuga County Wills, I noted a male Middaugh as a witness to a will in 1801. Recall there were none in the 1800 Census of Cayuga Co. Must reread the 1810 census for this person too. Could be an important clue.

+ Intestate

My plans are now, as follows:

1. Carefully read the 1810 and 1830 Cayuga Co. Census looking for Middaugh, DeGroff and Belknap's of known interest, Justin Eastman and any woman who could be Mary Belknap.
2. Attempt to find a copy of Lavina's death certificate-sometimes luck out with deaths this recent. Wouldn't that piece of paper with both of her parents named be something to locate???
3. Get into Cayuga County land records to see if I can locate anything indicating the Stephen-Mary link. (This will mean a trip to Auburn, and will have to wait for a bit-until I can get a day(weekday) off!)

I have  
up to '83

Once again, I would appreciate your comments of today's finds and on the outline that I propose to follow. It is most encouraging to have your comments and I will keep at this, as I promised sometime ago.

Most sincerely,

*John C. LaPiana*

John C. LaPiana

cc: Mrs. Ezra A. Bowman



313 Cooper Lane  
Dewitt, New York 13214  
1 May 1976

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

Dear Carroll:

After about eight more hours reading Census records,  
I think that it is time for yet another report.

1855 N.Y. State Census, Cato, Cayuga County

86/86	Uriah DeGroff	56	b. Saratoga Co.	Resident	30	years
	Lovina	54	"	"	"	"
	Everet	18	b. Cayuga Co.	"	18	"
	Charles	16	"	"	16	"
	George	14	"	"	14	"
	Mary Belknap	84	b. Massachusetts	"	12	"

May also note that Mary was noted under "Relationship to Head of Household" as "mother", which we know not to be the case. She was also noted as a widow.

I have also figured out why Mary was not in the DeGroff household in the 1830 or 1840 Census. Uriah's first wife did not die until 1842. This also explains why Mary was at Cato 12 years- from 1843-1855. She moved in about the time that her daughter, Lovina, married Uriah. It does not appear that Uriah and Lovina had any children

My problem now, is locating Mary before 1843. She was NOT in Pilgrim's household in either 1830 or 1840. Unless I missed her, and that is always possible, she was NOT listed as hhd in either of those years either.

Now, I suppose it is possible that Lovina was married before she married Uriah. Note she claims to have been in Cato for 30 years. Interesting too is the fact that both Uriah and Lovina were born in Saratoga County, NY- Pilgrim lists his birth as Saratoga County in this same (1855) NYCensus.

We will be out of town, for a wedding, next weekend- so I will not get to do any searching. Hope to get into Land Records of Cayuga County sometime soon though. In the mean time, any suggestions will be appreciated.

Most sincerely,

John C. LaPiana

cc: Jane Bowman

27 Jan 1975

*cdh.*  
*cdh* I'm glad to be able to say that I've found an error in my memo to you 30 Oct. 1974. In the bottom paragraph on p.1, I said that Evans got "Mary" as name of Stephen's wife from the records of ~~Charles~~ Charles Belknap page 5. I now find that I misread the ~~admiral's~~ statements on that page. Neither on that page nor anywhere else in the 600 pages of his records did he mention this "Mary."

This finding is helpful. It eliminates one element in the problem. So we can confine our search to the records left by the only man who put that "Mary" on paper -- Evans.

*Ad* We need to concentrate attention on the possible sources from which Evans may have got this "Mary." They are indicated only in his final 1950 compilation. In his last preceding compilation (issued in 1947 or 1948) he had nothing on Stephen except the correct birth year 1769 and the words "born in Canada" with no indication of the source of this notation.

His 1950 compilation names three sources of information about Stephen: (1) Charles DeGroff; (2) Mina Beebe; (3) John Harrison Belknap. The last of these three was a great grandson of Stephen and Eleanor Middaugh, who didn't know the name of Stephen's Canadian wife and could not have named "Mary." Of the first two possible sources, I think now that DeGroff is the one to demand first attention.

But before going farther, I should emphasize that all our information about the children of Stephen of Belshertown and Stephen of Galway comes from the one least reliable source: statements by descendants. Unlike a real genealogist, who demands documentation, an amateur compiler like me must use the information supplied by descendants -- except when its probable inaccuracy forces him to dig for confirmation. But he uses it with his fingers crossed, knowing that the number of conflicts in data is directly proportional to the number of descendants supplying alleged information. The more descendants, the more confusions. So we must be skeptical about the statements we are considering. They do not constitute proof. ?

I have two statements of the names of the children of Stephen of Galway:

(1) Clyde Belknap, 1924, letter to H W Belknap, named the following children: "Pilgrim, Mary Ann, Polly, Minerva, Hiram," giving a birthdate only for Hiram. I have assumed that "Polly" is surely the pet-name for Mary, so that Clyde was actually naming four children, not five -- which would match the 1800 Census figures of 2 boys and 2 girls under 10, if Hiram was born before 1800 instead of in 1808 as Clyde said.

(2) Evans' section said to be based on information from George De Groff: I'll copy it here, in full:

257 Stephen Belknap (6)	mar.	Mary.	
b. 1770 Canada <b>B</b>		b. 1770 d. 1858	bur. Cato Cem, Meridian <b>F</b>
d.			at Cayuga Co., N.Y.
r. St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. <b>C</b>			

## (7) CHILDREN

553 Cleracy <b>E</b>	1791		
554 Pilgrim	1794-1869	Mar. Anne Colvin	
555 Polly	1797		
556 Hiram	1799 <b>D</b>	mar.	b. St. Lawrence Co., N.Y. <b>C</b>
557 Lavina	1802	mar. Mr. De Groff	r. Meridian, N. Y.
558 Stephen <b>A</b>	1804	mar.	

From George De Groff's records of Meridian, Cayuga Co., N.Y.

**F** Burial lot in Cato Cemetery, Meridian, " " "



The fact that this table by Evans names three children who were named by Clyde Belknap is enough to indicate that it should be considered seriously. But it is full of confusions, which I'd better deal with -- at points marked A, B etc., in red.

- A -- The posthumous son of Stephen and Eleanor Middaugh, born in Hamilton, Ont., in 1815, not 1804. Evans got this name and date from John Harrison Belknap, who gave no name for the mother and gave wrong date 1804. This line in the table did not come from DeGroff -- indeed, couldn't have come from him. Evans just added it to whatever he got from DeGroff.
- B -- This is apparently the first statement of <sup>1770</sup>~~1779~~ birth year for Stephen, by Evans. His "Canada" for birthplace is obviously just a careless error, for he knew better. Evans used <sup>1770</sup>~~1779~~ in all subsequent mentions of Stephen in his 1950 compilation. Did he get it from DeGroff? Maybe. No one else has ever used it.
- C -- St Lawrence County. Confusing, but perhaps I can untangle it. . . From Franklin Belknap's notes on information from J W Belknap, Evans got that county as residence of Hiram. Now in this table, Evans translates that correct statement into birthplace of Hiram and residence of Stephen. Queer -- but Evans did things like that.
- D -- 1799 birthdate for Hiram, differing widely from 1808 date given by Clyde and by other descendants of Hiram. May be correct, but hardly likely to have been given by DeGroff. May have been invented by Evans. From my contact with many hundreds of pages of Evans' material, I've learned that his birthdates were often originated by him alone, apparently as outcome of his method of identifying persons by name plus year of birth. Having adopted this method, he was forced to state a year of birth even when there was no record of one. Often (as in the case of Stephen's grandfather Samuel, to cite typical instances) he estimated an approximate birthyear and then stated it as a fact instead of saying "about 1703" as is normally done. So I should warn you to be wary of accepting birthyears stated by Evans unless they are supported by real evidence. . . His dates for Pilgrim seem to come from information obtained from Mina Beebe, and may be correct. His 1802 birthyear for Lavina may have come from DeGroff.
- E -- Cleracy. A common corruption of Clarissa, in those years. She may have been the Minerva named by Clyde? Might have been christened "Minerva Clarissa" or "Clarissa Minerva"? Such cases of varying use of first or second name were frequent.
- F -- Burial of Mary. . . Here, I think, the question to consider is whether Evans got "Mary" from De Groff or not. . . In your letter to Mrs Bowman, 25 Oct, you quoted from Gayuga County Cemetery Inscriptions: Cato-Meridian Cemetery, Mary Belknap, d. 8 Oct 1858, ae 87-11-0. . . Evans called it "Cato Cemetery, Meridian at Gayuga Co." This garbled phrasing is just the sort of alteration that Evans would be likely to produce when copying a record. So I think that he was getting his information from that publication, dated 1932. It's not the sort of information that a descendant is likely to supply -- not usually, anyway. . . So, two possibilities, (1) DeGroff said Lavina's mother was named Mary, and Evans matched it with the cemetery record for the same locality. Or (2) DeGroff did not say "Mary" but Evans on his own initiative decided that the Mary Belknap buried in that locality was Lavina's mother. . . In either case, no firm proof. But even if Evans was only guessing, it might have been an accurate guess.



I hope all those detailed annotations haven't made you feel that the DeGroff lead is not worth following up. I've merely been trying to help you avoid being distracted by the questionable parts of what Evans said. And I think it imperative to search for whatever now remains of the records of that George De Groff -- in the hope that they will yield proof of the name of the mother of Pilgrim, etc.

So I trust you are <sup>continuing</sup> ~~wanting~~ to hunt for a living DeGroff who has those records, about 25 years later.

Meanwhile, it may be worthwhile to suggest other things that might be tackled.

In what Evans said, there is one sure fact -- that a Mary Belknap was buried in 1858. Starting with that fact, you could search for evidence showing who she was.

Cayuga County Land Deeds: If she was wife of some other Belknap, not Stephen, her name might appear on some deed as wife of grantor. (I have record of all Belknap deeds in that county through 1834. Might be worth looking at deeds in 1835 to 1858?) But look at full deeds, not mere abstracts.

Surrogate Court, Cayuga County: Does name of Mary appear on any Belknap will or intestate proceedings, in years before 1858? (Not just as testator but also as legatee)

This sort of search might yield negative evidence -- proof that she was not wife of Stephen. Even so, essential.

Also, something I don't know how to do -- search for a record of divorce. Maybe Stephen's Galway wife, whoever she was, divorced him when he left for Canada, on whatever grounds were then legal in New York. Divorce in those days was extremely rare, but it sometimes did occur. Your historical society could tell you where to find such records. You might start with Cayuga County, on ~~assumption~~ <sup>guess</sup> that by about 1810 Stephen's wife moved to Cayuga County with her children and got her divorce there. (Fact: Pilgrim, about 18 yrs old, enlisted in Cayuga County 1812 -- indicating possibility his family home was then in that County.)

*Penell*

PS: I should add one more bit of information, to keep you from being confused by any other Belknaps you run into in studying Cayuga county records. Near neighbors were ~~Stephen's~~ Stephen's brother Jonathan and his wife Sabra Shedd, in northern Oswego County. They and some of their children sometimes appear in land transactions in Cayuga County, and some of their grandchildren were born in that county.

ADDENDUM 28 Jan 1974

Reading what I wrote yesterday, I note some points I didn't mention.

(1) In searching records for Belknaps, it's necessary to look for the many variant spellings used by those who wrote or copied the name, such as:

BE	Belknap	Bellknap	Belleknap
BI	Bilknap	Billknap	
No K	Belnap	Bellnap	Bilnap Billnap

(2) In tracing the movement of Stephen, it might be helpful to learn where he may have met Eleanor Middaugh. I note that you did not find Middaugh in 1810 census of the counties you searched. Suggest you look at index for 1800 census. . . The name Middaugh is one I know little about, except that there were members of this family in Illinois in 1870, which suggests that the family moved west through New York. Again, watch for possible variant spellings, such as ME for MI -- one D instead of two -- possibly Meadow, etc.

(3) As in most cases in N Y in the period 1790-1830, we have no actual record of the marriage to Eleanor Middaugh. The statement that she was Stephen's wife in Canada rests on statements made by the posthumous son Stephen, born 1815 and presumably raised (along with his sister Susan who married Stephen Fox in Canada) by his mother. The assumption that a mother was also wife of the father is one that has to be made in most instances in that period in NY. But of course there's also the possibility that Stephen just ran off with Eleanor.

(4) In searching NY records for that period, the absence of a record does not prove anything. Many deeds were never recorded, as there was ~~not~~ no legal requirement of recording -- and still isn't. Numbers of persons known to be in NY in census years were not noted by census takers -- such as Belknaps in Oneida Co in 1800 and 1810. Some known wills and intestate proceedings have vanished from the court records, just as in early Massachusetts. . . For genealogy, the years before and after 1800 are just about the most difficult ones in up-state N Y.

possible

(5) For the record -- not for immediate action -- I should mention one other way of finding the records Evans got from De Groff and Mina Beebe. After Evans died, his widow (it is said) deposited with Michigan State Library, Lansing, two boxes containing his "notes" -- which may be his correspondence, etc. A day or two at Lansing might dig up the source material on Stephen.

This is something new which  
I just discovered. I offer  
this to go along with the  
theory I expounded in a  
previous letter that  
Orsamus Turner knew  
that it was Jonas  
Belknap who was at  
Pittstown in 1796 and  
in fact referred to Jonas,  
not Elisha in that  
famous quote from his  
history of the Phelps and  
Gorham Purchase. This  
book on the Holland  
Purchase was published  
by M Turner prior to  
the Phelps & Gorham book.

G.M.



from History of Ontario Co.  
New York

edited by George S. Conover  
compiled by Lewis Cass  
Aldrich

Syracuse N.Y. 1893

---

Here is copy of pages  
of Conover's book on  
town meeting in 1796  
at Richmond that  
I told you I would  
send.

*Pioneer History of the Holland Purchase  
of Western New York  
by Orsamus Turner  
Buffalo, N. Y. 1849.*

Pittstown, originally, afterwards Honeoye, now Richmond, dates its first settlement at the early period of 1789. The township and a part of Bristol were purchased of Phelps and Gorham, by a company of individuals of Dighton Massachusetts; thence they were called the "Dighton Company." The land was divided among the proprietors by lottery; Capt. Peter Pitts drew his share, three thousand acres, and was so fortunate as to get the Honeoye flats, embracing the site of an old Indian town that Sullivan had destroyed, large patches of cultivated ground, and some apple trees. Gideon Pitts, the eldest son of Capt. Pitts, came out to view lands about the period of Phelps and Gorham's purchase of the Indians, saw the lands about the Honeoye lake, and informed the Dighton company, of their desirable character.

"In 1789, Gideon and William Pitts went upon their father's land, carrying their goods in on an ox sled. Their first shelter was made of their sled box; afterwards they erected a cabin and for two years lived alone, putting in crops upon the old Indian grounds."

Capt. Pitts and the remainder of the family came in 1791, living, for nearly four years, alone, Capt. Tafft, of Bloomfield, being nearest neighbor, north, the Wadsworths, nearest west, James Goodwin, in Bristol, nearest east, and a few settlers at the head of Canandaigua lake, nearest south. There came into Pittstown, in 1794, Dr. Lemuel Chipman, Dr. Cyrus Chipman, Philip Reed, Roswell Turner, (himself, bringing in his family next year,) Edward Hazen. In '95, Jonas Belknap and Elijah Parker. In '96 and '7, settlers came in rapidly.

Aaron Hunt, Col. Green, James Garlinghouse, Jacob Holden, Nicholas Burby, settled at Hunt's Hollow, (head of Honeoye lake,) in '94. Solomon Woodruff was in Livonia as early as '93; Philip Short, at the foot of Hemlock lake, in '95.

Peter Allen went into Pittstown in '96; in '7, his brother, Nathaniel, who had worked as a journeyman blacksmith, in Canandaigua, followed him, and erected the first blacksmith's shop in the town, getting together a few tools, and supplying himself with iron, by bringing it from Canandaigua, on horseback.\*

\* This early blacksmith was well known upon the Niagara frontier, in the war of 1812, as army contractor and paymaster; afterwards, as sheriff of Ontario county, and representative in Congress, from that district. In the latter years of his life, he was a contractor upon a work of the general government, upon the Erie and Oswego canals.



Coddington, father and son; and Calvin Jacobs and John Smith. Captain Pitts became the possessor of 3,000 acres of land near the foot of Honey Lake, upon which the first improvement was made in 1790 by Gideon and William Pitts. In December of the same year Captain Pitts and John Coddington and their families became permanent settlers of the town, occupying during the following winter the log house built by Captain Pitts's sons, Gideon and William. Later on this primitive structure was replaced with a substantial framed dwelling, supposed by many to have been the famed "Long House," in which the redoubtable pioneer entertained those distinguished traitors Louis Philippe and Duke de Liancourt, their host and entertainer being Capt. Peter Pitts.

Referring further to the pioneer and early settlers of this town, there may be recalled the names of others equally worthy of mention. In this connection there may be recalled Ellisha Pratt, who lived with Captain Pitts; Eber Sibley, Edward Hazen, Edward Taylor, Silas Whitney, John Pennell, Ebenezer Farrer, Jonathan Rhodes, the date of whose settlement is not accurately preserved. In the center of the town the early residents were Noah Ashley, Joseph and Elias Gilbert, David, William, Sanford and Heman Crooks, Philip Reed and his sons John P., Silas, Wheeler, William and Philip; Whiting Marsh, John and Eleazer Freney, Deacon Harmon, Isaac Bishop, Rhoderick Steele, Cyrus Wells, Isaac and Alden Adams, Daniel H. Goodsell, Orsamus Riden, and possibly others. In the northeast part of the town the early settlers were Lemuel and Cyrus Chipman, Asa Dennison and Levi Blackmer; David Aiken, Thomas Wilson, Mr. Bentley, Wm. Baker, Aaron and John Abbey, Seth Tubbs, David Crawford, Moses, Peter and Nathaniel Allen, James Garlinghouse, Joseph Garlinghouse, Cyrus Wells, Sylvester Curtis, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Jenkins, Hugh Gregg, George Fox, Abram Wiley, Gideon Gates, David Pierpont, Caldwell. Other settlers in the town were Joshua Phillips, Nathan Hicks, Elijah Wheeler, Pierce Chamberlain, Asa Dennison, Levi Blackmer, Roswell Turner, Calvin Ward, Philip Reed, Colonel Lyman Hawes, Geo. McClure, Amos and John Dixon, Oliver Lyon, Wm. Warner, Parley Brown, Parley Drury, Luther Stanley, Mr. Eriebe, James McCrossen, Rufus Bullock, Caleb and Thomas Briggs, James Green, Stephen Frost, Gates Pemberton, Caleb Smith, Nelson Skinner, John Norton, James Parker, Abijah Wright,

Wm. Arnold, Amos Jones, Jesse Stephens, A. S. Bushnell, Philip Short, Walter Stephens, Caleb Arnold, Abel Short, Artemas Briggs, John Beecher and Gilbert Kinyon.

The early settlers of that part of the town which extends south to the county line were Hugh Hamilton, George Gordon, William Layne, David Knapp, John Parker, Edmund Downs, Wm. Judevine, Job Wood, Jacob Flanders, Colonel John Green, the Skinner family, the Vinals, James Moore, Daniel Smith, Aaron J. Hunt, Andrew Bray, Jacob Bowers.

The persons above mentioned, many of whom were heads of families, were the pioneers and early settlers of Richmond, but in naming them no effort has been made to fix date of settlement, place of residence in the town, or to recall any events in connection with their family life, or services in the town. However, in another department of this work will be found detailed mention of many of these pioneers and their descendants, many of whom have largely contributed to the prosperity of the town. From the number of names mentioned it will be seen that the early settlement of the town was quite rapid, although prior to 1800 the inhabitants were few and scattered. However, in 1796 it was deemed advisable to complete the town organization, and a meeting therefor was held on April 5, at which time these officers were chosen: Supervisor, Lemuel Chipman; town clerk, Gideon Pitts; assessors, Philip Reed, Wm. Pitts, Solomon Woodruff; constable and collector, Jonas Bellknap; commissioners of highways, Solomon Woodruff, Gideon Pitts, Elijah Parker; fence viewers, Stiles Parker; Roswell Turner; poundmaster, Edward Hazen; pathmasters, Peter Pitts, Cyrus Chipman, Solomon Woodruff, Aaron Hunt, Roswell Turner; overseers of the poor, Peter Pitts, Philip Reed; commissioners of schools, Philip Reed, Cyrus Chipman, Jonas Bellknap.

In this connection we furnish the names of the supervisors of Richmond who have from time to time represented the town in the county legislature as follows: Lemuel Chipman, 1786-1800, 1806, 1814, 1821; Philip Reed, 1801-4; Gideon Pitts, 1805, 1807-1809, 1818-20; Noah Ashley, 1810, 1813, 1815; James Herendern, 1811; Peter Allen, 1812; Noah Ashley, 1812, to fill vacancy; Amos Mead, 1816-17; Isacher Frost, 1822-23, 1828; Nathaniel Allen, 1824, 1826; John Dixon,



Dec 18 1970

Dear George:

A Merry Christmas to you, too.

Yes. I agree that Mary Newton's brother Asa might be the first husband of Tamar Vinton.

But haven't found any verification -- and am not even sure that we have traced this Asa Newton's record after his birth.

GEORGE S. MAY  
P. O. BOX 2  
FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA

NOV 19 1969

Mr Belknap:

Received your letter on Jonas Belknap and the Garlinghouses. This is very interesting to me. The extent of your data, as well as the assurance of your presentation has grown in recent times. I cannot offer you any major additions but will pass along a few minor details.

My Newton correspondent wrote me again and gave a more lucid explanation of the ancestry of the Asa Newton who died at Livonia. I am sure this must be the brother of Mary (Newton) Belknap. Also when Orin Belknap (the one who was son of Jonas Jr) took out his donation land claim in Oregon, there were two Newtons who signed the affidavit for him - Abitha and Noris P.

It would seem logical that the Asa Newton listed in the 1790 census of Granby, Mass was the one who married Tamar Vinton. This was her parents home at this time. But census count of 1 - 2 - 2 would appear to rule this out - or does it? Was Tamar his first or second wife?

It might interest you to know that the Samuel Parker mentioned on page 57 of Walbridges book (I have a copy of this now) probably is the Samuel Parker who married Philotheta Howe, a niece of Elijah, Stiles, Esther etc. Samuel lived (and died about 1844) in Louisville, Kentucky. As you mentioned the name of Gilbert in connection with the Belknaps, I thought you might be interested in the fact that two daughters of Samuel and Philotheta, Mary, supposed to be the eldest, and Philotheta, the next eldest, she b. April 7, 1798, married respectively Squire Whitney Gilbert and Samuel Gilbert. Samuel and Philotheta (Howe) Parker were married at Canajoharie, supposedly in 1797.

Did you find anything on the probate of the will of Samuel and Mary (Phelps) Stiles? The children of Elijah and Martha (Stiles) Parker are each specifically named in this will. There was at least 180 acres of farm land involved in this estate. If probate records are in existence they could be helpful in many ways.

My best regards,

George M.



GEORGE S. MAY  
P. O. BOX 2  
FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA

95628

DEC 17 1969

Carroll:

Your several letters and bits of information have arrived. -  
You are a busy one!

Asa Newton of Livonia - Does 1820 census show another Asa, besides the one whose count you sent? If not, I would think that this one is the Asa who died 1825 and Asa jr., his son. If no other Asa there I would surmise that wife Catherine in will was not the mother of the sons and daughters mentioned therein.

Gladys Gray, Stiles ancestry. I guess you know our Stiles ancestry? John<sup>1</sup>, Henry<sup>2</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup> (m. Martha Ellsworth), Samuel<sup>4</sup> (m. Mary Phelps). John<sup>1</sup> is the common ancestor then.

Martha Stiles death. The date "about 1782" seems to be pretty much "about". James Parker, the son of Elijah sr and "Miss Belknap", was born June 3, 1779. It is thought that Belknap Parker was probably his older brother. I would guess that Martha Stiles possibly died some time before 1778. Miss Dameron, about whom I have written you before, has made quite an extensive search for the exact date of Martha's death. Much travel, extensive letter writing etc. - but no luck in finding it. The search that she has been pursuing has to do with James Parker, b. 1779, and his descendants.

In one of my previous letters I mentioned the Abijah Wright of Richmond. Some of these dates may interest you. In 1804 Abijah left Otsego County and took up residence at Richmond. All of his children came too including Samuel, b 1785, and Abijah jr, b. before 1790. His wife Roxana died between 1800, when the census at Worcester shows her living, and 1810, when Abijah on May 31, 1810 married, at Cohocton, Steuben County, a Sally Parks. Abijah was born September 13, 1762 at Pittsfield, Mass and died October 2, 1843 at Richmond, Ontario County. His second wife, Sally, was born in 1782. He was therefore over seven years younger than his first wife and twenty years older than his second. By his second wife he had at least one child, a son Isaac b. spt 1816 at Richmond. There is an Isaac Wright shown in the 1860 census at Richmond who I presume is this one.

Am leaving Monday for a few days in the sunshine in southern California. Hope to get in a few licks at the Los Angeles Genea. Library - the best in the west.

Have a Merry Christmas and may you find all kinds of genealogical goodies in the coming new year!

George M.



GEORGE S. MAY  
P. O. BOX 2  
FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA

DEC 7 1969

Mr Belknap:

Received your letter of Dec. 2, and was very interested. Your analytical approach to these problems is a joy to me. Being out here 3000 miles from all the goodie records, this type of approach is my favorite weapon.

In my desire to keep the word content of my letter down, I am afraid I left out some information that I thought would be repetitious to you. My mention of Asa Newton at Granby was merely to point out a theory and was not intended as an effort to impart new information. This is true, that Asa Newton at Granby in 1790 had a census count of 1 - 2 - 2. But this is not Mary Newton Belknaps brother. The Asa Newton in 1790 census at Belchertown does, however, appear to be. This Asa's count of 4 - 1 - 6 is more in keeping with what Asa Newton, age 42, the father of a large family, would have as a family count. (Also at Granby in 1790, Abiah<sup>n</sup> Vinten, 2 - 1 - 4.)

The only Newton genealogy which I have read is the one titled Newton Genealogy - Descendants of Richard Newton of Sudbury and Marlborough - 1638. Published in 1915. Compiled by Ermine Newton Leonard. From this book:

Stephen Newton, born August 15, 1716, married on January 20, 1736/37 to Mary Witt, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Mathews) Witt, born September 17, 1715. Children all b. Windsor, Conn.

1. Mary, b. November 8, 1737
2. James (or Jonas) b. March 18, 1740, d. November 3, 1753
3. Oliver, b. April 2, 1742, m. Rebecca \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sarah, b. November 29, 1745
5. Asa, b. April 13, 1748 (Author says, "had a large family")

According to my Newton correspondent in Denver, there are other genealogies on this same family - And she says they do not agree on the ancestors of Stephen, the father of Mary Newton Belknap. There does not seem to be any question on the descendants of Stephen, but few descendants are mentioned. One of these books, and alas, my correspondent failed to name it, identifies two sons of the Asa Newton, son of Stephen, as Asa and Reuben. It was this similarity of names that caused her to state that the Asa Newton at Livonia was the same as the one who was son of Stephen.

When I first saw this information on the will of Asa of Livonia, I was of the belief that his son Asa would be too young to have married Tamar. I based this on the way the children were listed in the will - and Asa, according to my correspondent, is listed fourth and therefore, I believed, was the fourth child. This may not be necessarily so. But if he is the fourth child, I would think he were too young.

Another factor to consider is that the head count of the Asa of Belchertown shows 11, which could be 9 children and two parents, the same as is listed in the will for Asa of Livonia. However at Livonia there are five sons, four daughters and at Belchertown there are five daughters and four sons. An explanation of this to fit your purpose would be that one daughter died as a child and the fifth son was Asa of Granby. But an equally likely assumption would be that a daughter had died and another son was born after 1790.

Your second item on page 2 of your letter is not correct. There were two sons who were deceased in 1824 when Asa Newton of Livonia wrote his will, namely Asa and Calvin.

As I was remiss before in not giving you all the information I had, I will, at the risk of telling you something you already know, impart this tidbit: from Tree Talks, March 1964, Vol. 4. Abstracts of wills from book 1, surrogates office, Genesee County Courthouse, Batavia, New York. Recorded October 30, 1813, page 46. Will of Isaac Newton of Batavia. Written March 19, 1812. Wife Sarah, sons Lemuel, Isaac, Joseph, John, daughters Martha Wheaton, Sarah Eddy. Witnesses: William Throop, Abraham Mattison, Joel Wheaton. Executor appointed was wife Sarah but she died so son Lemuel Newton was appointed executor.

As the 1790 census at Granby was taken approximately one and one half years after their marriage, I wonder if the two sons shown could be twins and the second female some adult who was residing there with Asa and, I believe, his wife Tamar.

My personal beliefs are as follows: (1) The Asa Newton at Belchertown and Livonia are the same person and he was the brother of Mary Newton Belknap. (2) The Asa Newton at Granby in 1790 is Tamar Vinton's husband. Whether or not he is son of Asa of Belchertown is questionable either way. (3) Rachel Belknap did not have any children after 1809, provided the age given at her death is correct. (4) If Tamar was the mother of Diantha in 1811 by her husband Asa Newton it would seem likely that Asa and Tamar had other children between 1790 and 1810. What happened to them? (5) I think your observation about a lack of family tradition for the existence of a Diantha, daughter of Jonas, is the most important and valid statement relating to this problem yet given.

That's all for now!

Sincerely,

  
George S. May



CYB

my Newton correspondent in Denver, a Mrs White, is a well meaning, agreeable, kind person. In the past 10 years she has traveled extensively through the east, copying data like anything. She does not seem to understand how to interpret it however. Her 1st letter to me was a strange jumble of statements about the ancestry of Stephen Newton - and a fairly concise summary of the will of Asa of Livonia. The 2nd letter clarified this jumble somewhat but still is not satisfactory to me as to certain proof that Asa of Livonia was son of Stephen. I think she has the right data but is unable, for some unknown



reason, to express this  
clearly.

I will try her again.

L.M.

File

City Code

2000

MARY WOOD'S PARENTS -- I have no record of my own on this; but the Mormon records at Salt Lake say her parents were Thomas Wood and Mary Hunt. . . After her husband James Dickinson died, leaving two infant children, she married Daniel Pearson of Newburyport and the two infants, James Dickinson Jr and Mary Dickinson, seem to have been brought up by their uncle Thomas Dickinson, who became legally Mary's guardian as soon as she was old enough to apply for this guardianship. When Mary Dickinson married Samuel Belknap, her brother James went with them to Connecticut and lived on an adjoining farm.

TALITHA CUMI, CORRINGTON, HARLEY -- the youngest children of Jesse Belknap and Jane Garlinghouse. Cerrington was my grandfather.

Write mine

I think.

CHILDREN of Orin and Nancy. iv. Margaret. ~~NAME~~ have been born in Van Buren County, Iowa. That's where Orin and Nancy were living in 1841, ~~NAME~~. And it was from there that they started for Oregon in 1847. I have no reason to think they were ever way up in Benton Co., Iowa. But you may have proof that I'm wrong. For example, birthplace of earlier children? . . . I believe that Orin and Nancy were in Allen Co., Ohio, in 1837 to 1839 -- and went to Van Buren Co., Iowa, with Jesse and his family in 1839 -- but I may be wrong. Perhaps Orin and Nancy went directly from Licking Co Ohio to Benton Co Iowa, before 1839 -- and then came south to Van Buren Co sometime before 1847. Hope you have further data on this.

LATER GENERATIONS. Thanks for record of children of Margaret & William Adams. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Will be glad to have later generations when you find time to set them down on paper.

Gratefully,

Burnell



FRANCES MILNE from Carrell Belknap

Feb 4 1971

Some additional information on children of RANSOM AMOS BELKNAP -- from obits just rec'd:

✓ Rev Lewis Franklin Belknap d. 1 June 1948 at Medford, Ore.

Edward H Belknap -- Ida Booth, daughter of Rev Robert Booth and Mary Miner,  
d. 28 March 1948 was his first wife. She died in 1936.  
at Prineville, Ore.

m. ~~12~~ (2) 23 March 1941, Wilda Ketchum, widow of Dr Horace  
Preston Belknap Sr./of Prineville, Ore. (son of Harley  
Augustus Belknap)

Wilda , born 23 Nov 1871, in New Brunswick, N. J., was  
daughter of Isaac L. Ketchum & Sarah Dingiee (thus spelled  
in an old record, but looks odd)

\*\*\*\*\*

*of Oregon people*

It occurs to me that I should tell you that much of my record of early dates has  
come from work done in the 1890's and early 1900's by the Rev Lewis Franklin Belknap,  
who formed a Belknap Family Organization to collect such information.

*copied -*