

Bryan Magee

On the pre-scientific level
we hate the very idea that
we may be mistaken. So
we cling dogmatically to
our conjectures as long as
possible. On the scientific
level we search systematically
search for our mistakes.

Elyah
Jesse
Seth
Eli
Jesse

McMahon's Regt
Swift's Detachment
2nd Regt (Osgood's)
'57 Regt (Wescott's)
Capt Hill's Co (Light Inf)

McMahon's Regt NY militia

Elyah

George

Gilbert

Capt Hill's Co Lt Inf NY militia

Jesse

Davis, ~~Regt~~ (Brigade)

Augustine

~~Joshua~~

Edgar

William

*Mr
Milne*

Bishop Simpson's Chapel

Madeline L. Nichols

In 1858, the old Simpson's Chapel was completed. It stood on a hill about halfway between the present towns of Bellfountain and Alpine. The church was built of hand-planed lumber and was a plain oblong with three windows on each side and a porch in front. It was surrounded by oak trees, many of which are still standing and which served as hitching posts for horses.

The history of the Alpine community may be said to have had its beginning at the time of the erection of two buildings, the Ebenezer school house and Simpson's Chapel, though it is true that quite a number of settlers had come to the valley before that time. The school house was built of logs and was situated on a promontory about two miles south of the present town of Alpine and on part of the old Gilbert place. It was probably built about 1850 and served both as a school and a "meeting house."

It was and always has been a Methodist Church and was called Simpson's Chapel because Bishop Simpson was the presiding officer of the first annual conference, held while the group was still meeting in the old Ebenezer school. In 1903, it was decided that a new church was needed, so one was built at the present site of Alpine and was completed in 1904. At this time the congregation divided, part of its members going to Bellfountain and part to Alpine.

The whole community was once known as the Belknap settlement because of the preponderance of Belknaps among the first

settlers who, in pioneer days, had come by wagon train to the valley from Ohio, Missouri, and Iowa. Other early families were the Starks, Harts, Harvards, Gilberts, Clarks, Woodruffs, Goodmans, and Smiths.

Another interesting part of the early history of the Chapel centered around the campground which, in 1871, was bought from George Humphrey and is known as the Bellfountain Park. People came from miles around, primarily for the spring of clear cold water, held meetings, and visited. The gatherings were religious but also social. People would bring food, put up tents, and stay for a week or more. Sometimes someone would bring part of a bee and hang it on a tree and those present were free to help themselves. The pioneer days are gone but Simpson's Chapel is still used as a house of worship by those who have taken the place of the pioneers.

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Fluid

CANOE

Light 2 or more turns
to 16

Left full turn past
16 and stop at 16

Right to 20



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

Conn. 06878.

217 ANGELL STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02906

Ice and snow melt
a little. Homer David
is going to keep me
informed.

It was nice hearing from
you Sincerely
Frances Melcal

Feb. 27

Dear Mr Bellman

Yes, you certainly
did write me that you
had received Rosa's
jewelry - and very promptly.

You told me of wanting
to divide it among your
children and grandchildren.

It would be interesting
to know its value. Some
of these larger pieces
do look like some the
hippies love to deck them-
selves with.

Rosa's ashes are still
waiting to be buried in the
family plot until the

This is Washington's birthday--I am alone. I hope you can read this.

PA. 3-5820

LAW OFFICES OF
CLARK R. BELKNAP
1207 S. BAILEY STREET
SEATTLE 98108

Feb. 22, 1967.

Carroll York Belknap,
25 Club Rd,
Riverside, Conn, 06878.

Dear Cousin;

Your intensely interesting chapter on the Belknap history has been read and with much appreciation of the labors performed in its preparation. You made one mistake--you refer at the bottom of page 1, "...no matter how long winded I may be." I assure you that it was no effort to read your findings and hopes. Being only the slightest of an historian, but even so, I appreciate the many hours you have spent in your studies.

My first inquiry, is more about your self. After I had written my little skit, I went down to San Francisco, and there met I went to attend the selection of the American Tract team for the 1960 Olympics. No. I did not participate--althe I could have done so.?) Grace Smith(Belknap) the last of the children of those who crossed the plains--Referred to with address, on page 2 of my little bit. In my notes I stated that as a lad of 15 I had met her. Well, she is still alive, if I mistake not--have heard nothing of her passing--she is 3 years older than I,--I will be 84 March 15th--so she is 87. I urge you to send any material to her--I am sure she will appreciate it. Her body showed signs of age in 1960--the flesh hung very loosely, but her mind was very clear--I have heard from her a few times since. If I recall correctly she told me that in some church in the San Francisco/ I do not recall the City, there was a special window installed in honor of your Grandfather, Corrington.

And let us stop right here for a moment--I would like to know more about him. My immediately older brother, Foster, who lived on the old Donation Land Claim, and kept quite closely in touch with Belknap affairs--told me that your grand dad came to Monroe about 1904 and preached one Sunday. That would make him in his early 70ties. As you know, I was born in Wash. Territory, Spokane County, in 1883. I have not consulted with my 4 year older brother, Maynard, 329 3rd St. Lewiston, Idaho, relative to the incident. But I have a faint recollection of your father or member of his family visiting us on our farm--when I was about 8 years old. I may be mistaken.. In my notes I make mention of "two fine daughters." one married a judge. I understand that at the University of Idaho, Moscow, one of the daughters had a building erected in her honor. You probably know much more about that than I do. I would be pleased to have you more clearly identify your self. I assume that you are a few, but only a few, years younger than I am.

And before I forget it. I want to say a word about the Kentucky Hardware man. I have made quite a number of trips to New York. It seems to me that this happened back in the twenties. I met a man who knew the Kentucky Belknap story very well. The Belknap Company was known far and wide. When he died well up in the 90ties, a "whole train load of business men from way out west, Texas, in particular, came to

his funeral. When past 90 he stood up to his staff and gave them sound advice in the management of the business." Apparently he was quite a man.

Back in the 1860ties my grand father gave Willamette University at Salem \$1,000.00, and your grandfather graduated there about 59. I assume that you have the details more clearly than I. My grandfather knew his bible from Kiver to Kiver, altho he did not say "kiver," and I believe that few did so. They were well grounded in grammer etc. Strange as it may be, the least educated of the lot was the wife of George, Jesse's eldest son, Kiturah. I knew her as a lad--Aunt Kit. She wrote a jumber of most interesting stories--altho quite illiterate. The historian of Willamette Uni quoted largely from Aunt Kit. You see the Belknap Neighborhood was Methodist; they held the first General Conference of the Methodist Church in the Oregon country--at the Belknap neighborhood-- 1854--a Bishop Simpson rode a horse, swam rivers from Portland to Simpson Chapel. In responsive readings my grandfather, and no doubt yours, too, needed no book --he knew many chapters by heart. They had a fine singing school--those young people of my father's age were well grounded in music. My father was born 1850.

Corvallis? It means "Core of the Valley.) When my grand dad landed in Oregon, they arrive early Nov. '47, they spent their first winter in Corvallis. The next spring they were the first settlers of the Belknap Neighborhood. My immediately older brother, Foster, heretofore mention, died two years ago--his widow, ofcourse, became the owner of the Old Donation Land Claim--that is, the part where the old house stood and still stands, erected in 1855. She was the last of the Mohegans--no Belknap is left.

As stated in my little history, my grand father, Ransom, was the only one to stay put--the Belknaps in general were sort of Westward Wandering Minstrels. My dad with Aunt Hannak Gilbert, George Belknap went to Spokane, a newer country. And when I grew up, it was my boyhood expectation to have dad give me a team of horses and I would go to a new spot and stake out a homestead. Well, I did just that--I own Seattle.

I am enclosing two interesting letters, which you may return at your pleasure; one from Charlotte Starr, a grand daughter of aunt Cumi. She is only a month younger than I; We grew up together in the Spokane country. Her comments aroused by my history, are interesting. She gives you what you are looking for--interesting bits of history of the individuals. Her address is West 1212 7th, Spokane. As her letter indicates, she has a bright mind. She will be greatly interested in your efforts. I am sending her the letter you wrote me. The other letter enclosed is from a Eugene, Oregon; I know nothing of her excepting this letter. I could not be of much help to her. Possibly you will learn more about the Lost Wagon Train, including some Belknaps. Note Charlotte's comment about Cumi being born in Ohio and George and Ransom in Kentucky.

My oldest brother, Clifford, born at Monroe, 1875, went with his father and mother to Spokane and died there two years ago. He has two sons whom you will want to contact. Harold O. Belknap, Russ Bldg. San Francisco, 94104. He is now 63. For a number of years, commencing 1941, he was with Braun & Co. Public Relations men; when Sec. Benson under Ike got into trouble with a lot of left wing farmers, a Representative of Gen Motors, told him, Benson, that he needed a good public Relations man. So Braun loaned him Harold. While going all over the country organizing the conservative farmers, he attracted the attention of the Beet Sugar industry; He did not want to stay with the government in any event, so he went with the Beet Sugar people--Harold is the brightest spot in the Western Belknap contingent. He has a daughter who is interested in geneology, and Harold told me that he would get from Taylor at Palm Springs the FAMILY TREE, one for his daughter. So keep Harold in mind, always. Then Harold has an younger brother, Marvin, 6468 South L. St. Tacoma, Wash. His wife, Edith, has obtained one of the big Family Trees. As you no doubt know, Tacoma is but 30 miles from here, so I will be seeing it. A sister of Marvin's told me that it covered the living room floor. I assume that you will get one, if you do not already have one.

When I visited Newburgh I little realized one of my forebear had preceded me at that historic spot.

As to Orin or Orrin Belknap, I am sorry that I can not add to my story. All I knew was that Hannah, Ransom, Cumi and a cousin, Orrin crossed the plains together. I have always understood he was a very substantial citizen.

A little family gossip. Great grand dad Jesse deeded ^{his} home to his baby boy, Harley, with the understanding that he would take care of them in their old age. Well, apparently Harley was still too young to want to stay put--Benton County was becoming too crowded, so he decided to go to central Oregon, in the Prineville country. So he picked up Jesse and his mother and brot them over to Ransom, who cared for both until they died. At the same time Ransom had his wife, Mahaila's father and mother with him. So he had four old f folks with him for several years.

When I was 13 my father returned to Monroe and took over the farm of Ransom, who died June of that year, Grand dad had some 200 head of sheep and the same number of goats, and some might fine trotting horses. Grand father Ransom also took care of two orphan boys, sons of Washington Waltz, who married Cumi after the death of her first husband, Samuel Starr. Grand mother had at one time 500 chickens. Ransom was highly honored at his death and before for that matter. Every one came to his funeral.

All I know of your grand father is to the good. But as before stated, I had the names only of two daughters. So, who was your father? How many sons and daughters Corrington had, I know not.

I understood that Harley was 17 when he crossed the plains, in 48. You will note that Ransom et al did not go via the Old Oregon Trail, but via northern Nevada, Utah and Cal. and came up thru southern Oregon. Coming down the Columbia River was too treacherous. But the next year, probably having discovered the Barlow Pass, near Mt. Hood, the better way was in that direction.

If you have not read NARD JONES, THE GREAT COMMAND, you must do so. Any child of the west ought to know the story, THE CORRECT story of the Oregon Country. Remember, Oregon, on the map in those oxcart days, meant all of Idaho, Washington and Oregon. But to the early settlers, Oregon meant the Willamette Valley.

Marcus Whitman was long credited with the Saving of the Oregon country for the United States. Little to that line that had been taught in our histories. It is a marvelous story, and Jason Lee who founded your Grand dad's Willamette University was the larger man of the two. THE GREAT COMMAND is a must.

Hannah was born in New York, George and Ransom in Kentucky, Cumi in Ohio. Apparently they were not in Kentucky very long. As for Illinois, I suspect they were there only as sort of relaxing for their trip to Iowa. Do you suppose than they left Ohio, they really had the Oregon country in mind? I would doubt it. The indefiniteness of Oregon at that time would hardly be inviting. As a matter of fact when the early settlers did come via oxcarts it was not too definite what would be the future of the Oregon Country. They went largely on faith. For which I am glad--for you and I would not have been born.

Me? I am still practicing law. I have written a book, THE GREATEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED IN THE WHITE HOUSE, a parody on FDR. What did his wife and sons tell about him? What did his own political household write of his doings? Plenty. It is now at the printers, but they have delayed greatly in getting it out. I will see that you get a copy--about 350 pages, paperback.

Please let me know more about Corrington and his family, including you.

Best wishes.

Mark 6:41 (over)

And he took the
Dauget by the hand,
and said unto her,
Talitha cumi; which
is, being interpreted,
Dauget, I say
unto thee, arise.

Thine James Version

Story of the daughter
of the ruler of the
Synagogue -