

RBT

(from Claudia Marshall)

March 28 - 1968
220 - N. W. - 242nd
Hillsboro, Ore.

Dear Carroll,

Now who's the angel? Thank you so much for all the data you have sent. I haven't checked all the notes against mine as yet but surely will.

Dad & I were especially pleased with the excerpt from the book - Bishop Simpson's Chapel. We have both seen it. It is still well preserved.

I wouldn't want to say for sure but I think the hand-printed notes may have been made by Eloise Gilbert Beach^{BEACH} now deceased. I really got started on the Belknaps thru her, but at that time I wasn't as smart (?) as I now am and didn't ask her source of information nor was I as particular re: dates.

My father says he especially liked Maynard Belknap of the Webster Belknap family.

I've heard my grandfather tell of a time he was traveling on a train & the conductor that he had already collected his fare in another coach. They went to this other car together and found Franklin Belknap who resembled granddaddy and to be his twin.

CLAUDIA:

Speaking of "family resemblances" --

I wonder if you'll see what I thought of the moment I looked at the photo of Jesse -- a strong likeness to a picture of the only American Belknap famous enough to be in all encyclopedias; the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, DD. (D.D. because in a time when ministers were "raised up" from their congregations a pastor who was a Doctor of Divinity was a great rarity. Famous because he was not only a noted preacher but also a fine historian, whose books are good reading even today.)

Here's a bad copy of an old picture of that Jeremy. My copying machine doesn't do too well with half-tones. But place it beside the photo of Jesse and imagine Jeremy turned full-face like Jesse. And then think of the very distant blood relationship -- for Jeremy was descended from Joseph, not from Samuel.

Well, anyway, maybe you'll be amused by the Rev. Jeremy's record of his marriage and honeymoon -- from his diary:

1767. June 12th. Set out for Boston. Lodged North Hill.
13th. Travelled to Ipswich. Met Governor Winthrop on the road. He entered Portsmouth this day.
14th. Preached at Ipswich.
15th. Reached Boston; evening, married.
18th. Set out on our return, rode through the rain, and lodged at Hampton, Mr. Thayer's.
19th. Got home to Dover in the evening safe and well.

(My underline. CYB)

Carroll
4/1/68



RBT

CLAUDIA:

You have been promoted. You're no longer a mere angel. You now rank as a saint. I'm so deeply grateful for all those photos... For years, I've been telling my own family that it was not merely a Belknap family that trekked from Iowa to Oregon -- but, rather, a tribe. And Jesse's photo is certainly that of a great tribal patriarch. Now I can prove what I've said about him.

I'm enclosing a copy of an obituary notice of Jesse -- from a Seattle newspaper, it is said -- copied from a clipping found in the effects of Franklin Belknap of Chicago Lawn, Illinois, by Commander Charles Belknap, U. S. N. Possibly you may not have seen it. Anyway, can you identify the "P. M. Starr" who wrote it?

I'm also enclosing what I think is the most beautiful picture I've ever seen of the Willamette Valley. It was published on the cover of the recent annual report of American Can Co. and I got more copies to use in showing my children and grandchildren the dream that took Jesse from New York to Kentucky to Ohio to Iowa to Oregon -- for, according to information in the body of that annual report, the scene shown in the picture is just 4 miles from where Belknap Settlement was founded by Jesse's tribe. That's why I found it rather precious.

As to the photo of your grandfather, Jesse Belknap Gilbert, I assure you that it's no such thing. It's a photo of E. Clinton Belknap of Lincoln, Nebraska -- a descendant of Jesse's brother Elijah. It is also a photo of Christopher Irving Belknap, who now lives in Southern California -- so distantly related to us, because he belongs to the Joseph side of the family. . . I hope you don't get bored with endless tales of family resemblances. I tell them by the hour -- and wonder "Why do they occur?"

I also am enclosing a couple of pages copied or summarized from Aunt Kit's diary -- by a professional genealogist whose work I deeply distrust. I dug them out in searching for information for a descendant of another brother of Jesse's -- Jonas, who married Mary Garlinghouse -- in an effort to correct misinformation supplied to HWB long ago by Clark or by Franklin Belknap. . . And I have a question I hope you can answer. Can you identify the young "Mary Belknap" mentioned by Aunt Kit? I can't. This girl is also mentioned in the summary you sent me, which I returned to you -- ~~as~~ under "Nov. 1849" in list of members of the first church.

Incidentally, if you have any information about descendants of Jonas B and Mary Garlinghouse ~~XXXXX~~ I'll be grateful. I have the names of their children and spouses -- little more. Aunt Kit said they settled at Belknap Springs in 1853.

I have postponed completing my sketch of the life of Jonas Newton Belknap because I suddenly began getting a lot of new data on him, from descendants of his son Elijah. Some of this new data may be questionable. I must verify it before using it. But there is one point that may interest you. Jonas ~~NEWTON BELKNAP~~ Newton Belknap's daughter Cynthia is said to have married an Isaac Newton -- and an Isaac Newton, presumably same man, became ~~ADMINISTRATOR~~ of the estate left by Jonas Newton B. Any link to the Newtons who went on to Oregon and were with Jesse and Jane? In Kentucky.

administrator

In an earlier memo I said that I didn't think Samuel, father of Jonas Newton B., died the day after Bunker Hill. New information makes me suspend judgment on my interpretation of Samuel's military record. Forget what I said.

I've just done something I meant to do much sooner. In your letter of March 6, you asked how far I wished you to go, on Jesse's descendants. I meant to reply, but forgot.... I need, of course, everything right down to the present moment on direct descent through males — that is, people named Belknap. On the marriages of daughters, all I can use is name of spouse, date of marriage, and names and birthdates of children plus names of spouses of children. I have to restrict myself this way in order to avoid too much bulk to be published. In this respect, I must stick to the pattern set by HWB.

I'm interested in what you say about your other genealogical research. Maybe I can help you. I'm a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, with the privilege of borrowing books from its great library of genealogies, etc. In Boston, soon, I'll get a catalog of such books and send it to you, so that you can tell me what you'd like me to look at for you — or send to you if you wish — for the loan from the library is for a whole month.

Haven't had time, yet, to go read the whole of Aunt Kit's diary — but I must.

Carroll
4/1/68