

9 Jan 1976

Mrs Dwane Richardson  
91024 Kirk Road  
Junction City, Oregon 97448

Dear Sylvia:

Nice to hear from you again.

I'm glad to see what Belknap Springs looks like. Till now, only a place on the map, for me.

It got its name from Rollin S. (for Simeon) Belknap, whose great great grandfather was the 4th generation Samuel son of Ebenezer. So he was a distant cousin of my tribe at Belknap Settlement.

Rollin reached Oregon not later than 1855, possibly a year or so earlier. By 1855 and 1856 was a prominent citizen of Josephine County. nNamed first county commissioner when the county was formed. Represented both Josephine and Jackson counties in the territorial legislature 1857-8. . . According to McArthur's Oregon Place Names, "located" the springs in 1869 (means "discovered"?). Salt Springs P O was established there 1874, with Rollin as postmaster. In 1875, name of the post office was changed to Belknap Springs. Rollin is said to have created the idea of developing the springs.

His only son, James Henry, settled at Blue River and was an operator of the toll road through Mackenzie Pass. Belknap Craters near the pass, was named for him. Rollin died in Eugene in 1907.

One thing I lack is information about Rollin's whereabouts between 1848 when his son was born in Boston and 1855, my first date for him in Oregon. It looks like he was one of the few who went directly from the East Coast to Oregon -- which only a reasonably well-off man could do, for that long journey cost money.

Dw

**SUBJECTS FOR CONFERENCE.**

Tuesday  
30 Dec 1975

Dear Mr. Belknap -

Thought of you and that you might like to add this newspaper clipping to your misc. file concerning the Oregon Belknaps. I don't know how accurate this article is about the early history of the hot springs. I was always of the impression that the springs were found by Belknap and Belknaps were the first owners and developers. Do you have any info about this?

I'm still working on family genealogy but not with the gusto of a few years ago. This fall I have enjoyed a correspondence with a Dutchman connection in Phoenix, Arizona.

We have had a very nice Christmas but best of all our daughter & her husband have moved back to Eugene from Portland this past weekend. And best yet - we are finally going to be grandparents about the 1st of July. We are hoping for the 4<sup>th</sup> and then we will have a Bicentennial baby.

Best wishes for a  
Happy New Year to  
you and yours.

Sincerely -  
Sylvia Richardson

SYLVIA:

Long ago, commenting on a much condensed sketch of the old Belknap family, you said: "The 'in and out' of favor with different kings and queens reads like a fairy story."

My memory of what you said makes me send you a copy of a note I wrote to my daughter today.

1 Feb 1973



Mrs. D. K. Richardson

Route 1-Box 244  
Junction City, Oreg. 97448  
5 November 1971

Dear Mr. Belknap,  
Nothing new here about the Belknap genealogy...have some misc.  
papers I want to forward to you.

In your last letter you asked about how or where to obtain a  
copy of the "They Laughed, Too" book. I have corresponded  
with the lady that compiled the book and the address I have is:  
Mrs. Edna Mintonye, Alpine, Oregon.

Thank you for the Riverside pamphlet. Very interesting.

You mention John Belknap of Holland, Mass a veteran of both  
the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Do you  
know how he connects to ours?

Do you have children listed for the following? I would very  
much appreciate having their names.

✓ Samuel born 1731, Enfield, Conn. m. Mary Newton

Samuel born 1702, Haverhill, Mass. m. Mary Dickenson

✓ Ebenezer born 1667, Salem, Mass. m. Hannah Ayer

Samuel bap 1627, England m Sarah Jones

Sincerely,

Sylvia

4 Sheets sent 5/7/73

Sylvia Richardson from Carroll Belknap

11/10/71

Thanks for your letter Nov 5 and enclosures -- all of them helpful -- and ~~XXXXXX~~ the Mintonye address.

The John Belknap mentioned in an earlier note of mine was not in our branch -- a descendant of Joseph son of Ebenezer.

I can't at the moment give you detailed sheets for all the children of all the families you listed. Until this year, I made not much effort on our early American generations, as I was concentrating of later problems, and sort of shirked the difficulties -- some of which seem unsolvable.

I'm enclosing tentative drafts of sheets for Ebenezer and for the Samuel who married Mary Newton. For the others you name, I can give you names but not all dates, if that's good enough for you. And I must beg you to regard the enclosed sheets as tentative -- for there's always the hope of finding more information that can be accepted as reliable.

EBENEZER -- a most difficult problem, for there's a wide range of unsupported guesswork on the dates of his children. Best I can do, thus far, is to give my own guess of probable or "most likely" approximate dates, when no record of actual dates has been found.

SAMUEL & MARY NEWTON -- still some minor points to clear up, but this record is mostly pretty dependable -- and I keep getting more information now and then.

On these and other early generations, no two compilations agree -- and it takes time to search for real facts -- and sometimes they just don't exist.

Please don't quote these sheets as anything but tentative.

SYLVIA RICHARDSON

5/7/73

Back in 1971, you asked for information about four early generations -- which I wasn't able to send in full at that time. Now I have drafted my notes on them -- though there are still some problems, which I'll probably never solve. So here they are.

Carroll

"o: JOHN EYRE and HANNAH WEBB

Ref: Quoting from "The History of Tremen, Tremain, Truman Family in America"--with related families of Mack, Dey, Board and Ayres. Five Colonial Families Volume 2

Thomas Eyre, Esq. of New Sarum lineally descended from Humphrey LeHayer of Bronham, Wilts, held lands in Wernborn County of Dorset in 21st year of the reign of Elizabeth,

He Married Elizabeth, daughter of John Rogers, Esq. of Poole and had issue:

- Children: 1. Robert, his heir--born 1559  
2. Giles of Brickworth in Welshire from whom came the family of the extinct Lord Eyre of Ireland. He obtained the peerage of Ireland.  
3. Christopher, born 1578, Founder of Eyres Hospital at Sarum.  
4. Thomas, born 1580 Mayor of Sarum 1610  
5. William, born 1588 Barrister at law  
6. JOHN, born 1587-90 moved to New England 1637  
7. Elizabeth married G. Tooker  
8. Catherine Married Thomas Hooper  
9. Rebecca married John Lode  
10. Anne married John Sevan

Ref: From Burke's General Armory of England. Eyre (Bronham, Wedhampton, Chalfield, New House etc,) County Wilts descended from Humphrey LeHayer of Bronham whose great grandson Galfridus deEyre of Bronham was living tempo Edward II the derivative branches were the Eyres of Battey Grange, County Hants, the Eyres of Eyre Court Castle, County Galway of who was Lord Eyre, the Eyres of Macroom, County Cork.

The coat-of-arms of all the families of England vary but little and the original Derby family now represented at Rampton is the one from which John Ayer of Haverhill, Mass, descended.

From comparison of coat-of-arms and some tedious researches in the old country histories of England it is certain that a family of Eyre of Wiltshire England is a branch of the Rampton family.

from Mrs. Ethel Ayre Campbell, South Natick, Mass.

#6. John d. 1577/90 m. Hannah Webb, their son:  
Nathaniel Ayer b. 1638 d. 17 Nov 1717 married:  
Tammerson Tindal and their daughter  
Hannah Ayer was the wife of:  
Ebenezer Belknap



Re: JOHN EYRE and HANNAH WEBB

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Sylvia Richardson, from Carroll Balknap

11/10/71

(Copy to Della Balknap)

showing the English  
Thanks for the sheet, ~~showing~~ ancestry of Hannah Ayer who married Ebenezer Balknap, and of her sister Elisabeth who married Ebenezer's brother Abraham. This is new information to me and I'm glad to have it.

I assume the pencilled note about Hannah's parentage was written by Mrs. Campbell, for it doesn't look like your handwriting. Perhaps you may wish to direct her attention to an old puzzle for which I have found no solution: the identity of "Tamesin Turloar," Hannah's mother. (Note spelling as usually found: Tamesin, not Tameagn.)

One preceding worker has suggested that "Turloar" may be an erratic misspelling of "Thurlow."

"Tamesin" -- the only occurrence of this first name I have found in early New England-- may also be a more or less phonetic misspelling, no worse than many others in that period. Consider this possibility:

"Thomas" was often spelled "Tamas" -- the "a" sounded "ah".

Possibly "Tamasin" was pronounced "Tahmahseen" and was a variant spelling of "Thomasina."

So -- could ~~THURLOW~~ "Tamasin Turloar" mean "Thomasina Thurlow"?

Route 1 Box 244  
Junction City, Oreg.  
97448  
23 June 1971

Dear Mr. Belknap,  
Thank you so much for the letter of June 5th. I understand the Beltoft-Belknap switch so much better now. I made copies of your letter and sent to Kay Barrett and my aunt Bernice Hanson of North Bend, Ore. Also copies for the 3 books I'm compiling for my 3 "decendants."

Mr. and Mrs. Daggett are vacationing for five weeks in Hawaii. When they return I'll forward the Elizabeth Belknap-William Ferres information to her. I know she will be delighted to have it and in such detail. They are "house sitting" for friends there. Fun!

The "in and out" of favor with different kings and queens reads like a fairy story.

From Mrs. Ethel Ayer Campbell, 6 River St., South Natick, Mass. I received the following last week and thought you might be interested.

My dear Mrs. Richardson, I was very much interested in your early ancestors. We had the same common ancestor--who came from Norfolk, England in 1637. Your, Nathaniel, was a brother to Peter where my line came.

I did pursue Nathaniel's sons families but I do not have anything further about the daughters descendants. Sincerely hope this may be helpful to you in a most fascinating hobby.....If I can help about anything further please let me know.

① NATHANIEL Ayer (Eyre) son of John (of Norfolk, Eng) and Hannah Webb Eyre.

① NATHANIEL born 1638. Married Tameson Furloar May 10, 1670. She died Dec 13, 1700. He died Nov 17, 1717. Conveyed his estate to son Nathaniel.

They had 12 children:

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hannah d. 1671 | 7. Ruth     |
| 2. <u>Hannah</u>  | 8. child    |
| 3. Elizabeth      | 9. Benjamin |
| 4. Nathaniel      | 10. Marie   |
| 5. Abiah          | 11. Ruth    |
| 6. Obediah        | 12. ?       |

On May 5, 1669 he bought a homestead in Haverhill, Mass. of his brother Obediah who moved to New Jersey.

1690/1  
① HANNAH (dau of Nathaniel) born Dec 19, 1672 m. Ebenezer Belknap Feb 25, 1690. She died Nov 1779 age 106. 11 mo. Haverhill, Mass. They lived near the line of Plaiston, N.H. where he died at the age of 95.

Of their 12 children, all ~~save~~ one who died at 17 yrs lived to an advanced age. One son and four daughters exceeding a century each. Another son died 7 months short of it and a grandson died in his 101 st year. W (I am not quite clear on where 12 children Nathaniel or Hannah-Ebenezer's)  
Ref: New Hampshire Antiquarian Society

Hannah apparently lived in Atkinson, N.H. at time of death. E.A.C.

(Gwen)  
Sincerely, Sylvia

Hannah

when abt. 105, she rode from Atkinson NH  
to Plainfield on a pillion behind  
her son Obadiah<sup>11</sup> -

On 7 Nathaniel Ayer

1. Hannah b 2 June 1671 d Nov 1679 age 8 ym



Route 1 Box 244  
Junction City, Oreg  
97448

1 June 1971

Dear Mr. Belknap,

I don't know if you are interested in this lateral line but I thought it interesting and the lady I got it from is ~~accept~~ accepting it for real. It does give us some names to work on when we have time. Her ancestor is Mehitable, sister to our Mary Wood.

She had the following marriage and asked me about it and I said I'd ask the Belknap expert.

William Ferreis 6th Baron of Charltey

m. Elizabeth, dau of Sir Hamon Belknap ca 1400

According to my information the name was still Beltof in the late 1500. Do you have any ideas?

I've looked on a Conn. map and could not find Riverside. What larger town is it near?

With best wishes,

*Sylvia*

CARROLL YORK BELKNAP      25 Club Road      Riverside, Connecticut 06878

June 5 1971

Sylvia Richardson  
Kirk Road at Franklin  
Junction City, Oregon 97448

Dear Sylvia:

Your letter June 1 raises a number of questions that I should try to answer. I'll try to be mercifully brief.

(1) Marriage of Elizabeth Belknap and William Ferrers (not "Ferreis"). Yes, this Elizabeth was daughter of Sir Hamon Belknap and did marry Lord Ferrers -- the 5th Lord Ferrers of Chartley, not the 6th, according to the present editor of Debrett's Peerage, with whom I've had some correspondence. I don't know what is meant by "ca 1400" in the passage you copied. Sir Hamon was born 1390 and died 1429. Presumably this Elizabeth was born about 1410 to 1415; but I have no dates for her. She and this Lord Ferrers were ancestors of Robert Devereaux, Earl of Essex -- favorite of Queen Elizabeth.

(2) Your comment about "Beltoft" deserves an answer, for there has been much confusion on this point by people who have seen only part of the record -- and some of this confusion has led to fantastic ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ inventions which almost amount to forgery. So here goes:

(A) In the Middle Ages, beginning immediately after the Norman Conquest, there was a Beltoft or de Beltoft family in Lincolnshire. The last males of this name died in the middle of the 14th century. No connection linking this family to the Belknap name or to the re-emergence of the Beltoft, ~~name~~ in the 16th century has been found.

1335 (B) The first known Belknap family appeared in the 14th century. Robert Bealknap or de Bealknap (as the name was then spelled -- and probably was pronounced something like "Bayl - ka - nopp" or "Bayl-ka-nopp" as there was sometimes a final "e") was probably born about 1335 as he was a page at court along with Chaucer. His father is assumed to have been a lawyer of that name, who was practicing in London in 1335. Robert became a judge, then Chief Justice of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Court of Common Pleas -- was knighted in 1385 ~~the date correctly~~ -- was unjustly condemned to death by Parliament and banished to Ireland when the Queen (Good Queen Anne) and the bishops interceded on his behalf. When Henry IV usurped the crown, Robert was recalled from banishment and his vast landed properties (some 15 or 16 manors) were restored to him -- but later were reconfiscated and were not finally restored till 1425, when title was given to his grandson Hamon. By that time, the family of the Judge was back in favor under Henry V. Hamon was knighted and made Treasurer of Normandy and married a sister of Ralph Boteler, Lord Suddley, Treasurer of England -- and a Joan de Bealknap, possibly his sister, was lady in waiting to Queen Katherine. The family remained in favor through the reign of Henry VIII -- when the last male in it died in 1521. The girls of this family, immensely rich, married well. Among their descendants were not only the Earl of Essex but also Lady Jane Grey, and Elizabeth's great prime minister the Earl of Salisbury, and Sir Francis Bacon -- and the executors of the will of Henry VIII. And the present Queen and her mother and her children.

But <sup>the</sup> point to bear in mind that the last male of the Judge's family died in 1521.



By that time, the great change in vowel pronunciation in <sup>English</sup> ~~the~~ had occurred and the name had become "Belknap"--though the "k" was probably still sounded.

From 1521 to 1600 -- a period of 79 years -- no trace of anyone bearing and using the name Belknap has been found. That name was extinct.

(C) In the first decade of the 16th century -- 1500 to 1510 -- a farmer known as Richard Beltoft died in the village of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. His descendants continued the use of that name until one of them, Josias, called himself Josias Belknappe. When he began using that name is not known. The only records of him are his will, in January 1599/1600 (Old Style and New Style calendars -- i.e., 1600 by our present-day reckoning) and the entry of his burial in Southwark in early February. By his will, naming his brother "Benedict Belknappe" as his chief heir, he forced Bennet Beltoft to swear on oath in court that his name was "Belknappe." That was the only time when Bennet is known to have used that name. But when he died almost a quarter century ~~later~~ later, his wife and his children buried him as "Belknap" and from then on used only the name of Belknap.

The reason for this sudden change of name is not known, and I'll not attempt to offer mere surmises.

But for clarity I'll sum up the facts that many people disregard:

- There have been only two families bearing the Belknap name.
- The first one, "the Judge's family", flourished from about 1335 to 1521, when the last of its males died.
- Then, for ~~about~~ three fourths of a century, no record of anyone using that name has been found.
- The <sup>second</sup> ~~first~~ Belknap family, in the village in ~~Hertfordshire~~ Hertfordshire, called itself Beltoft until 1600 -- and finally changed to Belknap only in 1624, a century after the death of the last male of the Judge's family.
- No connection between these two families has ever been found -- and the many amateurish efforts to fabricate a connection should be ignored. A century of search for a relationship has yielded no results.

And, in passing, perhaps I should add that there is no sound reason for believing in the old claim that the first Belknap family -- the Judge's -- was descended from a man who "came over the the Conqueror." If you see this old myth in the account of the Judge's life, in the British Dictionary of National Biography, just smile and forget it. Its ~~main~~ basis was what looks like a forged entry in one of the three known copies of the Battle Abbey Roll -- an interlineation probably inserted in the 14th century when everyone of any prominence wanted to claim descent from a follower of William.

Oh, dear, I have just gone on and on, haven't I? But you laid yourself open to this sort of rambling.

But now, looking back, I see I haven't rambled enough. I omitted saying that Sir Hamon's aunt Joan, whose second husband was Edmund Hampden, was an ancestress of William Shakespeare. . . . And that the present editor of Debrett's, who has been helpful to me, is also a descendant of the Judge.



SYLVIA RICHARDSON from Carroll Belknap

Feb 4 1971

Copy to KAY BARRETT

Kay says you are trying to learn what "the letter enc." means, ~~in Polly's application for letters of administration.~~ This prompts me to try to sum up (for my own record) the facts that I have about the arrival of Jonas(jr) and Polly in Oregon. They come from letters from Bertha Hansen, granddaughter of Jonas and Polly's daughter Rachel. Bertha was a scrupulous worker. I learned to accept as fact whatever she told me. But of course you may already have it. My comments in ( ).

(1) "Jonas and Mary Ann went to Oregon in April 1849 (April 9 to be exact) starting in the same wagon train as my grandparents Austin S. and Rachel Howard."

(The date must have been the day when they left Iowa, for nobody then would have traveled to Oregon in winter. This would put them in Oregon six months later, October 1849.)

(2) "They parted where the Calif. trail turned off. Jonas and family going on to Oregon, and Rachel and Austin going to California."

(This parting could have been either: (a) at or near Fort Hall, in which case Jonas and Mary Ann (Polly) would have taken the old Oregon Trail NW from Fort Hall; or (b) at the Humboldt Sink, where the Applegate Road headed NW from the California Trail and across the waterless Black Rock Desert. God help them.)

(3) "Benton County Census 1850 shows Jonas Belknap 65 and Mary 45. There must have been a mistake or she took 10 years off her ~~agall~~ age."

(A 10-year error in early Census records was a mere trifle. I have a case in western NY, where a wife grew 1 year younger between 1850 and 1860.)

(4) "From Bulletin #3, Oregon State Archives (from Pioneer Families, O.T. 1850)

Jonas Belknap (decd)  
widow and heirs at law

Land Office Cert. R B 1550 ~~MAXX~~ No. acres 521.16

Township 14 s Range 6 w Sect. 12, 13"

(5) "In Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Vol. 3, abstracted by Genealogical Forum of Portland. 1550 Belknap. Polly and heirs of Jonas Belknap, Benton Co., SC, 20 Aug 1851. letter enc indicates settlement date was 1849 & Jonas Belknap was living on 31 ~~Jan~~ Jan 1853."

(You have this, I know.)

(6) Application for letters of administration:

"Benton Co., Terr. of Ore. Personally appeared before me Polly Belknap for letters of administration on the estate of Jonas Belknap deceased, duly sworn, etc. . . . to the best of her knowledge the heirs of Jonas Belknap are Orin Belknap, Silas Belknap, Electa Howell, Rachel Howard, Eleanor Bayles. All except Rachel Howard live in Benton Co., O.T., and she lives in California. 17th day of May 1853. A. G. Hovey, Probate Court."

this

(I think you have ~~this~~ too.)