

Not Sent - File Brimfield
family

DICK TAYLOR from CYB

Feb 14 1971

Please, it's no use urging me to attempt premature publication. The past record is so full of errors that I have no wish to perpetuate them. I have to resign myself to the slow drudgery of doing what I can to remedy the mistakes. And there's a long way to go, yet. Only portions of the records in my files are good enough to warrant publication. Lots of errors, resulting from continual repetition of whatever someone has thought or said or written or printed, without verification, still remain to be tackled by recourse to original documents of one kind or another.

Perhaps I can illustrate by citing errors in a single column on your chart -- the last one, Headed Joseph Belknap & Prudence Morris. I now know that there are ~~many~~ five errors in it. Some of them seem petty; but genealogy makes no distinction between minor errors and major ones. An error is an error, period. So forgive me for itemizing.

(1) Date of marriage of Joseph and Prudence. You show 17 March 1724. This is the way the marriage date has been shown by descendants who want to conceal the fact that the first child was born 6 months after marriage. The true date was 1724/25 -- Old Style and New Style (for such dates before 1752). By present day calendar, marriage was in March 1725, and first son was born Sept 1725.

(2) Elizabeth McNeill as wife of William and mother of the first Morris Burke Belknap. (A) Her name was McNall, proved by record of her father. (B) She was childless, died a year or so after marrying William. William married, 2nd, Anne Burke, who was mother of all his children. Hence middle ~~name~~ name Burke, in Morris Burke Belknap and other later members of this family.

~~(3)~~ (3) Name of wife of Morris Burke Belknap was Phoebe Locke (not Lock) Thompson.

(4) William Burke Belknap marriage date was 30 May 1843.

(5) Wife of William Richardson Belknap was Alice Silliman -- double l, not one.

Then add the fact that this column on the chart omits 18 dates (down to the second William Burke Belknap). This is just an unusually bad example of what I have to remedy in many other records -- especially those at Salt Lake, which often are the least reliable that I find. Important? Yes, decidedly so. For ~~the~~ absence of dates has often led to misidentification of a person with same given name. A recent case in my work: misidentification of an Eli, birth date not known, led HWB and others to listing as descendants of Joseph and Prudence Morris something like 75 people who ~~XXXXXX~~ could not possibly belong in that line.

Does this give you some faint idea of the reasons why I'm not ready to publish?

Or should I go on to talk about how to deal with a falsification of the record in a family Bible? I could.

Q.1

RBT from CYB

Feb 11 1971

You ask if I have been in correspondence with Robert Jackson Belknap, in Kenya.

No. Perhaps should write him; but not sure he is still in Kenya. I need dates for his children. I assume he is the one shown under index 19, top of your chart.

Some years ago, my wife and an artist friend of ours met him when he was visiting a family in our town. Both my wife and the artist told me he was virtually my double ("even has Carroll's mannerisms," said the artist) and that a photo of his son John, then at school at Choate (I think) looked exactly like a photo of our son John. These family resemblances, by Belknaps having only Abraham as a mutual ancestor, keep showing up all the time.

Do you have a reason for wanting me to get in touch with him? Can try, if you wish.

FROM THE DESK OF
RICHARD B. TAYLOR

7 February 1971

C.Y.B.

What interesting and exciting news...

As soon as you have some genealogical information on the Beltoft family located in the U.S., please rush to me... I am anxious to review it.

Also, thanx for the revised info on Abraham Belknap (formerly Beltoft).

The future is so uncertain I wish you would agree with me to publish a "first edition" family history... in the preface it could be clearly stated that a more detailed "second edition" would be published at a later date.

There are so few people interested in doing such a work... and doing the work necessary to sales, distribution, etc. If an auto accident should take either you or me, there would be no one on the horizon to do the project... It is not fair to future Belknap Searchers not to get something out while you and I have the energy and interest.

Sincerely,



Not sent

DICK TAYLOR from CIB

Feb 14 1971

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WESTLAND MALL SHOPPING CENTER

WEST CHARLESTON AT DECATUR BOULEVARD / LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Carroll York Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn 06878

21 December 1970

Dear Carroll:

Please accept our fondest wishes for you and your family for a warm and wonderful Christmas and a New Year full of rewards....

You ask, in your December 11th letter, for comments on the "legend of the two brothers".

First of all, I must apologize for that part I have played in perpetuating the legend... hopefully some of the good my article published in the International Finders Magazine and later reprinted did will make up for the bad.

To the point; I believe that most history, if not all history, is not factual. Rather, history is a written account by an author who sees it from his view or refines it from the views of others. The great Ernie Pyle saw World War II from the ground... was his history true? The pilots that lived it in the air... was their history true? What I am trying to say is that history (as well as legends) gain credence by the printed and published accounts.

So, my suggestion is to counter-act the legend we must put into print--in as many ways possible--the true story (as we believe it to be). If you were only to compile a small booklet... or give me permission to do so... we could distribute it near and far. In time this booklet would assume authenticity because of its distribution and because it would be the only authority to which people could turn for Belknap History.

Again, I plead that you publish... that we join in some venture to distribute as much information as we can to this point.

The power of the pen is certainly mighty. Let's use it! Why don't you box up your records and come visit me for a few weeks. Let's get the job done!

Sincerely,

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THRIFTMART
WEST HILLS LANES
U. S. POST OFFICE
SELF SERVICE FURNITURE

AVCO FINANCE
AAA PINK POODLE PARLOR
BARBER SHOP
BEEF n' BOTTLE RESTAURANT
CLAIR'S FLOWER SHOP

DANA McKAY BOOK STORE
DIXIE CHICKEN n' THINGS
FASHION SHOE CENTER
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
GLAMOUR BELLE BEAUTY SHOP

GLEE'S CARD AND PARTY SHOP
HOUSE OF FABRICS
HOUSE OF OLD SPAIN
JAY'S LIQUOR STORE
JOAN'S BRA-TIQUE

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MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
Richard B. Taylor, Director
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Phone (702) 870-3958

File
RBT

Nov 20 1970

Dear Dick:

Thanks for reminding me that I've neglected ~~ME~~ writing to you, far too long. Had it on my mind; but have been swamped with trying to solve endless puzzles, including the emergence of a bunch of Virginia Bellmaps (Rev War days) previously not on record as far as I know?

Thanks for Huel Belnap's letter and address. I've been wanting to get in touch with him.

The most helpful thing you've done for me has been to send me inquiries that you couldn't answer. Hope you'll send me another batch, some day.

I make progress slowly but steadily. Up to now, mostly or almost wholly the accumulation of data that are still just filed by sources -- not yet entered in my master file. Presently I'll stop accumulating and try to organize the 4,000 or 5,000 entries in chronological sequence.

What about you? What are you doing now? The bits of information you enclosed have merely confused me.

RICHARD BLACKBURN TAYLOR

1812 ORTIZ

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102



Dear Fellow Nevadan:

This is a proper time to count our blessings. We have free and honest elections, we have a great place to live, and we have a future full of promise.

We have a proud heritage with strong family ties and a sincere desire to build a bright future for ourselves and our children.

You can be certain that as your Lt. Governor I will use my capabilities, experience and energy to serve you in every way possible. During my fifteen-year residence in Nevada I have spent five years as an investment counselor making me aware of the need for careful handling of funds and proper financial planning of municipalities and business ventures to assure growth and prosperity. Ten years of my business career has been devoted to developing tourism (our most important product) for Nevada.

Recognizing my extensive experience related to Nevada's needs, many friends and business associates have convinced me to serve our state as Lieutenant Governor. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Manager, Unity Securities, Present Occupation
Members Philadelphia-Baltimore-Washington Exchange
Manager, Mitchum Jones & Templeton
Members New York Stock Exchange
Managing Director, Hacienda Hotel
Member Board of Directors Y.M.C.A.
Member Board of Directors United Fund
Superintendent, Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association
Various executive posts Boy Scouts of America



Here's a help-mate. As you meet, read about, or discuss the candidates and form opinions about their ability, background and experience, mark this sheet as to your choice. Then on election day take this with you to the polls.

U.S. Senate

*Howard W. Cannon (D)	Las Vegas
Harold G. Desellem (IAP)	Reno
Walter D. Duesenberg (D)	Crystal Bay
George R. Lill (D)	Sparks
William Raggio (R)	Reno
Wilford Owen Woodruff (R)	Las Vegas

Representative In Congress

*Walter S. Baring (D)	Reno
J. Robert Charles (R)	Las Vegas
Dr. Otto Ravenholt (D)	Boulder City
Betty Victoria (R)	Las Vegas

Governor

Margie Dyer (R)	Sparks
Ed Fike (R)	Las Vegas
Dan Hansen (IAP)	Sparks
Donal "Mike" O'Callaghan (D)	Carson City
Henry "Hank" Thornley (D)	Las Vegas

Lieutenant Governor

Robert R. Broadbent (R)	Boulder City
Lee Peer (D)	Reno
Harry Reid (D)	Las Vegas
Bob Shaw (R)	Reno
Richard B. Taylor (R)	Las Vegas

Secretary Of State

Roger Hall (R)	Las Vegas
*John Koantz (D)	Carson City
Derry Parker (R)	Las Vegas

State Treasurer

Roy Bankoffier (R)	Reno
Charles A. Bennett (D)	Las Vegas
Dean Blake (R)	Reno
*Mike Mirabelli (D)	Carson City

State Controller

*Wilson McGowan (R)	Carson City
James M. McGroarty (D)	Las Vegas
Ray Shockley (D)	Henderson

Attorney General

*Harvey Dickerson (D)	Carson City
Robert List (R)	Carson City

DICK:

I think I should send you this summary of what is now known (and not known) about the family of my great great grandfather, Jonas Newton Belknap -- even though it's something you probably cannot use at this time.

traced

We have ~~XXXXXX~~ descendants of all of his children but one -- Cynthia -- and have hopes of tracing her children before long.

Someday, I'll be able to send you a verified record of perhaps 600 ~~to~~ to 1000 descendants of this Jonas, if you can use a thing that big.

Meanwhile, the attached sheets (which are indisputably sound) may keep you from being misled by misinformation from other sources.

Nov 30 1969

Belknap

FROM THE DESK OF

RICHARD B. TAYLOR

File

18 Sep 1969

Dear Carroll:

Are you ready to start on our joint effort:
A hard-cover, compendium of American Belknaps,
with format similar to the "Abridged Compendium
of American Genealogy" ?

We better get started while you are in
good health and I am available to handle the
sales promotion.

TITLE: "Belknaps in America"

AUTHORS: CYB & RBT

SPONSORS: Pre-sold @ \$10 per copy to biographees

CONTENTS:

- I. Forward and/or Introduction
By CYB & RBT
- II. English Origins
By CYB
- III. Anecdotes - Interesting short stories
By RBT
- IV. Family Genealogies
From files of CYB & RBT and contributors
- V. Mormon Belknaps-Belnaps

VI. ? Any ideas ?

Oct 3 1969

Dear Dick:

I wish I could say "Yes." But I'm so far away from publication that I can't even guess at a date for even starting to write.

I'm still deep in the basic task of trying to produce a reasonably accurate set of notes. None of the various collections of Belknap genealogy is free from visible errors. Most of them contain lots of unsubstantiated entries based on tradition or hearsay rather than on acceptable evidence. So I plod along, trying to live up to the one requirement that I can try to meet, in the definition of a genealogist, as set forth by the Board for Certification of Genealogists: "He shall be able to evaluate published source materials and compiled genealogies, and in the case of the latter, to verify statements contained therein before using them."

I've come to share that deep distrust of "published source materials and compiled genealogies." I believe nothing I see in them, until I find dependable verification. . . . For example, the record of my great-great-grandfather, Jonas Newton Belknap. Long and patient search for actual contemporary evidence has contradicted most of what has been circulated, about him -- so that only now am I approaching the time at which I can write about him and his family with something resembling accuracy.

Now, multiply that one instance many times -- for I have perhaps 4,000 or maybe 5,000 names in my files. I won't know how many till I bring together in one organized file all the material not yet systematized. Even then, there will have to be a separate file of perhaps 1,000 Belknaps whose ancestry ~~xx~~ has not yet been traced with even casual blundering.

Even if I wished to do so, I'm incapable of reversing the habits of a lifetime devoted to painstaking effort aimed at finding the truth.

If all I succeed in doing is to make progress on leaving an unswudied trail, I'll still be content.

Yours,

RBT from CYB

9/13/69

Long ago, quite justifiably, you lamented that I'm "too slow."

The slowness, however, has its own justifications. In trying to achieve anything resembling accuracy, one gets drawn inescapably into family history and biography — and finds problems that take endless time, or so it seems.

So I'm now amusing myself by sending you an example — the most recent of scores of letters to a cousin who is also a descendant of the Jonas Newton Belknap who fought beside his father on Bunker Hill. We have been of great service to each other — and had to clear up a lot of wrong stuff to establish ~~link~~ links to many other present-day descendants of Jonas N B. . . . One task that we accepted — and are still tackling — is to help a young cousin Carol Anne Belknap, Des Moines, prove to the D A R that her ancestor Elisha Belknap was son of Jonas N B. The attached letter to Clinton Belknap is a part of that effort — for the proof we can establish has to be geographic — time and place — as no other record except mere "family tradition," which the D A R won't accept, has yet been found.

One reason for sending you this ~~pk~~ letter (though it may bore you) is to say Thanks. Every person mentioned in ~~link~~ it is someone with whom I got in contact as result of your sending me your file of letters from people whom you had not yet been able to put on your charts.

But for your generosity, I wouldn't even know of the existence of Clinton Belknap and all those other helpful people. . . and wouldn't have data on scores of other Belknaps past and present, who do not appear in any known collections of Belknap records.

Peter Salem
(Salem
Middlesex?)

RBT
file

...rang out. Eight
colonists lay dead, 10 wounded.
The British pressed on to
Concord, where they destroyed
what military supplies the
colonists had been unable to
move.
By now thousands of
Minutemen were rushing to
battle. Some were black, in-
cluding Cuff Whittemore, Cato
Wood, Pmp Blackman, Peter
Salem, and Lemuel Haynes.
In the fighting at Lexington
and Concord on the 19th, British
casualties outnumbered
American 273 to 95. Among
those wounded at Concord was
the black Minuteman who
fought at Lexington.
After fighting at Concord,
Peter Salem became a hero at
Breed's Hill in what has
come to be called the Battle
of Bunker Hill. His career
typifies service of blacks in the
war for independence.
Peter was born in
Framingham, Mass., about
1750, the slave of Jeremiah
Belknap who came from Salem.
Later Belknap sold him to Maj.
Lawson Buckminster. Although
the law excluded blacks from
the militia, some were admitted

JO
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MONDAY th
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as completed a
will be Japan's
jet. The twin-
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SPECIAL of the V



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TINCH FURNITUR

Pls return to
my file. KRT

RBT
from CYB

Sept 13, 1969

Have copied this clipping. Thanks.

It may be the negro known (among other names) as "Salem Middlesex," a "servant" of a Belknap — in my records. Best part of the story is that in his old age he was supported by this Belknap and by others who had fought on Bunker Hill. I haven't time, right now, to search my records for him. . . There a lot of Belknaps at Concord and Lexington and on Bunker Hill. were

FROM THE DESK OF

RICHARD B. TAYLOR

8/12/69

CB —

My sincere apologies for
so long a silence. I could
write a book length excuse citing
back-office problems, switching firms,
wife in hospital, opening new firm,
then traumatic market collapse... But
you're not interested in all those
stories —

Truth is I could have written
but because I've done no genealogy
in months I had nothing to
report!

Hope you are well.

Can you help this man? Rich

Brokers' Walkout

Action in Las Vegas

By Sidney P. Allen
Financial Editor

EVERYONE KNOWS Las Vegas is a swinging Nevada desert town, crammed with gorgeous girls and lavish spas, round-the-clock gambling, and mystery-tycoon Howard Hughes. It's a place for action, and dollars are a major stock in trade in the booming community.

It's also the site of some interesting brokerage and investment firm intrigue that rattled skeletons from San Francisco's Montgomery Street to New York's Wall Street yesterday.

The story: the entire staff of the Schwabacher & Co. branch office — ten men including resident partner Frank Green and resident manager Dick Taylor — walked out and prepared to go to work for the firm of Mitchum, Jones & Templeton, Inc.

Both Schwabacher & Co. and Mitchum, Jones & Templeton are San Francisco-based firms.

The mass move was clearly unusual. Taylor was quoted as explaining simply that it was a case of "dissatisfaction."

William Goszkruger, Schwabacher & Company's partner in charge of branches, who flew out from New York due to the crisis, was quoted: "This is very unusual. These people are disloyal."

The defection was not totally surprising.

Richard Muir, managing partner of Schwabacher & Co., in a statement prepared late yesterday said: "On Wednesday, October 2, we accepted the resignation of the then existing force in our Las Vegas office. . ."

Additionally, Eugene L. Charles was seated as the new resident manager, and the office was opened and operated "as usual" yesterday by personnel from other Schwabacher branch offices on the West Coast.

Goszkruger himself was enplaned back to New York.

Robert Phillips, vice president of Mitchum, Jones & Templeton here, acknowledged that his firm had been approached by the men from Schwabacher's in Las Vegas. He added that the New York Stock Exchange has been contacted for clearance of the men, and a deal for their services is "in process".

The only problem seemed to be office space. Mitchum, Jones & Templeton, Phillips said, has been interested in Las Vegas and other communities as branch office sites, but "no space has been secured there yet."

Space is a problem these days, but men are even more so.

Parenthetically, Darrell Winrich, formerly managing partner of Schwabacher & Co. here and now Mitchum, Jones' vice president in charge of marketing, was reported in Las Vegas yesterday.

★ ★ ★
THE HOTTEST THING on the November ballot—the Watson Amendment (Proposition 9) to limit property tax rates — was discussed in open forum pro and con yesterday and no blood was spilled.

The San Francisco Bond Club staged the forum at luncheon. Howard Jarvis, leader of United Organizations, spoke in favor of the proposition. Robert Brown of the California Taxpayers Association spoke against it. And Alan K. Browne of Bank of America sat in the middle as moderator.

Jarvis had the emotional appeal. Everybody's tax-conscious here today, including many of the disadvantaged, such as pensioners.

Brown, however, had the logic: that Proposition 9 could not put a limit on government spending; that a massive tax shift which could drastically retard business development would be foisted on taxpayers, suddenly.

Jarvis rebutted that a restructuring of the tax system is overdue, that there are increasing thousands of cases of tax foreclosures arising from the swelling property tax.

And Brown countered that in states where there is a property tax limitation the total tax collections put an increased burden on the citizens.

Meanwhile, the municipal bond men have more new business than ever in memory — if they want it. California municipalities are racing new bond issues to market to get the money before election.

Next week alone some 70 or more issues are up for sale. The California municipal market is quieted, with

Dec. 10, 1968

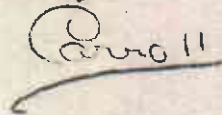
Dear Dick:

Just a brief note, to tell you I'm home again after a fascinating holiday on Crete -- which gave me a new concept of the possibilities of the human race -- a glimpse at a people who lived at peace for almost a thousand years -- with joy in living and an amazing display of creative beauty -- in complete contradiction of the dark Greek myths about them.

Now I'm facing the task of dealing with a mass of unanswered letters. So a note to you before I start on them.

I hope all is well with you. The last I heard was a piece in the N Y Times, back in early October.

Yours,

Paul

How Much Does It Cost To Rear A Child?



Excerpt from **PAUL HARVEY NEWS**

Hey, Uncle, how much does it cost to rear a child?

You allow us taxpaying parents only **\$600** a year to feed, clothe, house and train a youngster.

Yet, to feed, clothe, house and train a youngster in your federal government Job Corps you spend **\$7,000** a year!

Now, which is the correct figure. Either we're allowing you too much or you're not allowing us enough.

You allow taxpaying parents a **\$600** deduction for the care and feeding of each child . . .

Yet under the Cuban refugee program you assume minimal upkeep requires **\$1,200** a year—and if the Cuban boy or girl is attending school—an extra **\$1,000** a year.

How come you shortchange the homefolks?

In the austere environs of a federal prison, you have discovered that it costs—to maintain one person, with no frills, no luxuries, and no borrowing dad's car—**\$2,300** per year!

By what rule-of-thumb do you estimate that mom and dad can do it for one-fourth of that amount?

Under Social Security, you will pay **\$168** a month to maintain the elderly. What makes you think we can maintain our young'uns on **\$50** a month?

And Uncle, your VISTA Program (Volunteers in Service to America) spent **\$3,100,000** this last fiscal year to turn out only **202** trainees.

That indicates that the cost of maintaining and training one youth for one year is more than \$15,000.

Then how come we taxpaying parents get an exemption of only \$600 to maintain and train one youth for one year?

Or let's see how much you spent upkeep-ing one youngster in military uniform. House \$55.10 a month. Food \$30.27 a month. Clothing upkeep \$4.20 a month. That comes to \$1,074.04 a year.

How in the world do you expect parents to provide all these things, plus clothes, recreation, books, medicine . . . for \$600 a year? With your own figures, you admit it can't be done.

It is possible, Uncle, that you expect us parents to manage more efficiently than you, because we usually do.

With all our expenses, we American individuals have more than enough savings to offset our debts, you don't.

With all our prosperity, you, Uncle, are still spending per year 2.9 billion dollars more for relief than during the depths of the depression. So it may be that you are uncommonly extravagant.

But however we try to rationalize and explain you and excuse you, it is still a hurtful affront when you allow us hard working, dues-paying homefolks only \$600 a year to rear a legitimate child . . .

While you, under ADC, will pay more than \$800 a year to upkeep an illegitimate one.



RICHARD B. TAYLOR
TAX SHELTERS
INVESTMENT SECURITIES
(702) 382-6020

THE AMERICAN BELKNAP FAMILY TREE

A NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION
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was formed in an effort to document and authenticate many extraneous records, beliefs, ~~rumors~~ ^{talks}, and efforts into one efficient and directed program. As a result the foundation has exploded some myths, publicized some true and romantic stories, and served you and your family. The foundation serves all descendants of Father Abraham.

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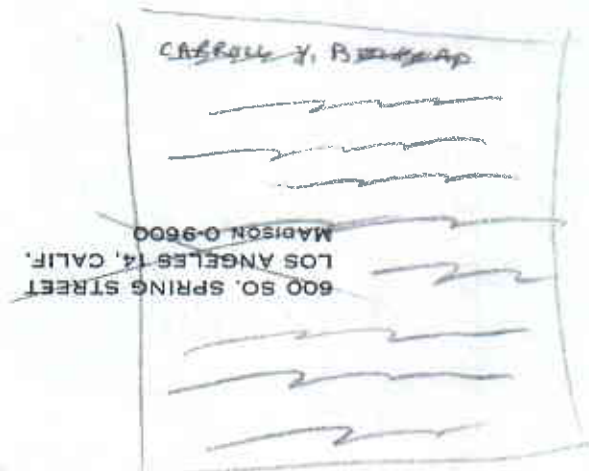
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FUTURE :

With your help the foundation will soon publish a hardback edition of "The American Belknaps." This volume will contain many brief and interesting anecdotes of family history, A sketch of your family, your complete lineage going back 500 years! Contributions needed. Ask for publication form.

YOUR OFFICERS (WHO ARE THEY?):

Reproduced below are the biographical sketches found in the 1966-68 who's who in the East for MR. Belknap, and who's who in the West for MR. Taylor.



DICK:

SUNDAY 3/31/68

Before Peg and I go AWOL for a week or so, Salem, Boston, etc., I'm writing a letter that you and Charlene will need a full two weeks to think about before you try to reply.

I know quite well I shouldn't bother you with a letter so long at this time. I remember too vividly the year when my adorable son-in-law -- an officer of Bache & Co. -- took over an ailing branch office and tripled its volume in 12 months. I recall his fatigue at the end of a day of heavy strain and responsibility.

Yet I have to write this letter.

Don't let it seem too urgent. Read it when you can and when you feel like reading.

And -- maybe -- take time to ~~EXAMINE IT~~ brood a bit -- just as I've been doing.

(Perron)

DEAR DICK AND CHARLENE (Or vice versa. Who am I to determine protocol?)

3/31/68

The word is "valiant."

The process of reading and copying the material in the fat files you so generously lent to me has made me stand in awe of the incredible magnitude of what you've accomplished in developing your charts. "Incredible" — because it's plain that you had every handicap that I can even imagine. Isolation from the great libraries of genealogical material — dependence on what you could get from present-day Bellmaps, most of whom could give you only partial or incorrect or guesswork information — and so on and on. I ask myself, "Could I have done it?" — and humbly say "NO."

And I think of the contrast between your great handicaps and my own happy lack of those same handicaps. Here am I, with freedom that you didn't have: the time and money to do what I want to do and go ~~wherever I want~~ go go — easy access to great genealogical libraries in New York and Boston and Salem — easy ability to induce people to lend me the source material I need — complete office equipment for copying whatever I can store for later use — connections and contacts that I can use to open doors for me — and, again and again, so on and so on. And now, for everyday use, the most extensive mass of family records that has yet been assembled in one place — plus the knowledge that I'm going to be able to make it still more extensive.

So, looking at this terrific contrast, I stand abashed before the valiant job that you two have done.

(But, parenthetically, I'm also glad that you never got your hands on the stuff produced by Glenn Evans. If it had come into your possession and if you had followed it, the least charge against you would have been "forgery." In this, you've been lucky. But skip it; I'll have to talk about Evans later on in this letter.)

My sense of the greatness of your valiant work is what forces me to write this letter. I know I should not impose on your time by sending you a letter as long as this will probably be, but I have to do it — if only for my own peace of mind.

It's nice of you to tell me I'm doing good work. But I'm not at all happy about some of the things I'm doing. I think I'm wrong in doing them.

So please bear with me while I retrace the steps that have brought me to where I now am, for one dominant question is that of motives. What I'm doing could easily be misinterpreted.

I began with an innocent desire to induce you to make some corrections in your chart. Finally, in response to my continual nagging, you managed to make me understand that you could only do what you had done — use what you could get, without attempting to verify it.

So, at once, I switched to an effort to help you — by assembling accurate data and wider data for you to use.

This led, eventually, to the conviction that I could short-cut the job by

getting hold of the files left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap, if I could find them. After months of effort, and a lot of persuasive selling, I found them and got them. But they weren't what I had expected them to be. They were so full and so voluminous that I saw I'd have to devote months to working with them -- in the light of what I'd learn by reading years of letters from and to HWB.

Then I saw, from the records and from the letters, that the reason why HWB abandoned the job in 1927 was that he knew there were lots of errors and debatable points in what he had set down -- even though he had completely re-typed most of his cards in order to correct his early errors (making, alas, errors in typing which I have to correct).

It became plain that I would have to make copies of all his records, in order to enter the necessary changes and additions -- for I could not deface his cards. And it also was plain that, as I'd never have time to dig for original sources to verify or remedy his questionable entries, I'd have to assemble for comparison all other available collections of family records -- in order to be in position to compare differences and decide what seemed most likely to be nearly correct.

Meanwhile, as time went on, I began trying to deal with some of HWB's "dead ends" -- where he had recorded a marriage but had no information about children. I wrote letters to some people who could help me -- and got many helpful replies.

Finally, I asked you to lend me your file of "unused material," which I thought might solve some of those dead ends -- as indeed it will. This, in turn, prompted me to ask your permission to write directly to some of your correspondents -- and I got swift response, which has led me into writing still more letters.

And there's what troubled me. You see, I feel justified -- for instance -- in writing to the Priscilla Alden Belknap who is a direct descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins ("Speak for myself, John.") because I could and did tell her that her uncle would have wanted her to help me. And I could write directly -- for highly personal reasons -- to the Anne Belknap who married Palmer Scott, because Anne Belknap my daughter wants to meet her the next time she's cruising in and around the Elizabeth Islands.

But when I've gone beyond this, for mere reasons of expediency, I have ~~HNH~~ felt like a claim jumper -- for I'm intruding where I should not go.

Please don't answer this by saying "Go right ahead." The problem lies too deep for that kind answer.

The essence of the true problem is that you are helping me and I'm not helping you. Which is entirely contrary to all my intentions and ~~shakes~~.

Or, to state the problem a better way, what should happen in the future?

What should happen is the establishment of you two as the future and continuing source of authoritative information on Belknap history and genealogy -- if you are willing to assume the burdens that this will impose on you.

So when I put my name and address on a pedigree that I send to a Belknap, I'm wrong -- for I'm interposing myself between you and that Belknap.

My motives are pure enough, dammit. I say to myself, "This man or woman is old and may die at any moment. I must write without delay, to get information that is not available from any other source. I can't wait. Nor can I ask Dick and Charlene to do it for me; they haven't the luxury of enough time to write the sort of letters that will succeed -- nor do they have enough background information to know the right emotional bait to offer in each individual instance. I have to do it myself."

My motive -- you must understand -- is not vanity. I have no desire for a reputation in this field. I've had all the national reputation I want, in my own special field. In the last 25 years of my active business life, I had no need of seeking clients; instead, I could and did accept only the clients I wanted to work with and believed I could help -- companies whose names are known to everyone -- so that, for example, the president of Quaker Oats could write to the president of another major company whom I had not yet met, "If Carroll Belknap says he can help you, he can" -- and then send me a carbon of his letter, which consisted of just that one sentence. No -- I've no need or desire for another reputation in a new and different field in which I'm nothing but an eager-beaver amateur who will surely make sad mistakes.

The reputation that should be built up, in this genealogical field, is yours.

Provided you want to accept the ensuing burdens -- which can become very heavy.

I can lay the foundation. But the work must then be continued by a younger man or woman.

Suppose I keep on building a reasonably authoritative file of data -- and then summarize it in a manuscript of 500 to 1000 typed pages. Essex Institute may want to publish it. Or, quite probably, I can use personal friendships to get it published in book form by one of several top-flight publishers. Or, maybe, I limit myself to placing typescript copies in the hands of such people as you and Della and other interested members of the family, plus copies deposited in a number of great libraries and museums. All wide open for consideration, for I won't reach that point in less than two years.

And then suppose I turn over to you the entire ~~my~~ basic file of thousands of cards -- for you to continue in the future, trying to keep it reasonably up to date as more Belknaps are born. This isn't worth doing unless by that time your name and reputation is well established -- as the center for Belknap family information.

So I have my real purposes everytime I permit mere expediency to lead me into being an interloper -- a claim jumper.

Meanwhile, how do I help you?

To illustrate, let me describe briefly my "project within a project." Long range, I'm working on the record of the whole family and the name. Short-range, I'm working on the expansion of the record of the descendants of my great great

grandfather, Jonas Newton Belknap, who was 16 years old when he fought at the side of his father, on Bunker Hill. My Cousin Claudia, in Oregon, is now adding the necessary details -- dates, etc. -- to the approximately 300 lineal descendants of just one of his sons: Jesse. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ You tried to tackle this task with information from my Cousin Clark Russell Belknap -- and gave up, for Clark's a fine fellow but an unreliable source of genealogy -- but Claudia will do it and do it well, with the aid of her father and her sister Florence. And then, with the aid of Clinton Belknap in Nebraska, I'll assemble names etc. on a lot of the descendants of another son of Jonas Newton B. -- Elijah. And more data, then, on descendants of still other sons: Samuel, Jonas Jr., Orin -- and the first generation children of the daughters, Susannah, Cynthia, Esther. All told, perhaps, something like 500 names of descendants of just one man, Jonas Newton Belknap, for whom your chart now has just a handful of names as you are fully aware.

What in Heaven's name could you do with those 500 names, if I passed them along to you?

Then I make it worse. I go back to Ebenezer, son of the first Samuel -- and I work out the descendants of all his children (except the girl who died at 17) -- like the ones in Canada, for instance -- and give you another 500 names or maybe more, depending on how long I work at this part of the task. I could give you quite a lot right now -- incomplete though it would be without further research. But what would you do with it -- "chartwise"?

Now, at this moment and as I go along, do I find a way to ^{help} ~~keep~~ you with what you two are doing?

Please find an answer to this question. I'm just baffled.

And also, find a ^{workable} ~~usable~~ answer to how do I properly keep myself in the background where I belong?

You need to understand that what I've done up to now is merely exploratory and preparatory.

I'm only just beginning to approach the time when I begin collating data from all my files -- building up a master file of all known Belknaps, which I can't even begin till I get my hands on one basic tool -- HNB's index at Salem.

Meanwhile there is other material I should collect -- and will, in one way or another.

Someday, to my sorrow, I'll have to dig into the unorganized mass of material left in the Michigan State Library by Glenn Evans, even though I know most of it will be useless. If I said what I think of his work, his heirs could justifiably sue me for slander or libel. So I won't say more than I said to Clinton Belknap when I returned to him the ~~typescript~~ typescript of the stuff Evans prepared for him in 1951. I just wrote one comment: "Oh, mt Oh my!" I know that the files at Lansing will be a sort of junk pile -- yet buried in it there will be priceless good material from the extremely wide reading that Evans did over a period of years -- and if I can find the original notes, free from later distortions and blunders, they'll be tremendously valuable. But how I dread it.

g

But I'd better get back to the more immediate problem.

How do you and I arrive at the right working relationship?

In the present situation, I'm better able to link present-day people back to their ancestry — because I have files and files and files that you don't yet have.

You're better than I am, at ~~guts~~ mass efforts to induce many Belknaps to send you helpful material — and you can pass along to me whatever you find yourself unable to link up, in the hope that I can do it.

I'm in better position to write to some present-day Belknaps, when I know exactly what bull'seye to aim at in an appeal to individual emotion.

But how do I help you? For one example, could I help you by providing new kinds of bait? From the file you sent me, I gather that you haven't been too content with the response to mass circularizing, though you have tried a number of ways of inducing people to reply — and the results have amply ~~XXXXXX~~ justified the effort, though perhaps not the cost to you. . . Suppose I provided, at my expense, copies of shortish new things like "The Story of Abraham" or "Why the Name Was Changed, in England". There are many such pieces that I could easily write — and they'd be pretty authoritative, for every word in them would be based on documentary evidence, not on the maunderings of past pseudo-genealogists. With such a piece of bait, in exchange for information, could you get better response? Would you want to try it? What financial aid would you like me to provide?

Meanwhile, when I find myself too tempted to write directly to a Belknap, how do I do it without being a claim jumper? I get good results. Of all such letters that I've written in past months (I haven't always pestered you with copies) only one has been unanswered. And the replies have been good ones, full of meat.

And another problem that leaves me in need of your counsel. . . the effect of my work on dear fine Della.

Here it reassures me greatly to learn that you two are L.B.S. In my youth, when I was just beginning to make my own way, I spent a year in a Mormon town and lived in the home of the bishop of the stake. So I have great and abiding respect for people of your faith. And I think you can guide me.

What troubles me (and I rely on you not to repeat this to Della) is a fear that I'll offend Della, eventually, by coming out with records that do not agree with those on record at the Temple. I have good reason for this fear. When her father did the original work on it, he relied heavily on very early information from Henry Wyckoff — so it contains many errors that HEB later corrected. Also, Della's father often relied on wrong records — such as date of baptism, using it as birthdate, when in early Massachusetts and Connecticut the birth and baptism were often widely separated both in time and in space — so, wrong towns and wrong dates, for births — in too many cases. In other cases, the records sent

to me by Della often rely on a date shown in the early Vital Records in Massachusetts -- which were notoriously inaccurate. Very often, the Vital Record in a Massachusetts town would show the right day and month (same as on the church record) but under the next year. HWE, where he could, showed both years -- the true date from original source, the incorrect date from the Vital Records. So I'm bound to show, ultimately, a lot of dates that differ by a full year from Della's.

And I sense, intuitively and I hope erroneously, a sort of opposition by Della -- against any alteration of the data on file in Salt Lake -- as if there were a kind of "vested interest" in the preservation of what is on file there.

Am I wrong? I hope so. If I'm not wrong, please tell me how to handle this problem. For the moment, I've just stopped telling Della about things on which I think the Salt Lake records may be in error.

Now, finally, help me look far ahead.

Suppose you go along with my idea that you two are the logical trustees for the future -- to carry on what I pass on to you when I've gone as far as I can.

It will be a costly thing to do -- even to the extent of requiring the aid of a secretary to handle correspondence and tracing of ancestry. I've done only a tiny fraction of the sort of work that would become ~~extremely~~ necessary in future years; but I've done enough to know how time-consuming it is, and how big the cost of supplies and postage might become if the job were really well done.

Consider, then, the practical side -- how such work could be made to be self-supporting, or even yield a profit.

Or how it might be subsidized by Belknaps who are abundantly able to do so, like the Louisville family and many others.

Are you willing to think far ahead with this sort of planning?

Carroll
3/31/68

Carroll

DICK TAYLOR

3/18/68

I'm mailing your files of "unentered" material back to you today -- by first class mail to ~~XXXXXX~~ avoid delay in getting them back into your hands.

I'm not shipping them in the steel box in which they came. It was wrecked on its way to me -- so badly that I had to take off the hinges to get into it, as the lock was jammed fast. No serious damage to contents, though the steel box was badly crushed.

I'm using, now, the box in which Della shipped her records -- which came through in perfect condition.

If you need another steel file box, please get one at my expense and bill me.

I've copied everything that might be useful -- without delaying to see what is on your charts already.

I've inserted in the file one of two copies of letters that I've written -- which you needn't bother to read but which should be in your record of what I'm doing.

Thanks a lot for your generosity.

Carroll Belknap:



DICK:

I'm mailing to you separately a batch of letters sent to ~~me~~ me by Fern Martin. I have made copies for my files.

Also, for reasons that I'll explain later when I have more time, I have written to a number of the people who wrote to her. I'll send you their replies when they arrive.

The ones I've written to are identified by a red check mark.

Carroll
3/29/68

DICK:

I hope it will please you as much as it has me, that both Clinton Belknap and Mrs. Fern Martin (about whom I phoned you) replied by return mail, sending me everything I asked for -- and much more, which I'll pass along to you when I've copied it.

With their aid and that of cousin Claudia in Oregon, I'm well on my way toward sizable expansion of the record of descendants of Jonas Newton Belknap.

Carroll
3/20/68



RBT file

DICK:

The box of your records arrived Saturday -- two weeks en route. I'll make copies as rapidly as possible and ship it back to you.

Haven't had time for full examination yet, but have seen enough to be troubled by difficulty in determining what has been entered on your charts and what hasn't. Don't want to take time for detailed checking of every item against the chart.

I may phone Charlene about this, later today, to see if she can guide me. Don't want to bother you at your office.

Check to reimburse postage is enclosed.

I think I can connect up some of the lines shown in your file. But can't try to do this at this time as haven't had time yet to go back to Salem to search for HWB's missing Index.

Meanwhile, my greatest thanks for your cooperation.

Carroll
3/10/68

DICK:

Re "two brothers" -- to remedy an oversight in what I wrote to you on this subject.

Should have warned you that Banks' Topographical Dictionary etc., published about 1937, lists among early immigrants to Massachusetts a Thomas Burnap from Aston, Herts., with "Belknap" in parentheses -- and shown as Belknap in book's index. Authority cited by Banks was a monograph on file at Essex Institute, written by HNB in the early days when he mistakenly thought Burnap was one of the variants of Belknap -- and was doing his damndest to track down those mythical two brothers. As I've told you already, H.B. later retracted this misidentification, in writing and in print.

If anybody quotes Banks to you, this is the answer.

Carroll
3/11/68

DICK AND CHARLENE,

3/12/68

TUCK THIS IN YOUR FILES FOR THE DAY WHEN YOU WRITE YOUR BELKNAP BOOK.

Subject: Strong family resemblances.

Yesterday, in the material you sent me, I saw the photo of Col. Augustus Belknap, who founded the San Antonio Street Railway (and the Belknap Rifles?) Exactly like a photo of my father at same age.

Many such instances — constantly. You'll find more of them.

Examples:

Photo of my cousin Claudia Marshall, yesterday. Said Peg when I showed it: "Obviously a Belknap, ~~IDENTICAL~~ isn't she?"

Photo

~~Photo~~ of a Robert Belknap now living in Kenya. Identical with photo of me at his age.

Wedding reception in Virginia five or six years ago. Across the room I saw, unmistakably, my own son Jack — but five years younger. Turned out to be a Robert Belknap from Long Island, as distantly related to my son as it is possible for Belknaps to be. But Peg's face ~~idm~~ suddenly white when I pointed him out to her and asked her "What do you see?"

Reverse English: A tart note on a photo in HWR's files: "Doesn't look like a Belknap." Correct. Turned out to be descendant of an adopted child with no Belknap blood in his veins.

Another case: A business meeting ~~in~~ with some ^{strangers} ~~MEMBERS~~ twenty years ago. Man comes over to me and says, "You must be a Belknap." One look at him, and I said, "So are you." He smiled and gave the usual greeting when Belknap's first meet: "We're all sons of Father Abraham."

In a club in upstate New York, a man I never saw before comes up to me and holds out his hand: "Hello, cousin. My grandmother was a Belknap." I look at him and reply, "Yes, I see she was."

I could go on like this, again and again. But I have no understanding of this queer persistence of family resemblances. It just is — that's all I know.

No doubt you've encountered it, too.

Carroll

3/12/68

PS: Studying and copying the material you sent me, I'm continually amazed by the magnitude of what you've accomplished — and the difficulties you have overcome in working from such inadequate information. I take off my hat to the two of you. And hope I can really help.

DICK:

You sound just like my beloved son-in-law, who manages a Bache branch nearby -- and has fled to Maine for vacation to forget all about it, he hopes. It does him no good for me to tell him "This too will pass."

Good to hear from you. I was on the point of phoning to find out if you or Charlotte were ill.

Thanks for the felder about Kona Village. Sounds good. Don't yet know where we'll go in October. Peg talks vaguely about "Japan or the Grecian islands" -- meaning, actually, "Far away, please." Maybe Hawaii may be the answer.

9/8/68

Roll

FROM THE DESK OF
RICHARD B. TAYLOR

5 Sep 1968

Dear C.B.:

Please excuse the long delay in writing you. My time... my headaches... my field of endeavor has really been a problem the last six months. The whole securities industry is in trouble... and our firm is messed up with the worst... fails are mounting... back-office back-log... bookkeeping errors... everything seems to be flying loose at all corners and I'm in the middle trying to keep my men happy, customers content, and the SEC off our backs.

I go home at nite a beat man... all genealogy in spare time has been cancelled for sleep... or recreation with family to give relief from paper work.

Wish I could have stayed in Hawaii a month!

And highly recommend the Kona Village if you want to "get away from it all". But if you want action the KV is not the place for you. It is small, isolated (only way to get there is by private plane from Kailua), and very quiet.

Will get back to genealogy when things return to a semblance of order.

Schwabacher & Co.

Love,
[Signature]

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MEMO TO R B TAYLOR
FROM Carrell Bellnap

7/27/68

I think I should send you a copy of the enclosed memo to Jane Bellnap, Des Moines -- widow of Milton R. Bellnap -- whose daughter's application for D A R membership was turned down for lack of sufficient proof of descent from Jonas Newton Bellnap (my great great grandfather, who fought on Bunker Hill at age 16)-- for these reasons:

1. As warning not to accept claim of descent of that line till their ancestor Elisha has been properly identified.
2. As an example of problems encountered when one has to be right, as I do in my part of this work.

The villain in this story is probably that damnable amateur Glen Evans , whose blunders and random guesses and falsifications have misled many people who have been unfortunate enough to see anything that he wrote. I get angry every time I think of him.

MEMO TO R B Taylor
FROM Carrell Belknap

7/27/68

Can you give me the name and address of the person who supplied the information about the Louisville Belknaps -- descendants of Joseph and Prudence Morris, at extreme right of your chart?

There is, I believe, one serious error in that part of your chart. But before saying anything about this to you, I should give your informant an opportunity to prove that all other existing records are in error on that point.

Incidentally, what is the exact meaning of the notation on your most recent chart, indicating that you have "the complete line" for Joseph and Prudence? I have only about 200 to 250 of their descendants -- plus the unhappy fact that Prudence was three months pregnant at time of marriage.

DICK TAYLOR

5/11/68

Clinton Bellmap points out that in my memo to you about Ebenezer's children I erred by typing "a daughter born about 1796" when I should have typed "1696."

My fingers do make such stupid slips -- and my eyes fail to see them.

Q.B.

DICK

4/19/68

Thanks for your long letter. It has a lot of good and helpful ideas. Today, no time to answer it as it deserves, for a very prosaic reason. The gardener has been ill all this week and I'm stuck with urgent work around the place.

And I've been swamped by urgent correspondence with people who need help on line of descent.

So, today, only two comments.

One -- I really do not think I should send you copies of all correspondence with members of the family. It's too voluminous. Usually takes an interchange of three to four letters to get necessary information. My file of such letters, etc., is now about as big as your whole file of "unused" material.... Better, I think, for me to send you final results, when I get them -- with understanding that if anything happens to me the whole mess will be dumped on you. . . . Some results are enclosed.

Two -- I'm far from sure that I should be too prominent in our joint effort. I'm used to anonymity and it doesn't bother me. Most of the millions of words that I've written for publication have not borne my name, as being issued by my clients under their names. . . . And I'm enclosing an example that may interest Charlene and you -- a political booklet about our town, written by Peg (who's an officer of the Republican Town Committee) on the basis of an outline that I drafted for her. Purpose, to explain our unusual town to new residents who come mainly from big cities where the form of government is nothing like ours. The map in the middle may explain geography of a town with a number of individual sections, each with its own postoffice. . . . The booklet has gone through a number of editions and has been imitated in other towns and cities. Peg still laments the fact that I won't let her give me any credit for it. I insist that she, not I, is the one whose political reputation is important.

Schwabacher & Co.

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AND OTHER LEADING SECURITY AND COMMODITY EXCHANGES

6 April 1968

Dear Carroll:

Early Saturday morning... all is quiet... only the faint background muzak drifts through the office. An office that was filled with smoke and noise all last week is now strangely silent... silent except for the electric typewriter that records my message to you.

Last week was a week to remember! Johnson declares he won't run again. On that news the stock market reaches for the sky breaking all volume records. The assassin's bullet ends a noteworthy life... giving poor excuse for rioting and looting.

I pray that the Bible's message is true... that we go to a more peaceful place at the end of our short time on the troubled earth.

And how thankful I am to have my wonderful wife and dear little children... to have been born of such fine parents... to have found a hobby in my genealogy that has introduced me to such fine and wonderful people as you are, Carroll.

When time permits and I sit down to write letters or answer some, my mind turns away from the cares that are and think about the other person... how can I give him some enjoyment, how can I help him, how can I entice him to help me, and how can I complete my project... a never-ending one, at that!

This morning again I have re-read your letter, no, your very interesting and thought provoking document on our joint project: Helping each other and arriving at the same goal (a complete and authentic documentation of the American Belknap Family Tree).

For the sake of reference and in the desire to be efficient and organized, I have numbered each of your paragraphs by page and will now undertake to answer, comment, elaborate, and explain where the paragraphs require.

1.1 The rewards have been abundant. Valiant is not the word for us. The long list of newly found pen-pals, the letters of appreciation, the knowledge that I have started something that will last forever, the help our Belknap Family Tree Chart will give to future hobbists... all of these have amply repaid us for the time and money spent.

1.2 Not only could you have done it, but you could have done it better. My only comment is, however, because of your desire for accuracy you may not have accomplished as much as we have in so short a period of time (altho in retrospect we have been very actively engaged in this project for 10 years as you probably noted from the letters in my file).

1.3. Yes, The burdon has been great. Time is the factor. While in the Hotel business I worked six days a week getting home most evenings long after normal people had finished dinner. On week-ends and holidays I often pulled in the driveway near mid-nite. The resort hotel business in Las Vegas is grueling, to say the least. Thursday was my day off for nine years and a lot had to be done during that one busy day. Then as the children grew more time had to be spent helping Charlene with her increased duties of entertaining, teaching, training, cleaning, etc, the little ones. Hence the switch out of hotel biz into securities to get better hours and week-ends off. But even now, altho arriving home at 6:pm the rigors of running an office of 20 people tire me only to be greeted by four wild indians who must be fed, bathed, pajamed then tucked in. By 8:30 when those jobs are accomplished I'm usually ready for the sack myself. I don't wish my life away... I don't wish my children to grow up and leave. I love the burdon of my job... I enjoy and love the burden of my little family. But when the day comes that the children are married and away and I have walked out of the smoke filled brokerage office to start retirement, I know full well that plenty of work still remains to be done on my hobby.

1.4 Thank you.

1.5 I made several attempts but the cost of having a copy made held me back.

1.6 You have never yet imposed on my time. To the contrary, I eagerly await your next letter. Ask Charlene. She even phones me at the office when the mailman leaves an envelope from 25 Club Rd. at 1812 Ortiz.

1.7 You are doing a marvelous work and a wonder. I'm doing mine the wrong way (not enuf documentation and authenticity) and you are doing yours the wrong way (not moving ahead fast enough). So as I see it, we should make a great team!

1.8 Motives. Good items to bring up early. And while I know you discuss it further in your letter I am going to comment on mine right now and maybe latter on amphifly a little. My problem is being money hungry. I like to have money. I like to be known as successful... important. Yet, like all humans, I'm more complex than just that... A family man... suborninated desires to write... strong desires to accomplish any and all projects commenced... and (like many) an escapist. So when I got started on the Belknap Family Tree many forces within me were working. I had completed a very authenticated and documented Taylor Family Tree (I will send you a copy which you may return as it has nothing to do with the Belknaps except that it was the seed for my later works). But the Taylor Family--mine--had only been in America very few generations and was easy to bring to completion... plus the fact that most of the work was done before I was blessed with children and with added titles and responsibilities in my chosen field. So, my motives in the Belknap project were many fold but ranking high was the desire to accumulate a great amount of source material for later years, to make the project self-supporting and/or profitable, and to become as soon as possible known as the one place in American that any Belknap could write for help (there's that ego again!) My long range plan was held three goals: (1) Compile and write a book with interesting thumbnail sketches, histories, etc plus the complete line for each and every American Belknap. The idea and method is already designed in my mind (2) The most unusual and fantastic chart of any family in the world. A chart so large and complete and interesting that museums and libraries world-over would covete and (3) a project so big that my retirement years would be consumed with activity rather than be wasted away in the city park, bowling green, or brokerage board room.

1.9 And now you know why. Speed and accumulation were my most important goals. Too many knowledable oldsters dying off with information that I must gather today or lose to all time and eternity.

1.10 Team work often produces better results.

2.1 Your enduring wife should appreciate that. You won't be running all around town with "the boys". All that data will keep you at home "under her feet" (Maybe she would rather have you out?)

2.2 I forsee an easier time for genealogists before 1999 when all forces join hands and program into the computer all birth and death statistical data. Then John Jones need only punch the button and IBM will seconds later type out his complete genealogy.

2.5 And I'm glad you did and hereby give you permission to write direct any time. For file purposes only, I would appreciate copies of letters and answers. And, I must remark here, my vanity and ego could not be deflated by any remarks or criticisms as to my chart or entries therein. Anyone may rake me over the coals. I know that the chart is not accurate (and it is so marked on each copy I send out) so when you correspond with one of my contacts, feel free to set the record straight. You and I know what I did and why.

2.6 If we are to continue as a team, we must have mutual faith and understanding. I yield to you as the expert (claiming the title of opportunist for myself). I want you to write to any of my pen-pals. I want you to devote as much attention as you feel you desire to. You would hurt the project if you didn't.

2.7 If we are to reach our goal, we must work hard and fast. You, by writing direct, can accomplish much.

2.8 There is no problem. There is no "patent pending". There is no jealousy. When you write, just keep my files up-to-date. And I will honor you with the same courtesy.

2.9 I have found in my marriage with Charlene that my own selfish needs are better served by admitting a wrong even when I know I am right. More happiness. More constructive advances. So you will find me a lover, not a fighter. If you say, you are not helping me; so be it. It is not important who is right or who is wrong. who is helping who. What is important is: Is the job getting done?

2.11 Yes, I am willing. But until the demands of my time and money decrease, how can I? To do the job right it appears to me one needs freedom from want and worry of want. And, more importantly, quiet time. I did not inherit nor expect to ever get money I have not earned by my own sweat. So, in these years I must store away funds from income for four college kids, for two boys to go on their two year missions, for my wife's protection, for our retirement. My nest egg is growing year by year and I take no back seat to anyone in my frugality and savings habits. My estate now, looks very good compared to most of my friends, but... where is the safety point? Should cancer invade my family... god forbid... how long do savings last? So, I am willing to do the work but unable at the moment.

2.12 How 'bout a team effort (sharing limelight) for the next ten years? By then, you may be ready to step down and I ready to step up. Unfortunately, this arrangement puts the burden on you. You have the time (and from what I read between the lines, the money), I don't. By the way, to satisfy your curiosity. In the event of a horrible tragedy ~~and~~ where Charlene, the four kids, and I are all killed at once, my last will and testament calls for a trust fund to be administered by the Bank of Nevada to hire competent genealogists to compile and publish (even in rough & undocumented form) all of my files to serve as a helpmate and guide for future Belknaps. Only after this is done will my brother or brother-in-law get any hand-outs (they don't need my money anyway).

3.1 I'm planning a ten year association with you, so please, no more remarks like this one. But, true, you must write without delay. Time is of the essence. You must do it yourself. You are more qualified.

3.2 You reached your goal in the business world. Congratulations. I'm still after mine.

3.3 Thanks. I would like it that way. (there's that ego again!)

I started this letter complimenting you on the length of yours... not it looks like you are a piker.

3.4 Subject to the aforementioned conditions.

3.5 Agreed.

3.6 First attempt would be to have Essex Institute publish (or some other recognized society). Alternative: Pay to have it published. I would pitch in my share and would undertake the sales program to have project break even and/or show profit. I emphatically disagree on the ~~xxx~~ thought that a limited number of your works would be typed up and distributed. No sir, when you have reached the point that it is ~~x~~ worth compiling into one document, then lets get it kpublished in hard-back form and I sell it door-to-door!

3.7 I wanted to have such a file before I met you. Now my dream is close to realization.

3.8 I understand your feeling.

3.9 Agree to share limelite and work as a team.

3.10 Long range our goals are the same. Short range your goal would have fit into my long range goal.

4.1 I understand.

4.2 Plenty. Altho not in production, a long time ago I devised a plan to supplement my 20 ft chart with overlays for those families that I couldn't crowd into the existing chart... so that I did not have to re-work the original copy but could give a person his own Belknap Family Tree and its relationship to the master copy.

4.3 Chartwise I could handle it. But I must admit that I probably wouldn't do it right now. (The evil face of money pops up again) But might do it I had orders for a few charts.

4.4 Continue ~~xxx~~ on your course with all sails rigged. Get some stationery printed at your local lithographers listed both names and addresses (sample idea inclosed).

4.5 An answer will come after ping pong of ideas.

4.6 We do not agree. Your name and reputation... your ability... will add weight to the overall project. You must take an active center-stage position.

4.7 I understand.

4.10 Unfortuneatly these comments apply to a lot of my collection but I am just beginning and the present condition is not nor never was inteded to be authentic... on expeditious.

5.3 Agreed.

5.4 Not better than you. More experienced maybe... more persistent... like Babe Ruth "I've tried often" He held the record for homeruns... but little publicized was the fact he struck out a record number of times too... but he tried more often and harder. I intend to keep trying with nationwide mailings as I accumulate the money to do so.

5.5 Agreed.

5.6 Terrific! New bait would be great. Not only would it entice people to write in but would be another step in cementing my reputation at a fact center for Belknaps. Please write them. Then I would make another mass mailing coast to coast. Financial help? I embarrassed to discuss this with you. I proud enough to want to do it myself. But would consider you thoughts. My last commercial mailing fell short of covering itself thru the sale of the Family Trees. If I would have sold them for \$15 I would have made a little. But I was afraid to lose sales by the higher cost so elected to lose money instead of distribution of charts. The most recent mailing I used neighborhood school girls to address envelopes and just about broke even.

5.7 I want you to write direct. You have the time to help them. To aliviate you worry about claim jumping, consider the stationery idea.

5.8 Glad you brought it up.

5.9 This warmed my heart and Charlene got goose pimples when she read it. Last sentence looks funny written out but you must read deep into our religious emotion combined with the love and respect we have developed for you.

5.10 Won't be repeated. I understand.

6.1 Que sera, sera

6.2 No one likes his baloon popped. Even if it is in the way on a crowded subway.

6.3. Partly but not wholely. For the mement you are doing right.

6.5 We appreciate you feeling. Only hope that time bears you out.

6.6 The record testifies to our willingness to spend money. I'm afraid to sit down to compute expenses in postage, fees, printing, driving to L.A. library Genealogical Dept., LD phone calls all over the name to stimulate a missing link, and a host of other expenses.

6.7 The sale of charts should continue... as they have proven very popular... and sometime in the future a hard-back book (if only to raise money for a later edition with finalized info) should be published and sold by direct mail. I have ideas on this too.

6.8 I hesitate to solicit pure and simple donations for projects the donors may not have an active interest in... but I have some ideas on this too. For later.

6.9 Yes.



Las Vegas

HACIENDA

HOTEL AND CASINO
ON THE FABULOUS STRIP
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

21 Feb 1968

Dear C.B.

You are great!

Thanx millions for your quick and complete reply to the JOHN and MERRICK BELANAP genealogy. Please note copy of letter sent to Canada attached.

I have erased from my chart the names of the men reported to be brothers of Abraham. But in-as-much-as I've seen so many reports that seem to coincide as to this trio, would you kindly send me your substantiating evidence that they did not exist? Thanx.

Would you also send me any other corrections and/or additions you think are important? Would you like another copy of the chart to do this?

Also inclosed in this letter is a key to my file box being shipped to you under separate cover. It is a tin file box commonly found for sale in dime stores and should be ok for shipping. If bent or damaged enroute, no problem, a replacement can easily be obtained.

I won't apologize for the loose and uncoordinated mass of material. I don't let on to be an expert genealogist... more a collector and possibly catalyst for those who need help.

No comments on the stock market or the prospects of the nation's economy except to say I'm glad I have this hobby to take my mind off the ticker tape and market forecasts.

Your friend,



LAS VEGAS SUN
Friday, Jan. 3, 1964

not face a death

Las Vegas Review-Journal

LV Hotelman Moving to Palm Springs

Richard Taylor, managing director of the Hacienda Hotel, has accepted a stockbroker's job in Palm Springs, Calif.

Taylor, 35, a Las Vegas for seven years, has been a member of the Hacienda board of directors since 1961. He came to the Las Vegas operation as assistant manager when it opened in 1956 and became general manager a year later.

HE HAS also been a board member of the Clark County YMCA, the United Fund, the New Frontier Hotel, the Mt. Charleston Lodge and the Talent Corp. of America.

In resigning his various posts Thursday, he said he will become affiliated with the stock brokerage firm of Hornblower & Weeks in its Palm Springs offices.

TAYLOR was co-author last year, with Patricia Howell of Las Vegas, of a book called "Las Vegas: City of Sin?"

He, his wife and their three children will leave Las Vegas after Jan. 31, when his Hacienda resignation is effective.

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Dick Taylor, managing director of the Hacienda Hotel resigned yesterday from his board of directors position with Clark County Y.M.C.A., Clark County United Fund, Hacienda Hotel, New Frontier Hotel, Mt. Charleston Lodge, and Talent Corporation of America.

In his resignation, Taylor announced he had accepted a position with Hornblower & Weeks, a member firm of the New York Stock Exchange. His new position requires him to leave Las Vegas, Taylor said.

Warren "Doc" Bayley, majority owner of the Hacienda and New Frontier Hotels, accepted Taylor's resignation "with regret." He stated in a letter "over the past eight years you have served each of the corporations well and unselfishly gave of your time much more than the requirements of an officer and director. I remember all too well the many nights we spent working out the problems of the Las Vegas Hacienda; many of which ran completely through the night when we finally adjourned the meeting. Without such sincere dedication, the Las Vegas Hacienda could not be the hotel it is today and the other corporations, too, certainly profited from your honest and imaginative administration."

A Planned Community for Mature Adults

For indoor activities you have the large and beautiful furnished CLUBHOUSE, containing

ise H

21 Feb 1968

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

My dear friend and devoted genealogist, C.Y. Belknap, of Conn. has graciously researched your problem and inclosed is his recap of the JOHN and MERRICK BELKNAP Genealogies.

He has not mentioned any donations for his effort except for full and complete information up to the present generation from where he has left off. If you would supply this information promptly, I know he would be very appreciative... as will I. If you care to send a check along, it might help with his tremendous postage expense. He does a great deal of research on the Belknap line and has never asked for monetary aid.

You will note from his work that the Canadian Belknaps fit into my BELKNAP FAMILY TREE quite easily. Soon I will enter all this information on my master copy. If you will send me as much as you have, it will make the addition more complete.

Please send your information in duplicate so I can send a copy to CYB. Thanx.

Sincerely,

MEMO TO Dick Taylor
FROM Carroll Belknap

2/24/68

Your letter 2/21:

(1) Will be delighted to get your file box of additional data. Don't apologize for its lack of coordination. You should see my study.

(2) Canadian sheets: I apologize for having sent only skeletonized pedigrees. Copies with all known dates scribbled in are enclosed.

(3) Contributions: Thanks for thinking of this, but I don't need them and don't want anyone else to pay for my present enjoyment. Glad to repay the kindness I receive by aiding other people.

(4) Back to Canadians: After the revolution and on into the 19th Century, Belknaps in Vermont and New Hampshire moved back and forth from U S to Canada as if no border existed. Probably quite a lot of Canadian Belknaps, if we track them down.

(5) The two non-existent brothers: Thoroughly authenticated list of Bennet's children, in New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1914, page 194, as follows:

Abraham, bapt. 10 March 1589/90
Frances, baptized 3 Jan ~~1590~~ 1590/1; married 19 Oct 1624, and move^d to a town[^] in Essex
John, baptized 8 April 1593; buried Sawbridgeworth 10 Oct 1655
Daniel, baptized 2 Nov, 1505; buried Notteswell, Essex 19 Oct 1658
Josias, baptized 12 Aug 1599; buried Sawbridgeworth 3 April 1674

Church register, Sawbridgeworth, shows these children of Bennet — and no others. His will names these children, and no others.

Any time you run short of tales about "three brothers," I can give you six different versions — all mere guesswork — bad guesswork. For comment, see paragraph A in my memo to you 4/12/67. Only place where this myth is still alive in print is in the back pages of Virkus' so-called Compendium — which has little standing among professional genealogists, as he published without verification whatever anyone sent to him.

(6) Corrections and additions to your charts: Frankly, I'm damned if I know what to do. Where you have hundreds of names, I have thousands. Somewhere around 3000, I'm guessing — in six different collections — and new material keeps coming almost every week. The drudgery of comparing and collating is going to take months and months. Till I've checked and rechecked one set against other sets, I can't vouch for accuracy. In every set, including HWEBA HWB's, I find obvious ~~many~~ errors. I don't really trust anything until I find some sort of corroboration, somewhere. Even now, with what I might think of sending to you, I don't see how you could use it without completely redrawing your charts. Maybe you can think of something that you could use without having to start drawing all over again. I'll admit that it would be nice to see your chart include the only American Belknap who has been famous enough to be in all present day encyclopedias — and also two admirals (three, I think, but am not yet sure the third one got that high). Why don't you tell me what you'd most like to have — to fit into your charts — and let me see if I can supply it?

JUST FOR YOUR FILES. NO REPLY NEEDED -- UNLESS YOU WANT TO ARGUE.

MEMO TO: Richard Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

4/12/67

Soon, I hope -- when I can find enough time to do it -- I'll start drafting what I now know of the story of the Belknap family in England. And of course I'll send you a copy, hoping for corrective comments where needed. My main problem, in preparing a tentative draft, will be to correct some of the many obvious errors that have been embalmed in print during the past century or so. Much too often, alas, genealogy -- as sometimes practiced -- is mainly the perpetuation of past errors by uncritical repetition of what someone has merely guessed or assumed without factual substantiation. Once an erroneous statement has been made, it becomes a living thing that refuses to die of its own accord -- and is mighty hard to kill. Yet, unhappily, much of what I shall be writing will have to amount to saying that some long-held notion "just ain't so."

After this apologetic preface, will you let me voice some of my objections to some things in your piece in Finner's Magazine? Of course you aren't responsible for the mistakes, for you have had to accept whatever you received from members of the family. But I'm sure you don't like being wrong in what you say, any more than I do. So please take my negative comments in the spirit in which they are offered -- and then be ~~thankful~~ thankful, as I am, that Finner's Magazine probably has very small circulation.

magazine

The comments below refer to marked passages in your ~~manuscript~~ piece -- copy enclosed.

(A) -- "two brothers." The family tradition that Abraham came to Massachusetts with two brothers named "Joseph" and "Thomas" is an old one. Like other members of the family, I heard it as a child. It still appeared in print as late as 1942 -- in the ~~most~~ untrustworthy Compendium of American Genealogy, which was a commercial enterprise about on a par with the outfits which offer to send you a family tree for five dollars in the hope of selling you a replica of a coat of arms at high price. . . The truth is that the detailed records and documents published in New England Genealogical and Historical Register in 1914 and in 1931 show that Abraham had no brothers with such names -- and that all of his brothers remained in England and reared their families there. Many efforts to trace the two mythical brothers have been made -- always with negative results. The root of the myth, I now believe, was in the work (if I can call it that) of an early ~~and~~ inexperienced genealogist named Felt who also may be the inventor of the non-existent son "Jeremy." Felt seems to have fallen into the common trap of "confusing the generations" -- (as, indeed, your charts have done in at least two instances that I have noted). As early ~~as~~ as 1858 the man who seems to have been the most painstakingly acute and accurate compiler of Belknap genealogy (Warren, of Newburgh, son-in-law of a Belknap daughter) challenged the existence of those two brothers. And in 1950, in The Register, G. Andrews Moriarty (whose authority is just about unchallengeable) stated flatly that Abraham's family was the only Belknap family in Massachusetts in early 1600's. . . But Henry Wyckoff Belknap seems to have aided the myth by trying to identify as a Belknap a Thomas Burnap who came from Aston in Hertford county -- though he later abandoned this claim when he wrote and published a genealogy of the America Burnap family. . . So the misleading myth doesn't die as it properly should.

(I think he was probably a son of Thomas, the youngest son of the first Richard Beltoft; but this is merely my surmise, nothing more.)

(B) "Elizabeth and Henry Beltoft." They were not our ancestors. This Henry was merely a cousin whose exact descent has never been established. On this point, ~~surely~~ it appears that you have been misled by someone who read what Henry Wyckoff Belknap published in The Register in 1911 but did not read the much fuller and more accurate material that he published in The Register in 1931 — in which he showed that the father of the second Richard Beltoft (Abraham's grandfather) was not Henry but Laurence Beltoft — the second son of the first Richard Beltoft. In 1950, four years after Henry Wyckoff Belknap died, Moriarty studied ~~with~~ the documents that he had left and endorsed the conclusion that the descent was through Laurence. The name of the wife of Laurence is unknown, for there were no church records of marriages at that time.

I'll probably deal with this point more fully when I draft the story of our English background; but the essentials are in the paragraph above. . . . Meanwhile, for your information, I should add that there is no authority for naming the wife of the second Richard Beltoft as "Elizabeth." Henry Wyckoff Belknap gave ~~her~~ this name in 1911 and again in 1931; but the committee who reviewed his 1931 material (correctly) before accepting it for publication pointed out that there was no substantiation for this name "Elizabeth." Henry Wyckoff never challenged this comment by the committee, as far as I have found. So I think we have to say that the name of the wife of this Richard (Abraham's grandfather) is unknown. Certainly we cannot trust Henry Wyckoff's unsupported word.

(C) "a distantly related part of the family" — I wrote to you earlier about this point. Your own chart shows how ~~close~~ close the relationship actually was.

(D) "People of the beautiful hill" and "originally it was Beltoft." The first known Belknap in England was Robert Bealknap or Belknap or De Bealknap -- a Norman knight of not much importance who came with William the Conqueror in 1066. All subsequent ~~names~~ of this name (however spelled) descended from him, for Bealknap was simply a Norman place name and he was Robert of a place of that name, somewhere in Normandy — and if any brothers of his also came to England none of them would have used that same place name, which was not yet a family surname. It would not be until sometime in the next century that family surnames would be used in England -- at a time when there was great advantage in showing by an hereditary surname that you ~~were~~ were a Norman. . . . As to the spelling, I saw it as "Bealknap" long ago when I was teaching at Northwestern University — on a copy of a portion of the so-called Roll of Battle Abbey. In other places, as in writings of modern historians, it appears with other spellings — which means nothing except that the name was written down by clerks or chroniclers who were not members of the family and were merely using phonetic symbols for the sounds they thought ~~how~~ they heard when the name was spoken. No Norman knight or even nobleman, at the time of the Conquest, is known to have been literate to sign his name -- and it would ~~have~~ be a long time before any Norman noble or even king of England would be able to do this. . . . Not until the early 14th century do I find any record of a member of the family who could sign his name (the first I find was John de Bealknap, who was practicing law in London in 1346, and he and his son Robert who became chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas ~~spelled~~ spelled it "de Bealknap"). In the records of the royal Court, as in the household of the Queen, the name was still being spelled "Bealknap" as late as 1422. Sometime between then and the reign of Henry the Eighth the vowel sound of the first syllable shortened to "eh" (a change occurring commonly in the development of Modern English out of Middle English) and the first syllable became "Bel" — and during the same period (when hatred of France was mounting higher and higher) the "de" ~~xxxx~~

bearers

enough

of this name's name.

dropped
was ~~dropped~~ -- as it was by almost all English families of Norman or Angevin ancestry, no matter how great their families were or had been.

As to "Beltoft," the evidence shows unmistakably (in my opinion) that it was an alias used for at least a century and a half by a village family who knew that they were properly Belknaps and who suddenly in one generation (led by that generation's uncle, Josias) resumed their proper family name (with various spellings depending on what clerk or lawyer or pastor wrote it, for that whole generation of our family was illiterate -- though it is possible that the uncle could sign his name, as "Belknappe.") I'll discuss the evidence on this point when I draft the story of our English background. But I have no hope that the mystery of why the Beltoft alias was used will ever be solved. ~~XIX~~ I can be certain about is that poor earnest Henry Myckeff Belknap was consistent in misinterpreting the evidence for more than 20 years.

What

So, now, do I need to say that all the efforts to say what the name means have been just nonsense? Old English roots (that is, Pre-Conquest ~~English~~ English) can't be used to explain the meaning of a name originating in Normandy. Both "knap" and "toft" are Old English words. ~~So~~ scratch out "hill" in "people of the beautiful hill." Equally, scratch out "beautiful" as the meaning of "Bel." The prefix "bel" with that meaning did not come into use in Middle English ~~usage~~ (post-Conquest) for 100 years or more after the Conquest. And, anyway, the original sound of the first syllable ~~with~~ of the name must have been something like "bail" -- not "bell" -- so the various spellings indicate to anyone who knows the pronunciation of the Middle English language.

explanations

There have been even sillier ~~explanations~~ put into print just as "beautiful hill" has been. For instance, translating "beal" as "passage between two hills" or something like that, because there was once an old Gaelic word that looked like "beal" but never was adopted into any variety of English. . . Or saying that "bel" means "pretty" and "knap" comes from old Germanic "Knabe" which was never a part of any variety of the French language. (bry)

explanations

All of these nonsense ~~explanations~~ seem to have been coined during the 19th century -- by persons who had not even a rudimentary knowledge ~~of~~ of etymology. But of course, there wasn't any worthwhile knowledge of etymology in the United States until sometime after 1890 or 1900. . . So the fact that an absurd ~~explanation~~ of the meaning of the name is in print does not give ~~it~~ it any authority.

explanation

You have naturally used the explanations given to you by correspondents. But none of them deserves anything more than a smile. All we can say -- yet -- is that our name came from an obscure Norman knight named Robert, who came from a place in Normandy that had a name that sounded (to clerics and scribes) something like "bail-knapp" -- with the "k" sounded as in King Knut (Canute) -- and with the main emphasis surely on the last syllable until some centuries after the Conquest.

(E) "often we find Belnap." In England, I have found only two small momentary instances in which the "k" was omitted -- both being written by a pastor or clerk who had only short acquaintance with any ~~members~~ members of the family. In America, I have found the "k" omitted only by our Mormon cousins. If any other branch of the family ever left out the "k", I hope you'll correct me.

(F) "can wear a shield." I wish this were true. But the rules of English heraldry permit the actual use of a coat of arms only by direct lineal descendants of someone whose ~~ancestral~~ title was hereditary -- as mere knighthood never was or has been. The names and arms of the few American families who have this right are published in Debrett; and we are not among them. ~~It's~~ just nice to know that some men who bore our name were knighted -- but that's all. We don't even have any proof of descent from any of those knights.

It's

(G) "correspondence, etc." None of Abraham's brothers could even sign their names -- nor could his father nor his wife. As Abraham was the oldest son of Bennet, it's safe to assume that he too was illiterate. . . . As ~~to~~ to "Sawbridgeworth friends and relatives," Abraham hadn't lived there for at least 15 years before he came to America, ~~possibly~~ probably several years more than that -- and Mary his wife did not come from there (also the church records of Sawbridgeworth would show the marriage, for the weddings of village girls in those days were held in their own homes.) . . . I haven't found any confirmation of her name as Webster, for Walter Belknap died in 1965 and his widow couldn't give me the answer. However, Webster (meaning "weaver") is plausible, for virtually every village home in Essex where Abraham and Mary lived had a loom in those days. Some villagers made a pretty good living out of weaving, even though landless like Abraham. (Maybe that's how Abraham accumulated the passage money for himself and Mary and three children, a not inconsiderable sum and something I've been wondering about.)

Looking back at that last paragraph, I see I should add a bit more information to counteract some misinformation in your files. For years before he finally learned better, Henry Wyckoff Belknap kept telling people that "Abraham came from ~~Sawbridgeworth~~ and I don't think he ever publicly acknowledged this repeated error.

Sawbridgeworth"

The truth is that from at least about 1620 -- probably at least a year earlier -- Abraham lived in county Essex, first at Netteswell (of Netswell, depending on who spelled it, across the river a few miles away from Sawbridgeworth, and then at North Weald, an Essex town near Epping -- and that it was from Epping that he came to America. ~~Belknap~~

And -- forgive my humor -- a brief comment about spelling. The records of our village ancestors, over a period of ~~more than~~ two centuries, contain 26 differing spellings of Sawbridgeworth and 15 differing spellings of Belknap -- with our ~~present~~ present spelling, "Belknap" being very late in appearing. On well, how else could it be, when semi-illiterate pastors and legal clerks were trying to spell what they thought they heard, with the sound depending on who was speaking?

MEMO TO Dick Taylor
FROM Carroll Belknap

1/30/68

Thanks for the article about John Belknap the gun-maker. I fear I can't help you on tracing his output, as the only gun expert whom I know is in Florida for the winter. Later, perhaps, I may be able to tell you where to find out about that John's guns.

All I can do at the moment is to tell you what little I know about ~~him~~ him.

His father: Amos (not Ames) Kimball Belknap (according to H W Belknap) was born 3 Aug 1804, married Sarah Barker (or "Lydia" in the Vital Records) ~~xxx~~ 31 Dec 1829 (possibly his second wife, as said to have married Rebecca Heath 27 May 1828 — if so, she must have died soon after marriage.) ... died 1 June 1883 (or 1882 according to Vital Records, but I think 1883 is the correct date; the Vital Statistics in New England were often erratic before 1850) Age at death is given 78.9.28. A very well known blacksmith. "Belknapville at the waterpower of Sleeper's River was where the works were."

Children: Amos Jr — Franklin — John — Sarah Jane — Ann Eliza.

No mention of military service for Amos the father — but HWB's entry of Civil War service for Amos Jr may be an error. (HWB made more than one ~~xxx~~ of this kind.)
error

John — born 3 June 1840, died 27 Nov 1889 (1888 in Vital Records). Married Mary Jane Wright 15 June 1861 — lived and died St. Johnsbury — "Was more ingenious than his father. He built the dam on Passumpsic River and was swept over it and drowned."

The quotations are from The Town of St. Johnsbury, Vt., by Edward T. Fairbanks, 1914. Since this is a relatively recent book, your local library may be able to get it for you through Interlibrary Loan.

In HWB's notes, there is no record of gun-making.

John had two sons, but I have no record of their children. So I can't suggest names for you to write to about guns.

From John's dates, it seems likely (to a layman like me) that the beautiful rifle described in the article may have been one of the last muzzle-loading rifles made in this country. If so, the books on old guns ought to mention this John, I should think.

Possibly you might wish to write to the author of the article and ask him for the sources of his information about Amos and John.

tory-engraved Model 1853 Sharp's slant-breech sporting carbine in Boston, several nice Winchesters in New Hampshire, a cased Kendall under-hammer combination rifle-shotgun set in Arlington, Vt., and had bought the Sanborn collection, including the cased Whitmore, but we had not found any trace of the Belknap. At least I thought we hadn't.

On our way back to Colorado, we stopped to visit some friends at Newfound Lake in New Hampshire. During that entire visit, a chance conversation that I had had with a part-time gun dealer near St. Johnsbury kept creeping into my thoughts. It was so persistent that it annoyed me. I awoke in the night the last night we were there and laid a long time trying to add it up and get some kind of an answer. I never was much good at arithmetic, but it suddenly dawned on me that the two and two I was trying to add did not make five! By thunder it made four and I had my answer!

I grinned to myself and turned over and went to sleep, but the next morning we headed back north to St. Johnsbury, instead of south toward Boston and Colorado. When the wife asked me, "How come?" I told her that a little bird flew in the window and told me where to find the missing Belknap. She opined that the next birds I saw would probably be bigger, and that they would be wearing white coats, but having been married to the same man many years, she asked no further questions and offered no objections.

The place I was heading for was one of those gracious early Vermont homes that had been a way station on the old Boston Post Road in a little hamlet a few miles north of St. Johnsbury. When we arrived, I asked the owner if by any chance he might have an old rifle made by John Belknap. His answer was, "Yes, I do. It is not for sale, but would you like to see it?" and he invited us in.

The house was a virtual museum of wonderful Vermont antiques of all kinds and the man and his wife took us through it. The furniture, bedding, linens, dishes, silver, yes, nearly everything was of an age of a hundred years or more ago and of indescribable beauty. They were using them all in their everyday living and enjoying them as they were intended to be used and enjoyed. Just seeing that home was worth our entire trip.

Today's hunter may never be far from a road or civilization, but Belknap placed a compass where it would always be handy.

MAY, 1966

The Belknap rifle was in its original case on a mantle in the parlor. I doubt that I have sufficient command of words to adequately describe it, but it was the most exquisitely done American arm that I have ever seen.

The one-piece shoulder stock and forearm, with delicately shaped cheek piece, was very dark reddish brown, beautifully grained and extremely hard. Frankly, I do not know from what kind of wood the stock was made. I can readily see why it might be called "rosewood mahogany" even though there "aint no such animal." It is not maple, nor does it appear to be mahogany, nor any type of walnut with which I am familiar. I do not think that it is domestic redwood, nor cherry. One man well posted in the gunstock field has suggested that it might be French or Italian walnut, but he was frank to say that he was not at all sure. It may be imported rosewood.

The heavy buttplate, forearm cap, trigger guard, front sight hood, ramrod ferrules, and many inlays—including a passenger pigeon in flight and a coat of arms with an eagle with spread wings on crossed flags and arrows—appeared to be coin silver. The black ebony ramrod is inlaid with seven thin strands of silver in spirals to match the twist of the rifling. There are six powder cups or measures inserted in two sets of three in the underside of the stock between the buttplate and trigger guard. The lock, tang, and hammer are plated with German silver and all are beautifully engraved in

scroll. The lock is signed "John Belknap—St. Johnsbury, Vt."

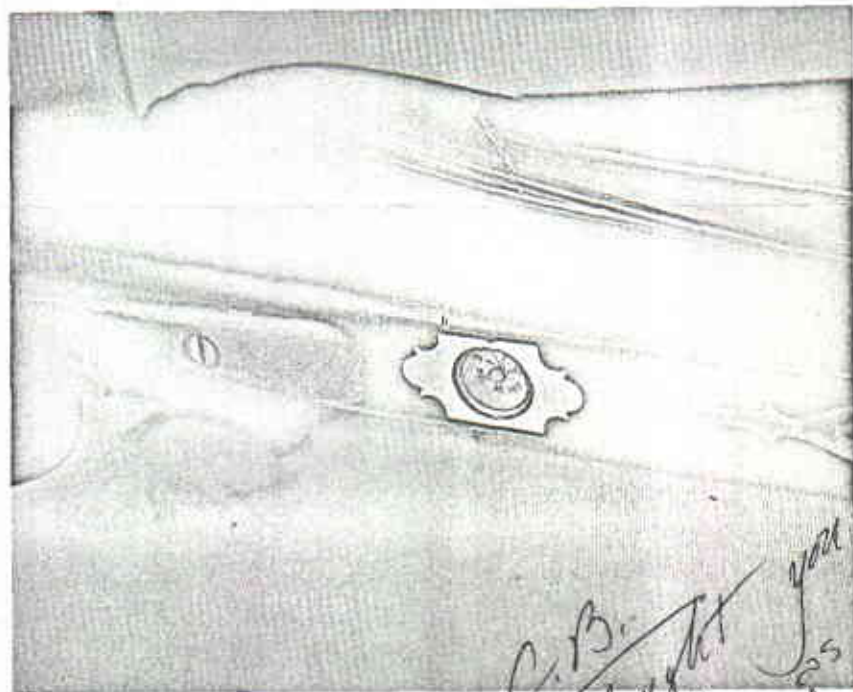
The octagon barrel is 27 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long (inside measurement) and has the early rich brown finish. It is engraved in nicely done scroll in front of the breech and near the muzzle. The piece is 43 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches overall and weighs but 7- $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. It has a very fine hooded post front sight, an adjustable rear target peep sight, and double-set triggers. It is a "tight" .38 caliber.

The gun was cased in a full-length case that is probably rosewood, lined with red velvet, a folding silver ring handle in the lid, complete with accessories including a double-cavity bullet mold marked "38", false muzzle, bullet sizer, bullet starter and "cross" patch cutter. The powder flask was missing.

A senior member of a muzzle loading club who recently examined this gun best described it by saying, "It is older than my grandmother, but it fits my shoulder like a sixteen-year-old girl." Nothing was left undone to make the set "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

Our host and owner of the Belknap had only one other antique arm, a fully engraved, nickel-plated, cased Manhattan pistol, but he had a number of very fine modern sporting arms, particularly double-barrelled shotguns. After we had discussed gun collecting (in which he took keen interest) and shooting for perhaps an hour, I asked him whether he might consider parting with the

(Turn Page)



C.B. Thought you might find this as interesting. If you create one of these guns, I'd like to buy it.



Belknap Rifles

(Continued)

Belknap. His first reaction was negative. He told me that the set had been made by Belknap for his grandfather and had passed on to his mother and then to him.

On second thought, however, he commented to the effect that he was not a gun collector and that the set really should be in a collection or a museum. He said that he might someday decide to sell it, and if he did he would give me the first chance to buy it, but that the price would be substantial.

I told the man that I appreciated his reluctance to part with such a fine heirloom, and that it was not my desire to urge him to do so, but I did want to point out that I lived a long way from Vermont, and that there was danger in shipping such a fine set so far; that I would much prefer to take it with us,

carefully wrapped on the cushions of our car, if he could see fit to sell it at that time. After considerable thought, he finally said that he would sell the set and named the price! It was substantial!

I made some quick mental calculations on just how many meals and beds we would require on our way back to Colorado, silently thanked the major oil companies for providing gasoline credit cards, and stole a quick look out of the corner of my eye at my wife. She has never objected nor complained about my purchase of a gun, but I wanted to be sure she hadn't fainted. I saw an ear twitch and an eyelid quiver and then a smile. It was a tremulous little smile, but it was a smile!

As I counted out the currency and signed travellers checks to make up the balance, I jokingly asked if the price included the Manhattan pistol. The man answered, "No, I really meant just the rifle. However, the pistol really of no use to me. You may have them both." We had returned home and

Author is justly proud of the result of his prolonged search of many years.

had owned the pistol nearly a month before I examined it closely enough to realize that it was Wolf-engraved!

What little I have been able to learn of the life of John Belknap is very interesting. He and his brother, Ames, Jr., were sons of Ames Belknap, Sr., who died in 1883 at the mature age of 78. The elder Belknap was a blacksmith by occupation and an artist in his field. He was one of the oldest soldiers in the Union Army, being nearly 60 years of age. He accompanied General William Tecumseh Sherman on his famous March To The Sea and distinguished himself by his uncanny ability in the repair of locomotives and rolling stock, so necessary to the invading army's success. He was described as nothing short of a genius in setting up and operating a blacksmith forge under the most difficult conditions.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, neither of the Belknap sons served in the Civil War. This information, however, has not been completely verified. It is known that the two brothers took over their father's blacksmith business in St. Johnsbury and produced a large number of high quality hand tools and knives, many of which are said to still be in use in Vermont.

John Belknap, at a date not clear, took up gun making and hydraulic engineering, more or less as sidelines. As a hydraulic engineer, he built some top grade water wheels and pumps. He also built the first dam across the Passumpsic River in the town of St. Johnsbury. It was this dam that led to his death by a tragic accident in 1888.

The dam building project was beset with troubles and difficulties from its inception. It became the subject of ridicule, criticism and jokes, some of them rather crude. Finally Belknap declared publicly that he would "have water over the dam by the following Saturday in spite of God (a pretty strong statement for a Vermonter) man, or the devil."

On that fateful Saturday morning, just as the water was beginning to flow over the dam, a gigantic timber was seen moving down stream with the current. Yankee frugality dictated that the valuable wood be salvaged. Belknap set out in a small skiff to attach a line to it. The little craft swamped and was swept over the dam with its occupant and the coveted timber. John Belknap was drowned.

I have been able to learn of only three

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cc: Della Belnap

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MEMORANDUM

TO Carroll Belnap

DATE 12 Oct 67

FROM Dick Taylor

SUBJECT _____

TERRIFIC! Absolutely terrific! Your project
can be the most important event of the family history.
You have my complete support. I only wish
we were neighbors so I could lend a daily hand.
I have an embarrassing amount of gathered but unrecorded
material. I'll ship it to you when you are ready.
If only I had the time and finances to be there with
you but I'm taken up with the rush of earning money for
Little hungry kids (Bless them!)

ORAL messages waste your time and the time of the other person; they often cause
annoying interruptions and are apt to be misunderstood or forgotten. Put it in writing.

Dick



Sunday
21 Jan '68

Dear Carroll:

Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness in sending me copies of your letters to Della. You are a fine friend.

I am so glad that you and Della are working together. You are both fine people dedicated to authenticity and successful pursuit of a goal. My efforts have been more loose and light hearted with more emphasis on stirring imaginations and collecting loose ends. If my work has helped you and Della (and any unknown researcher) I am glad.

Soon I hope to mail you a xrx copy of a magazine article I ran across that really stirs the imagination.

Please continue to send copies to me... I read every word. As yet I have not taken your letters to double check my charts... this I will do some lazy afternoon... unless you have been updating the chart yourself. If so, I'd gladly have another printed for you.

Charlene and I are glad to be back in Las Vegas. Palm Springs was nice but very sedate and mature. We enjoy the vibrant living of this boom town (so does Howard Hughes!). Did I every tell you that we lived here 10 years before moving to Palm Springs? So it's like returning home.

Thanks agains for your letters. We enjoy your research comments, your revelations, and especially your subdued humor.

Sincerely,

10/5/67

MEMO TO: Dick Tayler
FROM: Carrell Belknap

Ever since I wrote to you about the records I brought home from Salem, I've been thinking I should show you an example of what I called "Data Sheets."

So here's a copy of a reasonably typical one — fairly complete — subject to question on some details — in need, I think, of careful comparison with my own somewhat differing records — and containing some blanks that I may be able to fill.

After editing HWB's data sheets as carefully as I can, I'll have the task of adding a lot more similar sheets from my records.

Perhaps I should explain the key numbers that HWB used.

~~xxx~~

"52" — the number identifying this Samuel Belknap in HWB's records.

"4" — above the names of the man and his wife — indicates ~~xxxx~~ fourth generation in America.

"(15, 4, 1)" — indicates line of descent — son of Ebenezer ~~#15~~ #15, grandson of Samuel #4, great grandson of Abraham #1

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Bellmap

12/4/67

Just a note to keep in touch with you.

I'm still in process of preliminary spade work -- thus not yet ready to ask for a look at your files of unpublished data.

Many tough problems to solve -- mainly ones involving questionable identifications.

Worst one, thus far, is the disputed parentage of the Jesse Bellmap who dropped the "k" -- No. 36 on your chart. Information received from Della Bellmap, thus far, hasn't solved the puzzle. I'm still ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ trying to follow up all other possible clues.

CL

READ THIS AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. IT DOESN'T NEED AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878
Sept. 28, 1967

I owe it to you to tell you where my work now stands and what I plan to be doing in the coming months, for there'll be a question about the possible extent of your participation.

Last night I returned from Salem with some 75 pounds of the Belknap family papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap — how many thousands of pages and sheets and documents and clippings I cannot even guess. ~~Through~~ Through the great courtesy of Essex Institute, the owner, these papers have been lent to the Greenwich Historical Society so that I may have access to ~~them~~ them. (Once the Institute people decided that I was fit to be trusted, the rest of the negotiation was ~~not~~ relatively easy.) I feel that you should know ~~at~~ the present location of this great body of material.

The papers divide into three main classifications:

1. Five binders of Data Sheets, one or two (sometimes more) for each individual person. The American binders begin with Abraham, numbered "1", and end with #1713 for Priscilla Alden Belknap, Henry Wyckoff's niece who was a direct descendent of John and Priscilla Alden. They contain, also, hundreds of names to which he did not assign a number though I think he should have done so. These Data Sheets show dates of birth, marriage and death — name and parentage of ~~wife~~ spouse, — names and dates of children — residence addresses — and what is known about the person's career. (Not all sheets, of course, contain complete entries.)
2. ~~2~~ or more manila folders containing the source material on which the Data Sheets are based.
3. A number of folders ~~containing~~ containing copies of some thirty years of correspondence. Many hundreds ~~are~~ thousands of sheets. Totally unorganized, yet. or number

There is reason to think that I'll have to go back to Salem some time later, to spend days searching the files of his work on other families, to see what Belknap data they may contain — for he worked simultaneously on a number of families, some of which he sometimes thought were variants of Belknap. But this will come later.

Meanwhile, as I now see it, my work will go through such phases as the following:

PHASE 1: Making electrostatic copies of HWB's Data Sheets, for my own use, so that I can correct his errors (when possible) without defacing his records. Also, making facsimile copies of letters, clippings, etc., where I find this to be necessary.

PHASE 2: On my facsimile copies, making corrections of known errors — by comparison with my records and yours, and by detecting his mere clerical errors (as when he listed me as the son of my grandfather, although he knew better). I have much that he did not have.

PHASE 3: Adding Data Sheets for persons not included in his material — mostly members of generations later than the 10th Generation in America, for he died in 1946.

PHASE 4: (Or maybe before Phase 3) Making an alphabetical index of all names in Data Sheets, in order to find and trace omissions that need to be remedied. HWB

prepared an index of this kind, but it was destroyed in what is locally called "The Great Salem Fire," before his death.

PHASE 5: Putting together a complete chronological catalog, properly indexed, of all known Belknaps past and present — as far as I then knew about them — with the records of their lives where anything is known.

How far I go beyond that, I cannot say at present — except that of course I'll write a narrative summary centering mainly on my own branch of the family, for the information of my children and grandchildren.

What I've called "a chronological catalog" will not be ^{complete} ~~any~~ — ^{Although} nor can I dare hope that it will be entirely accurate. But I can hope that it will show clearly what is reliably known to date — and what is doubtful or subject to question and in need of further steady — thus leaving for you and others in future days some semblance of a clear trail, ~~freedom~~ free from at least some of the many errors that have crept into print in the past three centuries. ^{Having the same} opinion that I do, about the probable accuracy and completeness of this ~~catalog~~ catalog, the people at Essex Institute (one of the two or three chief centers of genealogical research in this country) have suggested that the Institute may wish to consider publishing it — but this is merely a possibility, for future thought.

^{outlined}
Along with the work I have ~~outlined~~ so optimistically, above, I'll have a lot of other things to do — correspondence with other members of the family who can provide additional data, correspondence with sources in England about matters that Henry Wockoff Belknap did not investigate, study of the microfilms of the early U S Census ~~the~~ up to 1840 (thus far I have studied only the first one, for 1790) — and so on and on.

So, as you can see, I have sentenced myself to hard labor for many months to come. Fortunately, I have both the interest and the time. So wish me luck. And don't expect much from me while I'm still ~~immersed~~ immersed in detail.

Now, my question about the degree and extent of your possible participation in what I plan to do. But let me say, swiftly, that I'm not thinking of asking you to devote any time to the job. What I'm thinking about is something very different. I owe to you the stimulus that has led me this far and I owe it to you to offer you the opportunity to aid — if a surmise of mine is even partially correct.

My surmise is that you probably have, in your files, a lot of notes and names of Belknaps that you have not yet found occasion to insert in your charts — just as HWB's records contain hundreds and hundreds of names that do not yet appear in your charts — and so do mine.

So, when I arrive at what I've termed my "PHASE 3" — adding more Data Sheets — you may possibly decide to do what I'd do if I were you. That is, ship to me at my expense everything that you have in your files but have not yet entered in your charts — so that I can make electrostatic copies of all of it, and then ship your material back to you, promptly. From my copies of your material, I could then determine what I do not yet have from HWB's records, my records, and your charts — and add Data Sheets for such persons to the set of sheets that I'll be building up.

That last paragraph, now that I re-read it, seems rather clumsily worded. But maybe it's semi-intelligible.

If you decide to do what I've suggested, the material would have to be properly protected in transit. It would have to be shipped as First Class Mail, Registered. This would be a bit expensive, perhaps, but I'll gladly assume the cost -- both ways.

This isn't something that has to be decided at once. I wouldn't be able to touch your thus-far-unused material till at least a month or so from now. If the idea appeals to you, I can tell you when I'm ready -- guaranteeing to ship your material back to you within a week after it reaches me, for it won't take me long to run off facsimile copies of it here in my study.

So please think about my suggestion, at your leisure, and let me know what you think of it, when you get around to it.

To me, it seems only common sense to try to combine all three sets of data -- Henry Wyckoff's, mine, and yours (beyond what you have thus far entered in your charts). I hope you'll feel the same way about it.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

Aug. 28, 1967

Wish me luck.

Last week at Salem I had the opportunity to examine the papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap -- which had not been touched since his death in 1946.

I'm now engaged in dealing with the red tape involved in getting some thousands of pages of data on the Belknap family shipped to Greenwich, so that I can spend the fall and winter working with them. I think I'll succeed in having this done.

Wish me luck.

For Your Information

CB —

Sure glad to hear from you!! Charlene and I have worried that you were not well... but with the tremendous work over the last 90 days to move 4 kids, dog + cat, household etc new schools, new furniture etc was too much to allow for correspondence —

The chart I sent you is yours to keep... gratis... in

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exchange for the great help
you've been and all the info
you have supplied — you
will note on the recent
chart I have added and
corrected per some of your
suggestions —

Now, what can you do
for me? Take the old
chart and red pencil any
more additions-corrections you
might suggest and mail to
me. — Thankx

Rufus

14 Feb 1967
Valentine's Day

Carroll Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.

Dear C.B.

Your letters have been great... your collection of information is very valuable. I bought a metal file cabinet this week-end just to safeguard such material.

Regarding your question: "Abraham's wife, Mary." Walter Kerr Belknap, 87 Main Street, Cheshire, Conn, gave me the last name of Mary as being "Webster". Walter is the past-president of the historical society there and collector of a great mass of Belknap data. He also worked closely with the Library at Newburgh on the Belknap records. His records should be copied along with yours and published (in mimeographed form) so that this tremendous wealth of information can be shared from coast to coast.

Walter Kerr gave me a great deal of information... I have several long letters from him on file. I have heard thru the grapevine that his life was taken in an auto accident last year. RIP

The same day I received your letter from Connecticut I received a letter from Wm Jones Belknap out West at Kahului, Maui, Hawaii. He is really a swell guy, like yourself. If you wish to meet him, drop a note c/o P.O. Box 1568, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii.

I really enjoy being a middle-man in this Belknap Research program. Letters from all over the word come to me... great! Wish I had the time to really outline it all. Up to now I've been forced to file it all and use only the surface material.

Sincerely,



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MEMO TO: R B Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

4/12/67

I'm returning to you the papers you received from Clark Belknap in 1962, which you so kindly lent to me.

I have made copies of them, for my files -- including my notations of a ~~number~~ sizable ~~number~~ number of errors -- mostly made many years ago by Henry Wyckoff Belknap.

MEMO TO: RICHARD TAYLOR
FROM: CARROLL BELKNAP

4/12/67

1914 and

Soon, when I have time, I'll draft what I now know of the story of the Belknap name and family in England. And of course I'll send you a copy. But in the meantime, I think, I owe it to you to write this memo about what seem to be errors in your published piece. Please take my comments in the spirit in which they are offered. They refer to the marked passages in the copy of your piece, enclosed.

(A) "two brothers." The family tradition that Abraham came to Massachusetts with two brothers is an old one. Like others in the family, I heard this legend as a child. It still appears in print in the Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. VII, page 832, which ~~names~~ the brothers as "Joseph" and "Thomas." Detailed records published ~~names~~ in 1931 in New England Historical and Genealogical Register show that Abraham had no brothers of such names, and that all of his brothers remained in England. All efforts to trace any brothers in America have failed. Warren, in NEH & G R 1858, ~~showed~~ challenged the tradition. Moriarty, in N E H & G R 1950, stated flatly that Abraham's family was the only Belknap family in Massachusetts in the early 1600's. The root of the error may be the work of an early and inexperienced genealogist, Felt, who seems to have mistaken some sons and grandsons as brothers. Felt is also, probably, the originator of the son "Jeremy" who certainly never existed — another confusion of generations, apparently.

1931

~~(B) "Elizabeth and Henry Beltoft"~~

(B) "Elizabeth and Henry Beltoft". They were not our ancestors. In 1914, in N E H & G R, Henry Wyckoff Belknap named Henry as the father of the Richard who was Abraham's grandfather. In ~~1914~~ N E H & G R, he published fuller and more detailed records indicating that this was an error, and that Richard's father was Laurence Beltoft. In 1950 — four years after Henry Wyckoff Belknap died — G. Andrews Moriarty reviewed the documents and published in N E H & G R his endorsement of the findings of 1931. Whoever gave you the data on which your chart is based, I judge, must not have gone beyond the 1914 volume of N E H & G R. . . That Henry ~~Beltoft~~ has never been identified. Presumably he was a cousin of Laurence. ~~Beltoft~~ ~~(My guess is that he was probably a son of the Thomas Beltoft who was the youngest son of the first Richard Beltoft, 1500 — the one who died between 1500 and 1510 — but there is no authority for this surmise of mine.)~~

Also, I should add that there is no substantiation of Henry Wyckoff Belknap's statement that the grandmother ~~and~~ of Abraham ~~was~~ — wife of the second Richard Beltoft — was named "Elizabeth." This was challenged by the editors of his 1931 piece in N E H & G R.

(C) "a distantly related part of the family." I wrote to you earlier about this point.

(D) "People of the beautiful hill" and "originally it was Beltoft." The first known Belknap was the Sir Robert de Bealknap who came to England with the Conqueror. I have seen his name (thus spelled) on a copy of the Battle Abbey Roll at Northwestern University. Other spellings of this first man's name (by later scribes) include "Dolknap" — as in article on the later Sir Robert in the British Dictionary of National Biography. But the name remained "de Bealknap" until about 1500 — after which it became spelled Belknap, minus the "de." As one genealogist pointed out in 1898, it was obviously a Norman place-name. Efforts to translate it by using words like "knap" and "toft", which are Old ~~English~~ English words (that is, pre-Conquest and never a part of Norman French ~~or even Middle English, as the~~

many of

merely betray ignorance of elementary etymology. But there was a lot of this sort of ignorance in America in the 19th Century — so much of it that the so-called "derivations" in Webster's Dictionary were simply ridiculous as late as 1920. So the published ~~assumption~~ "People of the Beautiful Hill" (as in Connecticut Genealogy) is ~~now~~ worth no more than a smile. But there have been worse ones — such as assuming that ~~knapp~~ "beal" is the old Gaelic word that never was adapted into the English language — and the confusion of ~~knapp~~ "knap" or "knape" with old Germanic "knabe," hence "Beautiful boy" or some such nonsense. All of which amounts to saying that all we can say is that the name is a Norman place-name of unknown meaning. The first known Belknap was simply "Sir Robert of such-and-such a place in Normandy."

As to "Belteft," it ~~wasn't~~ was — quite plainly — an alias used for more than a century and a half by a village family who were properly Belknaps. This seems to be the only conclusion that can be drawn from the documented record of that family. I'll deal more fully with this point when I write the English part of our story.

(E) "often we find Belnap." I have found only ~~two~~ ^{three} momentary instances in which the "k" was omitted in England — both being errors by persons who were not members of the family. And the only ~~Belknaps~~ I have found in America are our Norman cousins. If any other ~~knaps~~ Belnaps branch of the family ~~drop~~ dropped the "k", I hope you'll tell me about it. Till I learn better, I'll have to say "seldom" instead of "often."

Here I should add that it seems practically certain that for some centuries, in England — from the 11th century till at least the end of the 14th century — the "k" was sounded. I think I'll be able to show that the early ~~pronunciation~~ pronunciation up to and including Chaucer's time, was something like ~~bay-ahk-knap~~ "bay-ahk-nep." (The change to belnap was far less than the change in other names of similar Norman origin — for example, another companion of the Conqueror, de Malherbe, whose descendants are called "Mallaby" although the spelling remains unchanged.)

(F) "can wear a shield." The rules of English heraldry permit use of family arms only ~~by~~ direct lineal descendants of the man who bore the arms. There is, alas, no proof that we American Belknaps have any such descent. The arms of American families who are entitled to use their family arms are published in Debrett; and we are not among them. It's just nice to know that some Belknaps, long ago, were knighted. That's all.

(G) "correspondence, etc." None of Abraham's brothers could write even their names, nor could his father. As Abraham was the oldest son, it's safe to guess that he was equally illiterate. . . And as to Sawbridgeworth friends and relatives, Abraham hadn't lived there for at least 15 years before he came to America — and Mary his wife didn't come ~~from~~ there. (Where she came from and what her maiden name was, I still don't know — nor where Walter Belknap got the Webster part of her name, for he died in 1965 and his widow doesn't have the answer.)

And his wife Mary
could not write her name.

MEMO TO: Dick Tayler
FROM: Carroll Belknap

5/21/67

Congratulations on the new position. Remembering the demands on the time and energy of my fine son-in-law in a similar situation, I think I shan't bother you much for a while. . . And I won't be in position to return a well-annotated chart to you until some time after I have had an opportunity to examine the papers left by Henry Wyckoff Belknap, in late summer.

Meanwhile, perhaps I may summon up enough crust to send you a memo written some weeks ago, about what I think are errors in your piece in Finders Magazine.

For your file of names not yet in your charts, I enclose a recent clipping from the N Y Times.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

Jan. 28, 1967

I'm mailing to you, separately, an envelope containing two sets of work sheets that I have drafted as guides for further effort on my part. I'll ~~like~~ be most grateful if you can find time to check them against your own records and tell me about errors that ~~I've~~ made -- at your convenience, any time within the next month. I've

The two sets of sheets are quite unlike.

The one on descendents of SAMUEL is based on a combination of your charts and various family papers in my possession.
set

The ~~set~~ on descendents of JOSEPH, however, is based on a combination of your charts and published data from many ~~sources~~ sources, accumulated in unsystematic fashion over a period of many years.

Of course I'm a Johnny-come-lately in this sort of research. But I've been living for thirty years or more in ancestor-conscious Connecticut and the nearby libraries have Genealogy Rooms that are just crawling with Belknaps -- many of whom aren't in either your charts or my files.

These work sheets that I have drafted are meant to serve me in expanding the scope of the record. Both your charts and my work sheets have a lot of unfinished business in them -- in the 1600's and 1700's and early 1800's. I hope I can help on some of the loose ends -- early Belknaps whose descendents aren't yet listed.

I'll be grateful for any advice you can give me.

Meanwhile, I'm engaging in an effort to track down the unpublished papers of Henry Wyckoff Belknap. If I can find them, they'll surely short-cut a lot of the work.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

Jan. 27, 1967

Your generous letter gives me the courage to think of sending you some sheets on which I have tried to combine some of your data and some of the fragmentary information in my files. I'll send them along to you presently -- after I've corrected some of my errors -- in the hope that you'll find time to detect other errors that I have made. Needless to say, I feel abashed and amateurish when I see how much you have accomplished. But the stuff I can supply may be helpful to you.

Meanwhile, next time you write to Della Belknap in Ogden, you might wish to tell her that I think you weren't entirely right in what you wrote about her family and mine, in your piece in "Finders Magazine."

You wrote (in the paragraph about the Mormon Belknaps): "While further north a distantly related part of the family ~~XXXX~~ in an oxcart from Iowa in 1847 over the Oregon Trail." rode

"Distantly related?" Well, here's the story as I have it.

In the year 1790, when Della's ancestor Jesse (No. 35 in your chart) was living in Canajoharie, N. Y., a nephew of his was building a family fifteen or twenty miles away, the other side of the mountain. That nephew was my great-great grandfather, Jonas Newton Belknap.

At that time, Jesse No. 25 was 51 years old and had ^{five} ~~three~~ sons and ^{one daughter} ~~five daughters~~ living with him and his wife (which wife, I don't know) and his elder brother Abel was also living in Canajoharie, with three sons and five daughters (and I don't know which wife).

Their nephew Jonas was then 31 years old -- and like them had been born ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in north central Connecticut. They were all Nutmeggers, originally.

The fact that two of his uncles were living in that part of New York had nothing to do with the reason why Jonas went there. His reason was a girl.

When the Revolutionary War began, Jonas was 16 years old -- and he and his father Samuel joined a company of volunteers and fought at Bunker Hill. In that year -- 1775 -- you didn't enlist; you just went. But in 1776 you had to go through the formality of enlisting and giving your age; so young Jonas lied and said he was 22.

(aged 48)
In the middle of 1777, Jonas was stationed in the small settlement of Cherry Valley, New York. In June of 1783, as soon as Jonas got his discharge from General Washington at the end of the war, he scooted back to Cherry Valley to marry the person's daughter he had met in 1777 -- and settled down to raise a family.

Jonas himself never went farther west than New York State. But his son Jesse -- my great grandfather -- went on to Ohio and to Iowa and finally to Oregon with far more children and grandchildren than could have ridden in just "an oxcart."

But my point is that Jonas Newton Belknap, who started the westward trek of my branch of the family, was first cousin to Della's Jesse who dropped the

"k" from his name -- No. 36 in your chart.

"Distantly related?" Not by a long shot.

Della's ancestors apparently went west through New York by the Mohawk Valley Road -- while mine went by the only other main road through the state, the Cherry Valley Road (now U. S. 20). Their trails may have crossed at Fort Niagara (now Buffalo) but it seems unlikely that they ever met on their way west.

By the way -- a note about something you ~~plank~~ probably already know -- the pronunciation of Sawbridgeworth -- just in case you haven't known it.

Somewhere in my jumbled files there's a well authenticated statement of the fact that the local pronunciation is "Sapsearch" -- just as Cirencester ~~is~~ is "Cissiter" and Pontefract is "Pomfrett" (hence the town of Pomfrett in NE Connecticut, where a lot of ~~Belknaps~~ Belknaps settled at one time).

But outsiders like my friends in London call it Sawbridgeworth, just the way it's spelled.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

Feb. 10, 1967

I'm immensely grateful to you for sending the file of papers you received from Clark Belknap. They fill some big gaps in my knowledge. I'll write to him, for he may still be alive -- as the Seattle phone book contains his name. I need to check with him some points on which his records and mine do not agree.

On one of the papers I note a very recent question by you, about the records of the Beltoft vs Westwood lawsuit, "I wonder where they are now." The answer is that the records of that case and also of the much more important case -- Gyrtton vs Westwood -- were published some years ago and I have complete photostats of them, which I'll send to you for your files when I finish drafting my account of our English ancestry, for what I'll be saying will differ rather sharply from what has been said up to now and I'll want you to examine the evidence on which my statements will be based.

This reminds me to warn you -- perhaps needlessly -- to be on your guard when ~~you~~ looking at information originating from Henry Wyckoff Belknap. It's not always trustworthy. What he wrote depended on when he wrote it. For example, what he said in the material of his which Clark Belknap sent to you was obviously what I've learned to term "Early Henry Wyckoff." By 1920, when he tracked me down, he had corrected some of his earlier errors -- but not all of them. And what he published in 1914 contained one major error and a number of misstatements based on no evidence whatever. Later, in 1931, when he prepared a fuller piece on the subject of the English ancestry, he admitted and corrected his major 1914 error and tacitly acknowledged some of his misstatements by not repeating them. But the more experienced genealogists didn't trust him too much; so what he wrote in 1931 was examined by a committee ~~before~~ before it was accepted for publication. This committee noted some instances in which he still made statements which had no visible authority. . . After he died in 1946, the dean of all New England genealogists -- Andrews Moriarty -- reexamined the documents on which the 1931 piece was based, before permitting himself to endorse the essential conclusions that Henry Wyckoff had put forward.

Heaven knows, I'm not a genealogist. But I am a veteran of 40 years of research work for many of the biggest companies in this country. So I shudder at some of Henry Wyckoff's carelessness and inaccuracy. And when I get my hands on his unpublished papers (if I find them among what is now in storage) I'll accept nothing that isn't explicitly verifiable.

Just when I'll look at his unpublished papers, I don't know. At the moment, my wife and I are talking of spending a few months this Summer in England -- partly because there are some hints of further research which could be done only in England.

I'm feeling pity for you, when I begin to realize how much people like me send you alleged information that doesn't agree with what other people like me also send to you. . . I'll try my best to send you only what is demonstrably correct and when I'm not sure of a name or a date I'll say so.

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
Jan 5, 1967

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

I'm beginning to wish I had never heard of you — and I fear you'll soon begin to feel the same way about me. Your charts have forced me to start doing some truly serious study of family history instead of merely accumulating data in casual fashion as I have done in many past years. I'm appalled by the ~~large~~ probability that I'm going to flood you with letters and notes in months to come, plus the rather huge chart of what I know about the descendents of Abraham's son Samuel (when I get around to drafting it in proper form), plus the names and dates of a number of Belknaps that I'm unable to fit into either your chart or mine, thus far — and so on and on.

It is obvious that you know much that I do not know; and it seems likely that I know some things that you may not know. Between us, we may make a lot of progress though I've no hope that anyone will ever be able to complete the record of the family in America.

My first problem, perhaps, is that I don't want to annoy you by telling you about things you already know; and I can't be sure (from your chart) how much you know about some parts of the record. So maybe I should ask you a few questions that I hope you'll not mind answering.

(1) What access have you had to the records assembled around 1920 by Henry Belknap, who was the curator of the historical museum in Salem, Massachusetts, and was engaged in tracing all living Belknaps and their descent from Abraham, in preparation for writing a book about the family? I have a small part of his work and have often thought of trying to get all of it, if it can be found. If you haven't already done this, I might tackle the task for it's easier for me to go to Salem than it would be for you.

(2) How much information do you have about the Belknaps in England in the period between 1066 (when the first Belknap got there) and the time of Henry VII and Elizabeth I?

(3) Do you have any data on Joanna Belknap who was lady in waiting to Queen Katherine when Henry V was fighting his last battles in France? I don't know whether she was a Belknap by blood or by marriage.

That's enough questions for one day. I'll stop right here.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor

FROM: Carroll Belknap

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
January 10, 1967

Today I received your "Howdy" note postmarked Jan. 6.

The tone of urgency in your request for data on my branch of the family makes me feel that I must reply at once.

For at least two reasons, I cannot attempt to send you an outline of my branch at this time. One reason is that I must, first, answer some scores of letters from old friends of my mother, who died in late December. The other reason is anything in my possession that is in shape to send to you, right away, is neither complete nor entirely accurate -- so I'd do you a disservice by giving it to you.

Before I should send you anything for you to incorporate in your charts, I must do a good deal of thoughtful digging -- so much that I shudder to think of it. You see, I'm in the midst of ancestor-worshipping New Englanders (although I was born in California) and the town library of Greenwich (of which Riverside is a section) has a locked Genealogy Room that is simply crawling with Belknaps -- some of whom are unknown to me, yet, so that I don't know whether they belong to the Samuel branch or to the Joseph branch. I spent much of yesterday in that room, ending with little more than the conviction that I have hardly made a beginning.

From time to time, also, I'll feel duty bound to suggest a considerable number of changes in your record of the descendants of Joseph, for I have records and access to records that you may not have seen. And I'll have additions to make to the Joseph line.

The one certainty that I have come to, thus far, is that eventually either you or I will have to unscramble the record, separating distinctly the Samuel branch and the Joseph branch (as well as we can). Your fine charts seem to have passed beyond the point at which they should just be extended by adding more sheets at the right.

An unsettled question in my mind is how far I should go (with your aid) in tracing the record of the Belknaps in England. For the moment, may I ask if you can answer three questions:

(1) ~~The~~ The dates for John Belknap and his sister Joan, mentioned in your chart in connection with the ancestry of the present Queen Elizabeth? (Please give the page number in Debrett, if you can.)

(2) Do you have anything on a Richard Belknap in England?

(3) How much do you know about the Beltofts in England and what was the source of your information? (In this connection, what do you know about the very old Beltoft family of Lincolnshire, which borders on Essex where some of our Beltofts lived?)

As I dig deeper, I become more and more convinced that I must lay my hands on the records assembled by Henry Wyckoff Wyckoff Belknap in Salem. I know that he had lots of data that cannot be found in print. Among other things, he was a member of the Grosvenor Club in London and spent some time in Sawbridgeworth.

Carroll Belknap:

Carroll

RICHARD B. TAYLOR
126 NORTH PALM CANYON DRIVE
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92262

Carroll —

A quick note to say "Hello!"

Also you liked the Family Tree...

Please rush your line to me as
I have to have more printed next
week to supply the demand... would
like your info to be on it!

Rich

HOME ADDRESS
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.

January 1, 1967

Mr. Richard Taylor
126 W. Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, California

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I thank you most gratefully for sending me a copy of the Belknap family tree.

When time permits, I may be able to contribute a bit more to it, for I have a pretty complete record of my descent from Abraham, through the Samuel who died on Bunker Hill.

Meanwhile please give my thanks, also, to Cousin Charlene -- since all Belknaps are cousins.

I

And there are two questions that I hope you will take time to answer:

(1) How did you get my name? I don't know of any list on which it appears with only my initials: C. Y. And how did you get the name of my mother, Mrs. C. C. Belknap, at a time when she was a patient in a nursing home in Norwalk, Connecticut? I have often wished to write to some of the many Belknaps whose names I knew but whose addresses were not known to me.

(2) Please, what is the background of research and study behind your definition ~~definition~~ of the meaning of the family name -- The People of the Beautiful Hill? ~~The~~ This interpretation differs drastically from what I know of the earliest known records of the family. But before I argue with you about it, I ought to try to let you convince me that you are right.

Again, my thanks.

Sincerely,

Carroll Belknap:



25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn

January 4, 1967

Dear Cousin Charlene and Cousin-by-marriage Dick:

Last night I spent some hours with the family tree you sent me. I was ~~amazed~~ amazed by its scope and its detail — but I began to wonder if you realize what you let yourself in for, by sending it to me.

I have a lot that doesn't appear in your charts, including some corrections to suggest and a bigish addition to make.

The basic story begins with the two sons of Abraham who left descendants — Joseph, who was Charlene's forbear, and his elder brother Samuel from whom I am descended.

Naturally you have been most successful in tracing Joseph's branch. And equally ~~naturally, you have little about the Samuel branch~~ (and some of what you have may be in need of revision). Presently, when I have time to do it properly, I'll send you a chart of that branch, with scores of names and dates.

And you asked for "stories." I've quite a lot of them, to pass along to you.

And information about sources that you may not have consulted. . . And information about early Belknaps in England, as far back as 1066, which you may have but don't mention.

I fear I'm going to pester you unbearably — with facts and family traditions and mere gossip.

But for the moment I'm merely going to amuse you with a copy of a note I wrote to my daughter Anne when she and her husband came back from a cruise in their small yacht last summer. She and her husband had bought a house on the river a block from us, and had thus become the owners of a little street one block long. So I told them something about the name of that street and that led me on and on, as you'll see. . . Anne, who had been the right-hand lieutenant of a great literary agent, exclaimed with delight after reading my note, "You mean that Rachell Field, the authoress, is my cousin." Perhaps that note may amuse you.

It's the story of "the grand-daughter named Submit."

Carroll Belknap:

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
Jan, 12, 1967

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

I owe you two apologies.

- For saying that you had relatively little of the record of the Samuel branch of the family. I'm now beginning to see how wrong I was — even though I can expand what you have.
- For bombarding you with questions, thus far. I fear I was taking it sort of for granted that anyone who had done so much research could spare the time for much more work of a similar nature. Today I read what seems to be your line at the extreme left of your Chart 1. It brought me up short.

So now I must ask one question (and there'll be no more till I get your reply to this one):

How much time, really, can you and Cousin Charlene reasonably devote to cooperating with me in work that may well double the number of entries in the family tree?

I mustn't make unreasonable demands on your time. I apologize for having done so, already.

P.S. Next time you make copies of your charts, please send me one that I can annotate and return to you. The copy that I have is already swarming with ~~additions~~ and revisions, even though I have made only a mere beginning. additions

And please tell me where to find Belknap Number 24 on your charts. I haven't been able to find him or his father. Nor his son, also an Admiral.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.
Jan. 11, 1967

Yesterday I received your "Howdy" note. The tone of urgency in your request for information on my side of the family ~~in~~ makes me feel that I should reply at once. But all I'm going to attempt to do, at this time, is to send you the attached sheet showing the direct line of descent from Abraham, through his son Samuel. The big task of mapping as fully as I can the record of all known descendants of that Samuel will have to be deferred till I see what I can do to make it a bit more complete.

I can't even send you the attached sheet without seeming to challenge the accuracy of some portions of your charts. Like this:

MARY DICKINSON (wife of Samuel, under the reference to Shakespeare on your Chart 1).

- You show "Nee Wood." Not true. She was the daughter of James Dickinson whose wife was Mary Wood. ~~(Ransom's mother)~~ (Rowley, Mass.) So she may well appear somewhere as "Mary Wood Dickinson" -- though not thus in my records.
- You show impossible dates for her birth and death. I do not have the correct dates. Your dates for her marriage, 9 July 1723, agrees with my records.

JONAS BELKNAP (son of Samuel B. and Mary Newton, below the reference to the Belknap Rifles in your Chart 1.)

- You show his name as "Jonas A." Correct name was Jonas Newton Belknap.

~~You~~ show his wife as "Miss Lincoln." There is an old and unsubstantiated ~~rumor~~ rumour that he "may have married a Lincoln, too." The known facts are that he enlisted in the Army in 1776 when about 16 years old, served till the end of the Revolution in 1783, married Esther Parker in that year (1783), and that all of his known children (including Jesse, my great grandfather who was the father of Ransom Belknap, my father's uncle -- shown in that same column in your chart) were the children of Esther, who died in 1817. (Incidentally, her name was pronounced "Easter." I'll tell you about her, some day.)

The dates I show on the attached sheet may not always agree with yours, for the reason that I have used Old Style dates before 1752, when England adopted the New Style dates. Example: the first Samuel, son of Abraham, was born in England in 1627 Old Style, 1628 New Style. I haven't bothered to show his date as 1627/8 -- as a professional genealogist would. (Up to 1752, strictly speaking, all dates between Jan 1 and March 25 ought to be shown in that double fashion, as of course you know.)

I hope you won't mind my suggestions for revisions in your chart. ~~Thanks~~ There is good authority behind them.

For

~~In~~ that same column, I have supplied the name of Ransom Belknap's mother (Jane Garlinghouse). How any one in his family could have forgotten the story of the three Belknap brothers who married the three Garlinghouse sisters is hard for me to understand.

Memorandum from:

RICHARD B. TAYLOR

P.S.

This coming week-end
I will sit down at the
typewriter and try to give
you complete answers to
your questions —

Keep 'em coming!!!
we really enjoy your letters —
Rich

HORNBLOWER & WEEKS-HEMPHILL, NOYES

126 N. PALM CANYON DR. - PALM SPRINGS, CALIF. 92263 - PH. 324-1126

17 Janaury 1967

Dear Carroll:

You're great...

Your personality shows... shines... out of each sentence!

Oh, how we wish, Charlene and I, that you were closer to us in travel time... the three of us could really build a Belknap Family Tree to end all Family Trees!

Now... about me and this project... I don't really have much time (that is, I don't make time available). We have four small children and it seems that every evening is busy enough just feeding them, undressing them, bathing them, and getting them ready for bed.

For the past ten years I have been a gatherer of information... not a seeker... but more a recipient... Belknaps are a proud and eager lot... I will write one letter and receive answers from several... and all the information that has come my way I have compiled into a Belknap Family Tree without benefit of verification. This, in itself, has been a big job. I have a half dozen file folders with family genealogies not connected yet to the tree.

When the children are all in college or married and time falls heavy on my hands, I intend to conduct a serious project of recording the history and genealogy of the Belknap Family. In the meantime I keep getting interesting letters, like yours, and I keep adding to the Tree... having extra copies made as the demand requires.

I want very badly to work with you to "double the number of entries" ... May I? (Can I?)

Sincerely,



RICHARD B. TAYLOR . . . STOCKS . . . BONDS . . . MUTUAL FUNDS . . . "TAX EXEMPTS"
REGISTERED SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE 126 NO. PALM CANYON DR., PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.

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WISE INVESTMENTS NOW MAY MEAN
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SECURITY FOR YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD

Mr. Carroll Belknap
25 Club Rd
Riverside, Conn.

Dear Carroll:

You're going to be mad at me...
But I hope you'll understand.

I am not a skilled genealogist...

I am not a skilled researcher... I am a good coordinator and promoter. I'm a doer!

So when I started this whole project (as a spare time hobby) a few years ago, I found, as you must have, many people who had lots of uncoordinated data.

So I decided to organize it all on a chart...

This I have done... adding to and correcting as I went along. I am only a collector. You will find nothing original coming from me. But thru my efforts many people have gained a better insight into their own efforts.

Carroll, my friend, send me corrections... send me additions... and I'll revise and update the master chart for all that follow us!

God Bless you,

Rich



WISE INVESTMENTS NOW MAY MEAN
CAREFREE RETIREMENT, TRAVEL AND
SECURITY FOR YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX

25 CLUB ROAD
RIVERSIDE
CONNECTICUT

Dec. 8, 1966

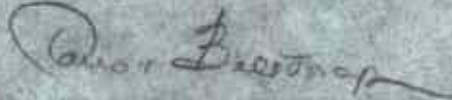
Mr. Richard B. Taylor
126 N. Palm Canyon Dr.
Palm Springs, California 92262

Dear Sir:

I enclose my check for \$10, for a copy of the Balknap
Family Tree mentioned in a recent memorandum received
from you.

Very truly yours,

C. Y. Balknap:



The Belknap -Belnap Family

Sawbridgeworth, England
to
Honolulu, Hawaii (1510 - 1966)

By Richard B. Taylor
Palm Springs, California

As the gangplank lowered and the last cinch ropes were secured Abraham Belknap and his two brothers looked with wonder upon the new world they were entering. Soon they would settle in Lynn, Massachusetts, with dreams of a prosperous future.

Abraham's son, Joseph Belknap, grew to manhood in America and through his efforts the "Old South Church" was founded in Boston in the year 1658.

Their home lay far to the East over miles of traveled yet uncharted Atlantic Ocean. Correspondence to friends and relatives in distant Sawbridgeworth, England, was intermittent at best. Thoughts of home and surrounding pastoral scenes came and went. There was too much to do in their new environment. (See: Vol 68 & 85 Genealogical Register, New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Boston.)

When Elizabeth and Henry Beltoft were married in a rural and isolated village of England circa 1510, no thoughts of the skyscrapers and bright lights of New York City, the extravagant shows or gaming tables of Las Vegas, Nevada, nor the modern hotels on the romantic beaches of Honolulu, Hawaii, passed thru their minds.

But now, 450 years later, their descendants make their home in these and many other cities of the world. And in the many years that have passed the progeny of this couple have made their mark on the pages of history:

Tears streaming down dirty faces . . . tears from the acrid smoke of gunfire and tears from fear. Ear piercing noise from the din of war. Tense nerves and fear as the Kamikaze keeps coming. Then holocaust as the suicide pilot reaches his target: The "S. S. Belknap" during the Leyte Invasion 1944. (See: U. S. Naval Records, Washington D. C.) 38 men die on the decks of the battle weary subchaser "Belknap."

The warm summer afternoon lays a carpet of laziness over the rolling hills of Montana. Two men, dirty and hard from a lifetime of cattle tending, rest their horses to watch two Indian children race bareback, happy and free toward their home "Fort Belknap." (See: Dept. of Interior, Indian Affairs) Fort Belknap one of the largest Indian reservations in the West.

Sirens scream. Men race down echoing concrete hallways. Commands from the loudspeakers. Prison Riot Two killed. Furniture and fixtures destroyed. Ray Belknap, Honolulu Prison Official fights to bring back order and control.



Arms: Az fimbriated argent, three eagles langued gules, displayed in bend cottised arg. Crest: A dragon vert statant langued gules, gorged with a ducal coronet and chain or, reflexed over the back.

A clear crisp day. Eyes squinting against the bright sun's reflection on the new fallen snow. Skiers winding their way down nature's masterpieces of forests, mountain slopes, and bright snow. Belknap Recreation Center, New Hampshire. Playground for the young and young-at-heart. Happy hearts and bright cheeked smiles.

Slowly the pale layer of smoke rises toward the beamed lights of the ceiling. The glare of the lights focus on the green felt tables below. Slow milling people sit or stand at the sullen tables. No smiles—no happiness. A weak attempt at joy comes from the end of the room where pasty-faced musicians make loud noises hinting at music to cheer the losers at the gambling tables of a Las Vegas Casino. Charlene Belknap stands by her husband as he surveys the "action" then he departs to "take the count" of the day's winnings."

In the darkened room all eyes are focused toward the illuminated ticker tape . . . the heartbeat of capitalism was represented by the heavy volume on the stock exchange. Young Ronald Belknap Taylor sits near his father, an investment banker, in his Palm Springs, California, office. (See: Page 778 Who's Who In The West 1966.)

Belknaps were hearty and aggressive. One family of Mormon Belknaps pushed a hand cart across the plains in 1846. (See: The Journal of Gilbert Belnap by Della Belnap) While further north a distantly related part of the family rode in an ox cart from Iowa in 1847 over the Oregon Trail (See: Franklin Belknap Hall, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon)

Editor's note: Dick Taylor sent us a Belknap-Belnap 15 generation chart covering 500 years of genealogy from England to Hawaii. The chart is an amazing 16 feet long. This in itself is a tribute to unselfish labor and devotion to ancestral compilation.

The bell is heard for blocks in all directions. High pitched voices mingle with the admonishments of mothers as sinless children scamper through the gates and up the steps of "Belknap Elementary School" Beaver, Utah.

Headlines screech the pain. A man is to be crucified . . . sacrificed to the hungry populace as impeachment proceedings grind out against the Secretary of War, General Wm. W. Belknap. (See: Encyclopedia of American Biography Vol. II). A man who served his country long and well has fallen from favor.

Hearty applause rises from the grandstand as the last strains of the band's music drifts away into the happy day. The men, all sharp in their freshly pressed uniforms, stand ready to receive their honors. The speaker for the day addresses the crowd and the proud "Belknap Rifles" of Texas. (See: "Belknap Rifles" Alamo Library, San Antonio, Texas)

Rays of sunshine stream down from the windows high in the vaulted royal room. Pomp and discipline rule the discussions below as the quiet and stuffy gentlemen compile the "Landed Gentry" and "Peerage" Records to show that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth of England, is, indeed, 17th in descent from John Belknap. (See: Debrett's Guide to Peerage.)

"People of the Beautiful Hill" this is their name and their heritage no matter where they may be . . . the safe manufacturer of Los Angeles, the Camera Shop owner of Boulder City, or the famous Barrister of New York City's legal fraternity all share the glamour, the pride, the responsibility.

Originally it was: "Beltoft." Toft meant knap or knoll of the hill. As the English language softened and matured many of the family exchanged knap for toft so we find in 1589 Belknap instead of Beltoft. Bel, of course, came from "Belle" meaning beautiful.

Others found the letter "k" confusing and often we find "Belnap." Although there is the oft repeated story about the son who so greatly hated his father (because his widowed father woo'd and won his son's fiancée) that he changed his name by dropping the "k" so as not to honor his father's heritage.


On file with "International Finders" and the Society of Genealogists, LONDON, is one of the most complex Family Trees ever compiled. It is a fifteen foot long chart showing the family over the last 500 years. It includes 15 generations and the families reach into every corner of the world. The master copy is being constantly improved and added to by the compiler and copies are available to family genealogists or historians so inclined.

Although the days of the crest are gone, the Belnaps can wear a shield of honor in the knowledge that their family history is full of honest and hearty people. "Belknaps, Patriots all" are the words emblazoned on the door of Samuel Belknap's ancestral home in Newburgh, New York. And "patriots" they are, have been, and will be!

Not distant SFS

Arms: Blue ~~bar~~ with a
narrow silver edge. Three
eagles with red tongues,
in a ~~band~~ silver bend
with striped blue edges.

Crest: A green dragon,
standing, with a red
tongue, with a duke's
coronet ^{above its head} and a gold chain
~~passing~~ over its back.



Fimbriated = bordered w/ narrow
edge

Lanced = with a tongue (of
a colour)

Gules = red

Cottised = 4th of a bend

gorged = neck encircled

statant → standing in profile
w/ 4 ft on ground

Vert = green

HORNBLOWER & WEEKS-HEMPHILL, NOYES

128 NORTH PALM CANYON DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92101



**C Y Belknap
Club Rd
Riverside Conn**

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

Feb. 6, 1967

Checking my papers, I find a couple of tag-ends that I carelessly omitted from the set of sheets showing the descendants of SAMUEL BELKNAP. So please add the attached page to that set.

I may have located the unpublished papers of Henry Wyckoff Belknap; but they are in storage and will not be available for examination until sometime this coming Summer. So, till I see them, I shan't make any effort to add to what I have sent to you about Abraham's descendants. If his papers are as voluminous ~~xxx~~ as I expect them to be, it would be a waste of time to dig into whatever may be in print.

However, there is one thing that I plan to do in the near future, on the basis of files that I think are pretty complete. For my children and grandchildren, I'm going to write an account of our English ancestry, down to and including the children of Abraham.

My files and records on this subject differ from your chart on some points and contain some material not appearing in your chart. So of course I'll send you a copy of what I write, for your comments.

Meanwhile there is one small way in which you can help me. You can tell me, please, the source of the name of Abraham's wife Mary -- whom you show as Mary Webster. All mentions of her that I have ever seen have said that her family name is unknown. So you must have seen something that I haven't encountered. I'll be grateful for this aid.

*Postmarked
Feb 4, 1967*



Carroll Y. Belknap
25 Club Road
Riverside, Conn.

Dear C.B.:

WISE INVESTMENTS NOW MAY MEAN
CAREFREE RETIREMENT, TRAVEL AND
SECURITY FOR YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD

Thanks millions... thanks millions for
everything you have done for me... the information
you have sent me is great!

Under separate cover I have mailed you another copy of
the Belknap Family Tree... taking you up on your offer to
make corrections and additions. When I receive it back I will
transpose the new information onto the master copy so that all
new copies will carry the up-to-date information.

Just before starting this letter I made up a file folder
in order to keep your letters separate from the raft of other
correspondence I have accumulated in this project.

Everything you send me is being kept for future reference.
So please feel free to flood me with material. I am happy to
act as a clearing house and master compiler.

I have two copies of the inclosed historical sketch. Keep
this one if you wish. You might even want to write Clark.* He
is a swell guy and very cooperative.

Sincerely,

*Clark R. Belknap
1207 Bailey Street
Seattle 8, Wash.



MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

Thank you for sending me the source of your entry of "Miss Lincoln" as the wife of Jonas Newton Belknap -- the letter from H W Belknap to Clark Belknap, Nov. 6, 1913, in which he said "Jesse was the son of Jonas N. and a Lincoln." It was good of you to mark this passage for my attention.

That statement was typical "Early Henry Wyckoff" at its worst. Later, in a letter to my father in 1920, he wrote that Jonas N. married Esther Parker and gave the correct date ~~XXXXXX~~ her death -- and added "Also said to have married a Lincoln." (He made a grossly impossible error in giving ~~the~~ marriage date) Jef

Perhaps in the years between 1913 and 1920 he had read a history of the Parker family -- Parker in America, published in 1911 -- in which a part of the story of Jonas and Esther is told. I have had independent confirmation of it for many years. All of the children whom I have listed for Jonas were children of Esther, who lived till 1817. They reared their family in Otsego County, New York -- about ~~50~~ 50 miles west of Albany. Their youngest son married there, before going West.

Possibly Jonas married again after Esther died. By that time, all but one of his sons had moved on west, along the Cherry Valley trail. The only one who didn't go was Elisha, who probably did not marry. So there wasn't much to hold Jonas in Otsego County. (I know nothing of what became of his daughters.)

The sheet that you sent me, showing an excerpt from records in the National Archives says that in Dec. 1820 he was living in Hardin County, Kentucky, with a wife "Fanny" age 54 and "his daughter Diantha, aged 9." If this is correct, he was then a long way from his sons and their families, who were (according to church records) in the area around what is now Columbus, Ohio. And he was 61 years old and could not have been married more than two or three years. So if the age of the child Diantha was 9, the natural inference is that he married a ~~widow~~ widow who had a young daughter and was 54 years old in 1820. This widow "Fanny" may then have been the Lincoln that Henry Wyckoff heard about (from what source, he never said). As far as I'm aware, there is no record that she had any children by Jonas.

One point that makes this interpretation seem plausible is the location -- Kentucky -- for there were Lincolns in Kentucky at that time, but none of record in upper New York State.

But there is one possibly conflicting point -- Henry Wyckoff's statement that Jonas N. died in New York State (place and date not shown, in letter written in 1920). However, I know of no verification of this entry; so perhaps it's just some more "Early Henry Wyckoff."

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

2/16/67

Damn it, I'm going to do something that I swore to myself I ~~WASN'T GOING TO DO~~ wouldn't do. I'm going to pester you with another question. In this case, my excuse is that -- busy as you are -- you may be able to answer the question easily, for you must have done some research on it.

Briefly, the question is this: To whom and when was the Belknap coat of arms granted, and where did he then live?

Of course, as you are aware, you have shown three differing coats of arms at various times. The one with the three eagles displayed upright was not at any time used by an English Belknap. It was, I believe, the Belding arms, erroneously attributed to an unnamed Belknap as well as Belding by Papworth in his oft-fallacious Ordinary. The arms with the three eagles "bendwise" (slanting with the bend) was probably the true one, though modern artists with not too much accurate knowledge of heraldic language have never seemed to draw the details in the same way -- so that the one published by Henry Wyckoff Belknap differed in detail from what you have shown, and the one given to me many years ago is still different.

as far as
I ever
found.

But all of this is merely academic. The fact that no American Belknap could claim the right to use the family coat of arms was established firmly as long ago as 1895 -- and it irritates me to think that Henry Wyckoff, who must have known better, went ahead and made that baseless claim in print. But he did it at a time when he was still trying to establish his descent from the Sir Robert de Bealknap (thus spelled, usually) who was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas from 1375 to about 1400. (NOT "Chief Justice of England". There was no such office)

The source of the coat of arms is generally said to be located in Warwickshire. One source, not always trustworthy, says they were the arms of "Sr. de Bealknap, Warwickshire," the "Sr" being an abbreviation of the old French "sieur" which then meant, broadly, "lord" or "master."

If they originated in Warwickshire, they could have been either the arms of the first known Belknap -- Sir Robert de Bealknap, who came to ~~England with the Conqueror~~ England in 1066 with the Conqueror and may have been given land in Warwickshire -- or they might have been the arms of the last Belknap known to have been knighted: Sir Edward, who was custodian of Warwick Castle in the reign ~~of~~ of Henry VIII and died leaving no sons. Those, at least, are my two "best guesses."

I hope you can tell me the answer -- so I won't have to take ^{the} time to dig it up on my own. But if you don't have the answer easily at hand, just say so.

P.S. I see I forgot to add that the arms may have originated in Kent, the location of most of the later Belknaps who were knighted.

MEMO TO: Dick Taylor
FROM: Carroll Belknap

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM BELKNAP (1589-1643)

Your chart shows the following names of his children:

Joseph Jeremy Hannah Abraham Samuel

As of course you know, there have years of argument on this subject. So you'll forgive me for raking it up at this time.

I think I must have seen most of the varying lists. For many reasons, I believe that the one that deserves the greatest credence is the list given by Moriarty in NE H & G R Oct. 1950: (pages 316-317)

Abraham, buried 6 Dec 1620
Abraham -- 2nd child with same name, born ca. 1622, died young (after 14 Apr 1623)
David, buried 2 March 1624/5
Immanuel (error for SAMUEL, says Moriarty) baptized 16 March 1627/8
Dorcas, baptized 7 Feb 1629/30; died young
Joseph, baptized 12 May 1633 (Most sources give 1630 as date of birth.CYB)
John, baptized 10 May 1635
Hannah, born about 1639 or 1640; died 1679 -- married the 2nd Christopher Osgood in 1663

As you note, that list omits the name of Jeremy (usually given as Jeremy). I doubt that he ever existed. Felt and Lewis mention him -- but both of them were rather inaccurate on a good many other points. Even Savage (often careless) did not believe in him.

The three children known to have come from England to Massachusetts with Abraham are Samuel, Joseph, and John. John is known to have been alive in 1655 but is said to have died soon thereafter, unmarried.

I have an old ~~photostat~~ photostat of Moriarty's note, which I can send to you if the 1950 NE H & GR is not readily available to you.