

Gilbert Belnap
LAWMAN



**Prepared by M. Wesley Cox, great-grandson,
for the Gilbert Belnap Reunion
held August 9, 2008, at Lagoon**



A picture of Gilbert Belnap modified to make him look more like he did when he was Sheriff.

. . . I remember Gilbert Belnap with a dark beard, dark hair and eyes. He was a fairly large man with square shoulders. He walked briskly and was a man of quick action. . . .The citizens of Ogden [and the rest of Weber County] regarded Sheriff Belnap as an exceptionally fine law officer.

Alma D. Chambers, June 2, 1941

Foreword

Nothing can detract from the accomplishments of the pioneers and we must learn valuable lessons from their lives and sacrifices. We cannot add to their glory. We can only look back with reverence, appreciation, respect and resolution to build on what they have done. . . . If we will cling to our values, if we will build on our inheritance, if we will walk in obedience before the Lord, if we will simply live the gospel, we will be blessed in a magnificent and wonderful way.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, October Conference 1997

Acknowledgments

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Thanks to all of the librarians for their cooperation and help. This includes Salt Lake City and County Libraries, Historical Division and Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah Historical Society, Weber State University Library – Special Collections, and others.

Thanks to the caretakers at the Browning Arms Museum of the Ogden Union Station and of the Pioneer Village of Lagoon.

Thanks to W. Hague Ellis of Salt Lake City for his discussions of Browning Arms history and letting me take pictures of his original Browning slide gun made in 1853 in Ogden, Utah.

Thanks to Linda Burns Mattson of Elle Photography at www.ellephotos.com for modifying the picture of Gilbert Belnap to make him look more like he did when he was Sheriff of Weber County.

Thanks to my brother Marty Cox and my daughter Lauralee Williams for reviewing the report and making constructive comments.

Thanks to my son-in-law Dick Williams for his discussions on pistols used in the 1850's.

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M. Wesley Cox

GILBERT BELNAP

LAWMAN

This report is intended to focus on a role lived by Gilbert Belnap that often gets side lighted because of his other and perhaps more important contributions. This paper is a compilation of his existing lawman stories which are well-read by many but will provide some additional insights particularly with a considerable amount of early Ogden history. It is also hoped that the reader will be intrigued by Gilbert Belnap's example as a lawman. After all, his sons were influenced dramatically—mainly Gilbert Rosel (who was sometimes called “young Gilbert”) as Constable of Hooper and Sheriff of Weber County then Joseph, Hyrum, and Oliver as Deputy Sheriffs of Weber County.ⁱ Also, Francis Marion as Constable of Hooper, Amasa as Marshal of Beaver Dam, Utah, and Augustus Weber as Justice of the Peace of the Salem, Idaho, precinct.ⁱⁱ

Was Gilbert Belnap called Marshal or Sheriff?

The answer is actually both. In the history of the Utah pioneers, the term marshal was applied to the main law officer in the city and the term sheriff was applied to the main law officer in the county. Gilbert Belnap was first a Marshal of Ogden City and later a Sheriff of Weber County. To know this terminology helps the reader of his law-related stories to know about when they took place.

When did Gilbert Belnap start serving as marshal of Ogden City?

Gilbert started serving as marshal in the fall of 1850 when he was appointed by the common council of Ogden as he stated in his autobiography that he wrote while in Fort Limhi during the winter of 1856-57 only six years after the fact.¹

¹ The original journal is in the custody of Historical Division of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is a black book about 4 in. by 6 in. with a unique back cover that has a page marker flap.

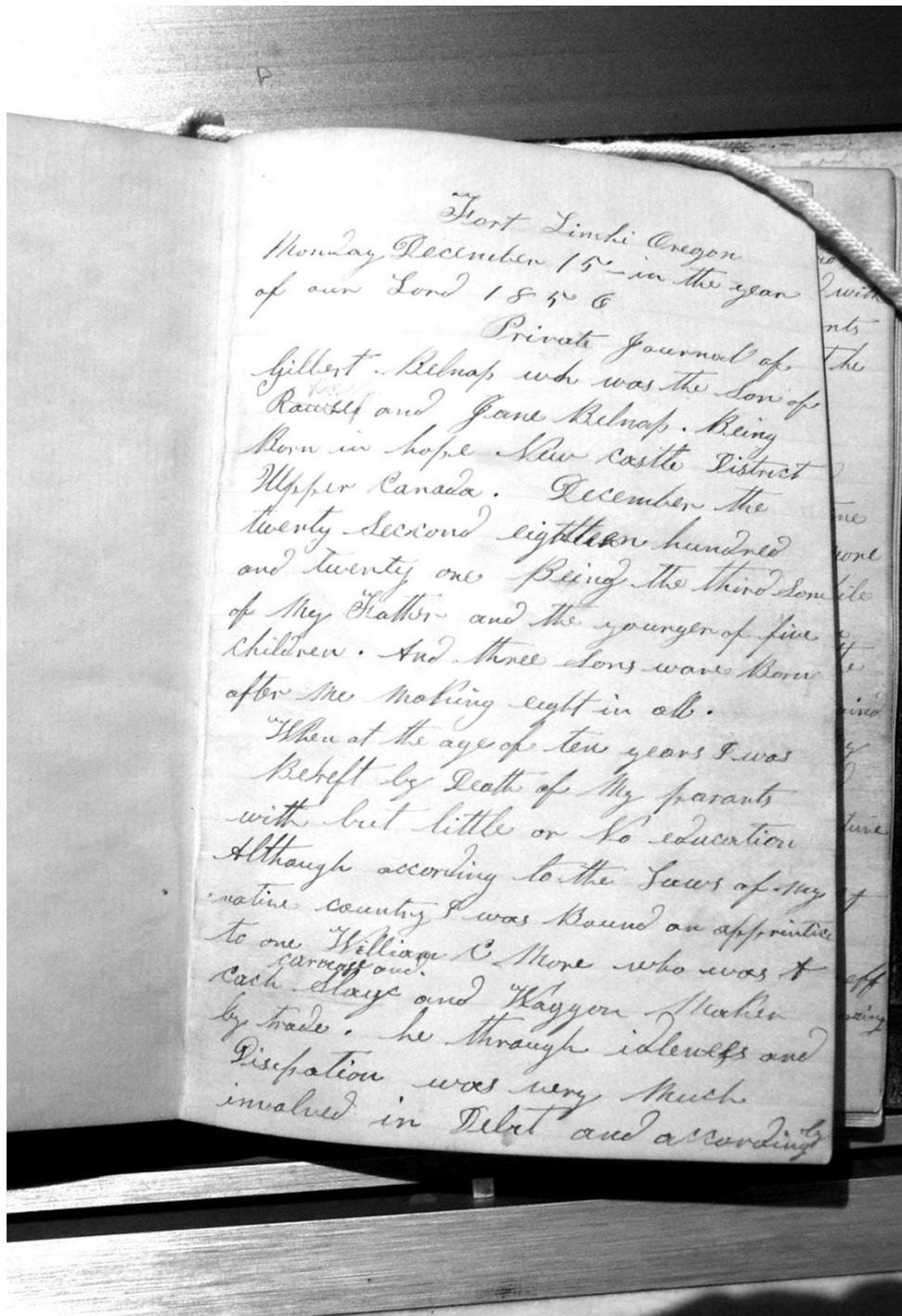


Figure 1: Photo of the first page of Gilbert Belnap's autobiography written in Fort Limhi, Oregon, started December 15, 1856.

^{made}
^{marshal}
 its prison the comforts ^{of life}. But upon
 trial by means of irrigation it was found
 to produce equal to any other country of the
 same northern latitude. Some two weeks
 after my arrival into the valleys of the
 Mountains. I was counsiled by President
 B. Young to locate in Ogden city, Weber
 County which I did. And after completing
 a small job of sewing for Captain James
 Brown. I commenced the opening of a farm
 and the building of a logg house and in
 the course of the spring I built over one mile
 of fence broke up and sowed thirteen
 acres ^{with} wheat and a variety of other vegetables
 in the fall previous to this by the common
 council of that city appointed I was appointed
 Marshal. And immediately commenced
 fulfilling the functions of that office by
 serving process on Huzel Rider for
 traducing the sariacton B. Young and
 others. on the eleventh of June my
 wife gave beanth to another soon.

Figure 2: Page of microfilmed autobiography where Gilbert Belnap recorded being appointed marshal of Ogden in the fall of 1850.

Gilbert would have been the marshal, perhaps the first, of unincorporated Ogden since Ogden was not incorporated as a city until 6 February 1851 by the Legislature of the State of Deseret.ⁱⁱⁱ There is reason to believe that the Ogden area needed a council in the fall of 1850. Brigham Young sent Lorin Farr in January 1850 from Salt Lake to the Ogden Area to take charge of affairs there because of his leadership ability. Brigham Young and others visited Lorin Farr in August 1850 and carried out the business of laying out Ogden City on the site designated during an earlier visit in September 1849.^{iv} By September 1850 Lorin Farr was in the process of having the city site surveyed and selling lots while Brigham Young was in the process of sending more of the incoming pioneers to locate in Ogden including Gilbert Belnap. The 1850 Utah Census reported over 1,000 residents in the Ogden area.^v Since no Stake or Stake High Council existed in Ogden then, Lorin Farr must have organized a town or “common” council as Gilbert called it to meet the pressing needs of the community, including schools and the regulation of the land, water, and timber resources. What other recourse did Lorin Farr have?

Besides the Gilbert Belnap reference to a common council in his autobiography, it is also recorded in his obituary that he was elected to the common council before he was made marshal.^{vi} Other than these sources, I could find no other direct historical evidence of a common council existing in Ogden during the fall of 1850. However, the historians Roberts and Sadler state that “On this date [26 January 1851] Lorin Farr was made the first president of the Weber Stake, replacing James Brown as the ecclesiastical leader; and by this time Farr was also mayor of Ogden City.”^{vii} If Farr was the mayor then, he would have needed a council before Ogden’s incorporation. Also, one of Gilbert’s early neighbors in Ogden, Edward Bunker, reported in his autobiography^{viii} that “I was a member of the first council of Ogden City” and since his name doesn’t appear as a member of the incorporated city council elected 7 April 1851, he could have been referring to a council started earlier.

The existence of such a common council in Ogden would have naturally dictated the need of a marshal to see that any ordinances or laws that the council generated were enforced.

For instance, Great Salt Lake City had a marshal in John Van Cott as early as 3 October 1847 who was directed by their high council.^{ix} Admittedly, marshals were needed to maintain the peace even though some thought civil government among the Mormon pioneers was only needed to control the gentiles as the authority of the church sufficed.^x In that vein, one reason that marshals were needed early was because on June 16, 1849, the first gold seekers arrived in Salt Lake Valley. California emigrants by the thousands poured through the Mormon settlements detouring south from the Oregon Trail to buy supplies at Great Salt Lake City, and then turning north by way of the Brownsville settlement² to Fort Hall and the California trail.^{xi}

² Early name of Ogden because of its first prominent Mormon settler James Brown.

How long did Gilbert serve as Marshal of Ogden?

Most of the Belnap histories state that Gilbert served continuously beginning in the fall of 1850, being made marshal in February 1851 as a result of the incorporation of Ogden City, and on until 1854 or until his call to the Salmon River Mission in April 1855.^{xii}

However, two Belnap sources imply that after Gilbert served as marshal in the fall of 1850 that his service was possibly interrupted until in 1852.^{xiii}

As to Gilbert Belnap being appointed the marshal shortly after Ogden's incorporation on 6 February 1851, it is important to investigate what the historian's have recorded.

The main obstacle in support of Marshal Belnap's continuous service appears to be from a prominent historian Edward Tullidge who recorded the following:

Its [Ogden's] city council was brought into existence by the same provision as that established in the charter of Salt Lake City, approved January 9th, 1851 which reads:

Sec. 47. The Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors of said city shall in the first instance, be appointed by the governor and State of Deseret; and shall hold office until superceded by the first election.

Pursuant to the provision of its charter the first election of the City of Ogden was held on the first Monday of April 1851, which gave the following return as the original council:

Mayor, Lorin Farr; Alderman: Charles R. Dana, Francillo Durfee, James G. Browning, D. B. Dille; Councilors: James Lake, James Brown, Levi Murdock. Bryant W. Nowlan, Cyrus C. Canfield, Joseph Grover. Samuel Stickney, George W. Pitkins, John Shaw Sr.

And the following city officers were appointed by the council: Recorder, David Moore; Assessor and Collector, D. B. Dille; Treasurer, Isaac Clark; Marshal, B. W. Nowlan.^{xiv}

Tullidge does not give the source of the April 7th election results or subsequent appointments; however, the available minutes of the Ogden City Council^{xv} and the ones used in this report are a typed copy of most of the original handwritten minutes and they confirm that the election was held on that date and that the mayor, alderman, and councilors named above were installed by showing their respective activities during 1851. But, the typed minutes make no reference to a named marshal³ until 23 October 1852.

³ It is noted that two of the Council Members on the list, D. B. Dille and B. W. Nowlan, were also reportedly appointed to offices by the Council. Appointments of this kind may have occurred due to political expediency and could have been considered temporary. Regardless, if Tullidge's record is true, it is important for us to accept it graciously even though we are convinced that Gilbert Belnap would have been and actually turned out to be a better choice.

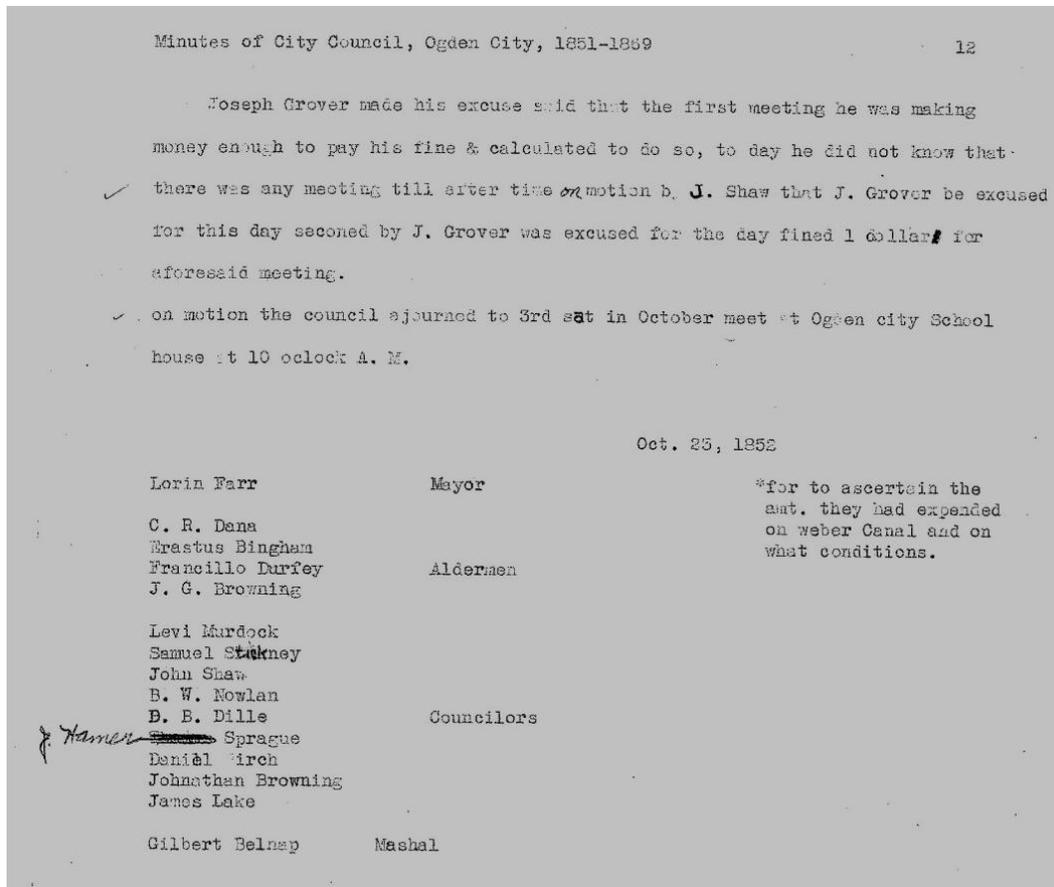


Figure 3: Page of the typed copy of the minutes of Ogden City where Gilbert Belnap is first shown as the city marshal.

Tullidge states right after the election returns quoted above, that for the next regular election which was held every two years, “In 1853, with one exception, the same persons were again elected and appointed to similar positions in the city government.” Historians are subject to inaccuracies as they depend heavily on the sources they are using. For instance, from the typed copy of the minutes that not one, but three new councilors were named in the election held 7 March 1853, i.e., Jonathan Browning, J. Hamer Sprague, and Daniel Birch. But again no city council appointee names appear in the election results there. However, in a subsequent council session held on 23 April 1853, “Marten [Marshal] G. Belnap” is shown in the minutes as being in attendance thus making four exceptions rather than one to refute Tullidge’s statement.⁴

In the city council minutes of 17 March 1855, the newly elected council members of Ogden’s third regular election were reportedly sworn in. During the subsequent council meeting held 24 March 1855, the following is recorded: “Moved by J. G. Browning that G. Belnap be the City Marshal & prsecuting [prosecuting] attorney. Carried.”

⁴ Thus Tullidges reputation as a historian is at least slightly tarnished.

Then the minutes dated 5 May 1855 report: “On Motion of H Standage & sec by—That Richard D. Sprague be Matial [Marshal] in Ogden City. Carried.”

Therefore the existing minutes of the Ogden City Council support the service of Gilbert Belnap as Marshal from 23 October 1852 to 5 May 1855 when he was officially replaced.

Before 23 October 1852 neither Gilbert Belnap or B. W. Nowlan were ever mentioned as Marshal by name in the minutes, but B. W. Nowlan⁵ was at the same time an active member of the Ogden City Council who presented various petitions as recorded throughout the minutes, was the first Clerk of the Weber Stake,^{xvi} and was Adjutant to Colonel C. C. Canfield in the Weber militia regiment which was organized in 1851.^{xvii}

Gilbert writes in his journal of the early chores he performed in Ogden (See Figure 2) including the fencing in of his crops in the spring of 1851. In connection with this fencing activity, there is one reference to “gilbert Bellnap” who contemplated a fence across or near the future state road, as recorded in the city minutes dated 17 May 1851.

Another historian Joseph Stanford⁶ writes in 1880, that Gilbert Belnap was made Marshal in Ogden’s so-called “first Municipal election” held 20 or 23 October 1851.^{xviii} Historian Hubert Howe Bancroft essentially repeats the Stanford statement in 1889 and references Stanford.^{xix}

Yet, another well known historian Andrew Jenson writes in 1941 that “Ogden’s first municipal election” was held in October 1852, a year later than Stanford and Howe reported, with Gilbert Belnap being made marshal. Jenson reports:

In October, of the same year [1852], the first municipal election was held in Ogden, resulting in the election of Lorin Farr as mayor, and Charles R. Dana, Erastus Bingham, John Shaw, Bryan W. Nolan, David B. Dille, Ithamer Sprague, Daniel Burch, Jonathan Browning, James Lake, James Brown, Joseph Grover, and F. Dempsey as councilors. Gilbert Belnap was made marshal, David Moore, city recorder, and Wm. Critchlow, justice of the peace.^{xx}

The Ogden City Council minutes do not mention such a special election held in October of either 1851 or 1852, but minutes of a session probably held 17 October 1852 are missing that could have mentioned one. What else could have prompted a list of the city officials to be included in the minutes dated 23 October 1852 (See Figure 3) where Gilbert Belnap’s name suddenly appears as Mashal [Marshal] underneath a list of names of the current Mayor,

⁵ This information is included to let the reader know that B. W. Nowlan was a worthy competitor. He also was well acquainted with James Brown who was Captain of the Mormon Battalion Detachment in Pueblo, Colorado, when the Mississippi Saints joined them which included B. W. Nowlan.

⁶ It is noteworthy that Stanford’s record was made available by John M. Belnap a grandson of Gilbert Belnap (see page 623 of **HERITAGE WITH HONOR**) and was author of **HISTORY OF HOOPER, UTAH, LAND OF THE BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS**. John found the original record of Joseph Stanford’s, **OGDEN CITY AND WEBER COUNTY: A HISTORICAL SKETCH**, in the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California, had it transcribed, and made it available to libraries in Utah in 1968.

Aldermen, and Councilors? These names in general match the names given by Jenson except for Francillo Durfey, F. Dempsey, J. G. Browning, and James Brown and the title of Aldermen.

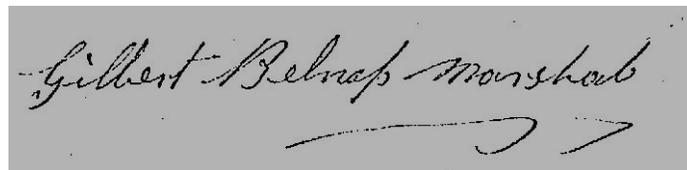
It can only be surmised that the long time between Ogden's incorporation and its so-called "first municipal election" held in October of 1851 or 1852 was because the process was lengthy of converting from the government of the provisional State of Deseret to the more permanent status of the Territory of Utah. For instance, on 26 March 1851, the State of Deseret was formally dissolved.^{xxi} It wasn't until 22 September 1851 that "The first legislature of Utah convened in G. S. L. City and organized...." and on 4 October 1851 that "A joint resolution passed by the Utah legislature legalizing laws of the provisional government of the State of Deseret was approved by the governor."^{xxii}

This long lapse of time and possible lack of communication caused and continues to cause confusion. However, Gilbert Belnap was arguably the first marshal of Ogden, Territory of Utah, by 23 October 1852. The organization of the Territory of Utah was definitely established by then and was the time when Gilbert Belnap is (1) stated as Marshal in Jenson's history at "Ogden's first municipal election," (2) listed as Marshal in the minutes of Ogden City, and (3) listed as Marshal by Hyrum Belnap.

In connection with this lapse of time, Morgan describes that during the incorporation of Ogden by the State of Deseret that, "...no provision was made for the immediate selection of officers."^{xxiii} However, the Ogden City minutes record that the incorporated City Council was passing laws as early as 17 February 1851^{xxiv} which was only eleven days after its incorporation. It could well mean that Ogden held an election prematurely on April 7, 1851, and therefore, purposely downplayed any special October elections referred to as the "first municipal election." The only logical explanation that Ogden was able to react so quickly to its incorporation was because it already had a "common" council in place since the fall of 1850 as recorded by Gilbert Belnap in his autobiography.

In one popular book, every year of Gilbert Belnap's service as Ogden's Marshal is attributed to B. W. Nolan.^{xxv} What can we do to assure that Gilbert Belnap gets the credit that he deserves?

Gilbert's signature with his title of Marshal appears on an expense report (See Figure 4 to see the complete report) that he submitted to Ogden City dated October 21, 1853.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Gilbert Belnap Marshal" and is followed by a large, stylized flourish or underline.

What experiences did Gilbert Belnap have as marshal of Ogden City?

“I immediately commenced fulfilling the functions of that office by serving process on Anzel Rider⁷ for traducing⁸ the character of Brigham Young and others” (See Figure 2).

In the city minutes of May 17, 1851, the unnamed marshal was instructed by the city council to notify the pound keepers George W. Hill and Charles McGary to erect the pounds immediately.

In the city minutes of August 19, 1852, an ordinance granting fees to the unnamed City Marshal was read. The subject was much discussed and passed.

In the city minutes of October 23, 1852, the Martial [Marshal] was instructed by the city council to attend to persons that are cutting the green Box Elder and levy suit against every offender.

Without giving the date or author the following experience is told:

Late one night a company of men from Missouri arrived at the Fort after the ferry had been tied up for the night. They prevailed upon Captain Brown to take them across the river [Weber] by offering him extra money.

So Brown recalled some of his men and the wagons were ferried across the river.⁹ The men refused to pay. With curses and threats, the Missouri caravan drove on as far as the Ogden River where they camped for the night.

A complaint was signed the next morning and Marshal Belnap was sent to bring the Missouri Captain into court. Still cursing the Mormons, the man walked back and forth beside the marshal’s horse. Belnap reached down and grabbed the man’s coat collar and headed the horse to the Court House (located on 24th street).¹⁰ The curious boys and girls living along Washington Boulevard took up the chase while their mothers screeching, “Come back here!” followed. The captain paid all charges and was released.”^{xxvi}

⁷ He might be the person reported as “Aaron R. Rider” in the 1850 Utah Census as living in Weber County as was Gilbert Belnap. Also, he is not recorded as a Mormon Pioneer who crossed the plains or in the 1856 Utah Census.

⁸ Slandering

⁹ This experience may have occurred when the Ogden and Weber bridges were reportedly washed out.

¹⁰ It may also be noted that the home of the first Weber County Chief Justice and also Probate Judge, Isaac Clark, who was appointed 7 February 1852, was located at 2386 Washington Boulevard which served as the first meeting place for the county court according to Roberts and Sadler, **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY**, p. 62 and Hunter, **BENEATH BEN LOMOND’S PEAK**, p. 470.

that on June 14, 1851, the sexton was further prescribed on application to dig the graves, furnish the coffins and burial clothing and convey to the place of burial all persons dying in or without the corporation of Ogden City. It was further ordained that the sexton shall receive pay for such services as shall reward him in reason. Furthermore it shall be the duty of all persons that have friends die, to report the same to the sexton ten days after said death with the names of his or her parents, place of birth, age, cause of death, house or place of death, and his or her attendant while sick.¹²

The city minutes of October 23, 1852, verify Gilbert's earlier appointment as City Sexton as it states, "a plat and survey bill of the burying ground was presented by the mortal [marshal]. The plat was accepted and also the bill of \$39.50 for surveying."¹³

In the city minutes of October 23, 1852, it was ordained by the city council that Gilbert Belnap be pound keeper for the first and second wards and that Lemuel Malory be pound keeper for the fourth ward.¹⁴

The city minutes record that on 5 February 1853, Gilbert was appointed attorney for the First and Second Wards of Ogden. Guess who was appointed attorney for the Third and Fourth Wards? No one but B. W. Nowlan! At least by March 24, 1855, Gilbert was the only city attorney mentioned. This appointment demonstrates the in-depth understanding and respect that Gilbert had of the due process of the law. However, his specific duties as Marshal and Prosecuting Attorney are not clearly distinguished in the city council minutes.

On May 21, 1853, Jonathan Browning and G. Belnap introduced and presented a bill to the city council to produce a more uniform tax on taking out water from the Weber River.

On 22 October 1853, Gilbert was elected and commissioned by Brigham Young as First Lieutenant of Company B of Battalion of Cavalry of the Weber Military District of the Nauvoo Legion and of the Militia of the Territory of Utah...^{xxviii}

"In 1851¹⁵ a regiment of the Nauvoo Legion was organized in Weber County....The stated purposes of the militia were to 'preserve the peace and to repel Indian depredations'"^{xxix}

In July 1851, difficulty arose between the white settlers and a small band of Snake Indians which resulted in the taking of several horses on both sides and the killing of one Indian. Gilbert reportedly led a group of settlers against the Indians and the band of Indians was driven into the mountains for that season.^{xxx}

¹² There is good reason to believe that Gilbert Belnap's name appeared on the missing minutes of 30 May 1851 as the appointed sexton. The first burial was reportedly that of Charles F. Butler who died 15 June 1851.

¹³ It is noted that G. Belnap was replaced as city sexton by Samuel Stickney on April 15, 1854 according to the city council minutes of that date.

¹⁴ By this time Mayor Farr had organized Ogden into four wards or districts and approved by the council.

¹⁵ However, Gilbert probably started serving in the Militia in the fall of 1850.

Late in 1854, there was the effort to disarm Chief Little Soldier and his band of Indians and distribute the Indians among the families in Weber County where the people were best able to feed and clothe them for the winter, and set them to work; for they had become very troublesome to the citizens of Weber County, by killing cattle, burning fences, and intimidating isolated families.^{xxxix} James S. Brown of Salt Lake City explained, “Almost every man that had side arms was called to mingle among the Indians” at the tithing office in Ogden to disarm them by force if necessary.¹⁶ Upon receiving a letter from Governor Young the Indians seemed more reconciled to their situation.^{xxxii}

According to the city minutes of February 18, 1854, a petition was presented from G. Belnap, I. Gallagher, and G. M. Hill to control the Ogden Canyon and its tributaries. It was reportedly passed on March 3, 1854.

Here is part of a letter written August 20, 1854 to Gilbert Belnap apparently when he was city pound keeper:

Brother Gilbert Belnap,

I am advised by Brother T. Bullock to send you a description of a yoke of cattle I lost on Thursday night last and have every reason to suppose were driven away in some herd I thought left here on Friday or Saturday the 18th or 19th. A yoke of white cattle. Nigh one branded with a small M on right rump. Scarcely visible—horns like 2 new moons—spotted with gray fly bibs on head and neck and on the body. Tip of nose black—ears red—shot all around lately—slender tail—black ankles—more on front ankles than hind ankles....I never noticed a brand on this one—though I was told when I bought them they had both been branded CHW—Having belonged to C. H. Wheelock.

Please stop these cattle and send me word as they are about all I have of this worlds goods—and my only dependence for earning anything for my family.¹⁷

Your brother in the N and E

Covenant,

Curtis E. Bolton^{xxxiii}

According to the city minutes of November 20, 1854, a bill prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors on certain conditions was presented by G. Belnap.

¹⁶ Gilbert Belnap was probably involved in this process as a member of the Militia or as Ogden’s Marshal or both.

¹⁷ There is no record of the cattle being found but it gives us some idea of how Gilbert had to be on the lookout as pound keeper. It involved corralling and tending stray cattle and other animals and advertising them at the place of public meetings to get them back to their rightful owners and receive a suitable reward for doing so.

When did Gilbert Belnap serve as sheriff of Weber County?

Public records are clear on this matter. On 4 August 1862, Gilbert was elected Sheriff of Weber County. He served four consecutive two-year terms until August 1870.^{xxxiv}

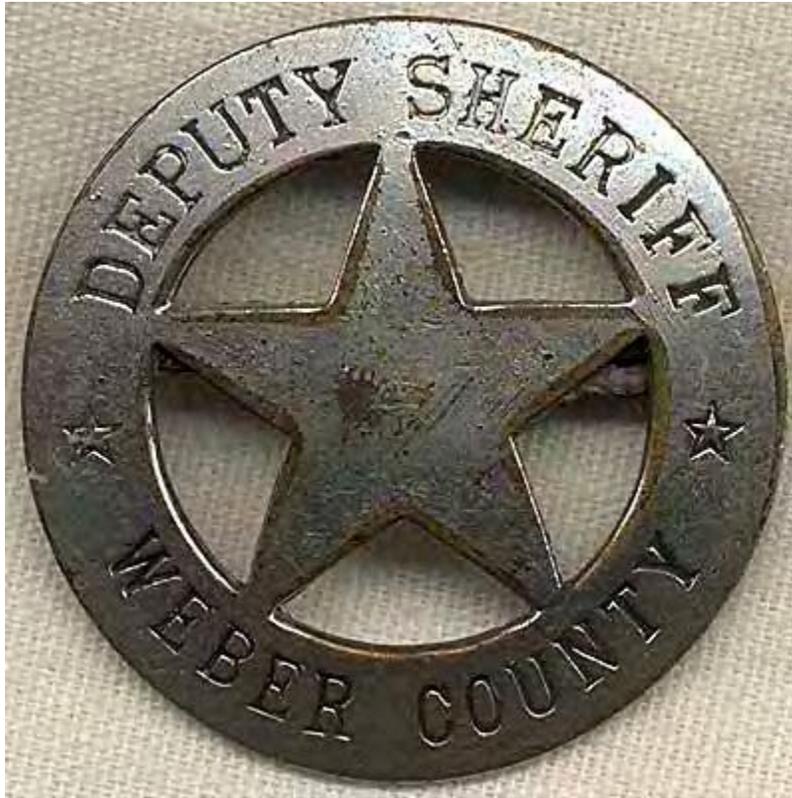
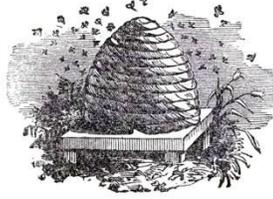


Figure 5: Gilbert and his son Gilbert R. may have worn a badge similar to this titled Sheriff rather than Deputy Sheriff, but his sons who were Deputy Sheriff's probably wore a badge exactly like this one. This badge sits in an antique store in New Hampshire and is dated year 1900 by them.

According to records of the Weber County Sheriff's Office, Gilbert was the fifth Sheriff of Weber County but served much longer than any of his predecessors.¹⁸

¹⁸ The occupation of Gilbert Belnap is reported as "Sheriff" in the 1870 Utah Census.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



TERRITORY OF UTAH.

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting:

Know Ye, That whereas, Gilbert Belnap, was, at the General Election held on the first Monday in August, A. D., 1866, duly elected Sheriff of Weber County in said Territory,

and he having duly qualified as such, as appears by the proper evidence on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Territory, Therefore, I, Charles Currier, Governor of said Territory do hereby Commission him Sheriff of said Weber County, and authorize and empower him to discharge the duties of said Office according to law, and to enjoy the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, for the term prescribed by law, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified to office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of said Territory to be affixed.

Done at Great Salt Lake City this fourth day of February, A. D., 1867, and of the Independence of the United States the Ninetyfirst.

Charles Currier
Governor.



By the Governor,

Amos Reed

Secretary of Utah Territory.

Figure 6: Copy of Sheriff Certificate for Gilbert Belnap's third term in office obtained from the Belnap Family web site.

What experiences did Gilbert Belnap have as Sheriff of Weber County?

The following is a statement by Alma D. Chambers of Ogden dated June 2, 1941:

As a lad of eleven years¹⁹ I recall distinctly the location of the Weber County Courthouse. It was situated close to the sidewalk, immediately in front of the Courthouse which has just been vacated. This little building was built of adobe—really a two-story building. The lower part was built into a hill—really a basement compartment. The front part was on the level with the sidewalk and the excavation had been cut down into the hill. The first floor walls were built of a heavy rock to make the prison cell safe from escape.²⁰

Gilbert Belnap occupied the front room as the Sheriff's office. In the rear were two prison cells.²¹ The second floor was occupied by the Probate Judge Aaron F. Farr. I remember Gilbert with a dark beard, dark hair and eyes. He was a fairly large man, at least 5 ft. 10 in. height, with square shoulders. He walked briskly and was a man of quick action.

A short time prior to Gilbert's death, probably a year, his son Hyrum Belnap, visited me at my home at 887-23rd St. Ogden, Utah. Hyrum told me the following incident:

In the early 60's²² Col. Pat Connor took a detachment of Fort Douglas soldiers to Bear River, just west of Preston, Idaho, where the Indians of a particular village had been stealing cattle from the settlers in that location and they were threatening the people with violence and death if anyone prevented them from taking the cattle to add to their own food supply.

When Col. Connors reached the area with his company bivouacked on the bluff immediately south of the Bear River, he demanded the surrender of these Indians. The Indians, of course, refused and opened fire. A pitched battle ensued in which the Indians were practically wiped out together with the squaws. In the battle, a number of soldiers were wounded.

On the way back to Fort Douglas the company stopped at Tabernacle Square in Ogden. The wounded soldiers were given medical care in the old Council House, a building which stood just north of the Tabernacle.

Sheriff Belnap assisted in taking care of the wounded soldiers.

¹⁹ The year would have been 1869 if calculated from the day of Alma D. Chamber's birth.

²⁰ As early as October 17, 1855, ground costing \$850 situated at 24th Street between Washington and Adams Avenues was purchased from David Moore for the purpose of erecting a county courthouse. The purchase price included a two-story adobe building which was partially completed. Apparently Ogden's first jail located here became known as the "jail on the hill" according to Milton R. Hunter, ed., **BENEATH BEN LOMOND'S PEAK**, pp. 477-479.

²¹ This environment can be envisioned better by visiting the jail area in the Town Hall at Lagoon's Pioneer Village.

²² This battle reportedly occurred in January 1863.

Hyrum stated that he had heard his father relate the incident many times.

While very young I passed the courthouse every day on my way to my job at the printing office.

The citizens of Ogden regarded Sheriff Belnap as an exceptional fine law officer.

I was also intimately acquainted with his son Gilbert R. who was sheriff of Weber County for many years.^{xxxv}

The availability of the telegraph in Utah during the 1860's aided law enforcement. Gilbert received a telegram addressed to Sheriff, Ogden City, dated Dec. 13, 1866, via Pacific Telegraph Company from P. Valley.²³ It said, "Three men with two ponies Black and Grey arrest them". Signed "O. F. Nelson."^{xxxvi}

The 1860s saw the opening of the West and the construction of the nation's first transcontinental railroad. Lorin Farr accepted a contract from the Central Pacific Railroad for the construction of the roadbed from Nevada to the east just before 1969. Chauncey West was given charge of the Central Pacific's construction project.^{xxxvii} The payroll money was to be taken from Salt Lake City to Wells, Nevada. The following experience was probably first recorded by Gilbert's son Hyrum:

Perhaps Sheriff Belnap was selected more than once for the hazardous job of getting the payroll money safely to its destination. At least once he disguised himself as an old miner, stuffed the large sum into old gunny sacks, and cut trail on horseback for Nevada. The first night he reached Kay's Ward, now known as Kaysville. Carefully tying his horse to his bedroll, he settled down for the night, knowing that any uninvited visitors would startle his horse and awaken him. Several times during the night bandits passed close by him; but, taking him for a penniless old miner, they did not stop. Daylight again found him on the trail again, seeking water holes and living off the land. Hiding behind every bend in the trail were bandits who knew payrolls had to be sent out and were on the lookout for anyone that might be a carrier. He was able to avoid them because of his disguise and acting ability. According to the Sheriff's son Hyrum, his father kept up whatever disguise he chose to use, and could swagger with the best of them. Several days later he put the money safely into the hands of Chauncey Walker West.^{xxxviii}

Gilbert Belnap had the ability to handle personal difficult situations as well. His brother Thomas was reportedly, a "man of the world" and could drink heavily. One time Sheriff Belnap responded to a request from a local saloon in Ogden and hauled Thomas out to the wagon and took him home.^{xxxix}

²³ Sorry the remainder of this story is unknown or even where P. Valley is. However there is a Pleasant Valley in California.

What else did Gilbert Belnap do in this time period and later that was law related?

On 26 November 1860, Gilbert was appointed Prosecuting Attorney for Ogden City by the City Council.^{xl}

On 9 March 1861, Gilbert was appointed Prosecuting Attorney for Weber County.^{xli}

In 1871, Gilbert put in book form all the ordinances of Ogden.^{xlii}

On 5 February 1872, Gilbert was elected as one of eight delegates from Weber County to attend the State Constitutional Convention that convened in Salt Lake City on 19 February 1873 for the purpose of framing a Constitution for the admission of Utah into the Union as a State.^{xliii}

On 1 April 1873, Gilbert was appointed as Weber County Court Selectman to fill the vacancy left by Henry Holmes.^{xliv}

On 4 August 1873, Gilbert was elected to the office of County Court Selectman for Weber County. He held this office until 1876 when he became Weber County Assessor and Collector.^{xlv}

Gilbert Belnap stated to Hyrum Belnap, his son, on the evening of Feb. 21, 1898 that:

General Belknap²⁴ was a leading figure in the Indian War at Malad. Gilbert went with Chauncey West to take supplies to the troops.²⁵ Chauncey told the General that the men that he had brought with him would be glad to go on guard duty. West also told the General that there was a Belnap with him whose name was Gilbert.

The General had with him one son and two daughters. In the morning after the Mormon boys stood guard, the General said they had done the best job of guarding he had ever seen. They were very quiet, orderly, and prompt at every station. He also said that he didn't hear an oath or disrespectful word during the night.

The General so admired the Mormon guard that he challenged them to a shooting match with his soldiers. Gilbert, George Hill, and John Gallagher were the first to shoot. Their guns were old Jonathan Browning slide guns. They walked towards the targets, firing as they walked. All three hit the middle of the target which was an old wagon tail gate.

The soldiers led by the General's son [Hugh Reid] were very poor shots as compared with the Mormon boys' shooting. The General, his soldiers, and even his daughters were intrigued with the Browning slide guns and examined them.

²⁴ William Worth Belknap

²⁵ Probably on Militia assignment.

Gilbert enjoyed several visits with the General and his family. When the Army went back to Laramie, they acted as scouts and escorted the troops safely back to their base.^{xlvi}

This meeting deserves to be considered a significant occasion. First of all, General William Worth Belknap was the U. S. Secretary of War who had been appointed by President Ulysses Grant on 25 October 1869. He had been through major civil war battles and promoted to Brevetted Major General for gallant and meritorious service that he performed.^{xlvii}



Figure 7: General William Worth Belknap, U. S. Secretary of War 25 October 1869 - 2 March 1876

Gilbert and the General were both seventh generation descendants of Abraham Belnap, whose family emigrated from England—Gilbert through Abraham’s son Samuel and the General through Abraham’s son Joseph.^{xlviii}

Gilbert Belnap must have rehearsed with the General the time when Gilbert was a young man or boy and had met with the general’s distinguished father Brigadier General William Goldsmith Belnap in Cincinnati, Ohio. Of this earlier meeting, Hyrum stated:

Father said the General told him that if he would live there [with the General], he could do more for him than he could ever do for himself. Gilbert then stated, “I presume he could have, but I was foolish like other boys of that age, so I refused.”^{xlix}

William Goldsmith Belnap as a Captain helped establish Fort Leavenworth and later was stationed there as Commander. He served the United States in three wars, was twice wounded and three times brevetted²⁶ for gallantry, distinguished conduct, and faithful service.¹

Chauncey Walker West at that meeting in Malad was also a General. He was made a Brigadier General in the Nauvoo Legion (Militia²⁷) as a result of his service in the Utah War and was a famous Ogden resident in his own right.^{li}



Figure 8: Chauncey Walker West, General, Ogden resident, railroad paymaster who Gilbert delivered the payroll to in Wells, Nevada.

²⁶ Promoted to a higher honorary rank.

²⁷ This may be considered as the Utah version of the Nauvoo Legion as well as the militia of the Territory of Utah.

Another important aspect of this meeting in Malad was the mention of the Jonathan Browning slide gun. Certainly applicable to Gilbert Belnap is this statement made on a sign in the weapon collection room at Lagoon's Pioneer Village:

In the early days of the West a Sheriff or Marshal usually worked alone and had only his weapons, a pistol or a rifle, to protect him when he sought to enforce the law. The choice of weapon was usually the individual officer's prerogative, and there was no standardization of weapons. Quite often, a criminal would be armed better than the officer who was seeking him.

The designer and maker of the slide gun was none other than the famous gunsmith Jonathan Browning of Ogden who was put on the Ogden City Council at the same time when Gilbert was identified as Marshal of Ogden (See Figure 3).²⁸



Figure 9: Jonathan Browning, Gunsmith

The slide gun is more technically called a “sliding breech” repeating rifle also called a Harmonica gun. When Jonathan moved to Nauvoo in 1840, he established a gun shop. It is estimated that each such gun took two weeks to make, and Browning sold them for twenty-four dollars. All guns that he produced during these times were labeled “Holiness to the Lord – Our Preservation.”^{lii} The rifle became famous throughout the West for its reliability but was never patented.^{liii}

²⁸ However, the son of Jonathan Browning, John Moses Browning turned out to be more famous as a gun designer and maker than he.

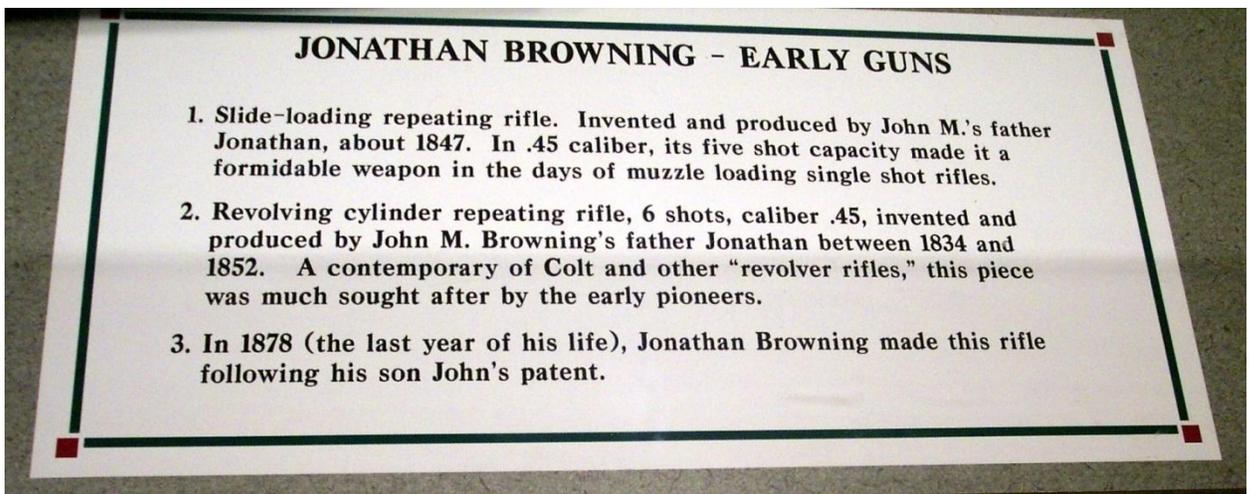


Figure 10: The Jonathan Browning gun display at Ogden's Historic Union Station. The Slide Gun is at the top.

It was called a slide or harmonica gun because the preloaded clip of five shots is inserted from the side rather than top or bottom and the shooter has to push or slide the cartridge across to the next shot of primer, powder, and lead. The hammer is on the bottom of the breech unlike more modern guns.

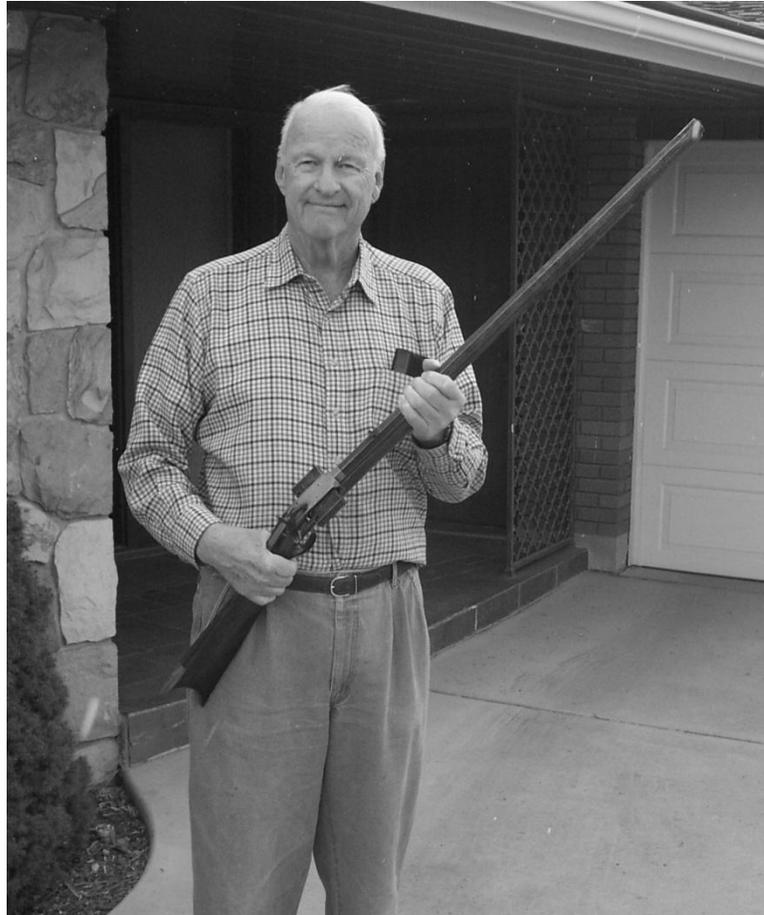


Figure 11: W. Hague Ellis, a great-grandson of Jonathan Browning, is holding a later version of the slide gun than the one at Ogden's Union Depot. This one had, "Browning Ogden U. T. 1853" engraved on top of the barrel and breech.

The later version of the Jonathan Browning slide gun had a shorter barrel and a hammer near the top of the breech.²⁹

Before leaving the meeting scene at Malad, I feel impressed to mention George Hill³⁰ and John Gallagher who were Gilbert's shooting companions in the shooting contest there. It can safely be said that they were true friends to Gilbert Belnap over the years. They were early Ogden friends to Gilbert as the trio presented a petition to the Ogden City Council in 1854 and were called as fellow missionaries to the Salmon River Mission in 1855. They hunted together at Fort Limhi and along the trip. Gilbert and George batched together at Fort Limhi when they got settled. Much later when Gilbert fainted of malnutrition, John Gallagher was there to help revive him.^{liv} When Gilbert was recovering from Mountain Fever, he was moved to another home. Gilbert had a terrible dream about this homeowner and sure enough, Gilbert soon found his bed

²⁹ As Hague Ellis of Salt Lake City, Utah, let me hold this rifle, I couldn't help but wonder if Gilbert Belnap didn't own one just like it, being as close to Jonathan Browning as he was in Ogden. Later, I was convinced that he did.

³⁰ Gilbert refers to George Hill as G. W. Hill in his Limhi Journal. His full name was George Washington Hill.

removed and put outside by the homeowner. It was George Hill that assisted Gilbert moving back with him.^{lv} After all, aren't true friends the most worthy to receive special mention?³¹

Gilbert's son Gilbert Rosel Belnap served as Sheriff of Weber County from 1884 to 1894 then in 1897 and 1898. His pay was \$80 per month and he furnished his own horse, its feed and supplied himself with his own equipment.^{lvi}



Figure 12: Cap and Ball revolvers like this were popular pistols in the early West.

It goes without saying that like a good weapon, a good, well taken care of horse was also necessary for a sheriff or marshal of the early West to enforce the law.



It is said that Gilbert grew up around horses as a boy and inherited his great love for horses from his father who raised purebred race horses.^{lvii} Gilbert Belnap showed his horse riding skills many times but none was more dramatic than when he with his wife Adeline clinging to him rode across the Mississippi River on Brigham Young's horse "Old Tom" when the ice was breaking up.^{lviii}

³¹ George Washington Hill became a famous Indian Missionary known as "Inka-Pompy" which means "red beard." He learned to teach the gospel in several Indian languages and considered the Indians as "his children." Descendants of his Indian friends still talk about Inka-Pompy the beloved friend and teacher of their parents and grandparents. Visit the website "historypreserved.com."

What qualities did Gilbert Belnap have that made him a good lawman?

It has been said that a good lawman must have courage, integrity, and physical prowess. That he doesn't curry favor, bend his principles or back down from a purposeful fight. However, he will not use violence to bolster his ego or allow himself to be goaded into a fight out of pride. He's a man who speaks the truth plainly with no attempt to soften harsh words or to engage in lengthy explanation. Yet, he is caring and kind without ulterior motive.

Gilbert states his own case of being a qualified lawman in his journal when reviewing his own young life:

Were you ever an orphan boy subjected to doing the bidding of every street loafer and drunken inebriate? Or to be kicked by every would-be gentleman and after all to be laughed to scorn by those of your playmates who believed themselves to be your superior in rank and education?

The spirit within me detested insolence and oppression. The love of honesty and truth, and detestation of fraud and meanness. Magnanimity of spirit, the love of liberty and my country. A zeal for all great and noble designs. A reverence for all worthy and heroic characters and a heart that could readily enter into the circumstances of others and make their case my own.^{lix}

His youthful zeal was not only proven but later seasoned, refined, and tempered by his life's experiences, including:

- (1) Volunteering to fight in the Canadian Rebellion of 1837 when only sixteen years of age. He viewed the conflict as an extension of the Revolutionary War for the independence of his homeland of Upper Canada to become part of the United States. He served as First Sergeant in the Light Horse Rangers of U.S. and experienced subsequent imprisonment in Toronto by the British government where he carried around sixty pounds of irons and received scanty food rations for ten months.^{lx}
- (2) Struggling in preparing for but then fully accepting the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and serving on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the State of New York.^{lxi}
- (3) Becoming and serving as a loyal bodyguard of the Prophet Joseph Smith. In Carthage, Illinois, Gilbert had to swagger with the worst of enemies and fiends in order to learn the truth of Joseph's danger at the peril of his own life.^{lxii}
- (4) Being a stalwart and enduring pioneer in crossing the plains being responsible for his small family plus the welfare of others and establishing a temporary abode in Winter Quarters. Then facing the challenge of a barren looking wilderness which was covered with "sage brush" and "bunch grass" at a place called Ogden.

You be the judge of whether or not Gilbert Belnap fit the mold of —Lawman.

ENDNOTES

- ⁱ See Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap* Website: Gilbert Belnap Family Organization, p. 11 of my printout.
- ⁱⁱ W. Dean Belnap, M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful: Gilbert Belnap Family Organization, 1974), pp. 316, 281, 276, resp.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Dale L. Morgan, **THE STATE OF DESERET** (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1940) pp. 61, 182-183.
- ^{iv} Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler, **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY** (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1997), pp. 55, 56, & 60.
- ^v Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler *A History of Weber County* pp. 63, 64.
- ^{vi} W. Dean Belnap, M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful: Gilbert Belnap Family Organization, 1974), pp. 243, 244.
- ^{vii} Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY** p. 57.
- ^{viii} *Edward Bunker (1822-1901) Autobiography*, Website: www.bunker.org/ebauto.html, p. 6 of my printout.
- ^{ix} Dale A. Morgan ed., **A HISTORY OF OGDEN** (Ogden: Ogden City Commission, 1940), p. 16.
- ^x Hubert Howe Bancroft, **HISTORY OF UTAH 1540 -1886** (San Francisco, The History Company, 1889), p. 448.
- ^{xi} Dale L. Morgan ed., **A HISTORY OF OGDEN**, p. 20.
- ^{xii} Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap*, p. 7 of my printout, W. Dean Belnap, M. D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** pp. 179 & 244, Della A. Belnap, **CENTENNIAL ISSUE IN HONOR OF UTAH PIONEER GILBERT BELNAP 1850 – 1950**, p. 5, and Flora Belnap, *A History of the family of Gilbert Belnap*, a pageant, as part of the Kerr Family Collection in Special Collections, Stewart Library, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. .
- ^{xiii} Hyrum Belnap, *Gilbert Belnap's Genealogy*, a time line dated and signed February 2, 1931, p. 2, and May Parker Belnap, *History of Gilbert Belnap*, both part of the Kerr Family Collection.
- ^{xiv} Edw. W. Tullidge, **TULLIDGES HISTORIES: VOL. II., CONTAINING THE HISTORY OF ALL THE NORTHERN, EASTERN AND WESTERN COUNTIES OF UTAH; ALSO THE COUNTIES OF SOUTHERN IDAHO** (Salt Lake City, Utah: from the press of the Juvenile Instructor, 1889), pp. 45, 46. Dale A. Morgan ed., **A HISTORY OF OGDEN**, repeats Tullidge's list and references him, and Milton R. Hunter ed., **BENEATH BEN LOMOND'S PEAK** by Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Weber County Chapter, (Salt Lake City, Utah, Publishers Press, 1966) p. 468-9 repeats the same list as Tullidge without referencing a source.
- ^{xv} The Minutes of City Council, Ogden City, 1851-1869, Record Book A has been typed from the handwritten original ones. The typed version of the minutes describes some sessions incompletely and misses some sessions completely. However, since the typed minutes describe events as they happened, it is extremely valuable. One typed copy is at the Utah Historical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah, which is used in this paper and another one slightly different and heavily marked up is at the Special Collections, Stewart Library, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.
- ^{xvi} Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler, **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY** p. 57.
- ^{xvii} *Ibid.* p. 94.
- ^{xviii} Joseph Stanford, **OGDEN CITY AND WEBER COUNTY: A HISTORICAL SKETCH** (Ogden City, 1880, and transcribed from the original transcript by John M. Belnap and associates, Cheever Printing, Roy, Utah, 1968) p.3, 4.
- ^{xix} Hubert Howe Bancroft, **HISTORY OF UTAH** p. 308 see note 8.
- ^{xx} Andrew Jensen, **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS** (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Publishing Co., 1941), p. 606.
- ^{xxi} Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler, **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY**, p. 53.
- ^{xxii} Andrew Jensen, **CHURCH CHRONOLOGY: A RECORD OF IMPORTANT EVENTS PERTAINING TO THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS** (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret News, 1914), p. 44.
- ^{xxiii} Dale L. Morgan, **THE STATE OF DESERET** (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1940) p. 62.
- ^{xxiv} Minutes of City Council, Ogden City, 1851-1869, Minute Record Book A, insertion #6 referred to in minutes of October 10, 1851.
- ^{xxv} Milton R. Hunter, ed., **BENEATH BEN LOMOND'S PEAK** (Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, 1966), p. 476. This book is really authored by the Weber Chapter of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and compiled and edited by Milton R.

Hunter. In their defense, many other history books of Ogden and Weber County referenced in this paper, except the ones noted, have also bypassed Gilbert's service as well.

^{xxvi} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), pp. 172-3.

^{xxvii} A copy is part of the Kerr Family Collection in Special Collections, Stewart Library, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

^{xxviii} W. Dean Belnap, M.D., **Heritage With Honor** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), p.196.

^{xxix} Richards C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler, **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY**, pp. 94-5.

^{xxx} Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap*, p. 7 of my printout. Also, see Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler, **A HISTORY OF WEBER COUNTY**, p. 98.

^{xxxi} Dale L. Morgan, ed., **A HISTORY OF OGDEN**, p. 30.

^{xxxii} *Ibid.* pp. 30-31.

^{xxxiii} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), p. 199.

^{xxxiv} Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap*, p. 11 of my printout and also see the website of Weber County Sherriff's Office.

^{xxxv} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), p. 228.

^{xxxvi} A copy is part of the Kerr Family Collection in Special Collections, Stewart Library, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

^{xxxvii} Website: freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/%7Estelles/West-Gibson.html on 9/12/2007 p. 2.

^{xxxviii} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974) pp. 230, 231, and Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap*, p. 12 of my printout, and Ogden Standard Examiner dated May 4, 1969, *Low Comedy Marked*, by Robbin Devine as he interviewed Volney Belnap, a grandson of Gilbert Belnap and his wife, a granddaughter of Chauncey West, a copy of which is part of the Kerr Family Collection in Special Collections, Stewart Library, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah..

^{xxxix} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), p. 196.

^{xl} Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap* p. 10 of my printout.

^{xli} *Ibid.* p. 10 of my printout.

^{xlii} *Ibid.* p. 13 of my printout.

^{xliiii} *Ibid.*

^{xliiv} *Ibid.*

^{xlv} *Ibid.*

^{xlvi} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), p. 238 and *Stories about Gilbert Belnap*, a copy of which is part of the Kerr Family Collection in Special Collections, Stewart Library, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

^{xlvii} *Ibid.* p. 116-117.

^{xlviii} *Ibid.* and for General William Worth Belnap based on information in the book *The Belnap Family of Newburgh & Vicinity* published 1858 on website: jafath.com/historicdocs/belnap.htm.

^{xlix} *Ibid.* p. 238.

^l Carolyn Thomas Foreman, *Chronicle of Oklahoma* found on website:

www.skyways.kmuc.edu/leavenwo/library/Biographies/GENERAL.htm.

^{li} Website: freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/%7Estelles/West-Gibson.html on 9/12/2007 p. 2.

^{lii} Wikipedia website: www.answers.com/topic/jonathan-browning.

^{liiii} Milton R. Hunter, ed., **BENEATH BEN LOMOND'S PEAK** p. 567.

^{liiv} Della A. Belnap, **CENTENNIAL ISSUE IN HONOR OF UTAH PIONEER GILBERT BELNAP 1850 – 1950**, p. 40.

^{liv} *Ibid.* p. 41.

^{livi} W. Dean Belnap M.D., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), p. 247.

^{lvii} Brent J. Belnap, *Life Story of Gilbert Belnap* p. 1 of my printout.

^{lviii} *Ibid.* p. 4, 5 of my printout.

^{lix} W. Dean Belnap M.D., ed., **HERITAGE WITH HONOR** (Bountiful, Utah, 1974), pp. 135, 136.

^{lx} *Ibid.*

^{lxi} *Ibid.* pp. 140-147.

^{lxii} *Ibid.* pp. 154-158.

Addendum #1 dated 1 September 2008

I recently found a direct reference to an Ogden City Council in the year 1850 (See page 4 of this report). In a book published in July 2007 titled "Lorin Farr Mormon Statesman" authored by Amy Oaks Long, David J. Farr, and Susan Easton Black, on page 110, the following is stated:

Lorin [Farr] had a deeply felt passion to serve his community and his church. Prior to becoming mayor, he was on the city council. In 1850 the Ogden City Council made an effort to establish free schools. As a councilman, Lorin, along with James Brown and Joseph Grover, passed a ruling that all children between the ages of four and twenty-one should have three dollars spent on their education annually as long as school was maintained for six months in their area. The assessor, David B. Dille, reported in October of that same year that there were 225 children in Ogden and taxable property of \$44,416, so it would be necessary to tax the population one and one-half percent to raise the three dollar amount. Ogden became the first city in the state to attempt to tax its people for the support of its schools. It soon became apparent; however, that no one had the money to pay the tax, and the attempt for free schools was abandoned.

It references page 522 of the book titled "Beneath Ben Lomond's Peak" edited by Milton R. Hunter as the source. I checked the source for accuracy and found the Ogden City Council of 1850 mentioned, but the assessor's report was dated October 1851 not October 1850. Since the same tax effort was repeated in 1851 by the same persons (except Lorin Farr was Mayor not councilor) according to the typed minutes of the incorporated Ogden City Council, I compared the corresponding numbers. On October 10, 1851, the taxable property was quoted at \$55,416 (not \$44,416) and the number of children stated was 255 (not 225). Therefore, the smaller numbers are more consistent when associated with October 1850 as stated in "Lorin Farr Mormon Statesman."

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