

Gilbert Delnap (Belknap) 1821-1899

Williamsport Lycoming Co Pa January 12 75  
Brother F. Richards Dear Sir imagin my surprise  
when I read a letter from home bearing date of  
January 8-1845 that all the Missionaries call at  
the same time as myself had returned home.

When I was set apart to this Mission I certainly  
understood it to be my duty to go forth. Not  
only to my kindred and gather up their genealogy  
and all historical information that would be of  
value to myself; And to disabuse the public  
mind with regard to Utah and Utah affairs;  
In nothing have I taken more pleasure than in so  
doing; When every door was closed against the  
introduction of the Gospel; And religious bigotry  
so firmly implanted as to exclude the possibility  
of a hearing; Then in the order of the Sacerd I  
would talk and change my course; and assume  
the garb of a literary traveler and lecture to  
crowded houses on the expulsions of the saints  
from Nauvoo thru Garry across the plains;  
Their settlement in the valleys of the Mountains  
The agricultural and mineral resources of Utah

21  
And on last evening lectured to a crowded house on  
the subject of Utah as she was and Utah as she is;  
By so doing I have made friends removed mountains of  
prejudice; and awakened a spirit of inquiry wherever  
I have been and still my labours increase.

To do justice to my own conceptions of the responsibility  
placed upon me by the general conference of the church  
I cannot possibly return home before the latter part of  
March. It is my desire to meet with the general  
conference of the church in April next

I shall leave here to visit two brothers whose residence  
is Orono Province of Ontario Dominion of Canada  
My kind regards to the Priesthood of Heber County  
and respects to all inquiring friends

Gilbert Belknap,

Being imployed from the twenty third of December  
untill the eleventh of January, in searching out  
the genealogy of My Fathers and on the following  
Morning <sup>left</sup> for Lycoming county Pennsylvania; to visit  
My sister; Who married Mr William Wilson July 11-1832  
This family consists of seven sons and three daughters  
whose residence is Warrenville of the above county;  
all of whom are comfortably situated in life.  
Williamsport the county seat is situated on the  
Susquehanna river; with abundance of water power and  
crude material of various kinds for building purposes  
and railroad communication to all parts of the surrounding  
country; in the immediate vicinity of the capital of  
the Nation Baltimore and Philadelphia; While the more  
youthfull of her citizens point with pride to the  
aged Patriarch who felled the first tree, and built the  
first log cabin; And was followed in quick succession  
by the more energetic of his race; And thus developed  
the practicality of forest fall for agricultural purposes;  
Lycoming county is truly a romantic country; situated  
in the tops of the Allegheny Mountains and covered at this  
season of the year with a heavy mantle of snow;

While ascending Laurel hill the traveler passes through  
Deep ravines with here and there a deserted old sawmill  
and ~~steep~~ side hill covered with a dense forest of hemlock:  
the more valuable of its timbers being taken away to build  
up other places; While the scree whistle of the Hemlock  
refinery; and the teamster with his huge pile of bark and  
Deep sonorous voice of (clear the track) awakens the traveler  
from his reverie to impending danger; By many a weary  
step you ascend the summit of the hill; and gaze with  
wonder and admiration at the almost innumerable Deep  
ravines radiating from every conceivable point of  
compass and emptying there Melting Snow into the  
Susquahanah river. Still further on you <sup>up</sup> pass the lonely  
spot where once laid the Mangled body of Huffman  
the German pedlar; whose blood cried from the ground for  
vengeance; his absence creating suspicion conviction  
rested on one Miller who afterward confessed his  
crime and was executed in <sup>correctly</sup> informed at  
Williamsport in 1836. The principal residence of the  
Wilson is situated on mill creek in a Deep ravine  
some sixty rods in width extending far back in  
the hills and emptying its silver like water into the

