

Children by first wife, born at Scituate:

- i. BENJAMIN,² b. 26 Dec. 1687; d. at Scituate 5 Feb. 1690/1.
- 16. ii. JOSEPH, b. 4 May 1689.
- iii. MARY, b. 4 June 1691.
- iv. LYDIA, b. 26 Jan. 1692/3; d. at Scituate 30 Aug. 171[blotted, ? 1714 or 1717].
- v. ABIGAIL, b. 12 Nov. 1695.
- 17. vi. BENJAMIN, b. 17 Feb. 1698/9.

Children by second wife, born at Scituate:

- vii. RICHARD (recorded as son of Benjamin and Mary), b. 19 Sept. 1702 and bapt. 16 July 1704.
- viii. STANDLY, b. 4 Dec. 1705 and bapt. 10 Dec. 1705.

[To be continued]

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN ENGLAND

Communicated by the Committee on English and Foreign Research

BELKNAP: ADDITIONAL RECORDS

Contributed by HENRY WYCKOFF BELKNAP of Salem, Mass.

IN the REGISTER, vol. 68, pages 83-92 and 190-198 (January and April, 1914), there was published an article by the present writer entitled "The English Ancestry of the American Belknaps," in which records from English sources were presented that showed that Abraham¹ Belknap, who was a landowner at Lynn, Mass., in 1635 or thereabouts, was baptized at Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, England, 10 Mar. 1589/90, and that he was a son of Bennet Beltoft *alias* Belknap and a grandson of Richard Beltoft *alias* Belknap, both of the same parish. Richard Beltoft *alias* Belknap, grandfather of the Lynn settler, was considered in the article to have been probably a son of a Henry Beltoft of Sawbridgeworth, who, in turn, was regarded as perhaps a brother of a John Beltoft of Sawbridgeworth who died about 1546 and an Edmond Beltoft who was living in the same year. The Christian name of the father of these brothers was then unknown.*

Since 1914 more records that throw light on the Beltofts or Belknaps of Sawbridgeworth have been discovered among the proceedings of the Court of Chancery, in the Public Record Office in London, by Mr. Charles A. Bernau of London, who carried on the researches that led to the preparation of the article published in 1914. These additional records show that the Christian name of the Beltoft with whom the pedigree published in 1914 begins was Richard, that he

*The article on the English ancestry of Abraham Belknap which was published in the REGISTER in January and April 1914 was reprinted for the present writer; but almost the entire edition of the little book was consumed in the great fire in Salem, having been received by the writer from the binder only a few days before that catastrophe. Those who wish to consult the article will find it, of course, in the REGISTER (vol. 68).

lived in Sawbridgeworth and died probably in the first decade of the sixteenth century (1501-1510) or perhaps even earlier, that he had a wife named Christian, who survived him and was probably, although not certainly, the mother of his children, and that in his will he mentioned six children, John (given in the pedigree in 1914), Laurence (not given in 1914), Edmund (given in 1914), Thomas (not given in 1914), and two daughters (also not given in 1914). Henry, given in the pedigree of 1914 as perhaps a brother of John and Edmund, was not their brother. The newly discovered records show also that Richard Beltoft, the grandfather of the Lynn settler, was probably a son, or, in the opinion of Mr. Bernau, a grandson, of Laurence Beltoft, a son of the first Richard.

These records are here presented, and are followed by a more detailed statement as to the conclusions to be drawn from them, when combined with the records published in 1914, and the changes in the pedigree of 1914 that they make necessary.

FROM CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS

I

[Westwood v. Gyrton, a suit for the possession of a messuage, etc., in Sawbridgeworth called Nidelles, 1550-51.]

[The Bill of Complaint of Thomas Westwood against William Gyrton, 1550.]

To the right honourable s^r Rycharde Ryche knyght lord Ryche & lord Chauncello^r of Englund.

In most humble Wyse sheweth and complayneth unto yo^r good lordship youre dayly orato^r Thomas Westwood that where oon John Beltofte late of Sabrygeworth in the Contye of Hertf was seysed of & in oon mesuage xxx Acres of lond medoe & past^r with thapp^rtennces callyd Nydellys sett liyng and beyng in the psshe of Sabrygeworthe aforeseyd in his demeane as of fee And so beyng therof seysed by his dede indentyd sufficyent in the lawe beryng date aboute Apryle in the xxxvjth yere of the Reign of oure late sov^raign lord Kyng Henry the viijth [1544-45]* dyd gyve & gr^unte unto the same to oon Henry Chacy theld^r & Robt. Godday thelder & other to yo^r orato^r unknownen To hold to them & to theyr heyres to thuse & behoyff of the seyde John Beltofte for t^me of his lyfe and aft^r the death of the seyde John Beltoft to thuse & behoyff of Margaret then hys wyfe & of her Assignez unto the full Ende & t^me of xv yeres then next & immediatly following the death of the seyde John Beltoft and aft^r that t^me of xv yeres ended to thuse & behoyff of Edmond Beltoft brother of the seyde John Beltoft & of hys heyres & assignez for ev^r by force of which gyft & of the late statute of usez the seyde John Beltoft was therof seysed accordyngly the Remaynder ov^r to the psons aforeseyd & which John thissues & pfitts therof quyetyly dyd take & pceyve to his owne only use duryng his lyfe as lawfull was for hym to do and the seyde John Beltoft aboute v yeres last past dyed & the seyde Margaret hym oulyved aft^r whose death the seyde Margaret entred into the p^rmysses & was therof possessed accordyngly & thissuez & pfitts therof dyd quyetyly pceyve & take to her owne use And the seyde Margaret so beyng of the p^rmysses possessed toke to husbond yor seyde orator by vertu wherof yo^r seyde orato^r

*The exact date, as it appears below, was 4 April 1545.

& the seyd Margaret were possessed of the p'mysse & occupied the p'mysse accordyngly And the seyd Margaret by lycence of yo' seyd orato' made her wyll & by the same dyd gyve & graunte the seyd t'me of yeres in the p'mysse unto yo' seyd orato' w' all the Residue of her goods & Cattails & dyed levyng issue by yo' seyd orato' yet lyvyng After whose death yo' seyd orato' had & ought to have the p'mysse duryng the rest of the seyd t'me as in his owne right aswell by reason of the seyd mariage as by the seyd Wyll & had the Admynstracon of all the goods & Cattails of the seyd Margaret to hym comytted by theordynary of the Dyoces wherby yo' seyd orato' entred into the p'mysse & was therof possessed accordyngly & so he contynued long tyme untill aboute the last daye of Marche last past [about 31 March 1550] that oon Wyllm Gyrton by colo' that the seyd dede made & executed of the p'mysse to thusez aforesyd & other evydences touchyng the p'fytting of the state & t'me of yo' orato' of & in the p'mysse & to yo' orato' belongyng duryng the rest of the seyd yere as com to the hands of the seyd Willm. he the seyd Willm. w' out just ground or tittle hath entred into the p'mysse & therof hath expulsed yo' seyd orato' & suche goods & Cattails as yo' seyd orato' had in the p'mysse the seyd Wyllm Gyrton then & there hath cast out of the p'mysse to thutt' undoyng of yo' seyd orato' for ev' onles spedy remedy be had herin And because youre orato' doith not knowe the date of the seyd dede ne the names of all the seyd feoffees ne the certen contents of the same dede ne the certen nombre of the seyd other evydences & writyngs ne wherin they be conteyned ne the certen contents ne t'mes of the same yo' seyd orato' can thefore have no remedy ne recov the p'mysse by thorder of the coen lawe ne maynteyne and Accon at the same for the p'mysse And so shall lose the same except that the seyd dede & Evidnce by order of yo' good lordship may be brought into this honorable Co'te & delyv'yd to yo' orato' for his tyme & t'me orells be inrolled or otherwyse [*a few words illegible*] yo' seyd orato' maye have the same or thinrollment therof for the mayntenance & p's'vaccon of his estate duryng the [*a few words illegible*] yeres may it therfore please yo' good lordship the p'mysse considered to graunte the Kyngs wrytt of suppen to be dyrected to the seyd Willm. Gyrton comandyng hym by the same psonally to Apere before yo' good lordship in the kyngs high Courte of Ch'unc'y at a certen daye & under A payne by yo' good lordship to be apoynted there to Answer to the p'mysse & to be further ordred therin according to right & Equite And yo' seyd orato' wyll dayly p'ye to god for the p's'vaccon of yo' good lordships Estate p's'pously long in hono' to endure [Signed] R. Broke Antony Broun

The Answer of Willm. Gyrton to ye bill of Compleynt of Thomas Westwood [1550].

The said Willm. Gyrton for answer sayethe that longe tyme before ye said John Beltofte in ye said bill of copleynt resided ony thinge had in ye said [*a few words illegible*] medowe and pasture in the said bill of Compleynt mencioned that one Richard Beltofte father to the said John Beltofte was lawfully seased by his dead sufficient in the lawe then enfeffed oon Thomas Lentroope and other to have and to hold the same to them & to ther heys to ye use of the said Richard Beltoft & his heys by reson wherof the said Thomas Lentroope and other his cofeoffees wer seased of ye p'misses in ther demeane as of fee to thuse aforesaid And after ye said Richard Beltoft ordeynid made and declared his last will and testamet and by ye same he willyd yt his feoffees shuld stond and be seased of ye p'misses to thuse of on Cristian then his wyf onto ye full age

of John his sone And after to thuse of the said John Beltofte and of theyrs of his body lawfully begotten w^t div's other remaynders ov^r as in ye said will more playnly apperithe and died after whose deathe the said Thomas Lentroope and other his cofeoffees wer seasid of ye p'misses in ther demeane as of fee* unto ye use of ye said John Beltoft and of theires of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such yssue to such use as in the said will is expressed and declared And after ye said John dyd cum to his full age that is to wete to the age of xxj yeres And then the said feoffees wer seasid of and in ye p'misses to thuse of the said John Beltoft and theirs of his body lawfully begotten by force wherof ye said feoffees entrid in to ye p'misses and thissues and pfts therof cumyng peaceable toke unto ye forthe day of February in the xxvijth yere of ye reigne of ye late prince of famous Memorye Kynge Henry theyght [4 February 1535/6] At wth day ye said John Beltofte was therof sole seasid in his demeane as of fee taylor by force of ye statute therto made for extinguisement of usis and willes And he so beyng of ye p'misses seasid toke to wife one Isabell and had by her issue one Johan And ye said Johan toke to husebond one Willm. Waller and had issue betwene them on Mergret now wife to ye said defend^t And then ye said Johan died and after ye said John Beltofte died after whose deathe ye p'misses descendid and cam and of right ought to discend and come unto ye said Mergret wif of ye said defend^t [*a few words illegible*] next heire of ye said John Beltofte that is to say dowghter & heire of ye body of ye said Johan Waller dowghter & heire of ye said John Beltofte by force wherof ye said defend^t as in ye right of his wif entered into ye p'misses and therof was seasid in his demeane as of fee taile as in ye right of ye said Mergret untill the Compleynants and other wrongfully and w^t force expulsed & put out for wth wrong dissession and expulsion w^t force at a Sessions holden at Pookeridge in the said Countie of Hertford the xxix day of Marche last past in this p'sent fourt yere of ye reigne of our soveraigne lord Kynge Edward ye sixt [29 March 1550] before Sir Raffe Sadler knight s^r Henry Parker knight and other the Kynges Justices of peace of ye same shere ther beyng accordyng to ye lawes and statutes of this realme ye said Thomas Westwood on John Toller Richard Underwood and Raffe Roke wer iustly Indited for entringe in to ye p'misses in forceble man^r uppon ye possession of ye said Will^m and Margaret his wiffe now defendants of ye estatute mad in ye eyght yere of Kynge Henry the sixt late Kynge of England [1429-30] and kepinge of them owt w^t force upon wyche enditmet ye said Justices accordyng to ye said estatute awarded a writ of restotutio to one John Gats knight shریف of ye same shere to put ye said Will^m and Margaret in possession of ye p'misses and suche goods and cattelles as the copleynant then had in the p'misses ye said Will^m Girton cast owt of ye p'misses as lawful was and is for him to doe w^t owt yt ye said John Beltofte was ev^r seasid of ye p'misses in his demeane as of fee or yt he by his dead indentid sufficient in ye law did gyve or gr^{unt} ye same to one Henry Chacy the elder and others in ye bill of complaint resited to have to them and to ther heires to the use of ye said John Beltoft for terme of his liffe and after to ye use of Mergeret then his wife for xv yeres next after his death and after to thuse of Emond [*sic*] Beltofte in man^r and forme as in ye said bill is resited And w^t owt yt ye said Mergeret was ev^r possessid lawfully of ye p'misses or peasably toke ye pfts therof or by reson of ye esspowsells had betwene ye said Mergeret by license of ye copleyn^{nt} made any will or did

*Several lines here are a repetition of the lines immediately preceding and have therefore been omitted.—*Editors.*

geve or might lawfully geve the p'misses to the copleyn'nt or that after her deathe the copleyn'nt owght to have ye p'nisses in man' and forme as in ye said bill is surmised And w' owt yt that ye said defendant hathe any dedes Charters munemetts and writings doo of right belonge unto him but ye defendant sayeth that ye Compleynant hathe in his handes custody and possession all ye deades charters and wrytynges yt do cos'ne ye p'misses and do belonge to ye defendant ye wth he shewed at Pukeredge aforesaid ye fridday in Ester weke last past unto S' Raffe Sadler knight in ye p'sens of div's and many men of woorshipec and other wherfore this defendant prayeth that by the order of this honerable Corte ye compleyn'nt might bring into this honerable Cort ye said dedes charters and writings yt they might be deliverid to ye right honor [i. e., owner] of them And w' owt yt yt ye complen'nt dothe not knowe ye date of ye said dede nether ye names of ye said feees or yt he is wt owt remedy by ye comen law if he have any right And w' owt that yt any other thing comprised in ye said faynid bill wth is matereall to be answerid unto and in this answer not confessid avoyded traversid or denied is trew All wth matters ye said defendant is redy to aver and prove as this honerable cort shall award and prayeth to be dismissed w' his resonable costs and charge susteind in this behalfe.

The Replycacon of Thomas Westwood to the Onswere of Wyllm. Gyrtton.*

The said Thomas Westwood seyth and av'yth all and ev'y thyng and matter comprysed in hys seid byll of compl. to be good c'ten suffycient and trewe in man' and form as in the same ys det'mynable in this hon'ble court & nott set forth for ony syche intent or p'pose as in the seid onswere ys alledged wyhtoute that the seid Rychard Beltofte named in the seid onswere father to the seid John Beltoft beyng seased of the seid mesuage and xxx acres of lond medowe and pasture menconed in the seid byll of compl. in hys demene as of fe by hys dede suffycient in the lawe therof infeffed one Thomas Lentroope and other to have and to hold the same to them and to theyr heyres to thuse of the seid Rychard and of hys heyres as in the seid onswere ys alledged and wythowte that the seid Rychard Beltofte ordeined made and declared hys last wyll and testament and by the same wylled that hys feoffees shold stond and be seased of the p'myssees to thuse of one Chrystyan than hys wyff unto the full age of John hys sun and after the seid John Beltofte and of theyres of hys body lawfully begotten wyth dyv'z remaynders as in the seid onswereys also untrewly s'mysed And wythoute that that the seid Thomas Lentroope and hys Cofeffees after the deth of the seid Rychard were seased of the p'myssees in theyr demene as of fee unto thuse of the seid Christian untill the full age of the seid John & after to thuse of the seid John Beltofte and of theyres of hys bodye lawfully begotten and for default of syche yssue to the syche uses as in the seid wyll ys s'mysed in man' and form as ys also in the seid onswer s'mysed And wythowte that that after the seid John Beltofte cam to thage of xxj yeres the seid feoffees werre seased of & in the p'myssees to thuse of the seid John Beltoft and of theyres of hys body lawfully begotten or by force therof the said John by the sufferance of the seid feoffees ent'ed into the p'myssees and dyd take thissues & pffytts therof untill the iiijth day of February in the xxxvijth yere of the reyn of the late Kyng Henri theyght [4 February 1545/6] as ys further in the seid onswere untrewly s'mysed And wythowte

*On the left of this line are the names "A. Broune" and "Powle," probably Westwood's lawyers.

that that the seid John Beltofte was at that day sole seased of the p'mysse in hys demene as of fee Tayle by force of the statute made for the extinguyshment of uses as ys also in the seid onswere most ontrewly s'mysed And yf ony syche feffement to ony syche use was had or made by the seid Rychard Beltoft as ther was nott and also yf the seid Rychard Beltoft made & declared ony syche wyll of the p'mysse as ys aforeseid as he dyd nott or therby declared & devysed the p'mysse in tayle as ys above-seid as he dyd nott yett the seid compl. seyth that yt ys nott mat'yll for the seid compl. do sey that the seid John Beltoft after the deth of the seid Rychard that ys to sey abought therd [*sic*, ? thend, i. e., the end] of the reyn of ower late sov'eyn lord Kyng Henri the viijth dyd infeffe Henri Chauncey & others to thuse of the seid John Beltoft for t'me of xv yeres next after the decese of the seid John Beltofte for t'me of his lyef & after the decese of the seid John Beltoft to thuse of Margaret then hys wyf for the t'me of xv yeres next after the decese of the seid John Beltofte and after that t'me endyed to thuse of Edmond Beltoft Brother of the seid John Beltoft and of hys heyres for ev' by v'tue wherof the seid John Beltoft ent'd into the p'mysse and was seased of the p'mysse for t'me of hys lyef and thysse & p'fytts therof dyd take quyetyly Accordingly and dyed and the seid Margaret hym ov'lyved and after toke to husbond the seid Thomas Westwood nowe compl. wherby the seid Westwood and Margaret as in the right of the seid Margaret toke thysse & p'fytte to thuse of the seid compl. and after the seid Margaret wyll as in the seid byll of compl. is alledged & dyed after whose deth the seid complayn't had the admynstracon of all the goods & chattells of the seid Margaret to hym lawfully comytted wherby your seid oratour contynewed possessyon of the p'mysse and hath lying in the howses ther of whete barley otes & pese abought xxxⁱⁱ quarters sum throssed and sume unthrossed & abought iiij loads of hay & xij heves of bees in the garden there & also hath ther abought ij loads of fuell and also the seid deft hath tyllid . . . abought xvij acres & hath sewen the same wyth corne of hys owen & hath abought xij acres in falowe wyche your seid compl. to hys grete costs charges labours . . . hath hetherto ymployed & conv'ted to comen utylyte intending the same to be to hys comfort & the comfort of hys pore chyldren and yett the seid defenditin Marche last past cont'ri to right & good consyens hath ent'd into the p'mysse & the seid whete barley otes pese be heves hay fuell corne on the grond & fallowe do take use & conv't to hys owen use & p'fyt to the otter ondoyn of your seid oratour & hys Chyldern for ev' & to the grete comfort of all syche yll doers that wrongfully shall intend hereafter to attempt the lyke yll & to the grete sklander of Justyce & equitye wythoute that that ther ys ony other thyng or matter mat'yall or effectuell to be replied onto contheyned or especyfyed in the seid onswere not in the replycacon sufficiently confessed & avoyded trav'sed or denyed ys trewe all whyche matt's the seid compl. ys able to av' & pve as this hon'able court wyll award & prayeth as he in hys seid byll of compl. hath prayed.

The Reieynder of Willm. Girton to the Replication of Thomas Westwood.*

The said Answer hathe said that Richarde Beltoft father of the said John Beltoft was lawfully seased of the said Mesuage and xxx acres of lond and other the p'mysse in the sayd bill and answer resitid in his demene as of fee and he so beinge therof seased infeoffid the said

*On the left of this line are the names "Hadley Hanchett" and "Garth," probably Girton's lawyers.

Tomas leventhorpe and other in the Answer resitid to have to them and to ther heirs by force wherof they werr seasid of the p'misses in ther demeane as of fee to thissue afore said And after the said Richard Beltoft ordeyned and made his last will and testamet and willid that his feoffees shuld stand & be seasid of the p'misses to the use of one Christiane then his wiffe untill the full age of John his sone and after to the use of the said John beltofte and of the heirs of his body lawfully begotten w' divers remaynders over as in the said [*some words obviously omitted*]cofeffees wer seasid to the use of the said Christian w' divers Remaynders over in man' and forme as in the said answer trewly is alleadgid And that by vertew of the staute made in the xxvij yere of kyng Henry theight [1535-36] for extingvizmet of uses and willes the said John beltofte was sole seasid in his demeane as of fee tayle in man' and forme as in the said Answer trewly is alleadgid And further the said defendant averrithe all & every other thinge and things in his said Answer conteynid to be good and trew w' owt that that the said John Beltofte after the death of the said Richard dyd infeffe Henry Chauncy and other to any suche use or intent as in the said Replication untrewly is surmised And the defendant sayethe that the compleyn'nt hathe lienge in the said howse divers quarteres of Corne and grayne that is to saye xiiij quarteres of malt vj quarteres ots and hathe also x hives of bees & other ij lodes of heye ther about the wth the defendant hathe bine allweies hetherto redy to deliv' and yet is if the Compleyn'nt wold fetch it a way And the defendant sayethe moreover that ther is in the said howse whett peson and otes and sume barley but how miche he knowethe not with out that the Compleyn'nt hathe ther any more or other Corne thresshid then before is declarid or hathe tillys of the p'mysse about xvij acres or hathe sowine the same yf he have yet it is not matereall to this defendant for the Cawsis before rehersed And withe owt that that the defendant hathe conv'tid any of the Corne before rehersed to his owine use or that he hathe done any thinge to the slaunder of Justice or any other thinge to the Comforte of any evill doeres in man' and forme as in the said Replication slaunderously ys alleadgid And withe owt that that any other thinge comprisid in the said Replication wth is materiall or effectuall to be Reioynid unto and in this reioynder not sufficiently confessid avoydid traversid or denied is trew All whiche matteres the said defendant is redy to averre & prove as this honorable Co't shall award And prayethe as he is in his said Answer hathe prayed. (Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 1276.)

Int'rogatories uppon the part & behalfe of Thomas Westwood Agenst Willm. Gyrton.

Imp'mis whed' oon John Beltofte late of Sabrygeworth alias Sabbesford in the Coutye of Hertf. was sayesd of an estate of enherytance of and in oon mesuage xxx Acres of land medowe & pasture or thereabouts with thapp'tennces called Nydells sett lying & beyng in the pysshe of Sabrygeworth aforeseid alias Sabbesford or not.

Itm. wheder the seid John Beltofte by hys dede indented beyryng date aboute Aprill in the xxxvjth yere of the reyn of Kyng Henry the viijth [1544-45]* dyd gyve and graunte the seid mease & lands With thapp'tennces to oon Henry Chacy thelder & Robert Godday thelder & other theyr Cofeoffeez To hold to them & to theyr heyres to the use & behoif of the said John Beltofte for t'me of his lyfe And After the death of the same John Beltofte to the use & behoif of Margarett

*The exact date, as it appears below, was 4 April 1545.

then his Wyfe and of her Assignez to the full ende & t'me of xv yeres then next Immediately folowyng aft' the death of the seid John Beltofte And aft' thende of the seid xv yeres then to thuse of Edmond Beltofte his brother & his heyres for ev' or not.

Itm. wheder the seid Edmond Beltofte be yet in lyfe or not.

Itm. whed' the seid Margarette the late Wyfe of the seid John Beltofte by force of the seid gyfte & conveyance aft' the deceas of the seid John Beltofte her husband was possessed of the p'mysse & peacybly toke the p'fitts therof to her own use by the space of v yeres or not or by what space.

Itm. whed' the seid Margarette aft' the deceas of the seid John Beltofte her husband dyd marrye the seid Thomas Westwod or not And whether the syd Thoms. Westwod & Margarette aft' marriage had betwen them were peacybly possessed of the seid tene and lands & by how long tyme

Itm. wheder the seyde Thomas Westwod aft' the deceas of the seid Margarette were peacybly p'ssessed of the p'mysse by the space of A yere & an half or thereabouts or not.

Itm. wheder the seid Wyllm. Gyrton entrid into the p'mysse and therof expulsed the seid Thomas Westwod And yet kepeth hym from the possession of the same or not

Itm. what ye esteeme the seid mease and land to be clerely Worth by Yere.

Ex pte Thomas Westwood cont. Willm. Gyrton p. Antoniu. Skyner testes examinati.

Henry Chauncy of Sabrycheworth in the Countie of Hertf. Esquyr of the Age of fourty yeres swoorne and examynyed the xxixth daye of Octobr in the fourth yere of the reign of King Edward the sixt [29 October 1550] sayeth as he supposeth in his consyence that one John Beltoft late of Sabryggeworth otherwyse Sabbesford aforesd. was seased on An estate of inherytaunce of and in one Messuage xxx' Acres of land Medowe and pasture or therabouts w' ther App'tenances called Nydellys sett lying and being in the pysshe of Sabryggeworth aforesd otherwyse Sabbesford In-somoch that the said John Beltoft by his dede indentyd beryng date the fourth daye of Aprell in the xxxvjth yere of the reign of Kyng Henry the viijth [4 April 1545] dyd geve and grant the said messe. and lands w' thapp'tenances to this deponent and Robt. Gooddaye thelder to hold to them and to there heyres to thuse and behoff of the sd. John Beltoft for t'me of his lyff And after his deceasse to thuse and behoff of Margarette then his wiff and of her Assignes to the full end and t'me of xv yeres then next and ymmediatly folowyng after the deth of the sd. John Beltoft And after the end of the sd xv yeres then the p'mysse to remayn to thuse of Edmond Beltoft his brother and to his heyres and assignes for ev' wheruppon the sd John Beltoft dyd execute An estate by v'tue of the seid dede of p'mysse to the use exp'ssed in the said dede that is to say he in ppre pson after the dede being opynly redde dyd delyv' the said dede and the Ryng of the doore of the said Messuage into the hands of this deponent and of the said Gooddaye Ther being p'sent John Pery the elder and George Turner and dyv'se other being nowe deceased And sayeth he is p'vey that the sd Edmond Beltoft ys yet lyvyng And ferther is p'vey that the said Margarette late the wyff of the said John Beltoft beforce of the said gyft and conveyance after the deth of the said John Beltoft her husband was possessyd of the p'mysse and peaseably toke the p'fitts therof to her owne use by the space of iij yeres or thereabouts And ferther sayeth that the said Margarette after the deceasse of the said John

Beltoft her late husband dyd marry the said Thomas Westwood which the said Thomas Westwood after maryage had betwene them were peaseably possessed of the seyd tent. and lands by the space of iiij yeres at the lest Also he is p'vey that the said Thomas Westwood after the decesse of the said Margarette was peaceably possessyd of the p'mysse by the space of one yere at the lest And doth knowe that the said Willm. Gyrton ent'yd into the p'mysse and therof expulsyd the said Thom. Westwood And this deponent doth exteine the said Mess. and lands to be of the clere yerely valewe of xl^s And other wyse he cannott depose. [Signed] p me Henric. Chauncy.

Robarte Goodaye thelder of Sabrygworthe in the Countie of Hertf. Clothier of the Age of lxxij yeres sworne and examynd the daye and yere above wrytten [29 October 1550] sayethe as he suposethe in his conscience that one John Beltoft late of Sabrygworthe otherwyse Sabbesford was seaisid of an estate of inherytaunce of and in one messuage xxxⁱⁱ acres of land medowe and pasture or thereabouts wythe thappurtenaunces caullyd Nydellys sett liinge and beinge in the pysshe of Sabrygworthe aforsaid otherwyse Sabbesford whiche he knowethe is true by reason that the said John Beltoft by his dede indentyd berynge date the iiijth daye of Aprell in the xxxvj yere of the reigne of Kynge Henry the viijth [4 April 1545] dyd geve and graunte the said mease and londes wythe thappurtenaunces to this deponent and to Henry Chauncey Esquyer to hold to them and to their heyres to the use and behoff of the said John Beltoft for terme of hys lyff And after his decesse to the use and behoff of Margarette then hys wyff and of their assignes to the full yend and terme of xv yeres then next and ymmedyatly foloyng after the [decease of the] said John Beltoft and after the yend of the said xv yeres then the p'mysse to remayne to the use of Edmond Beltoft his brother and to his heyres and assignes for ever wheruppon the said John Beltoft dyd execute an estate by vertue of the said dede of the p'mysse to the use expressyd in the said dede that is to saye he in pprie pson after the dede being openly redd dyd delyver the same dede and the Ryng of the doore of the said messuage into thands of this deponent and of the said Chauncey then beinge p'sent John Pery thelder and George Turner and dyverse other beinge now deceasyd And sayethe he is prevye that the said Edmond Beltoft is yet lyvng And is also p'vey that the said Margarette late the wyff of the said John Beltoft byforce of the said gyfte and conveyance after the dethe of the said John Beltoft her husband was possessyd of the premysses and peaceably tooke the proffets therof to her owne use by the space of iiij yeres or therabouts And further sayeth that the said Margarette after the decesse of the said John Beltoft her late husband did mary the said Thomas Westwood which said Thomas Westwood and Margarette after maryage hadd betwene them were peaceably possessyd of the said tenement and landes by the space of iiij yeres at the lest Also he is p'vey that the said Thomas Westwood after the decesse of the said Margarette was peaceably possessyd of the premysses by the space of one yere at the lest And dothe knowe that that [sic] the said Willm. Gyrton enteryd into the premysses and therof expulsyd the said Thoms. Westwood who yet kepyth the same from the possession of the said Thoms. Westwood And this deponent dothe exteine the Meese and londes to be of the clere yerely valewe of xl^s And other wyse he cannott depose.

George Turner of Sappisford in the Countie of Hertf. husbandman of the Age of fyfty yeres sworne and examynyd the xvijth daye of Aprell in

the fyft yere of the said Kyng's reign [18 April 1551] sayeth he is p'vey that one John Beltoft late of Sabrygeworth als. Sabbesford aforesaid was seased takyng the p'fettes of An estate of inherytance of and in one mesuage xxxⁱⁱ Acres of lond medowe and pasture or therabouts w^t there App'tenances callyd Nydellys sett lying and being in Sabrygeworth als. Sabbysford aforesaid And further he sayeth that the said John Beltoft being so seased of the said p'mysse by his dede indented beryng date in Aprell in the xxxvjth yere of the reign of the late Kyng of famous memory Kyng Henry the viijth [1544-45]* dyd geve and grant the said Messe and londs w^t ther App'tenances to one Henry Chacy the elder and Robt. Goodaye the elder To have to them and to there heyres to thuse and behof of the said John Beltoft for t'me of his lyff And after his decesse to thuse of Margaret then his wyff and of her Assignes unto the end and t'me of xv yeres then next Immediately folowyng after the deth of the said John Beltoft And after the end of the said xv yeres then to thuse of Edmund Beltoft his brother and of his heyres for ev^r Wheruppon the said John Beltoft executyd An estate of the p'mysse and delyv'yd possession of the same to the said Chacy and Goodaye by delyv'e of the Ryng of the doore of the said Messuage to them Ther being p'sent one Payn one John Pery John Galuwaye Richard Garland Denys Adam and this deponent And sayeth that the said Margaret the late wyff of the said John Beltoft by reason of the said gyft and conveyance after the decesse of the said John Beltoft her husband was possessyd of the p'mysse and peaseably toke the p'fettes therof to her owne use by the space of v yeres or therabouts to his remembrance Also this deponent is p'vey that the sd Margaret after the deth of the said John Beltoft her late husband dyd mary the said Thoms. Westwood which Westwood and Margaret after the maryage betwene them were peaseably possessed of the said tent and lands by the space of towe yeres or therabouts to his remembrance And he doth p'fetly remembre that the said Thoms. Westwood after the decesse of the said Margaret was peaseably possessyd of the p'mysse by the space of a yere and A half wthin lyttle And sayeth that Willm. Gyrton ent'y'd into the p'mysse and therof expulsyd the said Thoms. Westwood who yet kepyth the said Westwood from the possession of the same wych Messe. and lands be Clerely worth xl^s by the yere as he supposeth And otherwise he cannott depose. (Chancery Proceedings, Town Depositions, Bundle 30.)

Interrogatores for Witnesses to be examinid on the pte of Willm. Gyrton agaynst Thomas Westwood.

Imprimis whether on Richard Beltoft was seased in his demeane as of fee of and in one Mesuage xxx Acres of lond in Sabbridgeworthe called Nidelles yf he wer whether he enieffid therof on Thomas Leventhorpe and other or who wer his feoffes yf he ded & to whose use.

Itm whether the said Richard Beltoft ordeinyd and made any Will or Testament yf he ded whether he willid that his feoffees shud stand and be seased of the p'mysse to the use of Chrystian then his wiffe uo the full age of Jhon his sonne the Remaynder therof To the sayde John Beltoft and to the heyres of his body lawfully begotten And who were the sayd Richardes executores.

Itm whether the sayd John Beltoft by the sufferance of the said feoffees entrid into the p'mysse and yf he did by how longe tyme.

Itm what corne and graine of the Compleyn'ts do Remayne thressed and unthressed in the sayd howse and to what valewe.

*The exact date, as it appears above, was 4 April 1545.

Itm whether the Compleyn't migh have had all that his corne and grayne that Remaynid in the sayd howse.

Itm whether yt any of these deponents ev' had or hathe the last Will and Testament of the sayd Richard or did ev' see it or hard it or Red it and yf they did here it Red who did Red it & where and how longe synce.

Itm whether the [said] John did ev' enfeoffe on Henry Chauncy and other of the londs in contencion ye or no and yf he so did to what use the same was and howe longe before his deathe and whether he wer then of pfect memory or not And whether he sealid the deade of foeffement or not.

Itm whether the sayd John Beltoft declared and sayd at the Deathe or at any tym before y^t he could not geve the landes and tenets in contention from the sayd Gyrtoris Wiffe for then he should do her Wronge and breake his fatheres Will.

Ex parte Willi. Gyrtor v'sus Thomam Westwood testes examynati p Willm. Bromley.

Richard Beltofte of Sabridgeworthe in the Countie of Hertf. & of the age of xxx yeres or more sworne and examyned the xiiijth daye of Octobre in the fourthe yere of the reigne of o' sov'aigne lord Edward the sixt, &c. [14 October 1550], saieth and disposethe by v'tue of his othe that he doth not ko [i. e., know] whether one Richard Beltofte was seasyd in his demeane as of fee of and in one mesuage xxx acres of land in Sabridgeworth called Nidelles or not k[nowe]th whether he enfeoffed any psone or psones therof or not nev'thesse he saieth that he did dwell with one John Beltofte the son of the said Richard Beltofte by the space of xx yeres together or therabouts in the said house called Nydelles in whiche tyme he saieth the same John Beltofte fell sicke and was likely then to have died and at the same tyme he saieth he hard the same John Beltofte in the said house call for his fathers last will which being brought to hym was delyv'yd unto one Thomas Helam Curate there then being p'sent to reade it who at the same tyme reade it ou[t] before the same John Beltofte this depo^t and dyvers other whom he nowe remembreth not wherin he saiethe he remembreth well that the same Thomas Helam amongst other things reade at the same tyme that the said Richard gave or willid the p'misses to remayne to John his sonn and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of soche issue to remayne to his son laurence and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of soche issue to remayne to Edmond his son and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of soche issue to remayne to his son Thomas and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and if all his sones should die without issue of their bodyes lawfully begotten then he willed the same to be sold and the money therof comyng to be devyded bytwene his two daughters but what be their names he remembreth not nor can any more or otherwise depose in this matter.

Michaell Waller of Sabridgeworth in the said Countie of Hertf. & of the age of xxxj yeres sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid [14 October 1550] saieth and disposeth by v'tue of his othe that as by report of dyvers aunciant old men of Sabridgeworth as namely John Pery the elder and Robert Nodds he k[nowe]th that one Richard Beltofte was seasyd in his demeane as of fee of and in one mesuage and xxx acres of land in Sabridgeworthe called Nidelles and as by the said report he saieth that the sayd Richard Beltofte enfeoffed therof one leventhorpe and other but to what use they were enfeoffed he k[nowe]th not nev'thesse he saieth that aboute vij yeres past or more [i. e., about 1543] one John

Beltofte late of Sabridgeworth being sick in the said house called Nidelles and like to have died sent for one Thomas Elam Clerke Curate there to make his Will and mynistre the sacrement unto hym and also sent for this depo' and dyvers other of his neighbors to heare his will red and then being p'sent Richard Beltofte and William Lyon the said John Beltofte called for his fathers will wherupon ther was a will brought to hym made in the name of Richard Beltofte his father whiche was there reade openly by the said Thomas Elam in the hearing of this depo' and the psones abovesaid wherin amongst other things he saieth the said Thomas Elam read that the said Richard Beltofte gave the p'misses to the said John Beltofte his son and to the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and if the same John should die without issue of his body lawfully begotten then he willed that laurence his son should have it to hym and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and if laurence should die without issue lawfully begotten of his body then that Edmond his son should have it to hym and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and if Edmond should die without issue of his body lawfully begotten then he willed that Thomas his son should have it to hym and the heyres of his body lawfully begottyn and if all his sons should die without issue of their bodyes lawfully begotten then he willed it to be sold and pytd betwyne his two doughters but what be their names he nowe remembrethe not but this depo' saieth that by all the tyme of the remembraunce of this depo' the said John Beltofte did occupie the p'misses And saieth he k[nowe]th not that the said John Beltofte did at any tyme enfeoffe one Henry Chancy or any other of the lands in contencion or any pcell therof Albeit he saieth that he hath hard the said John Beltofte being in helthe declare and saie that he could not geve the lands and tents. in contencion from the said Gyrtyn his wif for then he should do her wrong and breake his fathers will but more or otherwise he saieth he cannot depose. [Signed] Mychaell Waller.

John Hellam of Sabridgeworth in the said Countie of Hertf. & of the age of xlj yeres or more sworne and examynd the thyrd daie of November in the yere abovesaid [3 November 1550] saith and esposeth by v'tue of his othe that as by report he k[nowe]th one Richard Beltofte was seasyd in his demeane as of fee of and in one mesuage and xxx acres of land in Sabridgeworth called Nidelles and enfeoffed therof one Thomas leventhorppe and one whose name he nowe remembreth not to the use of Christian then his wyff unto the full age of John his son The remaynder therof to the said John Beltofte and to the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and ordeyned and made his last will and testm' therby willing that his feoffes should stand and be seasyd of the p'misses to the use aforesaid but he k[nowe]th not whome he made his Executors and as by the report he saieth that the said John Beltofte was put in possession of the p'misses by the said Thomas leventhorp at the tyme of his full age and the said Christian put oute of the same but howe longe the same John Beltofte was in possession therof this depo' k[nowe]th not but he saieth he k[nowe]th hym in possession at Michaelmas was xij yeres [i. e., on 29 September 1537] and he contynued in possession therof till his deathe and he died about seynt Barthilimew tyde was fyve yeres [i. e., about 24 August 1545] and saieth he dothe not nowe remembre what or howe moche corne and grayne of the Complaynants did remayne threshed or unthreshed in the said house not with standing that he made a taile therof but he saieth that all the same corne and grayne except a little howse [*the two last words are indistinct and may not be correct*] of pease conteynng by estimacon aboute foure or fyve bussells was redelyved agayne unto

the said Complaynant by the said Richard [*sic*] Gyrton in the p'sence of this depo' being Constable Thomas Sedcole William Browne and dyvers other whose names he nowe remembreth not and at the same tyme he saieth that the said Complaynant might have had the said pease likewyse or a recompense therfore whether he wold but this depo' hath not nor nev' had the said last will and testam. of the said Richard nor yet at any tyme see or heare it red but he saieth he hath hard one John Kyrkham report that he hath red the said will And this depo' sayeth that aboute two yeres next before the deathe of the said John Beltofte this depo' demaunded of the same John Beltofte who should have his land after his deathe and he made answer agayne that Megge his daughters daughter nowe wiffe of the said Richard [*sic*] Gyrton should have it or ells he should do her wronge but as by report afterwards he conceyvyd displeasure towards her for that she bestwoed herself upon the said William Gyrton being then but a pore yonge man and unlykely to thrive and therfore wold have sought wayes if he could to have put her from it but otherwise he saieth he cannot depose. [The mark of the deponent.]

John Kyrkham of Shynglehall in the parishe of Shabridgeworth serving man and servant unto Edward Leventhorppe Esquier of the age of xliij yeres or thereabouts sworn and axamyned the daie and yere last above writtyn [3 November 1550] saieth and deposeth by v'tue of his othe that he doth not ko [i. e., know] whether Richard Beltofte was seasyd in his demeane as of fee or otherwyse of and in one mesuage and xxx acres of land in Sabridgeworth or any pcell therof or not nev' the lesse he saieth that about fyve yeres past [i. e., about 1545] at whiche tyme one John Beltofte late of Sabridgeworth aforesaid lay on his death bed in the custody of the same John Beltofte he did see a will in pchement made in the name of the said Richard Beltofte wherby amongst other things therin conteynd he saieth it apperyd that the said Richard Beltofte gave the p'misses unto John Beltofte and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of soche issue to remayne to one or other of the Beltofts (whose name he remembreth not) and to the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of soche issue of the said John Beltofte and the other p'sones recytyd in the said will he willyd the p'misses to remayne to two sisters (whose names he now remembreth not) and the heyres of their two bodyes lawfully begotten and the said John Beltofte confessed the same to be his fathers will and said he must do as he was directyd by the same will and then det'myned to send it to Mr Cocke late solicit' to the late noble Kat'yn Quene of England decessed to have his advise therin and it was then delyv'yd to one Dennys Adam and William Garland who went therwith oute of said house called Nidelles and said that they wold go to the said Mr Cocke but whether they so did or not he k[nowe]th not nor remembreth the conclusion of the rest of the same remaynders nor can any more otherwise depose in this matter. [Signed] By me John Kyrkham (Chancery Proceedings, Town Depositions, Bundle 18.)

Decree int. Westwood et Gyrton.

Where matter of varyaunce hath dependyd in thys court betwene Thomas Westwood playntyf and Willm. Gyrton def. for and touchyng a messe and xxx acres of land and pasture w' thapp'ten'nces in Sabrychesford in the county of Hartf, the sayd compleyn'nte claymyng the same for terme of xv yeres by a feoffamanent made by one John Beltoft a wyll declared upon the same to Margaret hys Wyfe for the terme of xv yeres after hys deceas Which Margaret after the deceas of the sayd John

Beltofte dyd mary the sayd compleynaunt And the sayd def. p'tendyng to avoyd the sayd inte'st for terme of yeares by reason of a former conveyance of entayle made of the p'mysse Wherunder Margaret the Wyf of the said Gyrton is heyre apon the delybat hearing of Which sayd matter beyng at p'fyt Issue and apon the hearyng of the deposesycons of Wyttnesses of both pties and upon pusyng of their sev'all evydences the sayd pties by mediacon of the sayd Court dyd submyt them selfs to thordre of the same Court and that the same ordre shuld be decreed by the same court for a fynall end of the same matter Wherupon it is this last day of Novembr in this p'sent fyveth yere of the Raigne of our sov'aigne lord kyng Edward the syxt [30 November 1551] by the grace of God of England Fraunce and ireland kyng defender of the fayth and in yerth the supreme hedd of the church of England and Ireland by the mutuall assents and full consents of both the sayd parties orderid and decreed by the right honorable Syr Rychard Rych knight lord Rych and lord Chauncelour of England and by the Court of Chancery that the sayd Wylliam Gyrton and hys sayd Wyfe hys executors and assignes shall peasably have hold occupye and enioye the sayd tent. and p'mysse with thapp'ten'unces and the Issues and p'fytts of the same from the feast of saynt Mychell tharchangell last past [29 September 1551] duryng foure yeres from thensfurth next ensuyng Without lett trouble or int'upcyon of the sayd Westwood or of any other by hys int'est the sayd Gyrton and hys Wyfe hys and their heyres executors or assignes [paying] a yerely rent of xlvj s., viij d. at the feasts of thanuncyacyon of our ladye and seynt Mychell tharchangell by evyn porcyons And that after the ende of the sayd foure yeres the sayd Gyrton and hys sayd Wyfe their heyres executors and assignes shall pmytt and suffre the sayd Westwood hys executors or assignes peasably to entre into the p'mysse and to have hold and inioye the same Without lett int'upcyon or impedymnt of the sayd Gyrton and hys Wyfe their heyres executors and assignes duryng fyve other yeres next ensuyng after thende of the sayd foure yeres Without anythyng payeng for the same and after thend of the sayd fyve yeres that the sayd Westwood his executors and assignes shall relynguysshe & leave the possessyon of the p'mysse. (Chancery Proceedings, Decrees, Roll 6, No. 76.)

II

[Beltoft v. Westwood, a suit for the possession of a tenement, etc., in Sawbridgeworth called Currants, 1549-1551.]

[For the Bill of Complaint of Richard Beltoft against Thomas Westwood see REGISTER, vol. 68, pp. 84-85.]

[For the Answer of Thomas Westwood to the Bill of Complaint of Richard Beltoft see *ib.*, pp. 85-86.]

[For the Interrogatories for Witnesses to be examined in behalf of Richard Beltoft against Thomas Westwood and the Depositions of Michael Waller, John Hongston, John Tredegold, and Robert Chauncy see *ib.*, pp. 86-90.]

[The Interrogatories for Witnesses to be examined in behalf of Thomas Westwood against Richard Beltoft and the Depositions of four witnesses, which had not been discovered when the previous article on the English ancestry of the American Belknaps was published in 1914, are here presented.]

Interrogator ad exaiand testes ex pte Thome Westwood contra Ricu Beltofte.

Imp'mis whyther John Beltofte were verey owner and seased of the lands and Tents. nowe in varyaunce betwene the said parties called Currans lienge and beinge in Sabbysford in the Countye of Hertf.

Itm. whyther he so beinge therof seased dyd therof Infeoff John Payne thelder & George Mathewe to have to them & there heires in fee to thuse of the said John Beltofte for the terme of his lyfe and after his decesse to thuse of Marg'ett his wyfe and of her heires ye or no.

Itm. whyther the said Thoms Westwood and Marg'ett his wyfe late wyff of the said John Beltofte after the decesse of the said John Beltofte were seased of the p'mysse and toke the p'fytts thereof.

Itm. whyther the said Thomas Westwood had any Childe by the said Marg'tt his wyff and what was the name or names of the said Children.

Ex pte Thome Westwood con. Ricu Beltoft p Antoniu. Skynner tests examinati.

Rauff Rooke of Sappesford in the Countye of Herf. husbandman of the Age of fyfty and towe yeres sworne and examynd the viij th daye of Novembr. in the third yere of the reign of Kyng Edward the sixt [8 November 1549] sayeth that he knewe John Beltoft by the space of xvj yeres next before his decesse seasyd as very owner to hym and to his heres for ev' of the lands and tents. nowe being in varyaunce betwene the seyd ptyes called Currans lying and being in Sabbysford in the sd Countye of Hertf. insomoch the deponent doth remember that the sd. John Beltoft bought the sd. lands and tents, of one Mr Chancy. And he sayeth that the sd. John Beltoft being seased as before he hath declared of the sd. p'mysse that he dyd infeffe by dede A lyttle befor Bartilmewe tyde last past was fyve yeres [before 24 August 1544] John Payne the elder and George Mathewe to have to them and to there heyres to thuse of the sd. John Beltoft for the t'me of his lyff and after his decesse to thuse of Margaret his wyff and of her heyres insomoch that one John Galuway being namyd in A lre of Attorny in the said dede dyd delyv' possession of the p'mysse to the sd. Payne to thuse exp'ssyd in the said dede by delyv'ie of the Ryng of the doore in a tent. uppon the strete syde in Sappysford aforesd. Then being p'sent this deponent Henry Chancy Gent. and Willm. Tredgold And sayeth that Thomas Westwood and Margaret his wyff late the wyff of the sd. John Beltoft after the same John Beltoftes decesse were seased of the p'mysse and toke the p'fettts therof Also he sayeth that the sd. Thomas Westwood had ij Children by the sd. Margaret his wyff the elder being namyd Thomas Westwood and the other being namyd Nicholas Westwood And otherwyse he cannot depose.

Willm. Tredgold of Sappysford in the Countye of Hertf. husbondman of the Age of xxxij te yeres sworne and examynd the daye and yere above wryttn [8 November 1549] sayeth that he knewe John Beltoft seased as v'y owner takyng the p'fettts of the lands and tents. nowe being in debate betwene the sd. ptyes callyd Currans lying and being in Sappysford aforesd. long before his decesse And the said John Beltoft being so seasyd of the p'mysse A lyttle before Bartilmewe tyd last past was fyve yeres [before 24 August 1544] to his remembraunce dyd infeffe therof by dede one John Payn the elder and George Mathew to have to them and to there heyres in fee to thuse of the sd. John Beltoft for t'me of his lyff and after his decesse to thuse of Margaret his wyff and of her heyres

And possession was delyv'yed by one John Galawaye to thuse of the sd. Payne to thuse exp'ssyd in the sd. dede then being p'sent Rauff Rooke & Henry Chawcy Gent. And he sayeth assone as ev' that the estate was executed this deponent came to the tent. in Sappesford where the said estate was exacutyd And then the said Payne sayed to this deponent in this wyse in effect folowyng Godman Tredgold we sent for you to the intent you shuld have been on the estate execuynge for yo' Sister And we have doon before you dyd come notwthstanding I do declare unto you that wee have takyn possession to thuse of her and of her heyres And therunto I wold that you bere wytnes Them heryng the sd. coicacon [i. e., communication] the sd. Chawcy and the said Rooke And sayeth that the said Thoms. Westwood and Margarette his wyff late the wyff of the said John Beltoft after the death of the said John Beltoft were seased of the p'myssees and toke the p'fettes of them And sayeth that the said Thoms. Westwood had ij Children by the said Margaret that ys to say Thoms. Westwood and Nicholus Westwood And otherwyse he cannot depose as he sayeth.

George Mathewe of Sabbysford in the countye of Hertf. clothier of the Age of xxxth yeres sworne and examynd the xiiijth daye of Novembr in the yere above writtyn [14 November 1549] sayeth that John Beltoft was v'y owner by his owne report and was seased of the lands and tents. now being in varyaunce betwene the said ptyes called Currans lying and being in Sabbysford aforesd. at the tyme of his decesse and long tyme before And sayeth that the said John Beltoft being so seased of the p'myssees this deponent ys p'vy that he dyd infeffe therof by dede one John Payn thelder and George Mathewe to have to them and to there heyres in fee to thuse of the said John Beltoft for t'me of his lyff And after his decesse to thuse of Margarette his wiff and of her heyres forev' wheruppon the said John Beltoft by one Galuwaye being namyd in a lre. of Attorney in the said dede did delyv' possession of the p'myssees to the said Payn and Mathewe to thuse exp'ssyd in the said dede And as soone as that the estate was executyd this deponent being sent for dyd come to them And then the said Payn dyd [*word illegible*] this deponent what they had doon then and there being p'sent one Rauff Roke Mr Chacy Gent. this deponent the said Galuwaye and Tredgold and other And he sayeth he is p'vy that the said Thomas Westwood and Margarette his wiff late the wyff of the said John Beltoft were seased of the p'myssees and toke the p'fettes of them And further this deponent ys c'teyn that the said Thomas Westwood had towe Childern by the said Margarette his wyff the one of them being namyd Thomas Westwood and the other Nicholus Westwood And otherwise he cannott depose.

Henry Chauncey of Sabrycheworth in the Countye of Hertf. Gent. of the Age of xlth yeres sworne and examynd the daye and yere abov wrytyn [14 November 1549] sayeth he ys p'vey that John Beltoft late decessyd was v'y owner and seased to hym and to his heyres forev' of the lands and tents. now being in varyaunce betwene the sayd ptyes called Currauns lying and being in Sabrycheworth aforesaid And this deponent ys p'vey that the said John Beltoft being so seasyd of the p'myssees dyd therof infeffe by dede one John Payn and George Mathewe to have to them and to there heyres in fee to thuse of the said John Beltoft for t'me of hys lyff And after his decesse to thuse of Margarette his wyff and of her heyres forev' which he knows ys true for he devysed and caused to be engrossed the said dede And sayeth that the said John Beltoft made lyv'e and seased of the said tents. and lands accordyng by one John Galuwaye his Attorney

namyd in the said dede by delyv'ie of the ringe of doore of the said tent. into the hands of the said Payn There being p'sent this deponent which redd the said dede the said Payn Rauff Rooke Willm. Tredgold and other whose names he remembryth not And as this deponent doth [*two or three words missing, the paper being torn*] said Thomas Westwood and Margarett his wyff late wyff of the said John Beltoft after the decesse of the said John Beltoft were peaseably seased of the p'myssees and toke the yssues and pffetts of them And further as this deponent hath herd it comynly reportyd the said Thomas Westwood had c'ten childern by the said Margarett his late wyff but what the name or names of the said Chyldern be this deponent cannot depose And otherwyse he cannott saye. (Chancery Proceedings, Town Depositions, Bundle 30.)

[For the Decree of the Court of Chancery in this suit of Beltoft v. Westwood, dated 24 April 1551, see REGISTER, vol. 68, p. 90.]

The records given above, combined with those published in 1914, make necessary the following revision of the early generations of the pedigree of that date. Mr. Charles A. Bernau's summary of the two Chancery cases and his conclusions about the parentage of Richard Beltoft, the grandfather of the settler at Lynn, Mass., have been accepted, with a few changes.

1. RICHARD BELTOFT, of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, died probably in the first decade of the sixteenth century (1501-1510) or perhaps even earlier, since his son John, who was under twenty-one years of age when Richard died, had a granddaughter who was married as early as 1545, and therefore John could hardly have been born later than 1490. He married CHRISTIAN ———, who survived him. No proof has been found that she was the mother of his children, although this is probable.

From the records in the Chancery suit of Westwood v. Gyrton, 1550-51 (*vide supra*, pp. 266-278) it appears that Richard Beltoft owned a messuage, with thirty acres of land, meadow, and pasture, situated in Sawbridgeworth and called Nidelles, the annual value of which was estimated in 1550 at 40s. This messuage, etc., he settled upon his wife, with the proviso that he should retain the use of it as long as he lived and that after his death the possession of it should be in accordance with the terms of his will; and he appointed Thomas Leventhop and others as trustees, to hold the property in trust for these purposes. Unfortunately this will is now lost; but the substance of its provisions in reference to this property is known from the depositions of some of the witnesses in the above-mentioned Chancery suit.

The testator, according to these depositions, directed in his will that his wife Christian should enjoy the property until his son John should attain his majority, when it should pass to the said son John and the heirs of his body, and in default of such issue to the testator's son Laurence and the heirs of his body, and in default of such issue to the testator's son Edmund and the heirs of his body, and in default of such issue to the testator's son Thomas and the heirs of his body, and in default of such issue the property, according to one account of the

will, was to be sold and the proceeds were to be divided between the testator's two daughters (whose names are not given in the depositions), while, according to another account of the will, the property itself was to go to the testator's two daughters and the heirs of their bodies. From the description of the will it is, therefore, clear that Richard Beltoft, when he made his will, had only four sons living, and that, if he had had other sons, they had died without issue. Therefore Henry Beltoft (No. 2 of the pedigree printed in 1914) could not have been a son of this Richard and a brother of John and Edmund, as was suggested in the earlier article on this family.

On the death of Richard Beltoft his widow Christian, in accordance with her husband's will, came into possession of the property; and, when the son John came of age, she was obliged to surrender it to him. It is stated that John was in possession of Nidelles at least fourteen years before 1550, that is, not later than 1536. However, he must have come into possession many years before 1536, for, as stated above, he could hardly have been born later than 1490, and would therefore have attained his majority not later than 1511. Since John had "heirs of his body," the other remainders mentioned in his father's will never came into force.

Children:

2. i. JOHN, b. probably not later than 1490.
 3. ii. LAURENCE, named in his father's will.
 - iii. EDMUND, living 29 Oct. 1550; d. probably before 1558, when the parish registers of Sawbridgeworth begin.
 - iv. THOMAS, named in his father's will.
 - v. A DAUGHTER, mentioned in her father's will.*
 - vi. A DAUGHTER, mentioned in her father's will.*
2. JOHN BELTOFT (*Richard*) of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, born probably not later than 1490, died 4 Feb. 1545/6. He married first ISABEL ———; and secondly MARGARET TREDGOLD, who was probably many years younger than her husband, for her brother was only thirty-three years old in 1549. She survived John Beltoft, married secondly, probably in 1546, Thomas Westwood (who in 1551 was of Laver-Magdalen, co. Essex), and died about 25 July 1548, possibly in childbirth, when her son, Nicholas Westwood, was born. By her second husband, who survived her, she had two sons, Thomas Westwood, who was three years old in 1549, and Nicholas Westwood, who died in or before 1549.

On attaining his majority John Beltoft, in accordance with the terms of his father's will, succeeded his father's widow in the possession of the messuage, etc., in Sawbridgeworth called Nidelles, which he held until his death. He owned also one tenement, with a garden and two acres of arable land or thereabouts therunto belonging, situated in Sawbridgeworth and called Currants, which he bought from a Mr. Chauncey in or before 1530. The Chancery suit of *Westwood v. Gyrtton*, in 1550-51,

*The place to be assigned to each daughter in the list of children is not known, for the four sons are evidently named first, in the order of their births.

was for the possession of Nidelles; the Chancery suit of Beltoft *v.* Westwood, in 1549-1551, was for the possession of Currants.

By his first wife John Beltoft had a daughter named Joan, who married William Waller and died not later than 1543, leaving a daughter, Margaret Waller, known also as Meg, who married about 1545 William Gyrton, thereby incurring the displeasure of her grandfather, because William Gyrton was "but a pore yonge man and unlykely to thrive." On the death of her grandfather, her mother being already dead, Margaret (Waller) Gyrton was undoubtedly heir to the property called Nidelles, because according to the will of her great-grandfather, Richard Beltoft, this property was to descend to John Beltoft and the heirs of his body. That John Beltoft was well aware of the terms of his father's will and that he acknowledged his granddaughter as the one who was to succeed to Nidelles after his death is proved by the following two well-authenticated incidents:

(1) In or before 1543 John Beltoft lay sick in the house called Nidelles, and it was thought then that he was dying. He sent for the curate, Rev. Thomas Elam (or Helam), to draw up his will for him and to administer the last sacrament. He sent also for his neighbors, Michael Waller and William Lyon, and John Kyrkham also was present, although later, in his deposition, Kyrkham makes a mistake of about two years in fixing the date of this incident. Another who was present was Richard Beltoft (No. 4 of this pedigree and No. 3 of the pedigree of 1914), whose relationship to John Beltoft is not stated, but he was probably a nephew* of John, for in 1550 his age was given as thirty years or more and he deposed that he had lived with John Beltoft, in the house called Nidelles, for about twenty years before John's death. On the occasion referred to John Beltoft called for his father's will, which was in his possession, and it was handed to Rev. Thomas Elam to read aloud. When it had been read, John Beltoft said that he must act in accordance with it, and he decided to send it to Mr. Cocke, solicitor to Queen Katherine, for his advice. The will was then handed to Dennis Adam and William Garland, who took it with them when they left the house, saying that they would go to Mr. Cocke, but whether they actually did see Mr. Cocke is unknown.

(2) About this same time John Beltoft's neighbor, John Helam, asked him who would have his land after his death, and he replied that Meg, his daughter's daughter, should have it, for otherwise he would be doing her a wrong and acting contrary to his father's will.

John Beltoft, however, recovered from this illness, and lived some two years longer. During this time his granddaughter

*Mr. Charles A. Bernau thinks it more likely that Richard Beltoft was a grandnephew of John Beltoft. See below, p. 287, footnote.

incurred his displeasure by marrying William Gyrton, and John Beltoft tried to prevent the property from descending to her. Therefore, on 4 Apr. 1545, he made Henry Chauncey, Sr., and Robert Goodday, Sr., trustees, to hold in trust the property called Nidelles on the following terms, namely, that he should retain the use of it so long as he lived, that after his death his wife Margaret and her assigns should hold it for fifteen years, and that it should then go to his brother Edmund Beltoft and his heirs or assigns; and to these trustees he formally delivered possession of the said premises in the presence of several witnesses.

The attempt of John Beltoft to prevent his granddaughter from succeeding to Nidelles led to litigation after his death. Margaret, his widow, was in possession of Nidelles for a few years after John's death, and by her will left the unexpired portion of her term of years in the property, with all the rest of her goods, to her second husband, Thomas Westwood. She died about 25 July 1548, and about a year or a year and a half after her death William Gyrton, husband of John Beltoft's granddaughter, got possession of the property, but was turned out of it by force by Thomas Westwood, with the help of John Toller, Richard Underwood, and Ralph Roke. For this proceeding these four men were indicted, 29 Mar. 1550, at a court held before Sir Ralph Saddler, Knight, and other judges, at Puckeridge, co. Herts, and Gyrton obtained a writ of restitution, by virtue of which he regained possession of the premises two days later, and cast out Westwood's goods, which consisted of wheat, barley, oats, pease, hay, hives of bees, and fuel, the quantity of each article being later in dispute. Thereupon Westwood filed a bill of complaint in Chancery against Gyrton; Gyrton made his answer to the same; Westwood made his replication to Gyrton's answer; Gyrton made his rejoinder to Westwood's replication; witnesses were heard both for Westwood and for Gyrton; and the Court, on 30 Nov. 1551, decreed that Gyrton and his wife should enjoy the premises for four years, as from Michaelmas 1551 (i. e., to 29 Sept. 1555), paying Westwood 46s. 8d. rent per annum, that for the next five years (i. e., to 29 Sept. 1560) Westwood should have possession free of any rent, and that at the expiration of these five years he should relinquish possession to Gyrton. (Cf. the records of this suit given above. They show, *inter alia*, that Edmund Beltoft, brother of John Beltoft, was still living on 29 Oct. 1550.)

The other property owned by John Beltoft in Sawbridge-worth, the tenement, with a garden and two acres of arable land or thereabouts thereunto belonging, called Currants, which, as already stated, he had bought from a Mr. Chauncey not later than 1530, and which, in the estimation of some of the witnesses in the case of *Beltoft v. Westwood*, had in 1549 an annual value of from 13s. 4d. to 17s., that is, considerably less

than one-half the annual value of Nidelles, was also in litigation in 1549-1551, a few years after John's death. A little while before the Feast of St. Bartholomew (24 Aug.), 1544, Beltoft appointed John Payne, Sr., and George Mathewe as trustees, to hold the property in trust, providing that he should retain the use of it as long as he lived and that his wife Margaret and her heirs should have it after his death; and formal delivery of the property was thereupon made to the trustees. Soon, however, deciding to make a new settlement of this property, in order to provide for Richard Beltoft, probably John's nephew, who was born about 1520 and had lived with him at Nidelles from early boyhood, since about 1525 or 1526, John Beltoft, about Candlemas Day (2 Feb.), 1544/5, appointed Henry Chauncey and others as trustees, to hold the property in trust, providing that after his death his wife Margaret should possess it for twenty years, if she should live so long, and that then it should go to Richard Beltoft and his heirs, and, in default of such, to Edmund Beltoft (John's brother) and his heirs; and formal delivery of possession was made to Margaret and to Richard. Margaret, having had no children by John Beltoft, apparently making no objection to this new settlement. After the death of John Beltoft his widow, Margaret, took possession of the property, as she was entitled to do under both the first and the second settlement made by her husband. After her death (about 25 July 1548), however, her second husband, Thomas Westwood, remained in possession of the premises, claiming a right to do so under the so-called "courtesy of England" (i. e., the right of a widower to hold for life the property of his late wife) and also in behalf of her heir, Thomas Westwood, Jr. Richard Beltoft, accordingly, who claimed that, under the settlement of Candlemas Day or thereabouts, 1544/5, possession of the premises should have come to him, filed a bill of complaint in Chancery against Thomas Westwood (printed in the REGISTER, vol. 68, pp. 84-85); Westwood made his answer to this bill (*ib.*, pp. 85-86); and Richard Beltoft made his replication, which is lost but is mentioned in the decree of the Court in this suit. Witnesses for the complainant were examined in Oct. 1549 and in Jan. 1549/50 (*ib.*, pp. 86-90), and for the defendant in Nov. 1549 (*vide supra*, pp. 279-281); and on 24 Apr. 1551 the Court decreed (REGISTER, vol. 68, p. 90) that Westwood and his heirs by his late wife, Margaret, should have the premises for ever more, but that they should pay to Richard Beltoft £6 in two instalments, namely, £3. 6s. 8d. "at the consignment of this decree" and 53s. 4d. in the parish church of Sawbridgeworth on the following Christmas (1551). As this decree was made with the consent of both parties to the suit, it appears that Richard Beltoft compromised his claim for the sum of £6.

Child by first wife:

- i. JOAN, d. probably not later than 1543; m. WILLIAM WALLER.

Child (surname *Waller*):

1. *Margaret (Meg)*, living 30 Nov. 1551; m. about 1545 William Gyrton, also living 30 Nov. 1551, the defendant in the Chancery case of *Westwood v. Gyrton*, which has been described above.

3. LAURENCE BELTOFT (*Richard*), named in the will of his father as next in succession, after his elder brother John and the heirs of John's body, to the property called Nidelles, in Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, died probably before 2 Feb. 1544/5 (Candlemas Day), for he was not mentioned by his brother John in the settlement which John made about that time of the property called Currants, in Sawbridgeworth, which, after John's widow, Margaret, had held it for twenty years, if she should live so long, was to go to Richard Beltoft and his heirs, and, in default of such, to Edmund Beltoft (younger brother of John and also of Laurence) and his heirs; nor was Laurence mentioned in the settlement which John made on 4 Apr. 1545 of the property called Nidelles, although the younger brother, Edmund Beltoft, and his heirs or assigns, were placed next to John's widow, Margaret, in the succession to this property. If, as is suggested below, Richard Beltoft was a son of Laurence and was for that reason placed before Edmund Beltoft in the succession to Currants, it is probable that Laurence had died when Richard was very young, since Richard had lived with John Beltoft at Nidelles since early boyhood, that is, since 1525 or thereabouts. The only positive information about Laurence Beltoft thus far found is the statement that in his father's will he and the heirs of his body were placed next to his elder brother John and the heirs of John's body in the succession to Nidelles. Probably Laurence Beltoft had the following

Children (order of births unknown):

4. i. RICHARD, b. about 1520.*
 ii. ALICE (perhaps a sister of Richard Beltoft), m. at Sawbridgeworth, 14 Apr. 1562, WILLIAM STUBBS.
 iii. A DAUGHTER (known to be a sister of Richard Beltoft), m. ——— SUTTON.

Children (surname *Sutton*):

1. *Clement*. } living at Docksall, co. Essex, 20 Aug. 1594, when
 2. *William*. } they were named in the will of their uncle, Rich-
 3. *Richard*. } ard Beltoft, a legacy of 3s. 4d. being left to each.

4. RICHARD BELTOFT (? *Laurence, Richard*), of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, husbandman, the testator of 20 Aug. 1594 (see REGISTER, vol. 68, pp. 90-91), who appears as No. 3 in the pedigree published in 1914 and was the grandfather of Abraham Belknap, the settler at Lynn, Mass., was born about 1520, since he deposed 14 Oct. 1550, aged 30 years or more, and was bur-

*For the reasons for the statement that Richard Beltoft was probably a son of Laurence Beltoft see below, under No. 4.

ied at Sawbridgeworth 2 Dec. 1599. He married ———,* who was buried at Sawbridgeworth 17 Jan. 1588/9.

Positive proof of the parentage of this Richard Beltoft has not been found. He was evidently closely related to John Beltoft (2) of Nidelles and Currants, in Sawbridgeworth, for he deposed on 14 Oct. 1550 that he dwelt with John Beltoft, in the house called Nidelles, for about twenty years (that is, from about 1525 or 1526, when he was only five or six years old, to the death of John Beltoft, 4 Feb. 1545/6). He was not John's son or grandson, for in that case he would have succeeded to Nidelles in preference to John's daughter Joan and her daughter Margaret. He was born too late (about 1520) to have been a younger brother of John, and moreover, had he been a son of the first Richard Beltoft, his father in his will would probably have included him among the possible successors to Nidelles. He was not a cousin of John's, for then John would hardly have placed him before his (John's) brother Edmund in the succession to Currants. For the same reason it is very unlikely that this Richard Beltoft was Edmund's son, for one would scarcely name a young man in a settlement and then, in default of his issue, leave the remainder to the young man's father. John had only three brothers, Laurence, Edmund, and Thomas, who, with the heirs of their bodies, were named in that order by their father as successors to Nidelles, in default of John and the heirs of John's body. Richard Beltoft, therefore, was probably a son either of Laurence or of Thomas; and, as Laurence was Edmund's elder brother and the settlement of the succession to Currants made by John about 2 Feb. 1544/5 placed Richard and his heirs before Edmund, it is reasonable to conclude that Richard was probably a son of Laurence.†

Richard Beltoft was the complainant in 1549-1551 in a Chancery suit against Thomas Westwood for the possession of Currants, and he deposed in 1550 in the Chancery suit of Westwood *v.* Gyrtton for the possession of Nidelles. An account of these suits has been given above, under John Beltoft (No. 2). The will of Richard Beltoft, in which he leaves a legacy to his young grandson, Abraham Beltoft (*alias* Belknap), afterwards the settler at Lynn, Mass., shows that he was a well-to-do husbandman. For his children and grandchildren and some of his more remote descendants see the records and pedigree published in the REGISTER in 1914 (vol. 68).

HENRY BELTOFTE, who was buried at Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, 5 July 1561, could not have been a brother of John Beltoft of Nidelles

*The Christian name of Richard Beltoft's wife is stated in the pedigree of 1914 to have been Elizabeth, but no authority for this name seems to be given.—EDITORS.

†Mr. Charles A. Bernau thinks it more likely that Richard Beltoft was a grandson, rather than a son, of Laurence; but, as Richard was born about 1520, that would hardly be possible, unless the births of Laurence and his elder brother, John, occurred several years earlier than 1490. See above, under No. 1 of this pedigree.

and Currants and of Edmund Beltoft, as was suggested in the REGISTER, vol. 68, p. 193. This is proved by the accounts given in the present article of the will of Richard Beltoft (No. 1). His relationship to the other Beltofts of the pedigree remains unknown. The Elizabeth Beltofte who was buried at Sawbridgeworth 14 Jan. 1560/1 may have been his wife.

ABRAHAM BELKNAPP, of Northweald Bassett, co. Essex, yeoman, aged 38 years or thereabouts, deposed 31 Jan., 2 Charles I [31 Jan. 1626/7], in the Chancery suit of Bird *v.* Westwood and Campe. (Chancery Proceedings, Town Depositions, Bundle 527). He was probably the Abraham Belknap who emigrated to New England and settled at Lynn, Mass., whose son (probably) was buried at Netteswell, co. Essex, 6 Dec. 1620. (See the REGISTER, vol. 68, pp. 193, 194-195.)

ABNER RISING OF LITCHFIELD, N. Y., AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

By MRS. JULIA C. (RISING) WOODBURY of Providence, R. I.

IN Oct. 1909 there was published in the REGISTER (vol. 63, pp. 333-341) an article by Louis Marinus Dewey of Westfield, Mass., entitled "James Rising of Suffield, Conn., and Some of His Descendants." In that article (p. 335) Abner⁴ Rising (6, vi), a son of Aaron³ and Sarah (Hamblin) Rising, is said to have been born at Suffield 20 Jan. 1748 and to have married (intention recorded at Southwick, Mass., 31 July 1774) Abigail Devotion. No further information is given there about Abner⁴ Rising and his wife, nor is any mention made of their children. It is the purpose, therefore, of the contributor of the present article to supplement Mr. Dewey's record of the Rising family by adding an account, in the usual genealogical form, of Abner⁴ Rising and some of his descendants. This additional information has been derived from records left by Mrs. Esther J. (Gallup) Rising, wife of Milo Moses⁵ Rising (*infra*, No. 13), and completed by her niece, the compiler of this article.

1. ABNER⁴ RISING (*Aaron³, John², James¹*), sixth child and fourth son of Aaron³ Rising,* was born at Suffield, then in Massachusetts but since 1749 in Connecticut, 20 Jan. 1748, and died at Litchfield, N. Y., 3 Jan. 1839. He married (intention recorded at Southwick, Mass., 30 July 1774) ABIGAIL DEVOTION of Suffield, who

*In the list of the children of Aaron³ Rising given in the REGISTER, vol. 63, p. 335, the name of the fifth child is printed incorrectly as Amor, instead of Amos. He is carried forward as Amos (No. 16, p. 338).