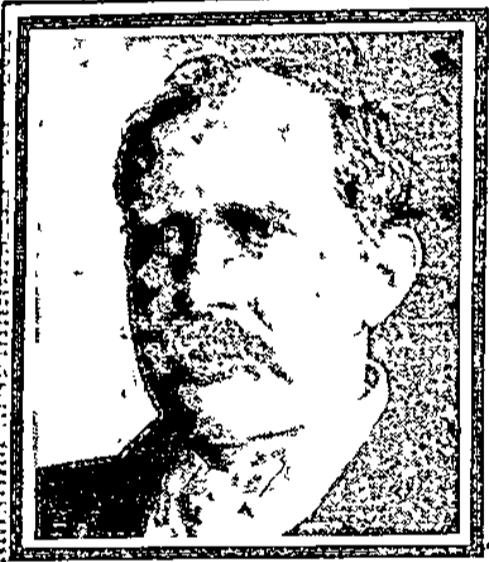


BELNAP FAMILY LINKED WITH OGDEN'S HISTORY

First Reunion in 19 Years Held at Hooper With Many Attending

GILBERT BELNAP (Deceased)



HYRUM BELNAP.



JOSEPH BELNAP.

The first Belnap family reunion for 19 years was held at Hooper, September 3, 1923, in the chapel, assembly hall and grove. From 10:30 until 11:30 a. m. a social hour was spent in exchanging greetings. At 11:30 a. m. about 400 assembled in the ward chapel, where a very interesting program was rendered. They were honored with the presence of Major Frank Fitch of Ogden and C. E. Pettigrew, representing the county commissioners.

The address of welcome was given by John M. Belnap, who introduced the children of Gilbert Belnap, deceased, in the order of their age. These were, Gilbert R. Belnap, Reuben Belnap, William J. Belnap, Oliver Belnap, Francis M. Belnap, Hyrum Belnap, A. W. Belnap, Isadora Belnap Stoddard, Amasa Belnap, Adeline Belnap Love, Mary Belnap Lowe and an adopted son, Ell Roy Stoddard.

An executive committee for the ensuing year was sustained. These are: Hyrum Belnap, president; Francis M. Belnap, vice president; Joseph H. Belnap, secretary; Amasa Belnap, William O. Belnap, Amasa Hammon and Daniel H. Belnap.

A brief historical sketch of the family was given by Hyrum A. Belnap. The name Belnap or Belknap was originally spelled Belknappe and is of Norman origin. When the Normans invaded England in 1066 they brought with them hardy men named Belknappe. Later William the Conqueror chose Robert Belknappe to be chief justice of the Associate of Appeals of England. The meaning of the name Belknappe is rather interesting. The fore part of the name, Belk, means fine, beautiful, pleasant, and Knappe, means knoll or hill. Therefore the name stands for "the people of the beautiful hill."

About the time of the Revolutionary war there arose among the Belnaps a controversy over the spelling of the name. One branch preferred to hold to the original spelling, viz, Belknap; the other

dropped the "k" and spelled the name Belnap.

SKETCH GIVEN.

A sketch of Gilbert Belnap, the father of the Belnap family, located here, was given by Hyrum Belnap, first by reading an extract from Gilbert's journal. This showed that he left Omaha June 15, 1850, in Johananthan Foot's company of 105 wagons, Joel Currell and William Hall, captains of 50 wagons, Utta Perkins, Chester Loveland, Thomas Maun, Abraham Coon and Belnap were captains of 10 wagons each. The sketch follows:

He (Gilbert) was a man of 29 years, with a wife and two sons, three and one years old, respectively. His wife's mother and her family were also in his wagon. The first day out, down the Platte river, Gidcorn's daughter of 10 years of age, was run over by a wagon and her leg broken. He said on the thirty-third day we were visited with the worst plague that ever visited mankind. Alfred Brown, one of the company, took it and died in two hours. On the fourth day three of the others of the company took the disease and died that night. Mr. Belnap also lost his second son. The following day seven others died. The stench of the unburied bodies along the trail was almost unbearable. In one place there were 23 mangled bodies that the wolves had taken from the shallow graves.

MADE MARTIAL.

On the 17th of September they arrived in the Great Salt Lake valley where they were advised by Brigham Young to locate in Ogden City, Weber county. At Ogden a common council was organized with Gilbert Belnap as marshal. In 1852 he was appointed city prosecuting attorney, and in 1861 county attorney. Later he was sheriff of the county, county commissioner, assessor and collector.

At a later date in 1852 Hyrum Belnap, his son, was appointed assessor and collector and while serving as assessor and collector of this county, William Brown, a son of

owing to the fact that the government a few years back had called in these deeds and this one was not sent in it became void.

When Captain Brown purchased this land he located in Bridger's old fort, which was situated on the north side of a large sand mound at the west end of what we now call Twenty-eighth street in the bend of the river. A few others located north of Ogden river, then called Mound Fort. The Bingham's located two miles further north, which was called Bingham's Fort. We call it now Five Points.

INDIANS STEAL STOCK.

"The Indians would steal their stock and belongings which made it very hard for them to exist. After much struggling for their existence, Captain Brown went down to Salt Lake and laid the matter before Brigham Young, stating that all he wanted was a place to live under some protection.

"Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball then visited Ogden, made a survey of the county with their eyes and called the scattered settlers together. In this assembly he advised them that they were too scattered, but that this territory contained a place of protection from the Indians, and that all should move in between the two forks of Weber and Ogden river, which met together some five miles west of the mountains and formed a natural protection from the Indians.

He explained how one or more Indians would pass the guards at night and stampede the cattle. The frightened cattle would pass the guards like a runaway horse. The Indians on the outside of the guard would hurry the cattle away. Here between the rivers with the mountains at the rear, a good protection was afforded. The rivers and mountain would stop the frightened cattle and the guards could return them. The settlers gladly accepted this suggestion and a hundred families were sent up here, my father among them.

NOW TWENTY-FIRST STREET.

"Engineer Fox came up here and surveyed plat A, which begins at their first street, now Twenty-first street, thence south to Twenty-eighth street, wall on the west, and Madison on the east, about one mile square. Each block, 40 rods square, contains 10 acres divided into 10 lots of one acre each. One lot was considered sufficient for a family to build on, corral his stock and raise a garden. And every family, rich and poor alike, could have one of them.

LAND ALLOTTED.

"This wonderful pioneer told all persons to go out to their farms in the morning together and return at night together and the Indians would not molest them. But if they went out one at a time the Indians would waylay them and their stock, and they would lose out. While they were together the Indians would be afraid and remain away. This was strictly carried out.

"These few settlers also builded a wall commencing at Ogden river running south to Twenty-eighth street, coupling up with the big slough, which was then called Brown's slough. This wall was about four feet at the bottom, two feet on the top and 10 feet high, containing port holes. It had one main gate at the west end of Twenty-fourth street. Over this was an arch, on top of which was an eagle. The top of this wall was used as a play ground by the children. The animals and equipment were brought inside this enclosure at night. The citizens taking their turns watching from the wall, with muskets on their shoulders.

"Later they concluded that each person could take care of 10 acres each. Hence South Ogden was laid out. The west and north borders were extended. In 1867 this big range lying south and southwest of Ogden was surveyed into one-half miles square blocks. This prairie was then called Hooper herd ground. There were a few cattle and horses scattered upon it, but its principal occupants were rabbits, coyotes and wolves. An ir-

rigation company was organized with Gilbert Belnap as president and a ditch dug for a distance of 10 miles southwest of Ogden.

"About this time the people thought they had grown sufficiently strong to protect themselves against the Indians so they could spread out and take 20 acres instead of five or 10 to each family. There was nothing compulsory about this practice of taking five or 10 or 20 acres as they were able to handle it, it was only a common understanding. But the people learned by sad experience that it was a mighty good thing to practice.

"This place was soon organized and called the Seventeenth district. Gilbert Belnap was selected bishop, Levi Hammon, his first and Orval Atwood, his second counselors. Adeline Belnap, wife of Gilbert Belnap, was selected president of the Relief society.

"Utah was then on our maps as the American desert, but now is the garden spot of the world. She lies between the Mississippi and the great Pacific sea, the home of my birth and the land I love best. In my youth I once heard Brigham Young tell an assembly for them to lay out their lands, towns and houses on the square and then live on the square and you will come out on top, some day, some time.

Songs from the Belnap quartet, the Lowe brothers and a reading were greatly enjoyed. At 12:30 a luncheon was served, featured by songs and recitations. In the afternoon foot racing and various games were enjoyed. At night over 250 remained and enjoyed the dance. There were 325 persons that signed the roll."

The various branches of the Belnap family were represented from many of the states and Canada, either by letter or personal attendance.