

BFO CALL – Sunday, March 24, 2024 (notes from Julie James Moselle)

Sat Aug 10 2024 BFO Reunion

This is the Place Heritage Park

Reserved the Emigration Room in the main building.

North side of Sunnyside Ave is This is the Place Heritage Park

Recreated pioneer village and historic recreation of pioneer construction

Monument – reception center hall building and we have the big room. 200 max.

Registration at 9:00am. Kick off, group photo, lunch catered by BFO, new edition of crier, 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of video by Ashley Belnap. Might have 2 special guest speakers. One is Carl B. Cook (now president of the 7 presidents of the 70's). He's coming to the reunion. He'll speak 10 minutes. Richard E. Turley is an author; researching when Gilbert Belnap arrived in Nauvoo weeks before Joseph's Martyrdom. He was asked to be a body guard at the base of Carthage jail. Gilbert and Porter Rockwell ride to Carthage. They shoot at Carthage Grays chasing after George Grant who was going to Nauvoo to shar news. Rick Turley is going to add life of Gilbert Belnap's involvement in the life of Joseph Smith in his new biography (commissioned). Update on special autosomal DNA test. Park charges an entrance fee – we get 100 free or reduced cost passes for people to spend extra time. Once gone, they'd pay regular price. But reunion is at entrance; do not pay to get in there. Ask donations. Overflow plan. Plan B may get other rooms and pipe sound into that; possibly video. Save the Date is out. Follow up with added details. Possibility Ryan Shupe would pinch hit if Carl and Nick don't come. Finalize details in April. We need to make sure database info is current. Blitz emails and mobile phones. Send updated information on Martha Jane branch. We have 12,500 in database but only 1,000 emails. Last reunion count was 205. Two book options: considering having a children's book, colorized computer-generated story available through Amazon for about \$10 per copy – story on life of Gilbert Belnap. 2<sup>nd</sup> book option – another family member has done mock up pages like a cartoon (not colorized). Tell the story in Gilbert's words. Don't know about production time or costs. But a lot of exciting stuff. Would not announce streaming until last minute. Prefer people to come and make contributions.

2026: 250 anniversary of Declaration of Independence. US issuing new coins and stamps. Unite people from Jess Belnap (Gilbert's father). Go back to Erie County of Pennsylvania where Jesse and wife dedicate a restored headstone. Jesse's contribution to the war (stopped British from heading north). 1760-1854. Headstones are currently illegible. We would restore to a monument similar to John McBride. Want granite to last. Story of Jess and Eunice and their children and his military service in the Revolution. Notified the DAR to get a special Aluminum marker to highlight he was a Revolutionary War soldier. Invite Nick Carter. Famous scientist in Chicago. Talking to someone about having a meeting in Kirtland temple. We need about \$10k for this project. Don't want this to be a pioneer thing. Broader for the family of Jesse Belnap.

DNA: think we know the parents on the last McBride. On Samuel McBride's farm took place the Battle of Saratoga. We think part of the family went to Virginia. Will have a comprehensive

report by August where we stand on these 48 DNA tests we've done. Tested the living family members. BFO website has Eunice's correct information. But NOT correct in FamilySearch.org.

Proposal for new officers for BFO. Michael Nelson Gray works for FamilySearch. Would like to be an officer.

UPDATE DESCENDANT NAMES: Either use spreadsheets or send photo of family group sheet or email: name, email, phone, birthdate.

RECRUITING HELP: sense of identity and root heritage. Knowing your family's past. Knowing about your past. Where you came from, why life is like it is for you. It's a huge stabilizer in lives of youth. Getting to know your family tree is important for the living.

October – family history month. Could we have a competition – play family history games. Geo cash idea from Ashley Belnap.

[Jennifer Belnap Evanston](#) [Everyone](#)

03:58 PM



We need to make sure we have activities at the reunions that engage youth. Even the young single adults. When we have a check-in and speakers and family meeting from 9 am - almost noon, young children, youth and YSA's don't engage. I'm glad this reunion has the option after lunch to go into the state park.... that will at least be something for kids to do. I know the 'history' of the family is important, but the meeting/sharing of story format isn't real engaging for Gen Z and younger. I have 3 kids in their mid-20's, and they had a hard time at the reunion in 2022, hard time connecting to all of us 'oldies' in attendance. Just a thought to get the younger Belnaps involved and coming to participate with us all.