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THE
ENGLISH ANCESTRY
OF
ABRAHAM BELKNAP

WHO SETTLED IN LYNN, MASS.

1635

SALEM, MASS.

1914

THE

ENGLISH ANCESTRY

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ABRAHAM BELKNAP

WHO SETTLED IN LYNN, MASS.

1635

Belknap, Henry Wyckoff



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THE ENGLISH ANCESTRY OF THE AMERICAN BELKNAPS

AT different times during the past fifteen or eighteen years the compiler of this article has attempted to discover the ancestry of Abraham Belknap, who was a landowner at Lynn, Mass., in 1635 or thereabouts, and who brought with him, when he came to New England, his wife Mary and several children.

These efforts resulted in the acquisition of a considerable amount of information about a knightly family of Belknaps, from Sir Robert de Belknap, who was chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas in the time of Richard II and died in 1400, down to his great-grandson, Sir Edward, who was born in 1473, was custodian of Warwick Castle and a privy councillor of Henry VIII, and died 26 Mar. 1521, leaving no sons.

The clue, however, which led to the discovery of the English home of the ancestors of Abraham Belknap was obtained from an old gentleman whose acquaintance was made several years ago through his reply to some genealogical queries. He had formerly lived in the parish of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, and remembered that the name Belknap occurred in the parish registers there. He was employed to make a search, and in due time produced many entries from the registers of St. Mary the Great, Sawbridgeworth, together with a number of wills from the Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts. By piecing together the facts obtained from these records an incomplete pedigree of the family was secured, and a certain Bennet or Benedict Belknap seemed most likely to be the father of the American immigrant. Unfortunately, however, the will of this particular man, while recorded as having been offered for probate, was nowhere to be found, and the officials connected with the probate registry came to the conclusion that it had been placed at some time in the wrong bundle and was therefore practically lost.

The search, therefore, came to a standstill until about two years ago, when it was decided to make one more attempt to identify positively the father of the immigrant. The services of Mr. Charles A. Bernau of London were obtained, and he was furnished with all the material at hand.

Mr. Bernau began his search with the Lay Subsidy Rolls in the Public Record Office in London, and there discovered that the surname of the Sawbridgeworth branch of the Belknap family was sometimes Beltoft or Beltofte. With this fact in mind, it was easy to find in the probate records the missing will of Bennet Beltoft, the father of Abraham Belknap. It had been proved 15 June 1624 by his widow Grace and his son Josias in the Commissary Court of

London for Essex and Herts, and was entered in the Probate Act Book for 1623-1626 under the name *Belknapp*, while it appeared in the Calendars of Wills under the name *Beltoft*, which is the form used in the will.

These facts were brought to the attention of the authorities at Somerset House, and both in the Calendars and in the Probate Act Book the entry has been made to read "Belknap otherwise Beltoft."*

In this number of the REGISTER and in the issue for April some English records relating to the family of Belknap *alias* Beltoft will be given, and these will be followed by a pedigree showing the ancestry of the American immigrant.†

The papers immediately following are preserved in the Public Record Office, London, and relate to a case in Chancery, begun not later than 1549, in which Richard Beltoft, grandfather of the New England settler, Abraham Belknap, was complainant. Of the documents in this case apparently only the depositions of the witnesses for the defendant are missing. These records are printed here in full. The exact relationship of Richard Beltoft, the complainant, to the brothers John and Edmond Beltoft who are mentioned in this case has not yet been proved; but it is believed that a Henry Beltofte, who was buried at Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, 5 July 1561, was a brother of John and Edmond Beltoft, and that the complainant Richard was a son of this Henry.

FROM CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS

Too the right honorable Sir Richard Roche knyght lord Ryche & Lord Chancellor of England.

Most humble wyse shewyth & compleyneth unto your good lordship your pore Orator & dayly bedman Richard Beltoft of Sabycheffworth within the County of Hertford that where one John Beltoft late of Sawbycheffworth aforesaid deceased was lawfullye seased in hys demane as of fee by good & just tyle & lawfull conveyance in the law of & in one tent. w^t a garden & 2 acres of arable land or thereabouts ther unto belonging called Currants sett lieing & being yn Sawbrycheworth aforesaid & he soo beyinge thereof seased a 5 yeres past or thereabouts by his dede suffycient in the lawe gave & granted the said tent. & other the p'myssees w^t all & singular their app'tynces to one Henry Chauncey & others to have to them & their heires to the use & behoofe of one Margaret Beltoft then his wyff for terme of 20 yeres yf she soe long doe lyve the remaynder thereof to your seyd Crator & to his heyres for ever & to execute the seyd estate of the p'myssees made a letter of attorney to one Robert Chauncey gentleman who delivered seisin of the p'myssees to the seyd Margaret & to your seyd besecher accordinglye and delyvered to the said Margaret the said dede with the seyd lre of attorney to kepe to the use aforesaid by force whereof & by force of

* Alternative surnames are said to have been somewhat uncommon in England, although much used in the Channel Islands. It is interesting to find in Wright's Dictionary of Dialect that the termination "-toft" signifies, among other meanings, "a low hill," while "-knap" has "a small hill" as one of its meanings.

† Other records concerning various Beltofts of the later Middle Ages have been collected; but as no connection between these earlier Beltofts and the Sawbridgeworth family has been proved, they are not reproduced here.

the statute made for the extingment of uses & wylls the seyde Margaret was possessed of the terme aforesaid the remainder thereof yn your seyde besecher hys heyres & after the sayde Margaret dyed after whose deathe your seyde besecher entred the p'mysse & thereof was seised in his demeane as of fee by force of the gyft aforesaid. So it yor reight Honable Lord that after the death of the said Margaret the seyde dede & lere of attorney casuallie came to the hands & possession of one Thomas Westwood of Maudlyn with in the Countie of Essex who by color of the above thereof hath wrongfully entred ynto the p'mysse & thereof expulsed & putt out ye seid Orator & will not suffer hym to occupye and enjoye the p'mysse as of right he ought to doo of whom albeyt your seyde Orator have divers & sundrie tymes required the delyverey yet them to delyver he hath allweys refused & yet doth contry to all right & good conceynce. And for as much as your seyde Orator knoweth nott the date of them nor whether they be conteyned in bag box chest locked or otherwyse your seyde Orator ys with out remedye for the obteynyng of them by the order of the common lawe. And so lykely to be dysherited & undon for ever unlesse your lordshippe favor be to hym shewed in that behalfe. In consideracon whereof ytt may therefore please your good Lordshippe the premisses considered to grant the Kyngs most graycious writt of subpena to be dyrected to the seyde Thomas Westwood commanding hym by virtue thereof p'sonally to appeare before your good Lordshippe in the Kyngs moste high Courte of Chauncery att a certen day & under a certen payne therein by your good Lordshippe to be lymited then & there to answer to the p'mysse & further to stand & abyde suche order & direction therein as by your good Lordshippe shal be thought convenyent & your seyde Orator shalle daily pray unto God for the p'suacyon of your good Lordshippe long in honor to contynewe.

The answer of Thomas Westwood to the bill of Complaynt of Richard Beltofte.

The said defendant saith that the said bill of complaint ys untrue uncerten & insufficient in the lawe to be unanswered unto & the matter therein conteyned untruly imagyned & devysed to put the deft to wrongfull vexacon cost & expences & the matter determynable at the common law where unto he prayeth to be remytted Neverthelesse the advantage of the insufficiency of the seyde bill to him at all tymes saved for declaration of the truthe of the matter & for answer saith that true yt ys that the sayde John Beltofte in the said bill of complaint menconed wasse seised of & in the tenement & other the p'mysse in the bill of complaynt especyfyed in his demeane as of fee & being soe seised about the 26 yere of the Raigne of the late King of famious memory Kinge Henry VIII infeffed thereof John Payne the elder & George Mathewe to have & holde the said p'mysse to them & to there heyres to the use of the said John Beltoft for the tearme of his lyfe & after his decesse to the use of one Margaret wyfe of the said John Beltofte & of her heyres by force whereof the said John Beltoft wasse thereof sead in his demeane as of freehold the remaynder thereof to the said Margaret to her heires in fee & the said John Beltoft dyed after whose death the same Margaret entred into the p'mysse & wasse thereof seised in her demeane as of fee & so being of the p'mysse seised take to husband the said defendant by force whereof the said deit & Margaret in the right of the said Margaret were of the p'mysse seised in there demeane as of fee & so being thereof seised they had issue betweene them one Thomas Westwood yett lyvinge & the said Margaret dyed after

whose death the said deft held hym the said p'misses tenant by the curtesey of England & ys thereof seased in his demean as of freeholde the reversion thereof to the said Thomas the son being of the age of 3 yeres or thereabouts & prayeth in ayde of hym & for that the said Thomas the sonne ys within age the said deft prayeth that the poll may demurre & saith that dyvers evidence consuyng the said p'misses been in his hands custoyde & possession which he deteyneth in his hands custodie & possession for the p'suscon of hys estate & the interest of the said Thomas his sonne as lawfull ys for hym to do without that that the said John Beltoft infeffed of the said p'mysse the said Henry Chauncye other in fee to the use & behofe of the said Margaret for terme of yeres & after to the use of the compleyant & his heires in manner & forme as by the said bill of complaynte ys untruly allegyd. And without that that there was any other matter or thinge mencoynd or conteyned in the sayd bill of compleynt matterill or effectuell to be answered unto & in this answer not being confessed & avoyded denyed or traversed ys true all which matters the said defendant ys ready to averre & p've as this honorable Courte shall awarde & prayeth to be dysmysed with his reasonable costs and charges by him susteyned in this behalfe. (Early Chancery Proceedings, uncalendared, 1194.)

Interrogatories for Wytnes to be examyned on the parte and behalfe of Richarde Beltofte ageynst Thomas Westwoode.

1. Imprimis whether that one John Beltofte weare ever seased of and in one Tenement withe a garden plotte and ij acres of arable lande called Currants sett lienge and beinge in Sabricheworthe within the Countye of Hertforde yf he weare of whate estate and howe longe yt is syns.
2. Item yf he weare seased of the premisses whether he gave and graunted the seyde tenement and other the premisses with all and singuler the appurtenances to one Henrie Chauncerie and other yf he dyd whether yt weare by deade or with owte deade yf yt weare by deade whoo wrote the deade And what weare the contents thereof And to what use And whether livery and season weare made Accordynglye yf yt weare what daye yf theare weare livery and season howe longe yt is syns and whoo weare present at the livery And uppon what parcell of the grownde livery was made And by whome yt was made and whoo Receyved yt and by what Authoritie.
3. Item to whome the deade was delivered and in whoose presens. Item what the seyde tenement and other the premisses arre worthe by the yeare over all chargis.
4. Item howe longe the seyde Westwood hathe occupied the premisses and by what tytill.

Ex parte Ric. Beltofte versus Thomas Westwoode.

Michaell Waller of Sabridgeford [*sic*] in the Countie of Hertf. laborer of the age of xxxj years or more sworne and examyned the xxijth day of October in the thyrd yere of the reigne of our soveraigne lorde Edward the sixt [1549] saiethe and deposeth by virtue of his othe that as by the report of one John Beltofte late of Sabridgeworth nowe deceased and other ancient men he doth know that the same John Beltofte was seasyd in fee symple of and in one tenement with a garden plotte and two acres of arrable lande called Currants sett lyeinge and being in Sabridgeworth aforsaid in the said Countie of Hertf. and he was so seasyd he saiethe at Christmas last past was foure yeres And he further saiethe that aboute a senight before or

after Candelmas was foure yeres the said John Beltofte being so seasyd of the premisses gave and grauntyd the said tenement and other the premisses with all and singuler the appurtenances to one Henry Chauncye and other by deade whiche was written by one Robert Chauncye and the contents of the said deade were that the said Henry Chancey and his feoffes shuld have the premisses to them and their heyres to the use of Margaret the wief of the said John Beltofte now deceased for time of xx yeres if she lyved so longe and after her deathe if she died within the same xx yeres and also if she lyved tyll the determynacion of the said xx yeares that they and theyr heyres shuld have the premisses to the use of the said Richard Beltofte [*torn, ?* and to the heirs of his body] lawfully begotten and after his deathe for lacke of suche issue to the use of Edmonde Beltofte his brother and his heyres for ever whiche he saiethe he knoweth to be true by reason he was present at the sealing and delyvery of the said deade and heard it reade before the sealing therof twysse at the later tyme of reading wherof he saiethe it was reade before the said John Beltofte and he was also present when lyvery and seasyn were made accordingly and then he hard readde agayne but what day of the yere lyvery and seasyn were made he remembreth not but remembreth that it was within a senight before or after Candelmas was foure yeres then being present Robert Chauncye John Gallowewaye William Dyar John Hongston and John Tredegold and lyvery he saiethe was made at the said tenement called Curraunts by the sayd Robert Chauncy by the delyvery of the saide deade and the ringe of the door [*one word illegible, ?rapper*] with a pece of earthe of the same soile with a sticke put therin unto the said Margaret Beltofte and the said Richard Beltofte according to the effecte of the said deade and the said tenement and other the premisses he saiethe was let unto this deponent for xvj s. by yere but what is payed unto the chief lorde he saiethe he knoweth not And the said Thomas Westwood hathe occupied the premisses he saiethe eversyth seynt James tyde last was a twelmoneth but by what title he saiethe he knoweth not nor sayeth any more or otherwise deposseth,

[Signed] Michaell Waller.

John Hongston of Sabridgeworthe in the said Countie of Hertf. Tanner of the age of xxxix yeres or therabouts sworan and examyned the daye and yere abovesaid saiethe and disposeth by virtue of his othe that he dothe know that one John Beltofte was seasyd of and in one tenement with a garden plotte and two acres of arrable lande called Curraunts sett lieing and being in Sabridgeworthe within the said Countie of Hertf. of estate to gyve or to sell for he saiethe he knoweth hym to take the profitts therof to his owne use as owner therof and at Christmas was foure yeres he saiethe the said John Beltofte was so seasyd of the premisses and he being so seasyd to his remembrance he saiethe aboute Candelmas was foure yeres gave and graunted the said tenement and other the premisses withe all and singuler th'appurtenances to one Henry Chauncye or Robert Chauncye and other by deade whiche he saiethe was wrytten ether by the said Henry or Robert Chauncy and the contents and use of the same deade he saiethe was that Margaret the wief of the said John Beltofte shuld have the premisses for term of xx yeres if she lyved so longe and after that that the said Richard Beltofte shuld have the same to hym and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of soche issue that one Edmonde Beltofte the brother of the said John Beltofte should have the same but what estate he shuld have therein he remembreth not which things or [*one word illegible*]

he knoweth to be true by reason that he was present at the estate made and there hard the deade redde by the said Robert Chauncy then being present one Rauff Roke Michael Waller John Tredgold John Galloway William Dyer and Edmonde Beltofte but [*torn, about five words missing*] he remembreth not and the estate he saieth was made at the said tenement called Curraunts by the said Robert Chauncy and the said Margaret and Richard Beltofte receavyed the same at his hands by delyvery of the ring of the door with the said dead and a clot of earthe and then put them into the house first the said Margaret and then the said Richard Beltofte but by what authority the said Robert Chauncy so did he saieth he knoweth not And he saiethe the said tenement and other the premisses be worthe xvij s. by the. year for this deponent hath gyven xiiij s. iiij d. by the yere for the said tenement without the said ij acres whiche be worth ij s. an acre but what is payied oute of it to the cheaf lorde or lords he knoweth not nor remembreth howe longe the said Westwood hath occupied the premisses nor yet knoweth by what tytle he hath occupied the same [*? since*] the deathe of the said Margaret but duryng her lyff he occupied the same as in her [*several words illegible*] of the said graunte but more he knoweth not in this matter. [Here follows what is evidently meant for the mark of John Hongston, but it is not so described.]

John Tredegold of Halyngbury Bowser in the Countie of Essex of the age of xl years sworne and examyned the daie and yere abovesaid saieth and disposeth by virtue of his othe that he doth know that one John Beltofte was seassyed in fee symple of and in one tenement with a garden plott and two acres of arrable land called Curraunts set lieing and being in Sabricheworthe within the Countie of Hertf. and he was therof so seassed at Christmas was foure years and then taketh the profits therof as owner of the same to his certeyn knowledge and he being so therof seasyd aboute Candelmas was foure yeres (what daye he remembreth not) did gyve and graunt the said tenement and other the premisses with all and singuler th'appurtenances to one Henry Chauncy and other by deade whiche was writtyn by one Robert Chauncye And the contents of the said deade he saieth was that the said Henry Chauncy and his feoffes shuld stound therof seasyd to them and their heires to the use of Margaret the wief of the said John Beltofte for the terme of xx years and after that to the use of the said Richard Beltofte and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of suche yssue to the use of one Edmonde Beltofte (the brother of the said John Beltofte) and his heires for ever whiche he saieth he knoweth to be true by reason he was in the house of the said John when the said deade was caryed in to hym to be sealyd and also was present when livery and season was made at the said tenement called Curraunts accordingly and there hard it redde by the said Robert Chauncy who made livery of th'estate unto the said Margaret with the ryng of the dore of the said tenement and so they went into the house and as he supposeth they and Robert Chauncy so did by force of a letter of attorney to hym made by the said John Beltofte and then ther weare present he saieth Michael Waller John Hongston William Dyar and John Galloway And he saieth the said tenement and other the premisses are worth xvj s. by the yere or theraboute above all charges and the said Westwood he saieth hath occupied the premisses by the space of thies three years and his wief died aboute seynt James tyde was a twelmoneth and till her death he occupied the same as in the right of the said Margaret his wief by force of the said [*one word*

illegible, ? permit] but by what title he hath occupied it sithe he knoweth not nor can any further dispose.

Robert Chaunsy of Wydford in the Countie of Essex Gent of the age of xxxiiij yeres or more sworne and examyned the xxviiijth daie of January in the fourth yere of the reigne of our said soveraigne lord kynge Edward the sixt [1549/50] saieth and deposseth by virue of his othe that he doth know that about vj yeres past one John Beltofte was seasyd in fee symple of and in one tenement with a garden plotte and ij acres of arrable land called Currauntes sett lying and being in Sabricheworthe within the Countie of Hertf. whiche he knoweth aswell by the [?sight] of the [*several words illegible*] therof in the lyff of the said John Beltoft as in that he knoweth hym take the rents issues and profetts therof quyetly as owner of the same And he also saieth that he is [*one word illegible*] that the said John Beltoft gave and grauntyd the said tenement and other the premisses with all and singuler th' appurtenances to one Henry Chauncye the brother of this deponent Robert Goodaye and other to [?have] to them and their heyres to the use and behouff of Anne [*sic*] his wiff for terme of xx yeres if she should so long lyve and if she died within the terme of xx yeres then to the use and behouff of Richard Beltofte Complaynant and his heyres and assigns for ever whiche he saieth he knoweth to be true by reason that he the same deponent at the request and desire of the said John Beltofte did upon the sight of the said deade [*one word illegible*] penne and engrosse the same feoffem according to the devise of the said John Beltofte together with a letter of attorney therin conteyned made unto this deponent to make livery and seysyn according to the said deade of feoffem wherupon he saieth that after the said John Beltofte had sealed and delyvered the saide deade of feoffem as his deade unto this deponent in the presence of Edmunde Beltofte his brother Mychael Waller and other whose names he remembreth not he the same deponent with other went to the said tenement and there he redde the said feoffem with the letter of attorney and then avoyded all [*one word illegible*] peasably onto [*one word illegible*] the house and therupon by the delyvery of the said deade with the ryng of the dore made livery and seysyn therof according to the tenor and effect of the said deade unto one of the feoffes mennconyd in the said deade but to which of them he now remembreth not he went into a feld called Heydon to one of the said ij acres and after that there cut uppe a peace of earthe and delyvered it with a sticke unto the hands of the same feoffe then being present the said Mychaell Waller tenant therof who then gave a peny to the said feoffe and [*one word illegible*, ?attorned] tenant to the same feoffes and they gave a peny unto the said Richard Beltofte and attorned tenant to hym also. John Treadegold John Hongston and other whose names he remembreth not. And after the livery and seyson so executyd this deponent with other returned agayne unto the said John Beltofte and there before hym and the said Edmunde Beltofte he declaryd what he had done wherwithall the said John Beltofte was well pleasyd and declaryd hymself to the said Edmunde Beltofte his brother what he had done in the premisses and therupon in the sight of the said John and Edmunde Beltofte and the said Anne [*sic*] ther was a chest brought to this deponent wherynto he put the said feoffement and the said Anne [*sic*] receyved it at the hands of this deponent but what the premisses be worth by the yere he knoweth not otherwise than by report by whiche report he saieth it is worth xiiij s. iiij d. by the yere and the said Anne [*sic*] he saieth died aboute Seynt James tyde was a twelmoneth and the said Westwood occupieth the

premisses by force of an other deade as it is reported made by the said John Beltofte about a twelmoneth after the making of the said feoffement but more or otherwise he saith he cannot deposse. per me Robrtum Chauncy. (Town Depositions, 3 Edward VI [1549], Michaelmas Term, Bundle 17/2.)

Memorand. that in the Terme of Ester that is to saie the xxiiijth day of Apriell the fyveth yere of the reign of our sovereign lord Edwarde the sixt [1551] by the grace of god kyng of England Fraunce and Ireland defendor of the faith and of the Church of England and also of Ireland in earth the supreme hedd upon matter in variaunce longe tyme dependyng before the kyng in his high court of Chauncerie betweene Richard Beltoft of Sabridgworth in the countie of Hertf. playntyf and Thomas Westwood of Mawelynlawffer in the countie of Essex husbandman defendaut of and for one Tenement with a garden and two acres of arrable land or therabowte therunto belongyng called Curraunts sett lying and beyng in Sabridgworth aforsaid Wherunto the said defend. made Answer and the playntyf replied and were at a perfect yssue And Wytnes brought in to the said Court on both parties and the said matier and the circumstaunces of the same beyng in the said Court of Chauncery often tymes scne redde and fully understaude for a quyetnes to be had betwene the said parties It is by the right honorable Sir Richard Riche knyght lorde Riche and lord Chauncellour of Englande and the hole Courte of Chauncery by the mutuall assentes full agreament and consentes of both the said parties ordered adiudged and decreed that the said Thomas Westwood shall haue hold an inioye the said tenement and garden and two acres of land with the appurtenences in Sabridgworth aforsaid to hym and to his heyres of Margarette his late wife for ever more With oute any lett ympedymment or molestacion of the said Rychard Beltoft or of his heyres or of any other by his payement And also it is further ordered adiudged and decreed by the said lorde Chauncellor and Court of Chauncery by the assentes aforsaid that the said Rychard Beltoft and his heyres shall at all tymes do and suffer to be don all and every thing and thinges for the further assuraunce of the premisses to the said Thomas Westwood and his heyres as shalbe reasonably devysed by the Councell learned in the lawe of the said Thomas Westwood and his heires a thisside the Feaste of the Natyvite of our lorde God next ensuyng the date of this decree at the costes and chardges in the lawe of the said defendaut be it by fyne feoffament relcase with warrauntie ageynst the said Richard Beltoft and his heyres or otherwise In consideration wherof it is further decreed that the said Thomas Westwood and his heires shall pay or cause to be paid to the said Richard Beltoft his executours or assignes six pound of lawfull money of England in maner and forme followyng that is to say three pounds vi s. eight pence at the consignment of this decree and at the feast of the nattivte of oure lord next comyng in the parishe church of Sabridgeworth aforsaid three and fyftie shillins foure pence residew of the same some of six poudes in full contentacion and payment of the said some of six poudes. (Enrolled Decrees, Chancery, No. 8/28.)

The Will of RICHARDE BELTOFTE "of the pishe of Sabridgeworth in the Countie of Hartford Husbandman beinge sick in Bodie . . . by reason of age," 20 August 1594. To bee buried in the Churcheyarde of the pishe Church of Sabridgeworthe. To Tenne poore Folcks inhabytinge in the pishe of Sabridgeworth Tenne Groats sterlinge, that is to saye, to

everye one of them foure pence apeece att the daye of my buryall. To Clement Sutton, Willm: Sutton, and Richard Sutton, my Sisters sonnes, dwellinge in Docksall in the Countye of Essex, 10s., that is to saye, to everye of them 3s. 4d. apeece, wthin sixe monethes next after my decease. "Item I Geve to Abraham Beltofte sonne to Bennett Beltoft my Godchilde Tenne shillings to be paide him wthin one yeere next after my decease." To Josias Beltofte my Sonne my Best Bedd standinge in the Parler, with the Bedsteade as it is, a payer of my best Fyne Flaxen Sheets, the moste principall Sheets I have in the Howse, the Best Coveringe, a payer of the Best Blancketts, the Best Pillowes, and other furniture to the same Bedd belonginge, to his owne proper use and bestowe att his free will and pleasure. To the said Josias the Table and Frame withe the Settle standinge in the Hall. To the saidd Josias my Sonne my Best Brasse Panne and my Best Brasse Pott I have in the Howse, to use and dispose att his pleasure, wth Two Chests as they are standinge in the Parler out [*sic*, ?one] att the Bedds Hedd and th'other att the Bedds Feete. My full purpose mynde and intent is That all and singuler suche Goods Chattells moveables and possessions whatsoever, That is to saye, all manner Corne and graine, Horses, kyne, Cattells, Househouldstuffe, ymplements, utensills, apparell, Lynnen, wollen, and other possessions and necessities whatsoever to me Lawfullie belonginge and whereof I shalbee possessed att the tyme of my deathe, The goods and severall bequests first afore geven and by this my present Laste will devised onlie excepted, shalbee by myne Executor and Overseers hereunder named, wth some other neighbors and assistants whome they shall thinck good, devided into Two equall pts and porcions as nere as possiblief canne, the one proper pte and porcion to bee and remayne to the sole and onlie proper use and behouft of Josias Beltoft my sonne, the said Josias after the same equall pticion and devision to have f[r]ee libertie to choose whether pte he will or his assignes for him, and th'other pte and porcion to bee and remayne to Bennett Beltoft my Sonne, whom I make and Ordeyne sole Executor of this psent Last will and Testament. Overseers: Christopher Preston and Willm: Perrye of Fryers, and to eyther of them for their paynes 3s. 4d. a peece. If Josias my Sonne shall decease before the tyme of this pte to him growinge due, the same shall wholye bee & Remayne to the afrenamed Bennett Beltoft & his heirs for ever. The mke of the saide Richard Beltoft the Testator, p. me Willmum Compton. Witnesses: Richard Darter wth others, Raufe Broune, Raufe Perie, John Smyth. (Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts [Somerset House], original will.)

The Will of JOSIAS BELKNAP "of the pshe of Sabridgouth Co. Harford," 28 January 1599 [1599/1600]. Unto my Brother Bennet Belknappe my landes & £20 of money, whereof he oweth me £6 for three yeares rent for my landes, & he oweth me more for one yeare, £5:6:8, & I lent him £7 the 25th. Januaire, & I give him those goodes & legacies wch my fath^r left me & the lynnen & househoulde stuffe wch he hath of myne in his keepinge & all my apparell but one black suite & one black cloke. To my cousin John Brown in Southwark £20, & to Jone his wyfe 20 nobles, & I give him my white coton & all suche lynnen as I have in his house & one suite of blacke & one black cloke & one Bonde of Daell [? Daniel] Sheltons to the some of £10 & one Bill of William Shelton to the some of £10 & all my small Billes & Bondes & all such dettes as may be gott upp in Ireland. To his servaunte Annie 20s. To the Poore of Sebridgeouth 40s. There is due me uppon a certaine accomptes £40, that

being received I give to my broth^r Ralfe Browne £5, to my Brother Robart £5, & to my cosen John £10 more, & to the Poore where I shalbe buried 20s., & 40s. more to the Poore in Sabridgeouth pshe, & to my sister Marye Browne widowe £5, & to Mrs. ffraunces Shelton fower aungells to make her a Ringe, & the rest to my Brother Bennett Belknappe, whom I make full extr & my cosen John Browne my Overseer. Witnesses: ffraunces Hadswells, Josias Belknappe, John Lawlye. Proved 6 February 1599 [1599/1600] by Benedict Belknappe, executor. (P. C. C., Wal-lopp, 10.)

The Will of BENNET BELTOFT "of Sabridgeworth in the Countie of Hartford husbandman," 14 April 1623. Unto Tenn poore people of the pishe of Sabridgworth 3s. 4d., to be paid unto them wthin one month after my decease. Unto Grace my wife my Messuage or Tenement wheare in I now dwell, wthall the barnes, stables, & oughthowes, yards, orchards, & gardens theare unto belonginge, Lyinge & beinge in Sabridgworth, and allso all my free Land Lyinge in Sabridgworth, duringe hur natural lyfe, & to keepe my Howsen in good & suffycient repracon, & that she shall make no stripe nor waste of the wood, And after hur decease my sayd Tenement, wthall the barnes, stables, oughthowes, yards, orchards, & gardens theare unto belonginge, and all so all my free Land aforesaid, I give & bequeathe unto Josyas Beltoft my sonn And to the heires of his Body Lawfully begotten, "and for want of heires of his body lawfully begotten then my will & mynd is that the foresaid Tenement & free Land shall be & remayne unto Abraham Beltoft my sonn & his heires for ever." Unto Fraunces Beltofte my daughter my Joyned Bedsted now standinge in the parler, wth one fetherbed, one fether boulder, two fether pillowes, two blanckets, two payer of sheetes, one flexen & the other Lenen [?], one payer of pilloweres, & a coveringe, one Longe Table wth a frame standing in the parler, Two of the best Joyned stolles, my Beste brasse pott, two of the best pewter platteres, two of the best Candelstickes, Two of the best pewter porringers, & the best sault siller. Unto John Beltoft my sonn one bedstedell standinge in the Cheseloft, one flockbed, one boulder, one payer of sheets, one [torn, ? blanket], & a coveringe. Unto Dannill Beltoft my sonn one Bedsted standinge in the Chamber ou[torn] the hall & the fetherbed theare on, one boulder, the best flexen sheete that was his grand-motheres, one payer of sheets, one blancket, & one coveringe. "Item I give & bequeathe unto Abraham Beltofte my son twentye shillinges of good & Lawfully mony of England to be payd unto him by myne Executors wthin one yeare next after my decease Item I give & bequeathe unto Abraham Beltoft my Grand Child & godsonn Tenn shillinges of good & Lawfull mony of England to be payd within one yeare next after my decease by myne Executors." Unto Josyas Beltoft my sonn the table & frame standinge in the hall, wth the frame benchees & settelles theare unto belonginge, all wayes to beloft [?] to the howse. All the rest of my movable goods & chattolles, corne, & Cattell, what so ever not before bequeathed, unto Grace my wife & Josyas Beltofte my sonn, whome I make my Executors. I appoynt Willm: Preston and Willm: Addam my ouer-seeares, & I give unto eyther of them for theare paynes 3s. 4d. apeece. The marke of Bennet Beltofte. Witnesses: Willm: Preston, The marke of Raphe Browne sec^r, The mark of Willm: Addam. Proved at Stortford 15 June 1624 by the executors named.* (Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts [Somerset House], original will.)

* *Vide supra*, p. 83.

The Will of JOSIAS BELKNAP of Sabridgeworth, co. Herts, 29 March 1674. To Anne my wife my house & two acres of free land called Rickotte & two acres of free land called Church Croft & my householde stuffe for her life, then to my son Dan^l Belknap & his heires for ever. If he dye without issue, then to my son James & his heires for ever. To James Belknap my third son * £11, my son Daniel to pay him six months after my decease, & for none payment hereof my son James shall take possession of three roodes of free land lying in Hartecroft belonging to Groves. To my son John Belknap 10s. To my son-in-law Thomas Browne 1s. Anne my wife to be sole executrix. The Marke X of Josias Belknap. Witnesses: Robert Cowle, Barrington Addames senr. Proved 12 June 1674 by the executrix named. (Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts [Somerset House], Pleasant, 354.)

The Will of DAN^l BELKNAP of Spelbrooke in the pshe of Sabridgeworth, co. Herts, Yeoman, 23 August 1680. Unto my two Brothers, John Belknap & James Belknap, 12d. a piece. To Mary my wife my two acres of land in a comon field called Westley, in the parish of Sabridgeworth, to her & her heires for ever. Residue to Mary my wife, she to be sole executrix. The mke of Dan^l Belknap. Witnesses: James Kirby, John Robbards, Edward Lyndsell, Thomas Barnard. Proved 10 December 1680 by the executrix named. (Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts [Somerset House], Heydon, 473.)

The Will of HENRY BELNAP of the parish of Sabridgeworth, co. Hertford, Yeoman, 10 April 1686. To Mary my now wife one featherbed, boulster, pillow, coverlett, two blanketts, two pair of sheets, one great bedsted, & one joynted cupboard standinge next the doore in the parlour, & the bed & trundle bed in the same roome, two hutches in the chamber over the kitchin, a little table standing in the chamber over the parlour, one hogshed, a frying pan, & the warming pan. To Elizabeth my daughter the bed, bolster, & bedstead standing in the chamber over the kitchin, & the furniture belonging to it. To James my sonne the bed, bolster, & bedsted which he lyeth upon standing in the chamber over the Hall, & the furniture belonging to it. All my linnen except the two prs of sheetes & all my pewter & brasse to be equally divided between my extrs, my children. Residue to my extrs to be sold to pay my debts, the remainder to be divided amongst my executors & children. I ordaine Mary my wife executrix & James my sonne executor. I give two pewter dishes to my sonne-in-lawe Edward Dowsett. [Signed] Henry Belnap. Witnesses: Geo. Wright, John Johnson [mark], Edward Sibley. Proved 19 October 1686 by the executors named. (Commissary Court of London for Essex and Herts [Somerset House], Hamor, 82.)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH, CO. HERTS, 1558-1709

Baptisms

- 1561 Alice Beltoft daughter of Richard 16 September.
- 1562 Josias son of Richard Beltoft 6 September.
- 1589 Abraham Beltofte 10 March [1589/90].
- 1590 Frances daughter of Benet Beltofte 3 January [1590/1].
- 1593 John Beltofte 8 April.
- 1595 Daniel son of Benet Beltoft 2 November.
- 1599 Josias son of Benet Beltofte 12 August.
- 1630 Grace daughter of John and Elizabeth Belknap 10 July.
- 1631 John son of John Belknope 25 September.
- 1632 Josias son of Josias and Anne Belknap 4 August.
- 1633 Elizabeth daughter of John and Elizabeth Belknop 31 March.

* The eldest son, Josias, was already dead.

- 1634 Mary daughter of Josias Belknapp 4 May.
- 1634 Daniell Beltknopp son of Daniel and Barberie his wife 5 October.
- 1635 Daniell son of Josias Belknap 17 January [1635/6].
- 1637 John son of Josias Belknap 28 January [1637/8].
- 1640 James son of Josias Belknape 29 March.
- 1641 Grace daughter of Josias Belknape 12 February [1641/2].
- 1664 Henery son of Henery Beltknap 7 May.
- 1665 Elizabeth daughter of Henry Beltknap 30 December.
- 1667 James son of Henery and Mary Beltknap 28 September.
- 1668 Daniell son of Henry Beltknap 17 March [1668/9].
- 1670 Mary daughter of Henery Beltknap 1 April.
- 1673 Samuel son of Henery Beltknap 22 July.
- 1674 Benett son of Henery Beltknap 2 February [1674/5].
- 1675 Daniel son of James and Susan Beltknape 19 June.
- 1679 Abraham son of Henry and Mary Belknap 24 January [1679/80].
- 1681 Mary daughter of Henry and Mary Belknap als Beltoft 11 October.
- 1682 Susan daughter of James and Susanna Belknap 24 December.

Marriages

- 1562 William Stubbs and Alice Beltoft 14 April.
- 1578 Edward Lyndesell and Ales Beltoft 5 October.
- 1586 Bennet Beltoft and Grace Adam 25 May.
- 1624 Edward Doucet and Frances Belknap 19 October.
- 1631 Josias Belkap and Anne Milles 2 May.
- 1666 Henery Beltknap and Mary Pery by licence 19 June.
- 1708 James Hockley and Susanna Belknap 26 October.
- 1709 John Chesson of Harlow and Susanna Belknap 8 May.

Marriage Licence

- 1666 Samuell Bellknapp and Elizabeth Nicholls 18 February [1666/7].

Burials

- 1560 Elizabeth Beltofte [? wife of Henry] 14 January [1560/1].
- 1561 Henry Beltofte 5 July.
- 1588 the wife of Richard Beltoft 17 January [1588/9].
- 1599 Richard Beltoft 2 December.
- 1624 Bennet Belknap 21 May.
- 1630 Grace Belkap 29 October.
- 1637 John son of John Belknapp 22 October.
- 1655 John Beltrap 19 October.
- 1656 Josias son of Josias Beltknape 13 July.
- 1663 a new borne Infant of Henery Beltoft 6 April.
- 1663 Daniel Beltofte 5 June.
- 1664* The wife of Henery Beltknapp 30 December.
- 1674 Josias Beltknap 3 April.
- 1678 Daniel Belknap of Spellbrooke [parish of Sawbridgeworth] son of James and Susannah 2 January [1678/9].
- 1678 Elizabeth Belknap widowe 7 February [1678/9].
- 1680 Daniel Belknap of Spelbrooke 2 September.
- 1683 The widow of Josias Belknap 31 October.
- 1686 Henry Belknap Jr. 9 April.
- 1686 Henry Belknap Sr. 13 April.
- 1687 Mary Belknap widow 18 November.
- 1687 James Belknap 20 November.
- 1688 Daniell Belknap 20 February [1688/9].
- 1695 A child of James Belknap 10 April.
- 1704 Sarah Belknap 11 May.
- 1704 Mary Belknap 13 August.

* Probably an error for 1665.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF NETTESWELL, CO. ESSEX

Baptisms

- 1637 Henrie Belknopp son of Daniel and Barberie 14 May.
 1639 Samuell Belknoppe son of Daniell and Barberie 3 February [1639/40].
 1642 Barberie [? Belknopp] daughter of Daniell and Barberie 9 November.

Burials

- 1620 "Abra Bel. . . . f s. Abra et Mara" 6 December.
 1658 Daniell Belnap widr. 19 October.
 1704 Mary Belknap 8 January [1704/5].

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF GILSTON, CO. HERTS

- 1661 Henry Belknapp and Elizabeth Dowsett married by licence 9 December.

[From the records given above and from other records preserved in New England the following genealogy has been prepared:

1. ——— BELTOFT.

Children:

- i. JOHN, of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, d. abt. 1546, evidently *s.p.*
 In 26 Henry VIII (1534-5) he was seised of a house with a garden and two acres of arable land called "Currants" in Sawbridgeworth. He m. not later than 26 Henry VIII (1534-5) MARGARET ———, whose maiden name was perhaps Payne or Mathewe. She survived her husband and m. (2) abt. 1547 Thomas Westwood, who in 1550 was of "Maudlyn" (probably Magdalen Laver), co. Essex. She was dead in 1549/50, Thomas Westwood, her son by her second husband, being then abt. three years of age.
- ii. EDMOND, living abt. 1546.
2. iii. HENRY (perhaps son of 1 and brother of the two preceding).

2. HENRY BELTOFT (perhaps son of 1 and brother of the John and Edmond mentioned above), of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts (see Feet of Fines, Hilary term, 3 Elizabeth, 1560/1), was buried at Sawbridgeworth 5 July 1561. Elizabeth Beltoft, who was buried at Sawbridgeworth 14 Jan. 1560/1, may have been his wife.

The following were probably his children:

3. i. RICHARD.
- ii. ALICE (BELTOFT *alias* BELKNAP), perhaps m. (1) at Sawbridgeworth, 14 Apr. 1562, WILLIAM STUBBS; m. (perhaps 2) ——— SUTTON. Children (surname *Sutton*): 1. *Clement*. 2. *William*. 3. *Richard*. To each of these three sons the sum of 3s. 4d. was left by the will of their uncle, Richard Beltoft, in 1594 (*vide supra*, p. 91).

3. RICHARD BELTOFT *alias* BELKNAP (probably son of *Henry*), of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, husbandman, was buried at Sawbridgeworth 2 Dec. 1599. His will, dated 20 Aug. 1594, seems to show that he held his land as a copyholder of the Manor and that in 1594 he had only two children living, of whom Bennet was probably the elder. He married ELIZABETH ———, who was buried at Sawbridgeworth 17 Jan. 1588/9.

Children:

4. i. BENNET.

- ii. ALICE, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth 16 Sept. 1561; d., probably *s.p.*, not later than 1594; m. 5 Oct. 1578 EDWARD LYNDESELL, perhaps s. of Peter and Joan of Sawbridgeworth (see Feet of Fines in *Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, vol. 3, p. 322, although, if the reference here is to the Alice of this pedigree, she did not die until after 1600).
- iii. JOSIAS, of Sawbridgeworth, the testator of 1599/1600 (*vide supra*, p. 91), bapt. at Sawbridgeworth 6 Sept. 1562; d. betw. 28 Jan. 1599/1600 and 6 Feb. following, being evidently then a widower; m. probably ——— BROWN, his will mentioning several of his wife's relatives. No records of any children have been found.

4. BENNET BELTOFT *alias* BELKNAP (*Richard, ? Henry*), of Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, husbandman, the testator of 1623 (*vide supra*, p. 92), was buried at Sawbridgeworth 21 May 1624. He is mentioned in the will of his father Richard Beltoft (*vide supra*, pp. 90–91), being named as sole executor of that will, and in the will of his brother, Josias Belknap, 28 Jan. 1599/1600 (*vide supra*, pp. 91–92); and he proved the latter will as executor, 6 Feb. 1599/1600. In 1605/6 he was assessed 2s. 8d. on 20s., in the lay subsidy for Sawbridgeworth (Lay Subsidies, 121/302–3, James I, Public Record Office, London), and in 1610 as churchwarden he makes a letter “b” as his mark in the parish registers. He married at Sawbridgeworth, 25 May 1586, GRACE ADAM, who was buried at Sawbridgeworth 29 Oct. 1630, perhaps daughter of Peter and Elizabeth of Ware, this Peter being a “berebrewer,” whose will was proved at Stortford, co. Herts, 12 Feb. 1571/2 (*Herts Geneal. and Antiquary*, vol. 1, p. 334). Children, baptized at Sawbridgeworth:

- 5. i. ABRAHAM, bapt. 10 Mar. 1589/90.
- ii. FRANCES, bapt. 3 Jan. 1590/1; m. at Sawbridgeworth, 19 Oct. 1624, EDWARD DOUCET. She is mentioned in her father's will of 14 Apr. 1623.
- iii. JOHN, bapt. 8 Apr. 1593; bur. at Sawbridgeworth 19 Oct. 1655; m. ELIZABETH ———, who was bur. at Sawbridgeworth 7 Feb. 1678/9. Children, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth: 1. *Grace*, bapt. 10 July 1630. 2. *John*, bapt. 25 Sept. 1631; bur. at Sawbridgeworth 22 Oct. 1637. 3. *Elizabeth*, bapt. 31 Mar. 1633.
- 6. iv. DANIEL, bapt. 2 Nov. 1595.
- 7. v. JOSIAS, bapt. 12 Aug. 1599.

5. ABRAHAM BELTOFT *alias* BELKNAP (*Bennet, Richard, ? Henry*), baptized at Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, 10 Mar. 1589/90, died at Lynn, Mass., early in Sept. 1643. The names of his parents are not given in the baptismal record; but his grandfather, Richard Beltoft, in his will of 20 Aug. 1594 (*vide supra*, pp. 90–91), bequeaths 10s. to “Abraham Beltofte sonne to Bennett Beltoft my Godchilde,” and he is also mentioned in his father's will of 14 Apr. 1623 (*vide supra*, p. 92). He married, about 1620 or earlier, MARY ———, who survived him and presented the inventory of his estate, which was taken 16 Feb. 1643/4. The record of this marriage has not been found, and the surname of his wife is unknown. His residence in England is also unknown, the only indication of it being the record, in the parish registers of Netteswell, co. Essex, of the burial, 6 Dec. 1620, of “Abra

Bel. . . . f s. Abra et Mara," which seems to refer to an infant son of Abraham and Mary.

With his wife Mary and his children, Abraham Belknap emigrated to New England (in what ship is unknown), probably about 1635. In 1638 he received a grant of 40 acres of land at Lynn, Mass., his name appearing in the papers in the case of William Longley v. Henry Collings and John Hathorne, in behalf of the town of Lyn, 26 Mar. 1661, among those who shared in the apportionment of land in 1638. (Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, vol. 2, p. 270.) Among his neighbors at Lynn were Edmund Farrington, one of the creditors of his estate, who was from Olney, co. Bucks, and came to New England in the *Hopewell*, 1 Apr. 1635, and Francis Ingalls, whose daughter married Joseph Belknap, Abraham's son. The following record is found in Suffolk Deeds, Lib. 1, fo. 42:

Adam Otley & Thomas Dexter of Linne granted vnto Richard Russell of Charlstowne thirty Sheepe & Lambs in the hands of goodman Belknap & James Axy of Linne wth 15^{li} bill due frō Adam Hawks, & three thousand of Clapbord bolts lyeing at my Ladie Moodies Beach in Linne to Richard Russell his heires executors administrators & Assignes, the aboue said some of fourescore & three pounds to be pd wthin 4 months after the date thereof & this was by a deed dated the 7^o of April 1643.
2 Hands & scales.

Acknowledged the 29^o of y^e 5^o month
1643 before Increase Nowell secret'.

The will of Abraham Belknap, which was sworn to 20 Feb. 1643/4, is unfortunately missing; but the inventory of his estate, beginning "The inventorie of Abraham Bellnap's estate have deseisted the beginge of the 7th. mo. 1643 and now taken bie William Tillton & Edward Tomlins this 16. 12 mo. 1643," has been preserved, and a summary of it has been printed in Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, vol. 1, p. 60, note. His estate consisted of a house and 5 acres of land, 2 acres of planting land, 2 acres of salt marsh, 6 acres of salt marsh at Fox Hill, and 30 acres "at the village." He also had a number of "shepe," "cowes," "gotes," and "piges," and the usual amount of household implements and furniture. There is a list of debts amounting to £5. 13s. 3d., the creditors being Joseph Armitage, Francis Ingalls, goodman Philips, Richard Routon, Thomas Laughton, Ed. Farington, Gerard Spencer, Mr. Hinge, and John Person. The net amount of the inventory was £47. 17s., and the mark of Mary his wife appears on the document. The *Essex Antiquarian*, vol. 2, p. 183, states that this inventory contains the first mention in Essex County of pot-hooks and hangers, brass pot and frying pans, spit and dripping pans.

Children *:

- i. ABRA[HAM] (probably), bur. at Netteswell, co. Essex, 6 Dec. 1620.

* There is no authority for including among the children of Abraham Belknap the immigrant, as some writers have done, a son Jeremiah or Jeremy and a daughter Mary.

- ii. ABRAHAM, mentioned in the will of his grandfather, Bennet Beltoft, 14 Apr. 1623 (*vide supra*, p. 92); probably d. young, although he may have come to New England with his parents.
- iii. SAMUEL, said to have been b. 1627/8 (but proof of this statement seems lacking); living 1731; m. bef. 1653 SARAH JONES, dau. of Robert and Elizabeth of Hingham. He may have been the Samuel Belknap who owned land at Easthampton, L.I., 5 July 1653 (Records of Easthampton, vol. 2, pp. 159, 161); but if he went to Easthampton he evidently did not remain there, as he had a house in Salem in 1661, his land lying between the present Essex St., near the corner of Beckford St., and the North River.* On 20 Feb. 1665 [1665/6] Samuel Belknap of Salem, joyner, with the consent of Sara his wife, in consideration of £3 conveys to Edward Gaskyn of Salem, ship carpenter, land contayning 10 Poale, 2 Poale broad next streets, to run backward north 5 Pole & south 5 Poale & in bredth 2 Pole in ye Towne of Salem, bounded with the streete, land of Philip Cromwell to ye east & the land of me ye sd. Samuell Belknap to ye north & west. (Essex Deeds, vol. 2, p. 117.) In 1671 Samuell Belnap of Malden, joyner, and Joseph Belnap of Boston, glover, convey to Thomas Laughton, Sr., of Lynn their thirds in a "parcell of land . . . part of an house lott formerly Abraham Rednap's [*sic*] house lott, father to sd. Samuel and Joseph Rednap," and to this deed Benjamin Rednap and Peter Brackett are witnesses. The clerk evidently wrote *Rednap* in two places instead of *Belknap*, the mistake being due probably to the appearance of the name of Benjamin Rednap among the witnesses. The Rednaps were neighbors of Abraham Belknap and came from London; and while there was a Joseph Rednap, son of the immigrant of that name, he is not to be confounded with Joseph Belknap, although some of his appearances before the Court for denying the lawfulness of infant baptism have been laid at the door of Joseph Belknap. Joseph Rednap married Sarah, dau. of Thomas Laughton. Samuel Belknap's next and apparently last move was to Haverhill, Mass., where he took the oath of allegiance 28 Nov. 1677, and in 1696 he conveyed land there to his sons Ebenezer and Abraham, one of the deeds being acknowledged by him as late as 31 Aug. 1731. Seven children recorded, of whom the eldest, *Mary*, was b. 1653, and a son, *Abraham*, who was b. abt. 1660, was ancestor of many of the name in Framingham, Mass.
- iv. JOSEPH, said to have been born 1630 (but proof of this statement seems lacking); d. 14 Nov. 1712; bur. in King's Chapel, Boston; m. (1) bef. 1657/8 RUTH WILLIAMS, b. 1638, dau. of Nathaniel and Mary of Boston; m. (2) bef. 1668 LYDIA INGALLS, dau. of Francis and Mary of Lynn; m. (3) bef. 1670 HANNAH MEAKINS, dau. of Thomas and Sarah of Hatfield, whom he survived. He was executor of the will of Richard Woodman of Lynn in 1647, was in Boston as early as 1658, when he was a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co., and was made a freeman in 1665. Three years later he was one of the founders of the Old South Church, and in that same year was dismissed to Hatfield. He bought land in Haverhill in 1682, but it does not appear that he ever lived there. His will is dated 29 Nov. 1710 and was proved 5 Dec. 1712. At the

* This house is mentioned in the Salem Commoners' Records, 1713-1739: "Att a meeting of the Committee att the Ship Tavern In Salem the first Munday In December being the 7th. Day 1713 for to Receiue Claims to ye Comon Lands in Salem" there were present of the Committee Capt. Samuell Gardner, Capt. Thomas Flint, Capt. Walter Price, Capt. Jonathan Putnam, Capt. Peeter Osgood, Col. Samuell Browne, Esq., William Hirst, Esq., Josiah Woolcott, Esq., and Maj. Stephen Sewall, Esq., and it was "Agreed and Ordered that the Claims be Receiued of the Proprietors to the Comon Lands in the Towne of Salem And Entered In Two Distinct Colloums one Collum for the Cotteges that was Erected before the year 1661 and the other Collum for those Priuiledged by the Town Vote In 1702." John Simpson presented a claim for Belknap's house, which is mentioned also in "A list of the owners of houses built which fall under the law made 1660 which prohibits them from priveleges in Common lands," dated 1669.

time of his death he was a resident of Boston. Twelve and possibly fifteen children, of whom four were by his first wife, one was by his second wife, and seven at least were by his third wife.

- v. JOHN (perhaps a son of Abraham the immigrant), d. probably *s.p.* The only record of him is found in his deposition, sworn before Rob. Bridges 27 Mar. 1655 and presented at the Court held at Ipswich 25 Mar. 1656, that the price of the oxen that William Robinson, in the name of Mr. Jeffard, bought of Fransis Inggales was 18 li. (Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, vol. 1, p. 417, note.)
- vi. HANNAH, d. 21 Nov. 1679; m. 6 Dec. 1663 CHRISTOPHER OSGOOD, b. 1643, s. of Christopher and Margery (Fowler) of Ipswich, who m. three times after Hannah's death. Six children.

6. DANIEL BELTOFT *alias* BELKNAP (*Bennet, Richard, ? Henry*), baptized at Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, 2 Nov. 1595, was buried at Netteswell, co. Essex, 19 Oct. 1658. He is mentioned in his father's will of 14 Apr. 1623 (*vide supra*, p. 92), and in 1636/7, as Daniell Bellknapp of Netteswell, was assessed 5s. 6d. for ship money. (State Papers, Domestic, Charles I, vol. 358, in Public Record Office, London.) He married BARBARA ———, whom he survived.

Children:

- i. DANIEL, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth 5 Oct. 1634; bur. there 5 June 1663.
- ii. HENRY, of Sawbridgeworth, yeoman, bapt. at Netteswell 14 May 1637; bur. at Sawbridgeworth 13 Apr. 1686; m. (1) at Gilston, co. Herts, 9 Dec. 1661, ELIZABETH DOWSETT, probably a widow (with a son Edward), who was bur. at Sawbridgeworth 30 Dec. 1664 [*sic*, ? 1665]; m. (2) at Sawbridgeworth, 19 June 1666, MARY PERY, who survived him and was bur. at Sawbridgeworth 18 Nov. 1687. His will is dated 10 Apr. 1686 and was proved 19 Oct. 1686. (*Vide supra*, p. 191.) Children by first wife: 1. *A Child*, d. soon after birth and bur. at Sawbridgeworth 6 Apr. 1663. 2. *Henry*, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth 7 May 1664; bur. there 9 Apr. 1686. 3. *Elizabeth*, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth 30 Dec. 1665. Children by second wife, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth: 4. *James*, bapt. 28 Sept. 1667; perhaps the person who was bur. at Sawbridgeworth 20 Nov. 1687. He is mentioned in his father's will. A child of a James Belknap was bur. at Sawbridgeworth 10 Apr. 1695. 5. *Daniel*, bapt. 17 Mar. 1668/9; bur. at Sawbridgeworth 20 Feb. 1688/9. 6. *Mary*, bapt. 1 Apr. 1670; probably d. bef. 11 Oct. 1681. 7. *Samuel*, bapt. 22 July 1673. 8. *Benett*, bapt. 2 Feb. 1674/5. 9. *Abraham*, bapt. 24 Jan. 1679/80. 10. *Mary*, bapt. 11 Oct. 1681; bur. at Sawbridgeworth 13 Aug. 1704.
- iii. SAMUEL, bapt. at Netteswell 3 Feb. 1639/40; marriage licence for his marriage with ELIZABETH NICHOLLS issued 18 Feb. 1666/7.
- iv. BARBARA, bapt. at Netteswell 9 Nov. 1642.

7. JOSIAS BELTOFT *alias* BELKNAP (*Bennet, Richard, ? Henry*), baptized at Sawbridgeworth, co. Herts, 12 Aug. 1599, was buried there 3 Apr. 1674. He took part as one of the executors in proving his father's will, 15 June 1624. He married at Sawbridgeworth, 2 May 1631, ANNE MILLES, who was executrix of his will and was buried at Sawbridgeworth 31 Oct. 1683. His will is dated 29 Mar. 1674 and was proved 12 June 1674.

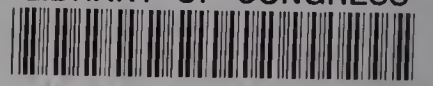
Children, baptized at Sawbridgeworth:

- i. JOSIAS, bapt. 4 Aug. 1632; bur. at Sawbridgeworth 13 July 1656.
- ii. MARY, bapt. 4 May 1634; probably d. bef. 29 Mar. 1674, as she is not mentioned in her father's will. Either she or her sister Grace

- probably married Thomas Browne, who is called son-in-law in her father's will.
- iii. DANIEL, bapt. 17 Jan. 1635/6; bur. at Sawbridgeworth, as "Daniel Belknap of Spelbrooke,"* 2 Sept. 1680; m. MARY ———, who as executrix proved his will 10 Dec. 1680. She may have been the Mary Belknap, widow, who was bur. at Sawbridgeworth 18 Nov. 1687 (but *vide supra*, 6, ii). No record of children.
 - iv. JOHN, bapt. 28 Jan. 1637/8; a beneficiary in the will of his brother Daniel, dated 23 Aug. 1680.
 - v. JAMES, bapt. 29 Mar. 1640; probably bur. at Sawbridgeworth 20 Nov. 1687; probably m. SUSANNA ———. He is mentioned in his father's will, 29 Mar. 1674, and in the will of his brother Daniel; 23 Aug. 1680. Children, bapt. at Sawbridgeworth: 1. *Daniel*, bapt. 19 June 1675; bur. at Sawbridgeworth, as "of Spellbrooke," 2 Jan. 1678/9. 2. *Susan*, bapt. 24 Dec. 1682.
 - vi. GRACE, bapt. 12 Feb. 1641/2; probably d. bef. 29 Mar. 1674, as she is not mentioned in her father's will. Either she or her sister Mary probably married Thomas Browne, who is called son-in-law in her father's will.

* In the parish of Sawbridgeworth.

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