

Sent to Hyrum Belnap by Dr. Edward Brainard Belnap, Wyoming, New York and Russel Belnap McCoy, Clinton, Iowa. in 1908.

Every person in America whose family dates back of 1774 is a descendent of Abraham Belnap who came from England, and settled in Lynn, Mass. in 1637. He died in 1643. (Temples and Barry's History of Framingham, Mass.)

Our first ancestor in direct line that I am able to definitely establish at this date, 1908, was Samuel Belnap, born in July 9, 1723. Kied in E. Winsor, 1747 or 57. His wife was Mary Wood Kickinson. Born Nov. 29, 1703. They had nine children.

Mary - b. 1724  
Simeon - b. 1726  
Job - b. at Enfield 1728  
Samuel - b. 1731  
Ebenezer - b. at Enfield 1734  
Abel - b. at Somers, 1736  
Jesse - b. at Somers April 9, 1739  
David - b. 1742  
Ruth - b. ???

Jesse, son of Samuel, was born Somers, Conn. Apr. 9, 1739. When he was 19 his brother Abel, was appointed guardian on the death of his father, Samuel (Hartford probate record). In 1771, at the age of 52, he and his wife Eunice, moved to Castleton, Vt., one mile east of the village on farm owned recently by Clark Stenens. By his first wife, Eunice, they had two children Bettie and Clive, who died in infancy. followed by their mother, who died July 25, 1774. Jesse Belnap took an important part in the early history of Castleton, Vr. He was chairman of a meeting when Castleton was organized as a town in March 1777. He was the first justice of the peace and afterwards town clerk. He was one to represent Castleton in the State Convention at Pitsford when the constitution of the State of Vermont was formed, and the State organized in 1784. He was one of the nine male members of the Castleton meeting house, and was one of the committees to employ the Reverend Everett as their preacher. ( From Castleton records.)

#### AS A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

Later in the afternoon of Aug. 15, 1777, hearing the news that the British were coming to Bennington, 45 miles south, with the help of neighbors, they moulded bullets of all the available lead and family pewter, also gathered a goodly supply of powder, and started on horseback for Bennington. Arriving in the rain, and enlisting at 2:30 A.M. on the Memorial Day of the Battle of Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777. In the morning, he heard Colonel John Stark utter the immortal expression; "There are the red coats, and they are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow."

He was afterwards a private in Capt. Robinson's roll and re-enlisting in Ephraim Buell's company, Colonel Warren's Regiment, May 10, 1779, scouting for the security of the Frontiers, and was discharged Dec. 3, the same year. ( Military Secretary's Office, Washington Records. ).

Being quartered at Bennington a few days after the battle, he stayed at the home of Simeon Hathaway, who was also a Revolutionary soldier. A lieutenant, becoming acquainted with his fair daughter, Deborah. (Old family letter). He married her the following year. As a result of this marriage three children were born.  
Ruth- b. Nov. 21, 1782 of whom we have no further record.  
Jusse Jr.- b. May 21, 1784  
Augustine- b. June 29, 1787

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In compiling this pamphlet of the Belknap family we have found much information that will be of use to future genealogists and herewith give them the benefit of our research.

First. There seems to be a tradition that about 1625 there came from England, three brothers and settled in Boston, Mass. This is uncertain, as no data or direct descendants have been found. However, at the old Liberty Street burying ground, Newburgh, N.Y. is a stone to the memory of Isaac Belknap, who died 1815 and who is claimed was a descendant of one of the three brothers.

We would caution anyone from confounding Jesse Belknap of Castleton, Vt. Revolutionary War, with Jesse Belknap, Artificer, Baldwens's Regiment, Revolutionary War, moved to Pennsylvania.

Second; In most libraries can be found two histories of Framingham, Mass., one by Barry and one by Temple, which give a fair account of Abraham Belknap's descendants. & etc-----