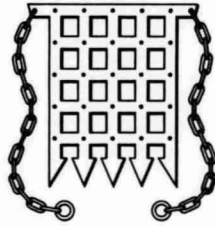


From: W.G. Hunt, Esquire—
I.D., B.A., F.C.A.



Portcullis Pursuivant of Arms

**College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4V4BT.
Telephone & Fax: 0171-329 8755**

Brent J Belnap
235 East 95th Street # 19J
New York
NY 10128
USA

30 June, 1997

Dear Mr Belnap,

On 27 March you kindly gave me a down payment of £70 and have subsequently sent me £80 to complete a search of the records of the College of Arms covering the Heralds' Visitations (1530-1687) and pedigrees recorded since that date in the names of Belnap and its related spellings, including Belknap and Beltoft. I write now to report the results of these searches:

THE HERALDS' VISITATIONS

The search began with the records of the Heralds' Visitations of the English and Welsh counties during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Officers of Arms went out to each county roughly every generation to oversee the use of Arms and to record the pedigrees of the gentry. The resulting records fill many dozens of volumes and form the core of the College archives:

1. At the Visitation of Essex undertaken in 1570, a pedigree was recorded for Scott which includes a marriage of Walter Scott to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Belknappe. (H10.30)
2. At the subsequent Visitation of Essex in 1614, the same entry is recorded. (C15/3.16).

OTHER RECORDED PEDIGREES

Although the compulsory recording of pedigrees ended with the close of the Visitations in 1687 many thousands have been recorded at the College on a voluntary basis since then and such recording continues apace today. The main series of these was searched and the following entries were found:

3. A pedigree of Brodbelt recorded in 1823 showed Belnapp as the 6th of 16 quarters to the Arms. The Right to the quartering came through the marriage of Francis Rigby Brodbelt to Anne Gardner Penoyre, who was descended from Thoms Penoyre by his wife Elizabeth, coheir of John Dannett, whose ancestor, Gerard Dannett (will dated 30 April, proved 25 May 1520) had married Mary, sister and coheir of Sir Edmund Belknap, Knight, son of Sir Henry Belknap, son of Sir Hamon Belknap, Knight Treasurer of Normandy. The Arms may be blazoned: *Azure three Eagles in bend between two Cottises Argent.* (Norfolk 5.163)
4. In a pedigree of Guise, the same Arms appear as the 16th of 42 quarters of the Arms of Guise recorded by Sir John Wright Guise, Baronet, in 1843. (Baronets 5.228) It would appear from an earlier pedigree recorded in 1783 that the Belknap quartering came via the marriage of

Henry Guise to Mary, daughter and at length coheir of Edward Cooke of Highnam, who died in 1750. (Baronets 1.12)

With this disappointing result, I extended this research to cover our records of heraldic funerals in the 16th and 17th centuries, but the result was negative. I also looked in books of early heraldic Standards and found two entries in our MS numbered I2 which was bought from the executors of Lancaster Herald in 1590, namely:

5. The Standard of Edward Belknap which shows a strange beast which would appear to be a wingless dragon statant azure gorged with a coronet attached thereto a leash reflexed over the back Or. (I2.71)

6. In the same Book of Standards is shown that of Sir Edward Belknap, Knight, which has the same beast standing on a platform in front of a flaming beacon or. (I2.109)

Although I had not agreed, for the fee concerned, to look at early Grants of Arms, both the entries in I2 illustrated Arms, and so I have examined Grants made before the middle of the 17th century and found the following:

7. The beast referred to in paragraph 5 is shown as the Crest of Sir Edward Belknappe in a book (of crests only) which belonged to Augustine Vincent who was an Officer of Arms from 1616 to 1626. (Vincent 161.15)

8. The Arms of Edward Beleknap are illustrated in a book of gifts of arms of the time of Henry VIII (1509-1547); the Crest is as in paragraph 5 above and the Arms may be described as: *Azure three Eagles in bend between two Cottises Argent*. The shield also quarters the Arms of Boteler, Sudeley, and Montfort. (2G4.75)

This same shield is shown beside the standard of Edward Belnap at I2.71 whereas beside the standard of Sir Edward Belknap, Knight, at I2.109, the quarterings are shown in the order Belknap, Sudeley, Montfort and Boteler.

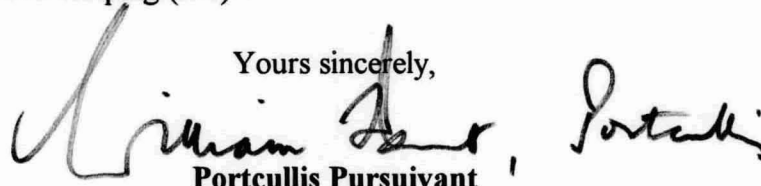
The only entry for Beltoft in the series of records I have examined is the following:

9. In our manuscript known as *Cooke's Grants* the Arms of Richard Carique of Barton on the Hill, co.Gloucester, granted in 1589, are illustrated showing as the fourth quarter Beltoft, namely: *Argent a Fret Azure on a Chief of the last three Pheons Or*. (BEDN.31b)

Conclusion:

Finally, when you called to see me, you asked me to translate the motto "Prudentis et Animis Deo Juvante". I have submitted it to my Latin expert who does not think the motto looks quite right and feels it should be "Et Prudentis Animi Deo Juvante" which means "And of a Prudent Disposition God Helping (Me)".

Yours sincerely,


Portcullis Pursuivant