



**Belnap**

# Belnap Family Prier

An Official publication of the Gilbert Family Organization, a non-profit ancestral organization for all descendants of Utah Pioneer Gilbert Belnap, created to preserve, perpetuate, and promote family solidarity.

Issue 25

“ Love, Unity, Solidarity “

2002

*Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God (D&C 109:8).*

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sporting events, and historical displays will be held in the LDS Cultural Hall and the surrounding park in Huntsville. Family members have been requested to bring items of interest to share and that can be viewed in the cultural hall.

It has been an extremely difficult task in making this reunion become a reality and I send a special thanks to Glenda Guinn for taking the leadership of the *Reunion Committee*, and seeing that this reunion *became a reality*.

### **A Noble Cause**

The Belnap Family Organization was organized in order to *preserve, perpetuate and promote family unity*. The leadership of the Belnap Family Organization is dedicated to keeping the memory of Gilbert Belnap and his wives, Adaline Knight and Henrietta McBride, alive.

As an organized body of descendants we wish perpetuate the teachings, history and promote the religious convictions of Gilbert Belnap. We must realize that a part of who we are today, resulted in part, from this one man.

As an organized body, we wish also to maintain family unity and a sense of belonging. These are two important issues in binding us together. In these disconcerting times, I believe that maintaining this sense of family unity can only promote love, peace and kindness.

Gilbert has shown us what adoring love and dedication is. Recorded in his journals and letters are the essence of his very existence and the motivation of this accepted wisdom. He was dedicated to providing the love and assistance to his family and fellow man, with often great personal and often emotional sacrifices to himself.

Not only did Gilbert love his family, but also he was dedicated to the ideals of his Church and to the freedoms of his country. He preserved

***Did you know? Belnap is the 24,025<sup>th</sup> most popular surname in the United States. (CBN)***

### **Belnap Family Reunion to be Held in Huntsville**

The 2002 Belnap Family Reunion, the 33<sup>rd</sup> since 1904, and the first since 1998, will be held in Huntsville, Utah on Saturday August 10, 2002.

This year's reunion has a patriotic theme and will begin at 10:30 a.m. with registration and *family gathering* at 11:00 a.m. The meetings,

his teachings, and some of the teachings of the great Prophets, in the form of letters and journals, providing us a means to travel back in time and to understand what life and freedom meant to him.

His writings were not just meant for the few interested in genealogy and family history, but for all of us, both now and in the future. His writings stand as a symbol of his own virtue and righteousness, his morality and dignity, his loyalty and love, not only of life, but also of the eternity of man.

Over the last years, numerous changes have been made or purposed and many more will need to be made in order to maintain the unity of this great organization. As the descendants of Gilbert Belnap, now numbering over 10,00 in at least 8 generations, grows even larger and become more distant from him, it is still our responsibility; our duty and our privilege to preserve this family organization, it's truly a noble cause.

### **Gilbert Family Organization By-Laws Purposed Changes**

Since the By-Laws of the Belnap Family organization were written in 1964, only minor changes have taken place and it is now proposed that new changes in the wording of this document be made.

According to our By-Laws: Article I reads...*the objective of the organization has been established to perpetuate the names and achievements of the men and women who bear the name Belnap and create a spirit of fellowship among their prosperity.* Purposed change to read: *the purpose and object for which this organization has been established is to perpetuate the names and achievements of the men and women who bear the name Belnap or who descend from a Belnap progenitor,*

Article IV purposed change:.....*Board of Directors of this organization....shall be encouraged to organize member family organizations and appoint one or more members (family officers) to serve on the Board of Directors, however each family listed above shall have one combined vote as members of the Board of Directors,....*

Section XVI: *The incumbents first, second and third vice-presidents shall be the only eligible candidates for the Office of President.* It is purposed that this section read: *All active members of the Belnap Family Organization are eligible for election to the office of President or Vice President subject to exclusion by....."*

These minor, but necessary changes reflect the growing concerns of some of the members of the Belnap Family and their change will continue the traditions and maintain our Belnap family unity.

### **Why Family Organizations?**

Those who believe in the eternal nature of the family unit appreciate the unity we have in family organizations. Family organizations do more than just supply family history and collect genealogy, but Family Organizations give us a sense of belonging and continuity.

Spencer W. Kimball said:

*Analysts of our modern time point out that in a fast-changing world, people suffer a kind of shock from losing a sense of continuity. The very mobility of our society means that our children are often moved from place to place and lose close contact with the extended family of grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins... It is important for us also to cultivate in our own family a sense that we belong together eternally, that whatever changes outside our home, there are fundamental aspects of our relationship, which will never change. We ought to encourage our children to know their relatives. We need to talk of them, make effort to correspond with them, visit them, join family organizations.....(Ensign, November 1974, p. 112).*

- A sense of continuity and belonging.
- Greater efficiency is achieved through sharing resources, and greater effectiveness results from pooling time and energies.
- Ancestral family organizations boast a lessened intimacy than smaller more personal family organizations, but with the strength of numbers it will increase noticeably.
- All organizations that concern themselves with ancestral names, all organizations that concern themselves added respect for their heritage. Knowledge of parents from the past helps us know and appreciate more fully the parents of the present.

### **A Piece of Utah Belnap Heritage is Lost to Time**

Numerous projects over the years have giving us joy when are goals were met, but we



**Figure 1. The Gilbert Rosel Home, Hooper, Utah, ca 1950.**

must be saddened when a piece of our heritage, which we had the means to save, is lost forever.

In 1976, the Belnap Family Organization instigated plans to restore the pioneer Hooper home of Gilbert Rosel Belnap. Contributions were made for this noble cause and a location at the Daughters of the Utah Pioneer's museum in Ogden was approved. In 1976, this structure was already in trouble, dilapidated walls, heavy snows and lack of maintenance caused its final destruction, yet its resurrection was still anticipated.

Further decay of the wood beams during the next two decades now allows for no hope for the home's reconstruction, but plans to build a diorama, a scale model in a natural setting, was discussed and approved during our last meeting. Its building is currently under exploration, but a person is needed to head the project and see it through to completion.

Anyone wishing to take part in the building of this diorama should contact the Belnap Family Organization President.

Another *noble cause*, planned but never completed, was the restoration of the headstones of Revolutionary War ancestor Jesse Belnap, along with the monument of his wife Eunice. On a recent visit to the Phillips Cemetery in North East, Pennsylvania, where both Jesse and Eunice were buried, I observed piles of gravestones throughout the cemetery, many of the gravestones are of Belnap family members. While Jesse Belnap's stone remained standing, it was in need of repair. Eunice Belnap's stone monument has not been so lucky. Flattened, it lies in several pieces; time is not on our side if we wish to save these 150-year-old monuments.

Methods to rescue these pieces of history from total destruction do exist, but specific do-



**Figure 2- Remains of Eunice Hall Belnap gravestone, as it looked on June 25, 2002.**

nations are needed in order to accomplish that task.

### **Nauvoo Temple Dedication**

On June 27, 2002, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, an exhilarating event took place. During the hot summer evening a newly constructed Nauvoo, Illinois Temple was officially dedicated. Tens of thousand gathered in Nauvoo for this special occasion and millions more watched the dedication via closed-circuit broadcasts.

On May 1, 1846, three months after Gilbert and Adaline had departed their Nauvoo home, the original Nauvoo Temple was dedicated. Most of the Nauvoo Saints had already left the city, and were making their way across the muddy hills of southern Iowa. Yet it was these Saints, unable to attend the temple's dedication, that had put much of their own life's savings and hard labor into the structure erection.

The original Nauvoo Temple was built using hand labor. No modern hydraulic equipment that exists today was used in its

construction, only oxen, pulleys and man were responsible for raising the giant blocks of limestone into place.

The hand labor provided in the temple's construction was in the form of able-bodied men, approximately 1200 of them, old and young alike. Women provided needed support by making clothes and providing the food to feed the large crews. Many of the men donated one day in ten as *tithing labor*. Food, money and supplies were solicited from everywhere. The construction of the temple became the center of Latter-Day Saints activities for over five years.

Gilbert Belnap arrived in Nauvoo during the temple's construction in 1844. His first trip to Nauvoo was in order to deliver three tons of groceries donated to the building of this temple.

Gilbert records;

*....viewed the foundation of a mighty temple with the baptismal font resting on the backs of twelve oxen, probably the first one built since the days of Solomon. I then went to the stone cutters shop, where the sound of many workmen's mallets and the sharpening of the smith's anvil all bore the unmistakable evidence of a determined purpose to complete the mighty structure.*

The original Nauvoo Temple was constructed from limestone blocks quarried in the outskirts of Nauvoo, while the new temple is built with a limestone exterior, a near duplicate of the original, but quarried in Alabama. The stone is said to be *indistinguishable* from the stone used on the original edifice.



**Figure 3- The newly reconstructed Nauvoo, Illinois Temple, June 27, 2002.**

Keeping with the exterior's original design, the interior was altered so that today's church members could best use it. The baptismal font, located in the basement and the Assembly Hall, located on the main floor, are the only two interior rooms reproduced to as near original as



**Figure 4- The upper Assembly Hall, Nauvoo Temple**

the 1846 structure.

The current temple is also built on the exact site as the original building was. It sits on the highest point in the city, overlooking the Mississippi River. It can be seen for many miles around.

For the early LDS Saints, the final days of the original Nauvoo Temple were filled with both times of extreme sadness and filled with much happiness. With the temple near completion, many of the Saints were preparing to leave the city and make their way west. The Saints remained busy selling their property, procuring supplies, and seeing that all was completed with the temples construction. Yet despite their lack of personal time, many of the faithful members did find the time to enter the newly completed temple in order to have their sealing and endowment work performed; helping to make them spiritual prepared for what lied ahead. On June 28, 2002, in his dedication talk, President Monson stated:

*.....the exodus of the Saints from Nauvoo in 1846 is far out numbered by the exodus of Saints coming into Nauvoo during this open house and dedication.*



It is reported that over 350,000 people visited the temple during open house alone and countless thousands for the dedication sessions.

The temple is a place of worship and dedicated to the Lord. The newly constructed Nauvoo Temple stands as a tribute to the hard work, and religious convictions of the early Saints, and as a monument to their memory.



**Figure 5—Early Nauvoo, Illinois. The Mansion Inn of Joseph Smith is in the right foreground** LDS Historical Department

### Gilbert's Nauvoo Days

Gilbert spent only two years of his life in the City of Nauvoo, yet he records some of the most memorable events of his life; the building of a temple, the meeting of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Prophet's martyrdom and the marriage to his first wife Adaline.

It was in the spring of 1844 that Gilbert completed his work in Kirtland and set out for the city of Nauvoo. Accompanying him on this journey were Alanson Pettingill<sup>1</sup> and Henry Moore, traveling in a wagon driven by Christopher Dixon.<sup>2</sup> The foursome traveled as far as Wellsville on the Ohio River, where Mr. Dixon returned to his home in Kirtland. Gilbert and his remaining companions boarded a steamboat, heading for St. Louis, Missouri.

<sup>1</sup> Alanson Pettingill was born 16 March 1801 in Butternuts, New York. He married Susanna Young in 1848, but he died the following February, 1849. Alanson was a member of Zion's Camp and a High Priest at Kirtland. He received his endowments in the Nauvoo Temple, 6 February 1846, just before his departure from the city.

<sup>2</sup> Christopher Dixon was born 6 May 1815 in Sackville, Canada the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Humphrey) Dixon. He migrated to Kirtland, Ohio and there married Jane Elizabeth Wightman. He was a farmer in Kirtland and was associated with the Vinson Knight property there. He died in Payson, Utah 12 September 1905.

### Gilbert Arrives in Nauvoo

Gilbert arrived in Nauvoo on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1844 and later recorded the event:

*On the first day of June 1844, late in the evening, I arrived in the delightful city of Nauvoo without a single cent in my pocket. After securely storing the goods in the ward house, I laid myself down to rest in the open air upon a naked slab.*

The following day Gilbert, anxious to meet the man who had delightfully changed his life, made his way toward the residence of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

*Observing and reflecting upon everything I saw and heard, I slowly pursued my course to the mansion of the Prophet. That day passed away, and Pettingill did not appear. Morning came and went, and not one face that I had ever seen before could I recognize as I walked the streets. I then returned to the mansion of the Prophet and after a short conversation with the bartender, who I afterwards learned was Orin Porter Rockwell, to my great satisfaction, I saw Pettingill and five others about to enter the building. After greeting my old friends heartily, I was introduced to the Prophet.*

### Gilbert Meets the Prophet Joseph



**Figure 6 —Joseph, Smith, prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** Illinois State Historical Society

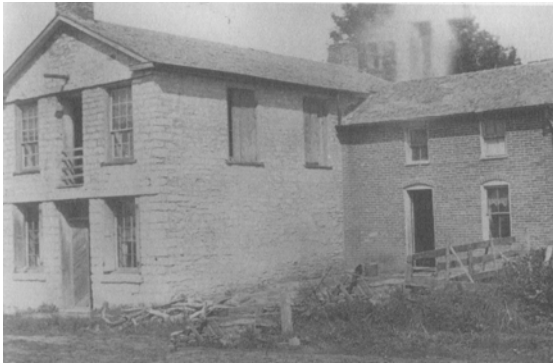
Gilbert's meeting of the Prophet Joseph had since fulfilled one of the deepest desires since joining the church. He records the event:

*His mild and penetrating glance denoted great depth of thought and extensive forethought.*

*While standing before his penetrating gaze, he seemed to read the very recesses of my*

*heart. A thousand thoughts passed through my mind. I had been permitted by the great author of my being, to behold with my natural eyes, a Prophet of the living God when millions had died and without that privilege, and to grasp his hand in mine, was a privilege that in early days, I did not expect to enjoy. I seemed to be transfigured before him. I gazed with wonder at his person and listened with delight to the sound of his voice. I had this privilege both in public and private at that time and afterwards.*

*Though, in after years, I may become cast away, the impression made upon my mind at this introduction can never be erased. The feeling which passed over me at this time is impressed upon me as indelibly and lasting as though it were written with an iron pen upon the tablets of my heart. My very destiny seemed to be interwoven with his. I loved his company; the sound of his voice was music to my ears. His counsels were good and his acts were exemplary and worthy of imitation. His theological reasoning was of God.*



LDS Historical Department

**Figure 7- Thomas Moor's Home and workshop in Nauvoo located on Block 123, lot 3**

*Thus, the first few days of my residence in Nauvoo was passed in forming new acquaintances, and greeting the old friends I chanced to meet. I soon became a workman in The shop of Thomas Moore<sup>3</sup> and boarded at the home of John P. Greene.<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Moore (Moor) was born 15 June 1801 while crossing the Atlantic Ocean between Belfast, Ireland and New York City. He was the son of Adam and Mary Moor. Thomas married Mahala Higby in Buffalo, New York in November 1825 and raised a family of at least nine children. He was baptized in April 1840 and resided in Nauvoo along with his parents and the rest of the Moor family. He was a Pioneer to Utah in 1847 and settled for a time in Salt Lake City, where he was a carriage maker. He later moved to Sacramento, California where he died 11 December 1868. His wife Mary is listed as a baptized member of the Reorganized Church in Sacramento.

<sup>4</sup> John Portineus Greene was born 3 September 1792/3 in Herkimer, New York, the son of John and Anne (Chapman) Green. He married Rhoda Young, sister to Brigham Young, 11 February 1813. Greene was a member of the Methodist Reformed Church and traveled three years preaching and in

### Under The Cover of Darkness

The times in Nauvoo were precarious for the members of the LDS Church and in particular its leader, Joseph Smith. Anti-Mormons were conspiring against them from all over the county, and in order to be prepared in case of mob trouble, Joseph would often sent out spies to infiltrate the mobs. Gilbert was often called out by Joseph Smith in the.....

*...performance of various duties. I did not regret the time spent on such missions as I considered them schools of experience to me. I will refer to one among many similar to it that I performed in those days.*

*There was to be held a convention of anti-Mormons in Carthage. I was required by the Prophet to form one of their number. With a promise of my fidelity to God, he assured me that not a hair of my head should fall to the ground, and if I followed the first impressions of my mind, I should not fail in the accomplishment of every object that I undertook. At times, when all human appearance, inevitable destructions awaited me, God would provide the means of escape.*

*When first I entered Carthage, I was interrogated by Joseph Jackson, Mark Barns, and Singleton as to what business I had there. I replied that I had business at the recorder's office. They, being suspicious of deception, went with me to the office. After examining the title of a certain tract of land, many impertinent questions were asked me, which I promptly answered. Then, a lowbred backwoodsman from Missouri began to boast of his powers in the murder of men, women and children of the Mormon Church and the brutal prostitution of women while in the state of Missouri and that he had followed them to the state of Illinois for that purpose. Without considering the greatness of their numbers, I felt like chastising him for his insolence. Just then, he made a desperate thrust at my bowels with his hunting knife, which penetrated all my clothing without any injury to my person. Nerved, as it were, with angelic power, I prostrated him to the earth, and with*

1828 formed the Methodist Protestant Church. Like others in the Young family, John was baptized in Mendon, New York 13 April 1832 and in short course made his way to Kirtland, Ohio, where he met the Prophet Joseph Smith and became life long intimate friends. From there he journeyed far and wide for the Church, both proselytizing and raising money for the building of the Kirtland Temple. Persecution in Missouri drove him and his family out and they took up temporary residence in Quincy, Illinois, before moving to Nauvoo. In Nauvoo he was a member of the City Council, a Missionary, a shoemaker and was the Nauvoo City Marshal, the Marshal given the charge of destroying the *Nauvoo Expositor* in June 1844. He died in Nauvoo on 10 September 1844. He was a tenant living on Block 24, lot no. 2.

one hand seized him by the throat, and with the other drew his knife. Had not Jackson grasped me by the arm between the hand and elbow, throwing the knife many feet in the air, I should not have been deprived of his natural life. Although my antagonist was still insensible, the prospects for my becoming a sacrifice to their thirst for blood were very favorable. Had not Jackson and others interfered in my behalf, it would have been so.

I afterward sat in council with delegates from different parts of the country and secured the resolutions passed by that assembly. I then returned in safety to Nauvoo, but not without a close pursuit by those demons in human shape, uttering the most awful imprecations, and bawling out to meet almost every jump to stop or they would shoot. My greatest fear was that my horse would fall under me. I thought of the instance of David Patton administering to a mule, which he was riding when fleeing before a similar band of ruffians. I placed my hands on either side of the animal and as fervently as I ever did, I prayed to God that his strength might hold out in order that I might bear the information, which I had obtained to the Prophet. There were no signs of failure in accomplishing this purpose until just opposite the tomb. My horse fell on his side in the mud. This seemed to be a rebuke for me for urging him on to such a tremendous speed. We were entirely out of danger and covered with mud by reason of the fall. I rushed into the presence of the Prophet and gave him a minute detail of all that had come under my observation during that short mission, whereupon W. W. Phelps, then acting as notary public, was called in and my deposition taken with regard to the movements of the people. Daniel Carns was deputed to bear this information to the governor, Thomas Ford.

**Affidavit, Canfield and Belnap Concerning Threats of Invasion From Missouri<sup>5</sup>**

Hancock County, June 18, 1844.

Personally appeared before me, Aaron Johnson<sup>6</sup>, a justice of the Peace, Cyrus Canfield and Gilbert Belnap, of Hancock County; and being duly sworn depose and say that on yesterday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1844, certain persons- to wit, Dr. Barnes and Joseph H. Jackson, having entered into conversation with your deponents,

<sup>5</sup> Published in Volume 6, page 502-3: *History of the Church*, Deseret Book Company, 1978.

<sup>6</sup> Aaron Johnson was born on 22 June 1806 in Haddam, Connecticut, the son of Didymus and Rahuma (Stevens) Johnson. He joined the LDS Church in the early days and was a member of the Kirtland Camp. He married his first wife, Polly Kelsey, in 1827. He was Chief Justice of Utah, farmer, Bishop and a member of the Nauvoo High Council. He served as a Lieutenant of the Nauvoo Legion and led a company of Saints to Utah in 1850. He died in Springville, Utah 10 May 1877.



**Figure 8- Justice of the Peace Aaron Johnson**

among other things declared that the Governor of Illinois was big a scoundrel as Joseph Smith, and that he is the d...dest scoundrel that was ever suffered to live; that they did not care for the Governor, and had rather that the Governor would side with Smith, that they (the mob) were coming to Nauvoo with a sufficient force to take Smith and if the people endeavored to prevent them, they should kill the people; and that if Smith had left Nauvoo, they had determined to destroy the Mansion and other buildings. And your deponents further say that one John Eller declared that he had lived in Missouri and was at the massacre of the Mormons at Haun's Mill, that he had killed one Mormon, and that he had left Missouri on purpose to fight the Mormons, and would hunt a Mormon as he would a deer. And your deponents further say that they heard that about one hundred persons had already arrived from Missouri, and were expecting as many more from that State. And your deponents further say, that they heard in Carthage that they had already received a number of guns and ammunition and provisions from St. Louis, in order to prosecute their attack upon Nauvoo. Ands, further your deponents say not....

Signed Cyrus Canfield,<sup>7</sup>  
Gilbert Belnap....

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this eighteenth day of June, 1844. Aaron Johnson, A Justice of the Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Cyrus Culver Canfield was born to Samuel and Sabrina (Davenport) Canfield on 20 Dec 1817. He was a member of the Mormon Battalion, serving as 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant in Company D and a member of the Weber County Militia. In 1854 he settled in the small community of South Weber (Uintah) and there became the settlements first schoolteacher. He died in December 1889 and is buried in Fallon, Nevada.

The people of Carthage, being suspicious of more men being sent as spies, waylaid the road and arrested Carns and took from him the deposition. In this way, my real name was known among the bitterest enemies of the Saints. This discovery subjected me to many privations caused through continual persecution. Before and after this time, frequent dissensions took place in the Church and political factions arose. Willful misrepresentations and calumny of the foulest kind were circulated with untiring zeal among the uncouth and ignorant. These, with writs of various kinds, were used to drag a man from the bosom of his friends. The very elements seemed to conspire against the Saints. That mighty engine, the press, with all its powers of dissimulation, was arrayed against them. The public arms were demanded in order to weaken the Saints' power to resist when invaded. Every artifice was resorted to, to accomplish the destruction of the Prophet.

When the storm cloud had lowered around the Prophet's head and the contending emotions of the discordant political factions surrounded him on every side, he set forth with determined purpose to fill his mission in an acceptable manner before his God and maintain the identity of the Saints. He upset the table of the moneychangers and set aside the tipping shop. In the fervency of his soul in connection with the common council, he declared the Nauvoo Expositor Press a nuisance. The city marshal, (John P. Greene), with a chosen band of men, fulfilled the decree of that council and disabled that the mighty engine of knowledge appropriated for the seduction of the Saints.

At length the evil day appeared and the dark cloud burst with fury over the Prophet's head. He appeared once more at the head of his favorite [Nauvoo] legion. They, however, surrendered the public arms and he gave himself a sacrifice for the people. Well I remember his saying, referred to in the latter part of the Doctrine and Covenants [D&C 135:4]: "Although I possessed the means of escape yet I submit without a struggle and repair to the place of slaughter." Where he said he would yet be murdered in cold blood; Gilbert writes.

I saw the forms of court and heard the many charges against him, which were refuted by plain and positive testimony. After this, he was committed to jail upon false accusation and myself and others lodged there with him.

During the time of his mock trial, he received the promise of protection from Thomas Ford, then governor of the state, and that he would go with him to Nauvoo. The governor went to that place without fulfilling this promise.

After his departure, the few Saints that were left in Carthage were expelled at the point of the bayonet, not, however, until the Prophet,

from the jail window, exhorted them for the sake of their own lives to go home to Nauvoo. I well remember those last words of exhortation, and the long and lingering look on the den of infamy for I did not consider that safe with such a guard. Thus, the Prophet, his brother Hyrum, Willard Richards, and John Taylor were left alone in the hands of those savage persons.

The afternoon previous to the martyrdom, we hurried to Nauvoo to announce the coming of the Prophet as was agreed by the governor Ford. But with him came not the beloved Prophet, which soon convinced the people that treachery of the foulest kind was at work. This cowardly, would-be-great man tried his best to intimidate the people. It was with difficulty, however, that some few could be restrained from making sad havoc among his troops. Had the Saints known the extent of his treachery, I am of the opinion that Nauvoo was of short duration, for well he knew the deep designs against the Prophet's life.

On the day of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum, Orrin Porter Rockwell<sup>8</sup>, remaining in Nauvoo, had a sudden inspiration. He had just visited the Mansion Inn and had inadvertently entered one of the upper rooms, where Governor Ford<sup>9</sup> was holding a private meeting. As Rockwell entered the room he briefly overheard some of the Governor words, but when he was suddenly noticed the room became abruptly quiet.



Figure 9- Orrin Porter Rockwell

The full meaning of what Rockwell had overheard did not make an immediate impact on him, but suddenly he realized the treachery of what the Governor spoke and he leaped upon his

<sup>8</sup> Orrin Porter Rockwell is a colorful individual in LDS History. He was born 25 June (alt. Jan) 1815 in New York, the son of Orrin and Sarah Porter. He was baptized in Fayette, New York 6 April 1830 and was a personal friend and bodyguard of Joseph Smith. He was one of the advanced party into the Salt Lake Valley in July 1847 and became a Deputy Marshal of Salt Lake City, where he died 9 June 1878.

<sup>9</sup> The ex-Governor Thomas Ford died in 1850 at Peoria, Illinois. At the time of his death his estate consisted of only a manuscript history of the State of Illinois, which was published in 1854.



horse, fearing for the safety of his friend Joseph. Accompanied by Gilbert Belnap, they sped for Carthage, but arrived too late. Governor Ford had deliberately left Carthage for Nauvoo with his militia, leaving the way open for the bloodthirsty *Carthage Greys* to do their homicidal deed. They killed Joseph and his brother and Hyrum, about five p.m. that day.

*As Porter and Belnap neared Carthage they saw a man coming in a buggy at full speed. He was a Mormon who had been near Carthage, and who, when he saw what was happening, and turned and fled, but not before the mob had spied him and some on horseback had come in pursuit. Porter and Belnap dismounted and with their rifles drove the mob back. (Improvement Era 1941)*

*In a few days, writes Gilbert, Sidney Rigdon arrived from Pittsburgh and set up his claims as guardian of the Church. Diversities of opinion prevailed among the people. In a meeting of the Saints, Brigham Young, then president of the Quorum of the Twelve, from a secluded retreat, appeared on the stand. There, in plainness and simplicity, he proved himself by ordination from the Prophet to be his legal successor. This is confirmed by Orson Hyde and other members of the Twelve.*

*After this, the Saints enjoyed a short respite from cruel strife but not without an almost endless drain of their substance by continued suits at law imposed on them by the ungodly. With united efforts, however, they strove to complete the [Nauvoo] temple of worship, which they desired to do if permitted by their enemies. Should they not complete the temple, the Saints, according to the revelations of God [D&C 124:30-33], were to be rejected together with their dead, but thanks to God, their work was acceptable and many were permitted to receive their endowments.*

#### **Gilbert Meets Adaline**

Gilbert became acquainted with Reuben McBride while living in Kirtland, Ohio. On one particular day, Reuben was in Nauvoo *on church business*, and the two met and *renewed their friendship*. Gilbert consented, to meet Reuben's niece Adaline Knight, and although Adaline was anxious to meet *Uncle Reuben's friend*, it was not until their third meeting did a courtship develop.

*Uncle Reuben has been teasing me about meeting his handsome young friend Gilbert Belnap, but didn't say he would bring Mr. Belnap to the house. Adaline stated.*



**Figure 10- Still possessing her curls in this early picture, Adaline and later her cousin Henrietta McBride, the wives of Gilbert, were**

On one particular Monday, following the tiresome chore of doing the wash and cleaning the house,

*I hastened up to the little room off the landing I shared with my sister. Drapes usually covered the door, but today they had been in the washing. I took off my dress and shook out my curls for a good brushing in front of the mirror. Just then I heard the front door open...and remembering the absence of curtains I just had time to catch a glimpse of a tall stranger. Two smiling black eyes met mine as he passed along the hall. I noticed he had black curly hair, and a black mustache waxed and curled in beau-catchers that almost hid a dimple in each cheek. (*Heritage With Honor*).*

Finally their third encounter presented itself. Gilbert arrived and invited Adaline and her family to accompany him on a carriage ride to attend a funeral. Adaline consented.

*After this Mr. Belnap was a welcome visitor to our home, she related.*

The courting between Gilbert and Adaline continued through a rather dark period of Nauvoo's history. Mobs were burning homes in the surrounding and nearly unprotected communities and threatening the Saints in Nauvoo. Nevertheless on December 21, 1845, at the home of Martha Knight, President Heber C. Kimball united the couple in matrimony.



The Revolutionary War was this countries first war of freedom. Previous wars only established the English Government with more land and more power, but did little to allow the citizens of the 'New World' to establish their own laws and own government, with rightful representation. Two of out ancestors were among those willing to defend their country and establish equal representation were Jesse Belnap and his son Jesse Belnap. During later confrontations, The War of 1812, The Civil War, The World Wars, Korea and The Vietnam conflict and even during peacetime, Belnap-Belnap family members continued to serve their country with honor and fidelity.

Jesse Belnap Sr., Gilbert's great grandfather, was born 4 April 1739 in Somers, Massachusetts (now Somers, Tolland, Connecticut),<sup>10</sup> the son of Samuel and Mary (Dickinson) Belnap. Jesse relocated to the northern backwoods of Vermont in 1771, settling one and a half miles east of the present village



**Figure 14-  
Castleton  
Meeting  
House, built  
in 1790 and  
removed in  
1838. Seen  
here is a  
drawing  
made in  
1798. Jesse  
Belnap  
attended  
town  
meetings in  
this edifice.**

Castleton, Vermont.<sup>11</sup> Jesse was an enterprising man and served as the town's first Justice of the Peace. When the convention of members to form the *Constitution of the States* was established, Jesse Sr. served as one of the Vermont representative, representing Castleton.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to the time Jesse Sr. gave service to his community, he also served in

Colonel Warren's Regiment of the Vermont Militia. Between May 1, 1779 to December 3, 1779, served in Captain Buell's Company, which was instrumental in scouting for the security of the frontier member of the Vermont.<sup>13</sup>

*B* Warren's (15) Reg't. Vermont Militia.

*Jesse Belnap*

Appears with the rank of \_\_\_\_\_ on a  
**Pay Roll**

for Captain, Ephraim Buell's Company in Col. Warren's Regiment of Militia For their Service Done yet in Scouting for the Security of the frontier Comencing the 1 of May, 1779, and ending 3 of December, 1779, the Money Being Due from the State of Vermont,

**(Revolutionary War.)**

Dated *June 11, 1781.*

Time when entered Service *May 1, 1779.*

Time when left the Service *Dec. 3, 1779.*

No. of Days in Service *5*

Wages per Month *L 2-0-0*

Amount of Wages Due *L 0-0-0*

No. of Rations Due *5*

No. Rations Drawn *3*

No. Rations Retained *2*

Money due for each Retained Ration } *L 0-0-8*

Amount of money due for Retained Rations } *L 0-1-4*

Total Amount of Wages and Retained Rations } *L 0-8-0*

Remarks:

*Hubbard*

(5467) *Copyist*

Money paid in the name of the State of Vermont. R. & P. 43, 626.

**Figure 15- Paymaster's record of  
Jesse Belnap Sr.**

Among Jesse children who provided service were Jesse Belnap, Gilbert's grandfather (see *Chaining the Hudson*), Augustine Belnap, quartermaster during the War of 1812, and Jesse Belnap Jr., who also provided service during the War of 1812.

Generation after generation the name of Belnap and Belnap appear on the archived rolls of the military. Names like John Jay Belnap, Gilbert's nephew, who lost his life during the Civil War, Thomas Derlin Belnap, Gilbert's brother, who served for both the U.S. and later with the

<sup>10</sup> Birth listed in Somers, Hampden Co., Massachusetts.

<sup>11</sup> Castleton was organized in March 1777.

<sup>12</sup> In the Spring of 1775, Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, Benedict Arnold and others met in Castleton for breakfast, making final arrangements for the attacks to be made on Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Crown Point.

<sup>13</sup> The only battle fought in Vermont took place only 5 miles from Jesse Sr.'s, home in Castleton. Known as the Battle of Hubbardton, it was lost to the British under General Burgoyne.





Figure 16- Location of the *Great Chain*, positioned across the Hudson River in 1777 (lower left corner).

Generations after generation members of the Belnap family have served in the military. Family members like Gilbert Rosel Belnap, who fought in the Indian Wars, Wallace Derlin Hammon, served in the U.S. Navy during World War I, Clarence "Bob" Belnap, served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Raiders during World War II (see *Raider's Tell Their Stories*), and Lt. Glen Dean Belnap, who gave his during the Vietnam conflict (see *The Virtual Wall*).

The number of Belnap veterans run into the hundreds, too many to mention in this short space, All of them have their own histories to tell. We, as members of the Belnap Family and of this *Great Nation*, are indebted to these brave individuals, who fought for our right to live and worship in Freedom. (Note: In future articles, if so permitted, a tribute to more of Belnap's military will be included in the *Crier*. Please send information you have to the *Crier* Editor for inclusion in future editions).

### Chaining of the Hudson

During the central point of the Revolutionary War, Jesse Belnap, Gilbert's grandfather, enlisted in the Continental Army as an artificer. Jesse's role was that of blacksmith.

With the British making assaults on the Hudson River strongholds, the army artificers were commissioned, in constructing a massive

floating chain across the Hudson River. To divert the British Ships, one chain had already been placed across the river, but this chain failed in its performance and was subsequently dismantled by the British.

In the summer of 1777 members of the Captain Stephen Osborn's blacksmith artificers, as well as ironworkers and the forges at Sterling Furnace in the Ramapo Mountains, were able to construct this larger second chain. Connected by forty huge log rafts, this giant chain was strung across the river. Each link weighed approximately 180 pounds and lay across the Hudson between Constitution Island and West Point.<sup>14</sup>

One of the blacksmiths working on the West Point chain was Jesse Belnap.

<sup>14</sup> This chain prevented the English from ascending the river in their armed ships, and the great objective of works on both sides of the river was to protect it. Twenty pieces of heavy artillery protected the chain from the shores. The roller on which the chain moved, maintained the slack and prevented any iron-beaked vessel from breaking it. As soon as the shock was broken, the chain could be immediately made tense, and the vessel must be turned aside and stranded on one or the other shore.



**Figure 17 – Preserved chain links that once crossed the Hudson River. Presently located at West Point Military Academy**

One of the blacksmiths working on the West Point chain was Jesse Belnap.

Jesse Belnap was born 31 August 1760 in Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, the son of Jesse and Eunice Belknap. He enlisted on 6 August 1777, from Hebron, for a term of three years and initially served under Captain Darius Wilcox and subsequently under Captain Stephen Osborn. Jesse served in New Windsor, New York, in the capacity of constructing chain and also served as an *Artillery Blacksmith* during the winter of 1777-1778, probably during his encampment at Danbury or at nearby Redding, Connecticut.

Following Jesse's discharge at Peekskill, New York in 1780, he made his way to the Cayuga Lake area of New York, and eventually settled near North East, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1854.

### ***The Patriot's War***

Gilbert Belnap was still a young boy when he joined a cause for injustice and lent support to his fellow Canadians. It was another case of British tyranny against their subjects. Because of his willingness to serve against the British, he gave up his own freedom, spending time imprisoned in a Toronto jail.

The so-called *Rebellion of 1837-1838*, or *Patriot's War*, had begun as a political movement in the 1834. The city of York had officially become the City of Toronto and Irishman MacKenzie, although unfavored by the English Crown, was elected Toronto's first Mayor. Within three years, MacKenzie had been ousted and quickly MacKenzie's *Central Committee* adopted a new *Declaration of Independence*, in opposition to the British Monarchy. In short order the English Royal Artillery troops were sent to disrupt the new governing body and MacKenzie decides on a coup d'état to take place on 7 December 1837.

Gilbert, who was then living in Ontario, residing *at the home Martial B. Stone*, writes:

*.....When the clarion of war sounded and the tumult of war was gathering thick around and the proclamation had gone forth for volunteers in to the cause of liberty I immediately flew to their Standard and hailed it as the harbinger of better Days. Being of A hardy Nature I Soon became inured to hardships of war. I attached myself to a company of light horse rangers and was soon promoted to the active station of first Sergeant. With the increase of responsibility grew my anxieties for the welfare for the welfare of My country.*

Not all Canadian's supported the rebellion, but troops were mustered on both sides of the conflict. In support of the English governing body, the inhabitants of New Castle<sup>15</sup> gathered 10,000 to 12,000 men in the defense of their capital, and the Queen. *Let no Man pretending to LOYALTY HANG BACK*,<sup>16</sup> was the cry in Coburg and the surrounding towns,<sup>17</sup> yet secret meetings were being held throughout the province gathering strong opposition.

The motives that led men into the campaign for Canadian Independence were varied. Hatred of all things British was a major factor and hatred was still felt in the U.S., a remnant of the British rule of the Colonies. Unemployment was also running high in the towns across the United States, due partly to the financial panic of 1837. Citizens of the Northern States, bordering Canada, were ready to embark upon any undertaking, which might improve their circumstance.<sup>18</sup>

Across Upper Canada and in the United States supporters were numbered at 15,000 to 200,000, but the government of the U.S. was trying to remain neutral. The Secretary of State wrote in December 1837;

*....that we shall abstain, under every temptation, from intermeddling with the domestic disputes of other nations.*<sup>19</sup>

As the conflict unfolded arrests numerous raids and battles took place, most with an unfavorable outcome for the rebels. Arrests for any insurrection against the Canadian

<sup>15</sup> Gilbert was born in New Castle District in 1821.

<sup>16</sup> Recruiting Poster for the Queens Royal Borderers, Brockville.

<sup>17</sup> The Queen's Royal Borderers were offered \$8 bounty, a new suit of clothes, and a great coat, pair of boots and a "free gift," within sixty days following their discharge.

<sup>18</sup> *The Lives and Times of the Patriots*, by Edwin Guillet

<sup>19</sup> Forsyth to Attorneys in the Border States, Dec 7, 1837.



government came by the thousands,<sup>20</sup> but an eyewitness states that not one-third of militia had arms of any kind;

*.....while the rest had nothing better than pitchforks, rusty swords, dilapidated guns, and newly manufactured pikes, with an occasional bayonet on the end of a pole.*<sup>21</sup>

The under equipped *rebellion forces* were easily taken prisoner by the well armed British and Tory soldiers. Gilbert was taken prisoner about September 1838 and was taken, to and imprisoned in the Toronto jail. There he had first hand knowledge and experienced the deplorable conditions of the jail and the suffering of those who had been incarcerated.<sup>22</sup>

On April 12, 1838 two supporters being held in the Toronto jail were executed and many more sentenced to die for their transgressions. In the Toronto jail, a condemned prisoner wrote:

*...they were cooped up with 28-29 in two small rooms. They were not fettered, though the clanking of chains could be heard through the partitions, where other Patriot prisoners were more closely confined. There windows were boarded up and no newspapers were allowed in the jail, but friend sent in a plentiful supply of books, and those who did not care to read spent the time in carving and similar activities.*<sup>23</sup>

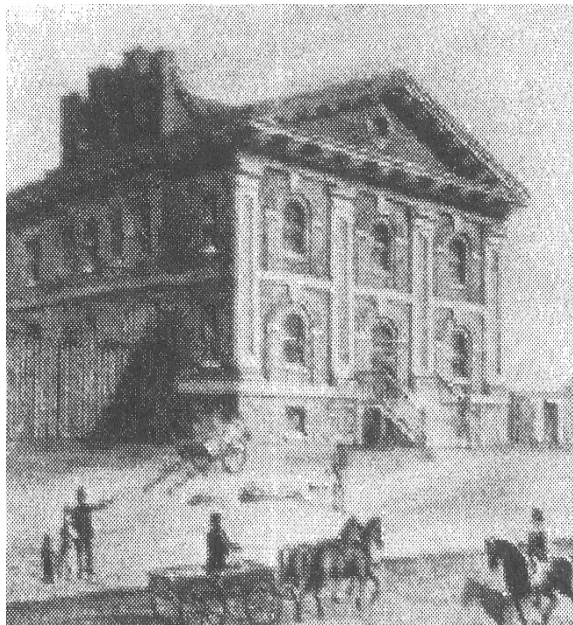
Gilbert's own experience within the confines of the jail, support the above-recorded deprivation.

*Through long confinement and the habitual wearing of Sixty pounds of irons for nearly ten months and the lack of food, our pale and haggard appearance together with our weak and faltering step contributed in no small degree to arouse ...sympathies....*

As the weeks of confinement passed, treatment of the prisoners became harsher. Many prisoners suffered from the debilitating effect of cold and damp cells. William Alves refers to the excessive cold, wet and frost which he

experienced in Toronto jail,<sup>24</sup> while other suffered from pneumonia or disease.<sup>25</sup>

A comment of the *Toronto Patriot* gives a secondary report of their suffering:



**Figure 18- The Toronto Jail**

*The scene was one of most intense interest the space in front of the dock was crowded with prisoners, whose bleached and sunken countenances show the inward misery of their bosoms.*

With the defeat of the rebels eminent, those who took part and were not taken prisoner, fled to the United States. Many of those who fled were later granted pardons by the Canadian Government under an official proclamation.<sup>26</sup> However, fifty-nine of the rebel leaders were banished for life and numerous of the leaders executed.

It was several years following the close of the war that all of the prisoners were released,

<sup>20</sup> While in the vicinity of Toronto, Hamilton and London arrests were made wholesale; in other district comparatively few were apprehended.

<sup>21</sup> *The Lives and Times of the Patriots*, Guillet

<sup>22</sup> Each prisoner, as he was taken, was tied to a rope; and when Toronto was reached a string of fifty prisoners, all fastened together were marched in. Those arrested during the *Patriot's Insurrection* were imprisoned either in the district jails, British fortifications or on prison ships. Conditions of local jails appear to be worse.

<sup>23</sup> Reverend John Doel

<sup>24</sup> In 1827 construction of the new Toronto jail was completed, ten years later the jail would be used as a housing for rebellious Canadian citizens, trying to win freedom from tyrannous British. The jail was a red brick building with walls 40 inches thick and surrounded by a 15-foot fence. It was built on King Street on the northeast corner of Toronto Street. By 1840 the building became an insane asylum. The most infamous hangings in the history of Upper Canada included two men by the name of Lount and Matthews, who were executed for their part in the Rebellion of 1837.

<sup>25</sup> *The Lives and Times of the Patriots*, Guillet

<sup>26</sup> The first, amnesty (1 Victoria c. 10) was passed on March 6, 1838. According to their prominence in the revolt conditional pardon to minor participants was granted.

many being held on board the British *prison ships*. Those prisoners suffered the cruelest of hardships, with countless deaths from their treatment as forced laborers. Eventually the remaining captives were returned and released either in the United States or in Canada.

Those considered only minor participants and had been incarcerated in the district jails, including Toronto, were transported to the U.S. border and released. Gilbert records:

*Through the politeness of the British Government on the of Nineteen of June 1839 I was escorted to Lewiston (New York) on the Shores of the United States... in the Midst of the acclamations of assembled thousands of American People who welcomed us as Brothers in the Cause of liberty. Though Mere Skeletons we ware objects of pity and commiseration . . . to learn from our own lips the hardships of war and the struggles for liberty western horizon the distant boom of artillery aroused every sleeper from his silent place of repose to participate in the festivities of the day for be it remembered that the anniversary of American Independence the memorable Fourth of July had again dawned upon the Sons and Daughters of America in the year eighteen hundred thirty nine. For eight Days we partook of the abundant luxuries of that noble hostess free of cost*

The rejoice of the newly release prisoners now reached the United States. The situation rapidly turned into a lively offshoot of the Independence Day celebration. Even with the failure of the rebels to free Canada, many of the citizens of Michigan and New York, who had been involved in the conflict, were now freed and returned home to their families.

*On July 4, 1839, a patriot celebration was held in the Steamboat Hotel, Detroit. After the usual patriotic toots the whole of the speaking was devoted to the wrongs of Canada....<sup>27</sup>*

*If I could at that time have commanded language to have given expression to my gratitude it would have been founded as deep as ever glowed within the humane breast ....<sup>28</sup>*

### Belnap's In The News

Several recent articles pertaining to Belnap family members have recently appeared in local newspapers or the Internet.

*Donald E. Belnap and Sharon Anderson of Ogden celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at a dinner with family in the Gold Room at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. They were wed June 12, 1952 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. (StandardNet, Sunday, June 23, 2002).*

Donald is a grandson of Hyrum Belnap and the son of Arias Guy Belnap and presently serves as Belnap Family Organization board members.

Not mentioned in printed form, but remains newsworthy, is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gordon Belnap and Joy McArthur. They were wed on 11 July 1952 in the Logan LDS Temple. He is the grandson of Hyrum. Gordon has served as past president of the Belnap Family Organization and Editor of the *Crier*. Joy is the current Secretary-Treasurer of the Belnap Family Organization, a position she has held for a number of years.

Two other articles have appeared in the Standard-Examiner. On Saturday June 15, 2002 an article appeared relating to the experiences of Joy Belnap attended the dedication of the *Monuments to Women in Nauvoo*. Excerpts from her journal memories were printed.

Another article: ***Had I Been Permitted to Behold a Prophet***, appeared in the June 22, 2002 edition. The article, a reprint of Gilbert's Autobiography, relating to the time he spent in Nauvoo. The information presented to the newspaper was submitted by Gilbert's great-granddaughter Lois B. Erickson of Pleasant View. She, like her brothers Donald and Gordon, listed above, descend through son Hyrum Belnap.

***The Presidential Service Award*** of BYU-Idaho (formerly Ricks College), was presented to Wally and Carol Belnap, a descendant of Oliver Belnap.

*Both Wally and Carol come from the Snake River Valley, where he participated in athletic, music and theater. They married 2 January 1947 and have 7 children, 34 grandchildren and 11 great children. In 1969 they moved to Arizona where they presently live. Wally was a business developer and builder, owning a lumberyard and public utility for water. Busy with family and hobbies.*

### Top Scholars in Central Utah

Shilo Belnap was the winner of that honor for Business and Marketing. He attends Gunnison Valley High School. Shilo, is the son of Brett Lyle and Sherry Belnap, and is the great

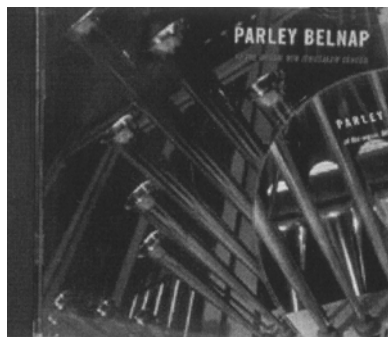
<sup>27</sup> *The Lives and Times of the Patriots*, Guillet

<sup>28</sup> Gilbert Belnap journal

great great grandson of Gilbert Belnap through Augustus Weber.

The honors presented were in 14 categories and presented to the top high school students, in April 2002, at North Sevier High School. The winners receive cash awards and opportunities for scholarships offered by 15 institutions of higher learning. (Desert News, May 6, 2002)

**Parley Belnap At the Organ**, a CD presented by Salt Lake Tabernacle Guest Organist Parley Belnap is available at the BYU Bookstore.



**Levi Byram Hammon  
and Martha Jane  
Belnap, Gold Medal  
Pioneers**

**written and compiled by Don Hammon, is a biography and genealogy of Gilbert Belnap's eldest daughter and her husband. The book is hardbound, containing nearly 500 pages and over 100 photos and documents relating to the Belnap, Knight and Hammon families, including two five generation pictures. Copies are available from Don Hammon, 4411 Geary Blvd., Ste 100 San Francisco, CA 94118. Price \$25.00.**

### In Memoriam

Since publication of the 1997 *CRIER*, the Belnap Family has received the following deaths. To have your family's vital statistics printed in future issues of the *CRIER*, please contact your Family Representative.

MICHAEL GORDON SQUIRES (#3 child of Leslie Gordon and Margaret Sarah Belnap Squires, #3 child of Roswell Cole and Inez Powell Belnap, #4 child of Gilbert Rosel and Sarah Jane Cole Belnap) died 22 April 2000 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 26 April 2000 in Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

WESLEY JACK TAYLOR (husband of Delores Rachael Wilson Taylor, #2 child of Lester James and Cora Mae Belnap Wilson, #2 child of Reuben Augustus and Clara May Pope Belnap, #1 child of Reuben and Lucien Vilate Hammon Belnap) died 9 December 1998 in Farmington, Davis, Utah. Buried 14

December 1998 in Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

MARTY DEWAYNE CROXFORD (#4 child of Franklin DeWayne and Clara Mae Wilson Croxford, #1 child of Lester James and Cora Mae Belnap Wilson, #2 child of Reuben Augustus and Clara May Pope Belnap, #1 child of Reuben and Lucien Vilate Hammon Belnap) died 21 August 1999 in Englewood, Arapahoe, Colorado. Cremated.

WARREN CURTIS WHEELWRIGHT (#2 child of Heber and Greta Johnson Wheelwright, #1 child of Benjamin Albin and Augusta Permelia Belnap Johnson, #2 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 17 August 1999 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 21 August 1999 in Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

BETH GOLDIE SWARD WHEELWRIGHT (wife of Warren Curtis Wheelwright, see above) died 10 November 1998 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah. Buried 14 November 1998 in Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

SYLVIA SPERRY PRESTON (#3 child of Ivo John and Lenea Muriel Johnson Sperry, #2 child of Benjamin Albin and Augusta Permelia Belnap Johnson, #2 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 7 May 1997 in Pendleton, Umatilla, Oregon. Buried 10 May 1997 in Skyview Memorial Park, Pendleton, Umatilla, Oregon.

JOSEPH REESE WILLIAMS (#6 child of Hyrum and Lodasca Belnap Williams, #3 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 29 September 1999 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 2 October 1999 in Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

RAYMOND FRONGNER (husband of Mama Mildon Marriott Drysdale Frongner, #3 child of Luke George and Mildred Williams Mildon, #2 child of Hyrum and Lodasca Belnap Williams, #3 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 20 January 1999 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 23 January 1999 in Memorial Gardens of the Wasatch, South Ogden, Weber, Utah.

SALLY ANN CHUGG VAN WOERKOM (wife of Clark Van Woerkom, #3 child of Melvin Joseph and Eva Joyce Nichols Van Woerkom, #1 child of John and Dorothy Williams Van Woerkom, #4 child of Hyrum and Lodasca Belnap Williams, #3 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 13 January 2000 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 17 January 2000 in Ben Lomond/North Ogden City Cemetery, North Ogden, Weber, Utah.

LYNNE BEUS JOHNSTON (husband of Eleanor Ross Johnston, #2 child of Leonard Belnap and Verna Pearl Saunders Ross, #2 child of Aaron Covington and Tirzah Adaline Belnap Ross, #4 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 20 April 1999 in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona. Buried 24 April 1999 in Young, Gila, Arizona.

KARMA MAE SMITH BELNAP (wife of Amos Kay Belnap, #2 child of Amos and Mary Setyra Weaver Belnap, #8 child of Joseph and Minerva Permelia Howard (Fisk) Belnap) died 16 January 2000 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. Buried 21 January 2000 in Cloverdale Cemetery, Boise, Ada, Idaho.

ANNA RUTH MESSERSMITH STOKER (wife of Jesse Lee Stoker, #5 child of Lorenzo and Polly Adaline Hammon Stoker, #3 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 13 September 2000 in Tempe, Maricopa, Arizona. Buried 16 September 2000 in Washington Heights Memorial Park, South Ogden, Weber, Utah.

ROMA BAKER FIFE MUNSON (#1 child of William Amasa and Verlie Rose Hunsaker Baker, #5 child of William Nathan and Jane Hammon Baker, #4 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 22 August 2000 in Colton, San Bernardino, California. Buried 31 August 2000 in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California.

HELEN SESSIONS FLINT HAMMON (wife of Wallace Derlin Hammon, #1 child of Levi Derlin Hammon and Emma Hawkeswood Hammon Clark, #5 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 1 January 1998 in Yucaipa, San Bernardino, California. Buried 5 January 1998 in Yucaipa, San Bernardino, California.

LEO WAYNE EASTMAN (husband of Marleen Venable Eastman, #4 child of Marvin Charles and Matilda Jane Stoker Venable, #2 child of Jesse Stoker and Lettie Matilda Hammon Stoker Taylor, #8 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 23 May 1998 in Roy, Weber, Utah. Buried 29 May 1998 in Roy City Stoker Memorial Cemetery, Roy, Weber, Utah.

ANNIE WESTON STOKER (wife of Leslie Willis Stoker, #3 child of Jesse Stoker and Lettie Matilda Hammon Stoker Taylor, #8 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 13 October 2000 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 18 October 2000 in Roy City Stoker Memorial Cemetery, Roy, Weber, Utah.

MILDRED HAMMON BURNINGHAM HILL (#1 child of Amasa Marion and Edith Ann Hobson Hammon, #9 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 21 November 1997 in Clearfield, Davis, Utah. Buried 24 November 1997 in Leavitt's Aultorest Memorial Park, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

MARTHA CORA KENDALL GREENWELL (wife of Walter L. Greenwell, #1 child of Lancelot and Betsy Robena Hammon Greenwell, #11 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 16 June 1998 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 19 June 1998 in Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

VERNE LANCE GREENWELL (#5 child of Lancelot and Betsy Robena Hammon Greenwell, #11 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 19 June 2002. Buried 24 June 2002 in the Ogden City Cemetery.

NEDRA MCFARLAND GREENWELL (former wife of Verne Lance Greenwell, #5 child of Lancelot and Betsy Robena Hammon Greenwell, #11 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 20 June 2000 in Washington Terrace, Weber, Utah. Buried 23 June 2000 in Plain City Cemetery, Plain City, Weber, Utah.

LEWIS HAMMON GREENWELL (#6 child of Lancelot and Betsy Robena Hammon Greenwell, #11 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 13 December 2000 in Washington Terrace, Weber, Utah. Buried 18 December 2000 in West Weber Cemetery, West Weber, Weber, Utah.

MAREE LOWE GREENWELL (wife of Kenneth C. Greenwell, #1 child of Lewis Hammon and Una Cottle Greenwell, #6 child of Lancelot and Betsy Robena Hammon Greenwell, #11 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 6 September 2000 in American Fork, Utah, Utah. Buried 11 September 2000 in West Weber Cemetery, West Weber, Weber, Utah.

DARLENE MCENTIRE DOWNS IVES (#5 child of Horace Alexander and Ethel Hammon McEntire, #14 child of Levi Byram and Martha Jane Belnap Hammon) died 21 July 2000 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 25 July 2000 in Ogden City Cemetery, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

BLAINE YEAMAN DOWNS (former husband of Darlene McEntire Downs Ives, see above) died 13 February 2000 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 17 February 2000 in Leavitt's Aultorest Memorial Park, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

GLADYS BELNAP CARWIN (#6 child of Hyrum and Anna Constantia Bluth Belnap) died 1 February 1999 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Cremated.

EMMETT CARWIN (husband of Gladys Belnap Carwin, see above) died 13 January 2001 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Cremated.

MILDRED BELNAP EVANS (#3 child of Arias Guy and Mabel Harris Belnap, #2 child of Hyrum and Anna Constantia Bluth Belnap) died 12 April 2000 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. Buried 19 April 2000 in Logan City Cemetery, Logan, Cache, Utah.

PATRICIA TAYLOR KERR (wife of Knight Belnap Kerr, #2 child of Walter Affleck and Marion Adaline Belnap Kerr, #3 child of Hyrum and Christiana Rasmussen Belnap) died 27 September 1997 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 1 October 1997 in Salt Lake City Cemetery, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

MYRTLE ESTHER SHIRLEY BELNAP (wife of Earl Read Belnap, #6 child of Augustus Weber and Mary Read Belnap) died 21 July 1998 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 25 July 1998 in Holladay Memorial Park, Holladay, Salt Lake, Utah.

LINA MAE HANSEN BELNAP (wife of Ezra Leonard Belnap, #8 child of Augustus Weber and Mary Read Belnap) died 24 December 2000 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 29 December 2000 in Holladay Memorial Park, Holladay, Salt Lake, Utah.

FLORENCE NATELLA BELNAP MACHEN (#1 child of David Evan and Avis Linnie Baker Belnap, #4 child of Amasa and Lillian Rosemond Garner Belnap) died 5 October 1999 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. Buried 9 October 1999 in Burton Cemetery, Burton, Madison, Idaho.

RONDA EARL BELEW (#6 child of Lewis Joseph and Carol Law Earl, #2 child of Milford Robert and Edith Lowe Law, #7 child of John Alexander and Adaline Lorinda Belnap Lowe) died 5 October 2000 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 9 October 2000 in Rear River City Cemetery, Bear River City, Box Elder, Utah.

LEONA LOWE WISER (#6 child of Joseph Heber and Mary Louisa Belnap Lowe) died 26 August 1999 in Logan, Cache, Utah. Buried 30 August 1999 in Lewiston City Cemetery, Lewiston, Cache, Utah.

EUGENE GRANT HASTINGS (husband of Mary Smith, #2 child of John and Vemna Eliza Lowe Smith, #1 child of Joseph Heber and Mary Louisa Belnap Lowe) died 14 April 1998 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 18 April 1998 in Valley View Memorial Park, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

EUNICE COOLBEAR SMITH (#7 Child of David William and Lola Almira Belnap Coolbear) died 24 February 1998 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 28 February 1998 in Mountain View Memorial Estates, Sandy, Salt Lake, Utah.

DORALD PAUL SMITH (husband of Eunice Coolbear Smith, see above) died 19 May 1999 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 22 May 1999 in Mountain View Memorial Estates, Sandy, Salt Lake, Utah.

ELIZABETH FOWLER COOLBEAR (wife of Delbert Willis Coolbear, #8 child of David William and Lola Almira Belnap Coolbear) died 28 February 2000 in West Jordan, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 2 March 2000 in Valley View Memorial Park, Salt Lake City, Utah.

EVELYN MAY COTTLE SINGLETON (#3 child of Henry Alexander and Anna May Belnap Cottle, #3 child of William Oscar and Louisa May Parker Belnap, #1 child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts Belnap) died 12 June 1999 in West Point, Davis, Utah. Buried 15 June 1999 in West Point City Cemetery, West Point, Davis, Utah.

MARION BELNAP WILLIAMS (# child of James Gilbert and Chloe May Beus, #2 child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts) died 28 April, 2001 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah.

KENNETH LEE BELNAP (#9 child of James Gilbert and Chloe May Beus Belnap, #2 child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts Belnap) died 15 July 1999 in Clearfield, Davis, Utah. Buried 20 July 1999 in Hooper Cemetery, Hooper, Weber, Utah.

LYMAN HARVEY COOK (#1 child of Harvey Belnap and Jennie Afton Skeen Cook, #2 child of Harvey Oscar and Etta Eliza Belnap Cook, #4 child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts Belnap) died 17 January 2001 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 20 January 2001 in Plain City Cemetery, Plain City, Weber, Utah.

BERT EUGENE COOK (#3 child of Harvey Belnap and Jennie Afton Skeen Cook, #2 child of Harvey Oscar and Etta Eliza Belnap Cook, #4 child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts Belnap) died 24 November 1998 in Roy, Weber, Utah. Buried 28 November 1998 in Plain City Cemetery, Plain City, Weber, Utah.

CHALYCE UTAHNA WALDRON (Child of Arlene Belnap and Lyle Waldron, # 3 child of LeGrande Belnap and Utahna Perry, # 3 child of Henry Belnap and Ida Loveland, # 5 child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts) died 4 March 2001 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

SPENCE ORCHARD BOWDEN (husband of Jean Perkes Bowden, #2 child of Asa Virgil and Ethel Belnap Perkes, #6 child of Oliver Mead and Jael Laven Hatch Belnap, #1 child of Oliver and Margaret Ann Manning Belnap) died 25 September 2000 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah. Buried 30 September 2000 in Memorial Gardens of the Wasatch, South Ogden, Weber, Utah.

RALPH HERMAN KMETZSCH (husband of Priscilla Gene Belnap Kmetzsch, #3 child of Henry William and Priscilla Cooper Belnap, #2 child of Oliver and Margaret Ann Manning Belnap) died 7 January 2001 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 11 January 2001 in Larkin Sunset Gardens, Sandy, Salt Lake, Utah.

MARVIN MATHIAS BENSON (#1 child of Mathias Julius and Margaret Belnap Benson, #3 child of Oliver and Margaret Ann Manning Belnap) died 17 October 2000 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. Buried 23 October 2000 in Cloverdale Cemetery, Boise, Ada, Idaho.

SONJA BENSON KELSEY (#1 child of Marvin Mathias and Marie Gambling Grunder Benson, see above) died 16 October 2000 in Layton, Davis, Utah. Buried 21 October 2000 in Lindquist's Memorial Park, Layton, Davis, Utah. At the time of her death she was serving as a Family Representative for the Oliver Belnap line.

HENRIETTA BELNAP RUBY MCNEELY BOOTHE (#2 child of Oliver and Anna Barbara Leuenberger Belnap) died 14 December 1999 in Preston, Franklin, Idaho. Buried 20 December 1999 in St. George City Cemetery, St. George, Washington, Utah.

RICHARD CHARLES MCNEELY (#2 child of Harry and Henrietta Belnap Ruby McNeely Boothe, see above) died 25 April 2000 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 6 May 2000 in Valley View Memorial Park, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

JOYCE DOTSON TONKS (#1 child of Carl Christopher and Flora Belnap Dotson, #4 child of Oliver and Anna Barbara Leuenberger Belnap) died 27 October 1999 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. Buried 2 November 1999 in Lincoln Cemetery, Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.

VOLETTA BELNAP BLANCH (#11 child of Francis Marion and Lillis Subina Robinson Belnap) died 5 January 2000 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 10 January 2000 in Hooper Cemetery, Hooper, Weber, Utah.

JOHN RAY BLANCH (husband of Voletta Belnap Blanch, see above) died 6 October 1998 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 10 October 1998 in Hooper Cemetery, Hooper, Weber, Utah.

THELBORN JAMES STANFORD (husband of Norma Vemness Belnap Stanford, #2 child of John Marion and Zina Hattie Taylor Belnap, #3 child of Francis Marion and Lillis Subina Robinson Belnap) died 14 September 1998 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 17 September 1998 in Hooper, Utah.

RUBY SUITER HADLEY BELNAP (wife of Marion Kimball Belnap, #3 child of John Marion and Zina Hattie Taylor Belnap, #3 child of Francis Marion and Lillis Subina Robinson Belnap) died 26 April 1998 in Roy, Weber, Utah. Buried 29 April 1998 in Hooper Cemetery, Hooper, Weber, Utah.

MYRTLE LAVON BELNAP DUNCAN MOZLEY (#2 child of Orson Victor and Mary Myrtle Farr Belnap, #7 child of Francis Marion and Lillis Subina Robinson Belnap) died 9 November 2000 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 14 November 2000 in Salt Lake City Cemetery, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.



VALERIE LYNN BELNAP CHRISTENSEN (#2 child of Wayne Farm and Vola Claire Meyer Belnap, #3 child of Orson Victor and Mary Myrtle Farm Belnap, #7 child of Francis Marion and Lillis Subina Robinson Belnap) died 5 September 2000 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 8 September 2000 in Murray City Cemetery, Murray, Salt Lake, Utah.

EVELYN JEANE BIBERSTON STODDARD (wife of Edger Bert Stoddard, #3 child of Charles Augustus and Nola Gertrude Melton Stoddard, #3 child of John Francis and Isadora Estella Belnap Stoddard) died 20 June 1999 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Buried 28 June 1999 in Roosevelt City Cemetery, Roosevelt, Duchesne, Utah.

DORIS LOWDER PATTERSON (wife of Jen Alex Patterson, #5 child of Alexander Holdaway and Henrietta Mabel Stoddard Patterson, #4 child of John Francis and Isadora Estella Belnap Stoddard) died 8 September 1999 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 13 September 1999 in Leavitt's Aultorest Memorial Park, Ogden, Weber, Utah.

ROBERT GEORGE PHIPPS (husband of Ann Olive Stoddard Phipps, #2 child of Earl Seymour and Helen Olive Froerer Stoddard, #12 child of John Francis and Isadora Estella Belnap Stoddard) died 29 July 1998 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Buried 1 August 1998 in Hooper Cemetery, Hooper, Weber, Utah.

### The Virtual Wall

While "surfing" the Internet the other day, I ran across *The Virtual Wall*, in remembrance of Glen Dean Belnap. It included a profile of Glen as well as a location to post your remembrances.

Glen Dean Belnap was the son of Glen Vord Belnap and Lydia Jeweldine Clevenge, a great grandson of Gilbert through grandfather Vinson Knight. Glen was born 18 January 1923, in Ogden Utah. He married Jeanne Simmons on 30 June 1945 at Fort Benning, Georgia and was the father of three boys, David, Douglas and Phillip.

Glen served in the United States Army in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Unit Commander. Glen lost his life as the helicopter he was a passenger took enemy fire over Kontum Province, December 20, 1967. Glen is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. and his name appears on the Vietnam Memorial Wall: Location 32E-029.

### Four Marine Raiders Tell War Stories At University, a Deseret News Story.

*Four Veterans of the World War II Marine Corps raider battalions regaled a University of Utah audience with stories that ran the gamut from fierce fighting in the South*

*Pacific to liberating an enemy brewery and its drunken consequences*, writes Joe Bauman, Deseret News staff writer in his November 9, 2001 article.

The four veterans represented the four raider battalions that operated from 1942 to 1944. Among the panelists was Clarence "Bob" Belnap, a Bountiful, Utah resident and descendant of Gilbert Belnap.

The daylong Veterans Day celebration featured a panel discussion at the university, which took place last year. The Utah National Guard and Granite School District Choir performed a free concert and closed with the rededication of the refurbished Fort Douglas bandstand.

### Hooper School Census, 1877

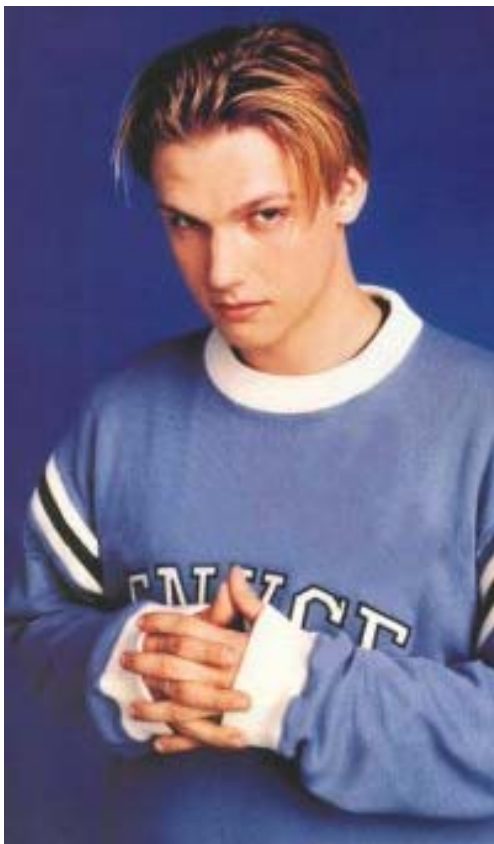
Five of Gilbert Belnap appeared in the 1877 Hooper School Census. They are:

Adline Belnap	Aug 1868
Amasa Belnap	Jun 1866
Mary Belnap	Dec 1871
Sarah Belnap	Dec 1870
Vinson Belnap	Jun 1863

### Nick and Aaron Carter's Belnap Connection

Not sure who Nick and Aaron Carter are? Just ask your kids or maybe for you more mature grown-ups, your grandchildren. If they're into the *pop culture*, like a good number of today's kids are, they'll be all too familiar with the famous Carter brothers. But these famous brothers have something in common with the Belnap family, a common Belnap heritage.

At age 22, Nick Carter is the youngest member of the pop group, *The Backstreet Boy*. For the last half-decade, the group has produced hits like; *I Want it That Way*, *Show Me the Meaning and Like a Child*. Nick's younger brother Aaron, now age 14, has been performing for 7 years. At age 7, while attending *Rock School* in Orlando, Florida, Aaron was grouped together with other young vocalists and formed the band, *Dead End*. After two years together and following an appearance on stage during a *Backstreet Boys*



**Figure 19-Nick Carter singer in the group of the *Back Street Boys***

concert, Aaron *stole the show* and his popularity began to grow.

Since his debut, Aaron Carter has continued to rise in popularity and has received the *Favorite Rising Star Award* at the *Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards* and rave reviews as *Jojo*, *the Who*, in the Broadway hit musical *Seussical the Musical*. He ranks no. 52 (2001) on the *Rolling Stones's Hot 100 Artists*. His third album *Oh Aaron*, had its debut in August 2001. Sister Leslie Carter, also an inspiring young singer has released her new single; *I Need to Hear From You*.

In correspondence with the Carter boy's grandfather, Charles Spaulding, he has gratefully supplied me with some details of the genealogy and history of the Spaulding-Carter families, and their connection to our own Belnap ancestors. Eunice Belnap, daughter of Jesse and Eunice (Hall) Belnap was born 20 August 1784 in New York State. Eunice was the aunt to Gilbert Belnap, being the older sister of his father Rosel.

In 1790 both the Belnap and Phillips families in Montgomery County, New York, with both families migrating further west settling for a time near Genoa, Cayuga County, New York. It is supposed that while there Eunice married Buel



**Figure 20- The *Little Prince of Pop*, Aaron Carter** Aaron Carter.com

Phillips and from this union they bore three sons; Darias (born 10 Aug 1807), Jesse (born 19 May 1809) and Elam Phillips (born 4 March 1811).

In 1812, Jesse Belnap moved his family to the eastern shore of Lake Erie. They were soon followed by the family of Buel and Eunice Phillips. The Belnaps and the Phillips purchased tracts of arable farmland near the town of North East, Pennsylvania,<sup>29</sup> and proceeded to plant their crops.

Eunice (Belnap) Phillips passed away unexpectedly on 20 June 1822, at the age 38,. Her burial is the first recorded burial in the Phillips Cemetery, located on land donated by her husband Buel Phillips. On 6 May 1866 Buel Phillips himself passed away, and his body was interred along side his wife.

*Jesse Phillips settled in the Youngsville, Warren County, Pennsylvania area and married Mary Anne Turner, a descendant of the Mayflower Turners. Jesse's son James Darius married Alveron*

<sup>29</sup> North East Township is bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the east by Chautauqua County, N. Y., on the south by Greenfield and on the west by Harbor Creek. Its lands average as well as any section of the county, and the township includes numerous intelligent and successful farmers.



**Figure 21-Damaged headstone of Eunice Belnap Phillips, the aunt of Gilbert Belnap**

*Porter and their son, my grandfather, was Harry Wesley Phillips.<sup>30</sup> Harry married Amanda Crippen.*

*The Phillips' were apparently wheeler-dealers in real estate in the Youngsville, Pennsylvania area.<sup>31</sup>*

Theresa Phillips, the daughter of Harry married Sherman Spaulding. She passed away on 13 May 2000. Among Theresa's descendants are; son Charles Spaulding, grandchildren; Jane (Spaulding) Carter, Steve, Scott and John Spaulding, and great grandchildren; Nick, Leslie, Bobbie Jean, Angel and Aaron Carter. There are an additional 10 great grandchildren, who can trace their ancestry to Revolutionary War veteran Jesse Belnap.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>30</sup>Harry was born 12 January 1882. His father passed away when he was only 12 years old.

<sup>31</sup> Correspondence from Charles Spaulding to Don Hammon, 2002.

### Purposed Hall Ancestry

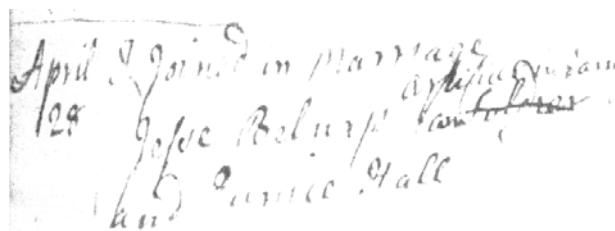
Recently while visiting the LDS Church Historian's Office, I had the opportunity to read the journal of Hyrum Belnap. It was a chronicle of his travels throughout the Eastern and Central United States made while he searched for Belnap cousins.

On one particular page an entry by Della Belnap, who had apparently accompanied him on this particular trip, was made. In the small marginal note was inscribed the words, *Eleazer Hall*, the father of Eunice. While I had come across the name Eleazer Hall several times before, I had only pursued the relationship briefly, and often with uncertainty.

So many times in the past 35 years of doing research have I come across unverified research, which proved to be incorrect and often unsupported, yet this time I felt an urge to pursue it once again. For the next couple of days I spent time in the Family History Library in the tedious efforts to connect our Eunice (Hall) Belnap to Eleazer Hall.

My initial research uncovered only circumstantial evidence to link these two individuals, and the purposed genealogy produced several quandaries, which I am presenting.

In searching the limited records of Redding, Connecticut, I came across two distinct families living in the area, the Halls and the Hulls. Both families had daughters named Eunice that are mentioned in church's parish book and it was not clear if either one was the Eunice I was looking for. Through further examination of the records, I was able to eliminate both possibilities, leaving me to believe that our Eunice was either not born in Redding, or that her birth was not recorded in the annuals researched. There was also no trace of an Eleazer Hall, who supposedly

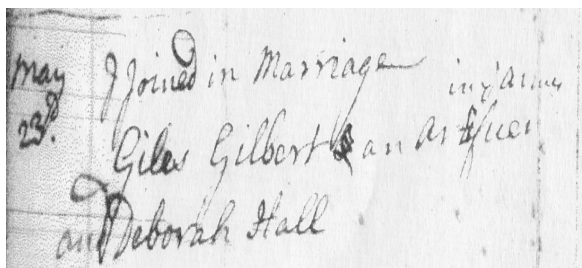


**Figure 22- entry of the parish church record of the marriage of Jesse Belnap and Eunice Hall.**

lived in Redding.

In 1779, Jesse Belnap, *an artificer in the Army*, and Eunice Hall were wed. In a subsequent

entry is recorder the marriage of Deborah Hall to Gilbert Giles,<sup>32</sup> who is also recorded as an *artificer in the Army*.



**Figure 23- entry of the marriage of Giles Gilbert to Deborah Hall, Redding, CT**

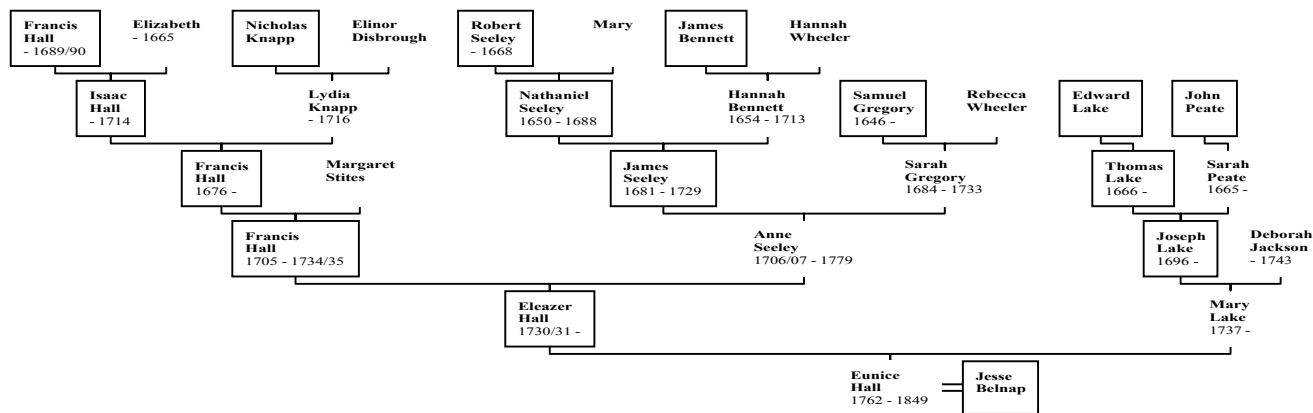
Further investigation revealed the information necessary to show that Giles Gilbert and Jesse Belnap were serving in the same military unit during the time of their marriages, both serving in Stephen Osborn's as blacksmiths.<sup>33</sup> How likely is it that two men from the same military unit would marry Halls? Both Jesse and Giles were likely friends, both would have married Hall sisters.

Could Giles be Jesse's new brother-in-law? I perused additional leads on Giles Gilbert, and tried to locate a military pension file; none existed! I was able to locate records to show that both Jesse and Giles, following their discharge from the Army, settled for a time in Montgomery County, New York. Jesse did not remain for a long period, but moved further east, locating his family near the New York-Pennsylvania State-Line. Giles remained in Montgomery County.

Following additional leads I was able to locate Deborah Hall, and hopeful to find a link between Eunice and Deborah, prompted further investigation. Fairfield County, Connecticut records were searched and several children of Eleazer Hall were located. A Deborah Hall, born in Trumbull Township and a sister Eunice Hall, baptized in the Easton Connecticut in 1769 were located, but no birth date for this Eunice Hall could be found and absolute identification of this Eunice is uncertain.

Our own family record regarding Eunice, indicates her birth as 25 May 1762, but additional

**Hourglass Tree of Eunice Hall**



<sup>32</sup> Giles Gilbert was born 21 August 1759 in Middletown, Connecticut, the son of Nathaniel and Mary (Butler) Gilbert. Gilbert enlisted 1 May 1778 in Captain Horton's Company, serving as a blacksmith. Following his discharge he moved to New Lebanon, New York, and after a brief stay settled in Montgomery County, where he died. He and Deborah had the following children: Gilbert, born 19 January 1781, Allen, born 14 June 1784 and was a pioneer of Champaign, Illinois, Newman, born 2 July 1788, Samuel D., born 9 November 1789, Nathaniel, born 28 May 1791, Horace, born 1 August 1793, Hiram, born 10 March 1796 and died in Pike, Wyoming, New York 27 August 1887. Asenath, born 7 September 1800 and Nancy, born 2 July 1802. She died 23 June 1850.

<sup>33</sup> Revolutionary War Muster Rolls, NARA, San Bruno, California.

Fairfield Country records lists an additional daughter of Eleazer Hall having been born in 1762, putting some doubt that Eleazer Hall is truly the correct lineage.

The investigation into the Hall family's history has revealed an extensive history dating back over several hundred years, but however promising this lineage is, further evidence and research is needed to substantiate this proposed lineage. It is presented here only as a likely lineage and should by no means be taken as an unquestionably pedigree until such evidence to the contrary is provided.





**1999-2002 Officers****President**

Don Hammon, 4411 Geary Blvd., #100, San Francisco, CA 94118 (415) 751-2225. E-mail: [dhfw80d@yahoo.com](mailto:dhfw80d@yahoo.com)

**Vice Presidents**

Mark Goodmansen, 10467 South North Forty Way, South Jordan, Utah 84095, (801) 254-2040.

Brent J. Belnap, 235 East 95<sup>th</sup> Street, #19J, New York, New York 10128, (212)289-2289.

E-mail: [brent.belnap@citicorp.com](mailto:brent.belnap@citicorp.com).

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Joy M. Belnap, 1592 Oakcrest Dr., Ogden, Utah 84403, (801) 392-6186.

**Historian**

Steven A. Belnap, 5391 South 550 E, Ogden, Utah 84405, (801) 475-6780. E-mail: [stevenb@mcoffice](mailto:stevenb@mcoffice).

**Crier Editor**

Don Hammon (see above)

**Family Representatives****Gilbert Rosel Belnap Family**

John Marriott, 993 Cook St., Ogden, Utah 84404, (801) 399-2983.

**Reuben Belnap Family**

Les Hill, 205B Street, P.O. Box 298, Sugar City, Idaho 83448, (208) 356-0538.

**Joseph Belnap Family**

Pat B. Johnson, 1826 South 240 West (P.O. Box 1108), Orem, Utah 84059, (801) 225-2495.

**Martha Jane Belnap Family**

Glenda Guinn, 5863 South 2325 West, Roy, Utah 84067, (801) 825-5507

Dorothy Greenwell Harper, 1080 South 3500 West, Ogden, Utah 84404, (801)731-6373.

**Hyrum Belnap Family**

Don E. Belnap, 3220 Monroe, Ogden, Utah 84403, (801) 392-7002.

**Augustus Weber Belnap Family**

Karon Robinson Kynaston, 4070 Bristol Street, Boise, Idaho 83704, (208) 322-1653

Donna Lewis, 3976 Pine Tree Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah 84124, (801) 277-0410.

**Vinson Knight Belnap Family**

Richard Belnap, 282 North 300 West, Bountiful, Utah 84010, (801) 295-4898.

**Amasa Belnap Family**

Edith M. Ward, 1422 East 81<sup>st</sup> Street North, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 (208) 524-4871.

**Adaline Lorinda Belnap Family**

Marilyn T. Lee, 1640 Artistic Circle, Bountiful, Utah 84010, (801) 292-4893.

**Mary Louise Belnap Family**

Benon P. Whyte, 188 East 2050 South, #A1, Bountiful, Utah 84010, (801) 298-2833.

**Lola Almira Belnap Family**

Lois C. Goodmandsen, 10246 South 1280 East, Sandy, Utah 84094, (801)571-2413

**William James Belnap Family**

Verla Belnap Lusk, 2462 North 1000 East, Sugar City, Idaho 83448, (208) 356-6295.

**Oliver Belnap Family**

Wallace J. Belnap, 501 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. #24, Mesa, Arizona 85204 (602) 834-4000

Sonja Kelsey, 570 East 400 South, Clearfield, Utah 84015, (801)825-5508.

Larue Willis, 1360 East 2100 North, Logan, Utah 84341

**Francis Marion Belnap Family**

Iola B. Murray, 1880 West 75 South, West Point, Utah 84015, (801) 825-8266.

**Isadora Belnap Family**

Glen W. Stoddard, 150 North Quincy, Ogden, Utah 84404, (801) 393-3985

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*The final board meeting, for me as President of the Belnap Family Organization, was held on Friday, July 12, 2002. During the meeting we discussed updates on current projects, change in by-laws, reunions and the nomination of new officers for the coming term.*

*As outgoing President, I wish to thank all those members of the board and of the Belnap Family Organization who have assisted me in my attempt to carry on the legacy of Gilbert Belnap's children, to organize and meet as a united family. I can say I am extremely proud to be a member of the Gilbert Belnap Family and the rich heritage it provides me.*

*I look forward to assisting the incoming President, Wes Belnap, and in furnishing him, and the Belnap Family Organization the additional support and assistance they may require.*

*The Gilbert Belnap Family Organization, a non-profit organization, publishes the Belnap Family Crier annually. Proceeds from the sale of the Crier are used to defray publication costs, further genealogical research, and support the biannual family reunions. All payments and donations to the Gilbert Belnap Family Organization are tax-deductible.*

*Articles of interest to the Belnap Family or information for inclusion are encouraged and welcome. Anyone interested in submitting articles or items of interest about Belnap family members, should contact the Crier editor; Don Hammon, 4411 Geary Blvd., Ste. 100, San Francisco, CA 94118 or email to: [dhfw80d@yahoo.com](mailto:dhfw80d@yahoo.com).*