

TO THE GILBERT BELNAP FAMILY ORGANIZATION

GREETINGS

SUBJECT: Operational Procedure

Preamble

Gilbert Belnap had two wives, 15 mature children who have produced 19 families with an estimated progeny of 2200 souls.

Diversification of activity and the normal dispersion of the descendant families into all parts of the world has made central organization unwieldy and beyond the natural adaptation of the original paternal order. By way of example: The Oliver Belnap family comprises 3 units totaling 12 children, running to 5 generations with about 254 descendants. These are scattered throughout several states and countries. Personal contact thru a central committee is quite improbable.

Family groups are institutions organized to promote (1) The plan of salvation so that we might return to the patriarchal order; (2) continue a spirit of fraternalism and extend the order to each new unit; (3) establish a system of coordination so that all may be accountable.

The head of each new family becomes patriarch or matriarch therein and is responsible for its spiritual guidance; its histories, and general welfare. They are required to present an acceptable record in the House of the Lord, both antecedent and descendant, for the bonding of these families by ordinances necessary to complete the grand chain so that salvation and exaltation may be had for all. Each descendant family should organize for this purpose. Therein is our greatest missionary opportunity. We have been warned and have the duty of warning our neighbor. Who is my neighbor? Our wives and our husbands and children first. Then the stranger within the gate.

Many of our kin are now disaffected because of neglect and disinterest. We must generate new zeal in genealogical research and temple work if we are to survive.

Train the young folk. Perhaps the greatest conversion factor is thru our aroused youth demanding to know their ancestral lines and making their histories include them. Put the burden of a principle on a person and he will convert himself.

We cannot be saved without our dead or our living. (J.S.)

Sometimes we come to a dead-end in our research. It's easy to quit. With millions of records on file and professional researchers available, we need not despair.

A few years ago my wife's family thought the well was dry on one or two lines. We made new contacts. During the past three & one half years we have gleaned over 3,000 names. Sure it takes money. The whole plan of salvation is based on sacrifice. Every one of us is the product of vicariousness. We are worth only what we give. "What is the worth of a soul"?

It can be done if we lay aside bickerings, contentions and self interest. We can only teach this phase of the gospel by work. Let's bear our testimonies in person, through our histories, records and humble sincerity. Then be thankful for our great blessing of being part of one of the greatest patriarchal orders on this sphere.

Pray for the spirit of peace. Work to solidify our fraternal relationships in the Belnap Family order. Eternal progression will come to us through no other line.

A man that will not save his own household is worse than an infidel.

It is in the light of this eternal quest that I propose the following resolutions

Be It Resolved: - -

1. That the Gilbert Belnap family organization be continued as set forth in its by-laws. The times and places of reunions be set seasonally so as to permit maximum representation bi-ennially.
2. That each descendant family be encouraged to organize with a full complement of officers and alternates. These to be known as member families. Their times and places of meeting to be set alternately with the Central Organization to avoid conflict.
3. That the officers of member families notify the Central Committee of the times and places of meetings not less than 60 days prior thereto, furnishing a schedule of events and providing a time for discussion of genealogy, research, records, histories, etc.
4. An exchange of representation should be invited at all events and a representative be instructed to keynote a plan of action prior to round-table talks.
5. That the respective officers of the central and family groups consider ways and means for stepping up research to the fullest extent by training programs and by establishment of a depository for said use.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Belnap Organization, I move the adoption of this resolution.

Wilford Belnap