

He has been promoted to a full Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment. As soon as he is able to travel he will leave here to take command of his Regiment or else be put on the retired list.

That young lady, the Colonel's wife's sister, was married to Lt. Lovell last night. I had to cook the wedding dinner. I have had quite a busy time of it for the last few days, but today they are giving me a rest.

I have not been to town since you were here. Consequently, I have not seen of Mr. Carter's family, but guess they must all be well or I would have heard otherwise.

There is considerable talk of three companies from here exchanging with three other companies at Salt Lake in the spring. For my part I hope they will. I would then be close to you and could pay you a visit often.

I have not heard from any of our relations except Charley, John's boy. I got a letter from him dated December 6th. All was well in Grand Rapids at that time.

We are having considerable sport around the barracks now. We have two balls a week — one for officers and one for the enlisted men. I have attended two of them and have enjoyed myself first rate. I have a much easier time of it here than when I cooked at the Colonels.

Now, brother I have written about trifling affairs that have occurred here. They **may** not be very interesting to you, but I am getting too old to write sentimentalities.

I will write to John today to find out the reason he did not answer my last two letters. Now, brother Gilbert, I hope this may find you in as good a health as it leaves me in.

If it does and you present my love to your wife and family you will meet the wishes of your affectionate brother.

J. D. Belnap

P.S. Tell little Addie I still remember her as well as Louise and the baby. Gilbert, there is hardly a night when I go up to my room that I do not sit and look at your like ness before I go to bed.

Then I probably I will lie awake for hours thinking about different members of our father's family and how they are scattered over the world. I most earnestly hope that I may be permitted to see each one of them yet before I am called upon to render an account of my stewardships.

Good Bye

Partial Letter From John In Chicago

April 12, 1871

My dear Brother,

I received your letter a few days ago and was glad to hear from you and family. Although it has been a great many years since we have seen each other, it is our duty to be punctual in writing. I have been here going on five years and I find it a lively place. Plenty of business is done here but I have not made any money since I came here but have not lost any. I have kept my family out of the proceeds.

Life And Travels of Gilbert Belnap

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November 1874-1875
Vergens Co., Mich.

Mr. Editor,

Most of your readers are aware of the fact of my being called to the General Conference of the Church held in Salt Lake City, October 6, 1874, to a mission to the United States and Indians.

Perhaps some of the incidents of travel and observation since my departure from; may not be uninteresting; to most of your readers. I will therefore quote from my Daily Journal: Left Ogden City, November 7, 1874 in company with Elders L. D. Wilson and L. M. Siefeld at 9 a.m. left Ogden. Snow slightly covered the ground the day clear and pleasant; —nothing at Echo station, where I saw in large letters the following words placed on the square front of a nearly finished building (Pride of the World Bakery and Saloon). If such be the pride of the world and the staggering attitude of a man holding to the railing in front of the Saloon be the effects of an association with world's pride then allow me the quiet of home. My expectations were somewhat disappointed in passing Wasatch; which consists of a stationary Engine Station house, cattle corral, haystack, and a gang of celestials shoveling gravel. Evanston is quite a town. Buildings mostly built of combustible materials. There are however, some substantial ones composed of brick in the use of the UPRR Co. From this point Hillyard the quiet of our own quiet company was disturbed; by the fowl meeting of two inebriates. Snow at this point about three inches deep. Having disposed of the more disagreeable portion of our company, we went thundering on; and before crossing the bridge night had closed in on us, thus being deprived of the opportunity of catching a viewing glance at town or country, sought that repose so much needed. By the use of two seats and cushions of the third with two slats placed across the seats we made quite a comfortable bed. But like that of Isaiah the prophet too short for a man to stretch himself upon. When again day dawned we were approaching the Black Hill Country and halted at Sheridan Station. Cheyenne, the highest railroad station in America, altitude 8000-842 ft. Cheyenne the capital of Wyoming situated on the southern slope of a ridge in the Black Hills is quite a pleasant summer residence. But how and in what manner the people make their living I know not; for surely the country will not warrant its settlement except for pasturage. For hundred of miles about the same altitude obstains and was it not for the U.S. Co.;

Eastern Wyoming and Western Nebraska's so far as agriculture is concerned would be a thing of the past. The last half day of our travel was in Iowa. The Platte River presented more evidence of satisfaction; and the nearer we approached Omaha the more of comfort ~~we~~ saw. Omaha was the resting place of the Oto Indians. In the short space of 10 years has become the commercial market of the west. And now the busy hum of industry has induced the red man to follow up his means of support to the low hills of Nebraska; and still further to drink from the rippling streams of the Rocky Mountains. Our stay was but short in Omaha. In one hour we took the (Quarry Funny) train for Council Bluffs City. On landing the co-mingled voices of a score or more runners from different hotels saluted our ears; and naught but indifference on our part could we find our way through the crowd to the north western hotel. For a short time this afternoon I was engaged in finding the residence of Samuel L. Lana who married the daughter of Ansel Belnap. She was the mother of five children. Mr. Lane on being interrogated as to the time their birth and the death of some of them was not prepared to give the exact without reference to his family Bible. The inquiry may arise, why did you not examine that family Bible? Here let me say to you that two important concessions has to be made. First, a sufficient amount of prejudices removed to obtain access to such records; second, and not least my pride must be considerably humbled when once the boyant spirit of youth distains to associate with those whose moral purity might be contaminated by the presence of a

man from Utah. The little information thus far obtained has been at a cost of one dollar and fifty cents. To ascertain his whereabouts I examined the county assessment roll, repaired to his residence; introduced myself to the remaining portion of the family; and from the cool indifference of the son-in-law with whom Mr. Lane was living, his wife having died February 5, 1868. Had I consulted my own feeling I should have bid them adieu forever. By so doing one important part of my mission would have been frustrated hence on the following day. I sent a note for Mr. Lane to meet me at my hotel; which he did. Suppered and breakfasted at my expense. On Wednesday the 11th I took the North Western Train for Chicago and arrived the following morning. Breakfasted at the Palmer House one of the most magnificent hotels in the city, —spent the day in a fruitless search for Brother John; and in the evening took the Michigan Lake Shore Road for Grand Rapids; without difficulty found his residence. Although he was absent from home I was treated with all the respect due a brother. The city of Grand Rapids though young in its improvements, the site of this city has long been known and esteemed for its natural advantages. It was here that the Indians long since made their Grand Depot. It was at this point that the missionary Harold first established his institution of learning; and taught the forest child the beauties of civilization. This has long been choicest dearest spot to the unfortunate Indian; and now is the white man's pride. Like other cities of the west its transition from the savage; to the civilized state has been as sudden as its prospects are now flattering. Who would have believed to have visited this place twenty years since; when it was only inhabited by a few families here most of whom were of French origin. A people so eminent for exploring the wilds and meanderings of rivers that this place would now contain a population of 20,000. The rapidity of its settlement is beyond the most visionary anticipation. But its location, its advantages, and its climate were sufficient to satisfy the observing mind that naught but the frown of providence could blast its prospects. The river upon which this town is situated is one of the most delightful to be found in the country. Not important as beautiful only for its clear silver like water winding its way through a romantic valley of some hundreds of miles, but for its depth and width its susceptibility for steam navigation and the immense hydraulic offered at this point. Two canals are completed around the rapids sufficiently large to admit boats passing up and down with but little detention. Several steam boats are making regular trips from beyond the mouth of Maple River to this place a distance of sixty miles; and from this to Grand Haven thence to Milwaukee and Chicago; thus the city of Grand Rapids with its navigable stream and water power of twenty-five feet tall and abundance of crude material; stone of excellent quality; pine, oak and other timbers within its vicinity can but flourish. Such is the encouragement to the western pioneer. The city flat is upon the bank of the river extending back upon an irregular plain some eighty to one hundred rods to rising bluffs. From the base and sides of which some of the most crystal like fountains of water burst out in bubbling springs, pouring forth streams that murmur over the pebbly bottoms. At once a delight to the eye and a luxury to the thirsty palate. The town is delightful whether you view it from the plain upon the bank of the river or from the bluffs that overlook the whole surrounding country. To ascend the bluffs you take a gradual rise to the height of a hundred feet when the horizon only limits the extent of vision. The scenery to an observer of beautiful landscapes is truly picturesque and romantic. Back east of the town is seen a wide spread of burr oak at once easy to cultivate and inviting to the agriculturist. Turning westward to the setting of the sun you behold the most enchanting prospect. The of the city below the broad sheet of water murmuring are the rapids the sunbeams dancing upon its swift gliding ripple. The glassy river at last losing itself in its distant meanderings presents a scenery that awakens the most lively emotions. But the opposite shore upon which you behold a fertile plain still claims no small amount of our admiration. Near the bank of the river is seen the little rude village of the more civilized Indian. The framed dwelling, there little churches and mound like burying place. The number and size of the mounds — which mark the spot where lies the remains of the proved warriors and the more humble of his untamed tribe, but to plainly tell the endearments of that lonely place to the native aborigines; and how much the mind will follow the train of association to by gone days and contrasts those reflections with present appearances.

Thus we are the scenes of savage life; quickly spread upon the broad canvas of the imagination. The proud chieftain seated amid his tribe by surrounding council fire. The merry war dance, the wild amusement of the redman of the forest and as some think of their present unhappy condition, the bright flame of their lighted fires has been extinguished and with it has faded the keen expressive brilliancy of the redman's eye, the lonely river upon which there light canoes have long glided is now almost deserted. It is from this point that you can see in the distance the lofty pine waving in majesty above the sturdy oak presenting to the eye a wild and undulating plain with its thousand charms. Such is the location. The citizen are of the most intelligent enterprising and industrious characters. The buildings are large and stately and handsomely furnished; the clatter of the mallet and chisel; the clink of the hammer. The many newly sound brick and stone buildings and the skeleton boats on the river, speak loudly for the enter-prize of the place. Mechanics of all kinds find abundance of employment and reap a rich reward for their labor. Village property advances in value and the prospects are alike flattering to all what the use of such advantages and prospects will be time alone will determine.

Life And Travels of Gilbert Belnap

Part II

January 1, 1875 Northeast
Erie Co., Pa.

Mister Editor,

Allow me to wish you all a happy New Year and again a small space in your Scrap-book; and the attention of your Literary Institute for a few moments. As before I shall quote from my Daily Journal. I left Grand Rapids, Michigan December 14 and arrived in Chicago the evening of the same day and was met on 22nd street by Brother John and escorted to the Arcadian Club House 119 Dearborn Street occupying a central position in that busy commercial mixed with its four hundred thousand inhabitants; with a emensity of pursuit as varried as the moving hosts upon the street. With him I visited all parts of the city worthy of note from the tunnels to the stock yards; from the glass works factory to the water works; and the foundry that produces those Ponderous Engines; and from the Boulevards to Lincoln Park. On the fifteenth took the express train for the east. Stopped off at Kirtland, Ohio. Remained in that vicinity for eight days and during my stay visited the temple built by the Latter-day Saints in 1834. Time and the dispoilers are fast doing their work. Both it and the town in which it stands seems to have been visited by the frown of Devine Providance. And on the twenty-third of December I arrived at Erie. This pake at four and in the evening attended the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Belnap and Bullen Hitchcock. Since that time my attention has been engaged in the search of the history of my fathers — whose history I trace as far back as the year 1513. Long before these lines reach you 1874 will be a thing of the past. I give the Literary Institute the heartiest of good wishes; and exclaim with them, "Ring out the old ring in the new year." Why should peals echo our adieu **to** the old year; as well as express our welcome to the new. We shall feel no guilt on year when the train crosses the line which divides two years, and when the clock strikes the hour that tells us 1874 is ended and 1875 is begun, not a ripple in lifes river will be caused by the change. Memory alone will be busy with the past and hope will start up afresh. To reach her crown of laurels, for the victor who shall stand forth successful at the close of the coming year. And why should we feel sad in the conciencious of growing old. Has life no charms but for the young? The wise men look upon the years as they go by as messengers sent to build up the race; to increase our experiences and to make the world and society better through the opportunities they have given men for useful effort. Human life presents two beautiful pictures, the cradle and the old arm chair. One is simply the other filled out. A halo of innocence may incircle the brow of the

infant, but a crown of glory rests upon the aged found in the way of righteousness. Gather around the couch of the old dying year. Listen to its tale of joy and sorrow. "What reports does it mean to us, growing old is that all? So success gained, so victories won, so good accomplished. It is a common habit of men and women in reviewing the year to look back; outside of themselves and at the ways of others. The course of public men and the respect of Society. The errors perceptible in State and National policy. Or the faults of neighbors; or the little diversions and jealousies in the Church are often mentioned and commented upon. Better that each one examine himself not in a spirit of mourning over the past, but with a view to discover where improvement is possible. That is a poor true which has gone through the year without increased growth and strength. Even a plant would be banished from the garden if it did not bloom. We must not simply exist but must make ourselves count for something. And the festivities of the New Years Day, it is worthy of our remarks that in nothing are we more the subjects of influence than in the days set apart for observance, religious or social. No philosophy, no argument so appathy can prevent our being affected by the departure of the old and the advent of the New Year. Whether we desire it or not the hilarity of the season will attract our attention, and compell us to share with our friends. While we are in the world we must admit in a certain sence to be of it. The instinct of our own nature inforce the truth when we look on the gladness and hopefulness of youth. Lietz suggests it — when we shall be held accountable for the example of the instruction, "The warning and the views of life and truth which do or do not hold up to their inspection and imitation. Performing or failing to perform we are equally responsible and should therefore see to it that obligatory duties are not discharged but discharged fully and concienciously." The injunction of that Chinese philosophy which requires us to work and to work in faith cannot be sifely disregarded. Let us greet the New Year as a friend whom we trust to use better than we have his predecessors. The aprehension we come far short of fulfilling all our good resolutions should not deter us from the attempt. For the young be unimcumbered. For the mature let reason mingle with gayety and sound sense with moderate mirth. And at the close may all have what cannot be taken away by misfortune, the recollection of the opening day pleasantly and innocently spent and of wisely conceived and faithfully executed purpose for the future.

Gilbert Be Inap

Letter From Gilbert to Brother F. Richards

January 12, 1875
Williamsport, Pa.

Dear Sir,

Imagine my surprise when I read a letter from home bearing the date of January 8, 1875 that all the missionaries called at the same time as myself had returned home. When I was set apart for this mission I certainly understood it to be my duty to go forth, not only to my kindred and gather up their genealogy and all historical information that would be of value to myself, but to disabuse the public mind with regard to Utah and Utah affairs. In nothing have I taken more pleasure than so doing. When every door was closed against the introduction to the gospel, and religious bigotry so firmly implanted as to exclude the possibility of a hearing. Then in the order of a sailor I would tack and change my course, and assume the garb of a literary traveler and lecture to crowded houses on the expulsion of the Saints from Nauvoo, their journey across the plains, their settlement in the Valleys of the Mountains, the agriculture and mineral resources of Utah. And on last evening lectured to a crowded house on the subject of Utah as she was, and Utah as she is. By do doing I have made friends, removed mountains of prejudice, and awakened a spirit of inquiry where ever I have been and still my labors increase.

To do justice to my own conception of the responsibility placed upon me by the General Conference of the Church, I cannot possibly return home before the latter part of March. It is my desire to meet with the General Conference of the Church next April.

I shall leave here to visit two brothers whose residence is Orono Province of Ontario — Dominion of Canada. My kind regards to the Priesthood of Weber Co., and respects to all inquiring friends.

Gilbert Belnap

Being employed from the twenty-third of December until eleventh of January in searching out the Genealogy of my fathers and on the following morning left for Pa. to visit my sister who married Mr. Wm Wilson July 11, 1832. Their family consists of seven sons and three daughters, whose residence is Warrensville, Pa. All of whom are comfortably situated in life.

Williamsport, Lycoming Co. seat, is on the Susquehanna River, with abundance of water power and crude material of various kinds for building purposes and railroad communication to all parts of the surrounding country. In the immediate vicinity of Baltimore Md. and Philadelphia. While the more youthful of her citizens point with pride to the aged Patriarch who felled the first tree and built the first log cabin. He was followed in quick succession by the more energetic of his race. This developed the practicality of forest fall for agricultural purposes. Lycoming is truly a romantic country, situated in the tops of the Allegheny Mountains and covered at this season of the year with a heavy mantle of snow. While ascending Laurel Hill the traveler passes through deep ravines where here and there a deserted old sawmill and side hills covered with a dense forest of hemlock. The more valuable of its timber is being taken away to build up other places. While the shrill whistle of the hemlock refinery and the teamster voice of clean the brack, awakens the traveler from his review to impending danger. By many a weary step, you ascend the summit of the hill, and gaze with wonder and admiration at the almost innumerable deep ravines, converging from every conceivable point of the compass and emptying their melting snow into the Susquehanna River. Still further on up pass the lonely spot where once laid the murdered body of Huffman, the German pedlar whose blood from the ground cried for vengeance. His absence creating suspicion. Suspicion rested on one muller who later confessed his crime and was executed, if correctly informed at Williamsport in 1836. The principal residence of the Wilson is situated on Mill Creek in a deep ravine. Some sixty rods in width extending far back in the hills and emptying its silver like water into the Loyal-sack, a tributary of the Susquehanna. Warrensville with its gristmills, little store, and post office, and eighty-seven brown and wather beaten old buildings with but few exceptions. Has had an existence long anterior to some of western states and territories. With their extensive plantations, towns, and cities of solid masonry, their agricultural and mineral wealth, has long since led difiance to the Kaystone state in contributions to the nations wealth.

Belnap

Letter To Gilbert In Kirtland from John In Erie, Pa.

June 27, 1841 Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity of informing you of my situation here in this country. I am to work at my trade (tanner?) about a mile from Uncle Gilberts. I commenced working the next Monday after I wrote you. I hired for two months. My time was up last Friday. I shall continue on a while longer. I get only eleven dollars per month. I went to Erie

last week to spend one day with Uncle Gilbert to see if I could get work there. I found two journeymen to one hide for when a customer brought one in, they lit upon it like a duck on a June bug. Therefore I had to come back as I went away. I sent to (Barshalmin) which is about 17 miles below here to see if I could get work there but they are full. As bad as they are in Erie. Therefore, I think I shall remain in this town until next spring and then I shall go to Canada to see some of our (Browntown) relatives. I received your letter April 27 and you wrote that you are not coming here until next February. But, oh, Gilbert, I sincerely hope you will not fail to come within 3 weeks after you receive this. I shall be looking for you everyday after that time expires. Now don't fail to come as I shall be very anxious to see you. We should enjoy a great many pleasant hours of pleasure together if you are here. I shan't write any more on that subject. I will leave the rest to you. Do as you think proper about it. Wages are from ten to fourteen dollars a month here on a farm. I expect soon to try it, but I would rather not if circumstances will permit.

I had a letter from James dated May 16, 1841. He writes that if I want him to come here that I must write to him immediately. I did so and expect he has gotten it before this if it was not mislaid. I am expecting him every day and, you, too, after 3 weeks expires. I am going to school this winter, and James likewise, if he comes. Learning is better than silver or gold for no man can deprive you of it. Silver or gold you can get rid of very easily. I would like to have you come here and work this summer, and go to school with us next winter if you possibly can.

We have had a long spell of dry weather here. It has been so dry here that we had to take our (Gristmills) down to the lake to water them. Our spring crops are coming in very light. Winter crops also. Grass is very light and I am in hopes that we tanners will get some hides on account of the (drauth) hides is scarce. So is many girls sweet, so is honey. Produce prices is on the rise — wheat a dollar a bushel; corn 50¢, oats 25¢. In the winter wheat 75¢, corn 31¢, oats 16¢, and other produce in proportion. We have good land, first rate water, and plenty of it. We are located in a healthy part of the world, and we are not troubled with the fevers that are so destructive to the human families in the western country. Most of our relatives are blest with religious privileges and by the help of the Lord, they are trying to perform so they at last may be admitted into this kingdom, to his glory forever. I haven't sowed all my wild oats yet, though I should soon be done with them.

Uncle Ansel Belnap has been here on a visit. He lives in Canada and says times there is good money making (potential) I did not see him as he has now gone to Ohio to see his daughter who was married two years ago. He is not going to return until next fall.

I have no more of importance. Our friends are all in good health at the present. I have been ill only four days since I came to this place. As good fortune would have it. I now can use up a small hide very quickly.

Indeed if you don't come write soon. Letters come quickly. Postage is cheap, but I would rather you brought the letters yourself for that would save time and money. If writing would bring you, I would freely write for a week for it doesn't tire me much to write to you. As it has been about two years since I saw you, writing is of great importance because it brings the joyful news.

Oh, dear me, what writing.

John Belnap

Letters To Gilbert From James and John Northeast, Pa.

August 23, 1842 Dear Brother,

As I have an opportunity of sending you this and as it will save postage I thought it would be a good idea. As I am going to Canada tomorrow I thought of sending by

(Suzy). My mind is confused so that I hardly know what to write. So if there are some mistakes you need not be alarmed as I shall not wait to correct them. I have quit Haynes and Harper. Times are so dull that they are not wanting a clerk at present. So I shall go to Canada for I think I shall do better there for this winter. I will be back next spring to work for Robert Graham where I worked last year. I felt quite at home. I am hurt that you have not thought of writing to me before. However, you must not fail to write James as soon as you receive this to write to me. I know for as soon as I get into business I shall write back. Then I shall expect to hear from all of you.

John Belnap (No date or address from John)

Our friends are all well. I saw most of them yesterday. It seems hard for me to part with them as I have just fairly gotten acquainted with them. I presume you recollect when we parted at Uncle William Campbell's last summer. Certainly I have not forgotten it yet for when I attempt to forget it the (spokes) brings it forth in my memory again. However, I must quit writing for I expect Rev. Mr. James Gregg along. He will preach on your circuit this year so if you attend the Methodist Church you will be apt to see him and thereby you can hear from us as he has been stationed here for two years. Last he will stop at Painesville which I expect will be about ten miles from your place. My mind has been a little more reconciled so there is hope of my recovery. Give my respects to yours. Know no more at present.

John Belnap

(undated and no address)

Gilbert there is not much of importance in this but it may be of much satisfaction. It is very difficult for me to write as often as I have opportunities. I sincerely wish you would do the same by me. I am going to Canada and it may be that I shall not come back. It is all uncertain.

John Belnap

Dear Brother,

With the greatest satisfaction I do at present address you, as John is going to send you a few words. I thought of sending my best respects to you. Alphonso has moved to Canada and I am now working on a farm. I am engaged for about a fortnight longer. I don't know what I shall do after this. But I think I shall go to school this winter in this place. I shall be lonesome enough and therefore I want to write you to write as often as you can. If you know of any good trade where I can learn to be a carpenter or joiner, please write to that effect. I think it is altogether likely that I will come where you are for times here seem to be very dull. I am well at present. I don't know of any more news so will bid you farewell. Don't fail to write immediately. Be a good boy, Gilbert and I will be the same. Nothing more at present.

James C. Belnap

Letter To Gilbert From John in Northeast Pa.

December 13, 1841 Dear Brother,

I take pleasure this morning of informing you of my health which is very good at present. I received your letter and it brought me the grateful news of your health and prosperity. Which was of great satisfaction to me and your relatives. Antoinette (a sister) was overjoyed when she read your letter. I was up there yesterday and they were in their usual good health. They have moved into their new house; and have also, commenced school in the old one.

I wrote that I was going to school for another quarter; but that fell through for our teacher was deprived of the room to teach in that he was to have had. I commenced the next Monday here where I still remain, but I do not know how long I shall stay. I have made no agreement with them, yet. I am clerking in the store where you got your plug chewing tobacco the day that we took the syrup to Marbow Creek.

I received a letter from James several days before I got yours. He writes that they are all well at present and there has been much illness there this summer. He says there has been several deaths (Schry's) Corners. He also wrote that there was a man frozen to death about three weeks previous to his writing. He also wrote he was boarding at Mr. Joseph Burke's and going to school to the same school master that he went to last winter.

Now I will give you the best part of the letter he wrote. *Mr. Jessee* got married about six weeks before James wrote. Oh, I forgot to tell you whom he married. It was Miss Harriet Sanders. Now I do not know if you understand but I will inform you further. Do you recall where Daniel Suttom lived when you lived with Ichabod Richmond? It was about six rods from Seatans North. I have given all the information that I can at present. He lives near Nathaniel Hicks. They are a reaping house if I recollect right.

J. H. Belnap

James is not coming out here this fall so you will not get the letter that you requested. He should write as soon as he gets here. This note might answer the same purpose if you can make out my writing. It is a great while before daylight and if you get up as early to read it I guess you will make it out before night. What say you of Jesse?

I don't understand exactly about those weddings and especially this one I would like to know about. Our friends are all in good health. I saw Grandfather last week. He was here with Uncle Jacob Alexander. The day before I took possession here.

They had a very narrow escape. There was about five hundred pounds of rugs upstairs. And they were supposed to have taken fire by the stove and were smoldering all night. A man was sleeping below but the chamber being air right, the rugs did not start flaming until about five o'clock in the morning.

A doctor informed me that the store was afire and, coming awake, the clerk that slept in the store opened the door giving it air. The fire flamed immediately. They carried out all the goods that were below and then put out the fire. The man has quit sleeping in the store for the present; but I keep one eye open and the other shut at night.

J. H. Belnap

Stories of Gilbert Belnap

Told by his son Hyrum Belnap to his daughter Delia

In the early days the mail was delivered by Pony Express from St. Joseph, Mo. to the west coast. By the year of 1868 the mail was delivered by Wells Fargo Stage coach. Then came the building of the Transcontinental railroad.

The Southern Pacific was pushing in from the west coast and their pay checks were delivered by Wells Fargo from Salt Lake City, Utah. Too many times the stage was held up by robbers and the money taken.

Just before 1869 the pay checks were to be delivered from Salt Lake City to Wells, Nevada. The sheriff of Salt Lake City said, if anyone can get the pay roll through, it would be Sheriff Gilbert Belnap of Ogden. Thus Gilbert Belnap was contacted. We went to Salt Lake City for the money.

Sheriff Belnap disguised as an old miner put the money in gunny sacks and went on horseback. When he got to K's Ward, now known as Kaysville, it was getting dark. He rode half a mile from the road and camped for the night. He tied his horse to his blanket so if it became frightened it would wake him up.

Before dark the robbers had passed him. During the night they passed a couple of times. They didn't pay any attention to him. They thought he was an old miner. He made the journey and delivered the pay roll in safety.

Gilbert Belnap had three sons who worked on the railroad as it was being built through Weber Canyon. Gilbert R. 21 years old, Reuben 17 years old and Joseph 15 years old. The exact dates they worked are not known, but the track was laid to Devils Gate, Weber Canyon by June 11, 1868. To the mouth of the Canyon by July 22, 1868. Because of the difficult terrain and the spring floods in the canyon, the track was not laid into Ogden until Mar. 8, 1869.

Reuben Belnap records that the first year he earned \$100 and gave \$50 of it to his father. The first new suit he ever owned he bought with the money earned working on this railroad job.*

When the train came to Ogden a big celebration was to be held. The Belnap Family was there. Everyone dressed in their best and the girls in white dresses. The town of Ogden was very different then. There was a slough in the business district of town.

The young boys went down the track to meet the train being pulled by the locomotive Black Hawk. Among them were Hyrum Belnap age 11 and his brother Amasa age 3. When the steaming, puffing train appeared they ran for their lives except Amasa. He stood frozen to the ground. No amount of screaming from the other boys could move him. The train kept coming, steaming and puffing. For a few seconds Amasa could not be seen for the steam from the train. They just knew Amasa was killed. When the train had passed and the steam cleared away, Amasa was still standing there about two feet outside the train rails.

More excitement was seen when the train reached its destination, Ogden. The adults were in their places watching the steaming, puffing, bell ringing monster coming down the track. The terrified children took off through the slough. What do you suppose happened when the Belnaps saw those beautiful white dresses after they had been through the slough?

*Reuben Belnap's story, page 10 of 3rd edition "Centennial Issue in honor of Utah Pioneer Gilbert Belnap"

Gilbert Belnap was called by the Governor of Utah in March 8, 1858 to go with others to rescue the missionaries then at the Salmon River who were surrounded by the Indians. When aid arrived they quieted down. They returned some ponies and cattle that were stolen. On their return, Baley Lake was killed at Bannock Creek, when they had a pitch battle with the Indians for a half day. They returned to Ogden, April 12, 1858.

In 18" had more trouble with the Indians, chased them to Cache Valley.

In 1852 Gilbert Belnap was Lieutenant in Weber County. C. C. Canfield was Captain. This year they had trouble with the Indians, which took help from Salt Lake to corral

Bruce Belnap family presenting the State of Utah flag to Mr. Paul Warfel of the Fort DeSoto Park in Florida.
 Left to Right: Kim age 11; Phyllis; Boyd, age 8; Craig, age 5; Mark, age 9; Carol, age 11, and Bruce Belnap.
 (Bruce is the son of H. Earl Belnap, who was the son of Hyrum, the sixth child of Gilbert Belnap.) *Henry Belnap is the 5th

Child of William James and Eliza Ann Watts Belnap

To Gilbert In Hooper From Thomas at Fort Cameron

January 27, 1876

My Dear Brother,

I suppose you have arrived safely at home by this time. Having a few leisure moments, I could think of no better employment of them than in having a silent chat with you.

In the first place, how did you stand the journey home. I hope you did not suffer too much with your rheumatics. I suppose you found the roads very bad. Did you all arrive home without any accident?

I have had quite a lively time since you were here. I am no longer with the colonel. You might have heard me say that I intended to give that Irish Groom a whipping. The morning after Christmas I went for him and in about two minutes I put a head on him that would make a 'government mule' laugh to see it.

As a consequence, he reported me to the officer of the day. I was put under guard and released the following morning. So I took a huff and would not go back to cook for him anymore.

As soon as it became known that I had left the Colonel's there were three officers after me to cook for them, the doctor, Lt. Taylor, and Lt. Patterson. So I decided to go to Lt. Patterson who lives in the first house in the range of buildings as you come from town.

The Colonel had an operation performed on his foot. They did not amputate it, but they pretty well ripped it open. I don't think he will ever have much use of it again.

them. They took their arms and kept the Indians prisoners for three days and then turned them loose and the Indians then left.

Visions of Uncle Gilbert and Aunt Martha Jane

Told by Hyrum Belnap Oct. 1931

Uncle Gil (Gilbert R. Belnap) and Aunt Martha Jane Belnap Hammon were peeved because grandfather Belnap (Gilbert Belnap) told Hyrum, his son and their brother, to take his records and do the work. They were older and believed that they should be given the records. Therefore they refused to do any work for their dead. Hyrum, who is my father, tried to tell them that they weren't given to him to do all the work, but to care for the records. There was plenty of work for all to do.

Father tried hard to persuade them to help. It went on for several years before they were converted to doing the work.

One morning father was hitching up his horse to go to work when Uncle Gil came and told him he was ready to go to the temple and wanted father to go with him. Father said he would if Uncle Gil got his recommend and showed it to him. He had it with him. Still father hesitated for he wanted Aunt Martha Jane to agree too.

Uncle Gil and father went to Aunt Martha Jane's and she said she was willing and had her recommend ready. Father asked for the meaning of this and what changed their minds.

Uncle Gil said his father (Gilbert Belnap) appeared to him the night before and took him to the side of the house where they could be alone and give him the lecture of his life, telling him to quit holding back the work.

Aunt Martha Jane said her father had appeared to her too, only he was in his coffin and gave her the same lecture. The next day after the visions, they were ready to go to the temple.