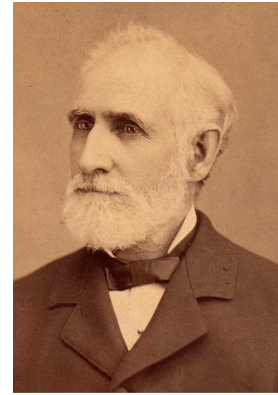


Belcher, Sackett and Mead Family and Working Relationships in New York City, 1843-1878

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June 6, 2022¹

Henry White Belcher, my wife's second great-grandfather, has quite an interesting life story.² In researching his various business endeavors in New York City, I began seeing connections between Henry and his brothers (William K.³ and John S.⁴) with members of the Sackett family. These included co-partnerships known as **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** and **Mead, Belcher & Titus Co.** I decided to investigate further, and it has proven fruitful.



Henry White Belcher
(1820-1862)

¹ This paper cites heavily to secondary and published source material. As this is a descriptive rather than genealogical paper, original source materials such as birth, marriage, death and burial records are not cited, even where available. However, city and business directories and court filings are cited extensively in the business relationships section.

² Henry White Belcher, (1820-1862). See, Chorley, E. Clowes, History of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, Garrison, New York, Including, up to 1840, St. Peter's Church on the manor of Cortlandt (New York: E. S. Gorham, 1912), p. 286, Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/details/historyofstphili00chor/page/286>; Pelletreau, William S., History of Putnam County, New York, with Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men (Philadelphia: W. W. Preston & Co., 1886), pp. 623-24, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=tC4IMtVzFnQC>; *Rock Lawn, Garrison, Putnam County, New York*, House HisTree, <https://househistree.com/houses/rock-lawn> (includes photograph of his house, built in 1853).

³ William Knapp Belcher (1815-1869). He is my wife's third great-uncle. See, Barrett, Walter, The Old Merchants of New York City (New York: Carleton, 1863), p. 370; Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=TtoDAAAAYAAJ>.

⁴ John Southard Belcher (1823-1883). He is also my wife's third great-uncle. See, Record of the Class of 1845 of Yale College (New York: Jenkins and Thomas, Printers, 1881), pp. 14-15. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=tFe1rJQsfcC>; Obituary Record of Graduates of Yale College 1882-83 (New Haven: Yale University, 1883), p. 142, Yale University Library, Manuscripts and Archives, http://mssa.library.yale.edu/obituary_record/1859_1924/1882-83.pdf. I am grateful to another genealogist interested in the Belcher family, Bill Donahoe (owner of the Donahoe/Crane/Deardorf tree on Ancestry), for sharing this obituary and other information with me.

The name of Justus Sackett⁵ was already in my tree, as he married Henry's aunt, Clarissa Belcher.⁶ So, I knew there would be additional family relationships worth pursuing. What really caught my attention though, was this entry from The Old Merchants of New York City:

Staats M.Mead⁷ made a magnificent fortune in the cabinet making business, and retired rich, built a splendid house on Fifth avenue, and afterwards resided in Europe, where he had been enjoying himself for the past two years. He died a few days ago. He left a son and two daughters. The son is a Methodist clergyman. The eldest daughter married

⁵ Justus R. Sackett (1777-1854). He married Clarissa Belcher, my wife's fourth great aunt, identified next, on Dec. 25, 1800. *Thurmon King's New Sackett Family Database*, #16541. Individuals in the database are cited hereafter only by their reference number. Individuals found in the database are cited to that source rather than Charles H. Weygant's *The Sacketts of America* (Newburgh, N.Y.: Charles H. Weygant, 1907), in light of the stated intent of the "project to update and correct the information found in Charles Weygant's 1907 book," <https://sackett-tree.org/index.php>.

⁶ Clarissa Belcher (1783-1844), #16542. She is my wife's fourth great aunt. See, Mead, Spencer P., *Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut: With Genealogical Notes* (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1911), pp. 370-71, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=gdULAAAAYAAJ>. Regarding her marriage to Justus R. Sackett, see Reynolds, Marion H., *The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds [1630?-1923] of Watertown, Mass., and Wethersfield, Stamford and Greenwich, Conn.* (Brooklyn: Reynolds Family Association, 1924), entry #1095, p. 152; HathiTrust, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89066237603&view=1up&seq=166&skin=2021&q1=1095>.

⁷ Staats (States) M. Mead (1791-1863), #16582. He married Lydia Holmes (1796-1821), #16583. See, Mead, Spencer P., *History and Genealogy of the Mead Family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, Eastern New York, Western Vermont and Western Pennsylvania* (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1901), p. 246, Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/details/historyandgenea00meadgoog/page/246/mode/2up>; *The Old Merchants of New York City*, p. 370; Edwards, Richard, *New York's Great Industries* (New York and Chicago: Historical Publishing Co., 1884), pp. 67-68, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=d6ieSXF2kIC>; Shannon, Joseph, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York* (1868), pp. 492-93, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=ORVNAAAAMAAJ>. I am grateful to fellow researcher Bruce Browne, BPBSearch on Ancestry, for sharing very helpful information on Staats M. Mead and his daughters.

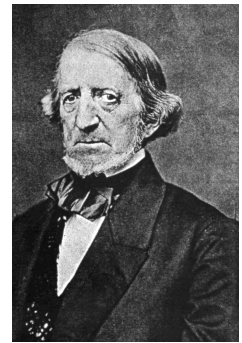
Amos Mead Sackett,⁸ **of the house of Sackett, Belcher & Co.** The youngest daughter married William Belcher,⁹ of the same house.¹⁰ (Bold added.)

In addition to bringing to light the relationship between the two families, the use of the phrase, “the house of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**,” suggested this was much more than a typical family business partnership, of which there were thousands in New York City at the time. This turned out to be true.

The Families Who Did Business Together

Before turning to the business relationships, I will outline the personal relationships involved:

Henry White Belcher and his brothers William K. and John S. were the sons of Dr. Elisha Reynolds Belcher¹¹ and his wife Esther Rebecca Knapp.¹²



Dr. Elisha Reynolds
Belcher (1791-1860)

⁸ Amos Mead (Meade) Sackett (1812-1869), #l6580. He is my wife's first cousin, four times removed. He was perhaps named after Dr. Amos Mead of Greenwich, Revolutionary War Surgeon in Connecticut's Third Regiment. See History and Genealogy of the Mead Family, pp. 49, 51, 59-60, 262, and elsewhere in the book; Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich, pp. 377-78. Dr. Mead's line is William - John I - Ebenezer I - Ebenezer II, similar to that of Staats M. Mead and others whose Mead lines are mentioned below.

⁹ William Knapp Belcher, identified above.

¹⁰ The Old Merchants of New York City, p. 370.

¹¹ Dr. Elisha Reynolds Belcher (1791-1860), my wife's third great-grandfather. See, The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds, entry #1099, p. 152; Dwight, Benjamin W., The History of the Descendants of John Dwight of Dedham, Mass., vol. 1 (New York: John F. Trow & Son, 1874), p. 170, Internet Archive, https://archive.org/embed/historyofdescend01dwig_0; History of Putnam County, p. 623; Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Westchester County, New York, vol. 1 (Philadelphia: L. E. Preston & Co., 1886), pp. 574-75, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=KEU4AQAAMAAJ>; Fisher, George J., Biographical Sketches of the Deceased Physicians of Westchester County, N.Y. (New York: Hall, Clayton & Co., 1861), p. 16, HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t8hd81312>.

¹² Esther Rebecca Knapp (1794-1884), my wife's third great-grandmother. See, The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds, entry #1099, p. 152; The History of the Descendants of John Dwight, p. 170.

Dr. Elisha Reynolds Belcher was the son of Dr. Elisha Belcher,¹³ a Revolutionary War surgeon, and his wife Lydia Reynolds.¹⁴

Dr. Elisha Belcher is, in turn, the son of Capt. William Belcher, a fifth-generation descendant of the immigrant Gregory Belcher of Braintree, Massachusetts.¹⁵

Clarissa Belcher, who married Justus R. Sackett, was also the daughter of Dr. Elisha and Lydia (Reynolds) Belcher. Clarissa and Justus had 13 children, with the two pertinent here being Amos Mead Sackett and Justus Ralph Sackett.¹⁶

Inasmuch as Clarissa Belcher Sackett was the sister of Dr. Elisha R. Belcher, and hence Henry, William and John's aunt, her children Amos M. and Justus Ralph Sackett were their first cousins.

¹³ Dr. Elisha Belcher (1757-1825), my wife's fourth great-grandfather. See, [The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds](#), entry #560, p. 152; [History of Putnam County](#), p. 623; [History of Westchester County](#), pp. 574-575 ("He educated many young men in the profession, including his sons Dr. William N. Belcher, of Sing Sing [now Ossining, NY], and Dr. Elisha R. Belcher, of New York City."); [Biographical Sketches of the Deceased Physicians of Westchester County, N.Y.](#), pp. 15-16 ("Dr. Belcher had two sons and seven daughters, who seemed to have had a strong inclination for the medical profession, or at least for its members. His third daughter married Dr. Darius Mead, of Greenwich, Conn., a former student of Dr. Belcher."); Frost, Josephine C., [The Strang Genealogy](#) (Brooklyn: Bowles, 1915), ref. at entry #210, p. 70, HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89066287798>; Reynolds, Cuyler, [Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs](#), vol. IV (1911), reprinted, Schenectady Digital History Archive (PDF, 1999), p. 33, <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/reynolds-2.html>; [Doctors of the Olden Days](#), [New York Times](#), Sept. 16, 1894, p. 20, Times Machine, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1894/09/16/106873459.html?pageNumber=20>; [Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich](#), pp. 370-71.

¹⁴ Lydia Reynolds, my wife's fourth great-grandmother. See, [The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds](#), entry #560, p. 152; [The Strang Genealogy](#), ref. at entry #210, p. 70; [Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs](#), p. 33; [Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich](#), pp. 370-71.

¹⁵ Bartlett, Joseph Gardner, [The Belcher Families in New England](#) (Boston: New England Historic and Genealogical Society, 1906), entries #1, p. 6, #5, pp. 8-9, #14, p. 13, and #27, p. 19, Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/details/belcherfamiliesi00bart/page/n3/mode/2up>. Dr. Elisha Belcher's line is Gregory - Samuel - Moses (Deacon) - William - William (Captain).

¹⁶ **Family: Sackett, Justus R. / Belcher, Clarissa (F2687)**, <https://sackett-tree.org/familychart.php?personID=l6542&tree=1>.

It is notable that one or both of the Dr. Elisha Belcher's names were carried forward into the Sackett family line via Elisha Belcher Sackett,¹⁷ son of Justus R. Sackett and Clarissa Belcher, and for a brief time, Elisha Belcher Hyde,¹⁸ their grandson who died young. It was also carried into the Mead family through Dr. Elisha Belcher Mead, a Greenwich physician who also died fairly young.¹⁹

As stated in The Old Merchants of New York City,²⁰ Staats M. Mead's "eldest daughter," namely Sarah Elisabeth Adeline Mead,²¹ married Amos M. Sackett, and his "youngest daughter," namely Caroline E. Mead,²² married William K. Belcher. In short, two first cousins married two sisters.

¹⁷ Elisha Belcher Sackett (1802-1884), #I6548. His life was complicated by legal matters and came to quite a sad ending. <https://sackett-tree.org/getperson.php?personID=I6548&tree=1> (see Notes); and <https://sackett-tree.org/showmedia.php?mediaID=944&medialinkID=1046> (accessed June 1, 2022; document title mentions William Belcher Sackett but article refers to Elisa Belcher Sackett; correction pending). See *also*, further discussion below related to a major transaction with a Mexican government representative.

¹⁸ Elisha Belcher Hyde (1846-1850), #I49368.

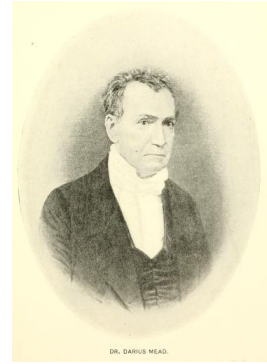
¹⁹ Dr. Elisha Belcher Mead (1823-1849). See, Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich, p. 378; History and Genealogy of the Mead Family, p. 277. His line is William - John I - Ebenezer I - Caleb I - Caleb (Capt.) - Caleb (Sgt.) - Elkanah - Amos.

²⁰ Page 370.

²¹ Sarah Elisabeth Adeline Mead (1816-1892), #I6581. She married Amos M. Sackett, Aug. 31, 1834. History and Genealogy of the Mead Family, p. 246.

²² Caroline E. Mead (1818-1842). She married William K. Belcher, Jan. 6, 1840. History and Genealogy of the Mead Family, p. 247.

That is not the extent of the family relationships, however. Clarissa Belcher's sister Lydia Knapp Belcher²³ was married to Dr. Darius Mead,²⁴ a very prominent physician in Greenwich, Connecticut. Dr. Mead and Staats M. Mead were third cousins, both being descendants of the immigrant William Mead through different lines.²⁵



Dr. Darius Mead
(1787-1864)

Moreover, Amos's brother Justus Ralph Sackett,²⁶ married Mary Elizabeth Mead, another descendant of William Mead through yet another line.²⁷ Mary is the first cousin, once removed of Staats M. Mead and the third cousin, once removed of Dr. Darius Mead.

Lastly, as will be discussed below, Henry W. Belcher's brother John S. was in a business partnership with William K. Mead,²⁸ the brother of Mary E.

²³ Lydia Knapp Belcher (1787-1846), my wife's fourth great aunt. **The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds**, entry #1097, p. 152; **History and Genealogy of the Mead Family**, pp. 116, 377 ("[Dr. Darius Mead] received his diploma in 1809, in which year he was married to Lydia K., daughter of Elisha Belcher, M.D., of Round Hill."). See also, **Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich**, p. 378; mentioned without name in **Biographical Sketches of the Deceased Physicians of Westchester County**, p. 16 ("[Dr. Elisha Belcher's] third daughter married Dr. Darius Mead, of Greenwich, Conn., a former student of Dr. Belcher."); mentioned without name in **History of Westchester County**, pp. 574-75.

²⁴ Dr. Darius Mead (1787-1864). Husband of my wife's fourth great aunt. He married Lydia Knapp Belcher in 1809. **History and Genealogy of the Mead Family**, p. 377 (the complete funeral sermon for Dr. Mead, including biographic information, is reprinted at pp. 116-19). See also, **The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds**, entry #1097, p. 152; **Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich**, p. 378; **History of Westchester County**, pp. 574-575; **Biographical Sketches of the Deceased Physicians of Westchester County**, p. 16; *Doctors of the Olden Days*, **New York Times**, p. 20.

²⁵ **History and Genealogy of the Mead Family**, pp. 124-25, 246, 377. Dr. Mead's line is William - John I - David - Nathaniel I - Joshua. Staats M. Mead's line is William - John I - Ebenezer I - Ebenezer II - Jonas.

²⁶ Justus Ralph ("J. Ralph") Sackett (1819-1885), #I6623, son of Justus R. Sackett, #I6541. My wife's first cousin four times removed. See, **History and Genealogy of the Mead Family**, p. 259.

²⁷ Mary Elisabeth (Elizabeth) Mead (1823-1896), #I6624, my wife's first cousin four times removed. She married Justus Ralph Sackett, Feb. 28, 1843. **History and Genealogy of the Mead Family**, p. 259. Her line is William - John I - Ebenezer I - Ebenezer II - Deliverance - Jabez.

²⁸ William Knapp Mead (1825-1887), #I6658, my wife's first cousin four times removed. He is the brother of Mary E. Mead, #I6624, so his Mead descent line is the same.

Mead. He married Sarah Palmer Sackett,²⁹ the daughter of Justus R. Sackett and Clarissa Belcher.

Undoubtedly, the individuals mentioned have other relationships with each other beyond those described here. However, the relationships outlined above provide ample evidence of how closely related these families were.

The Business Relationships

Below I will detail my findings on the businesses relationships of these related families. I have not found a way to set this out in a pleasant, narrative format since I do not know any of the colorful details of the businesses. Therefore, I will present it in essentially a chronological format.

In 1827, Henry W. Belcher, age 7, moved with his family from Sawpits (now Port Chester) in Westchester County to New York City, where his father, Dr. Elisha R. Belcher, practiced medicine.³⁰

On April 1, 1842, Amos and Justus R. Sackett announced that the co-partnership of **Sackett & Brothers**, comprising the two of them and their late brother Lyman Sackett,³¹ who died at age 22, had been dissolved and a new “limited partnership” had been established under the name **Sackett Brothers**.³² The notice states:

The general nature of the business to be transacted is the dealing in and carrying on a wholesale grocery and commission business and the purchase and vending of merchandise in the city of New York.

* * *

²⁹ Sarah Palmer Sackett, #16657, the daughter of Justus R. Sackett, #16541, and Clarissa Belcher, #16542. She married William Knapp Mead, Dec. 28, 1847. History and Genealogy of the Mead Family, p. 260.

³⁰ History of Putnam County, pp. 623-24.

³¹ Lyman B. Sackett (1818-1841), #16621, the son of Justus R. Sackett and Clarissa Belcher, and my wife's first cousin, four times removed.

³² Notice, The Evening Post, Apr. 9, 1842, p. 4 (effective Apr. 1, 1842). Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102963451. This notice appears in various other editions as well.

The general partners interested in said partnership are the undersigned, Amos M Sackett and J. Ralph Sackett, who reside in the city of New York, and special partner interested in said partnership is the undersigned William H. Sackett,³³ who also is a resident of the city of New York, and who has contributed on the day of the date hereof, to the common stock, the sum of ten thousand dollars in cash.

The notice states that the new co-partnership is to terminate as of February 1, 1845. This may have been a legal requirement, or a limitation on how long William wished to have his capital tied up in the firm.

I have not as yet found any earlier references to the **Sackett Brothers** grocery business under that name.³⁴

Henry W. Belcher first appears, from my research, in the 1843 New York City directory as a **grocer** at 57 Water St. under the name **Sackett, Brother & Co.**, a co-partnership with Amos M. and J. Ralph Sackett, **grocers**.³⁵ This is also the first reference I have found to that firm name. Henry's brother William K. Belcher is separately listed as "merchant" at 150 Pearl St., without indication of his line of business,.

In the 1845 New York City directory, Henry W. Belcher is listed as a **grocer** at **58 Pearl St.**, with the firm of **Sackett, Belcher and Co.**³⁶ This is the first appearance I found of this firm's name. Amos M. and J. Ralph Sackett are also listed in the directory as **grocers**, and Henry's brother William K.

³³ Amos M. and Justus R. Sackett's brother, William Henry Sackett (1807-1885), #16552, also my wife's first cousin, four times removed.

³⁴ Searches have included annual New York City residential, business and copartnership directories, Google Books, Newspapers (dot com), and the Internet Archive, as well as records available on Ancestry. I have not, for the most part, undertaken to review published court cases involving these family members, of which there appear to be quite a number. Nor have I reviewed family real estate transactions, which again appear to be extensive. These other references are discussed further in the Conclusion below.

³⁵ **Doggett's New York City and Co-Partnership Directory for 1843 and 1844** (1843), pp. 32, 382, 395). Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=ESVEAQAAMAAJ>.

³⁶ **Doggett's New York City Directory for 1845 and 1846** (1845), pp. 34, 316. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=jSsrAAAAYAAJ>.

Belcher as a “merchant,” all at the same address.³⁷ The 1847 directory is to similar effect.³⁸

The Yale College Class of 1845’s 35th reunion biography of Henry’s brother John S. Belcher states that he studied medicine in New York City for one year after graduation and “then, for family reasons, went into the grocery business in New York, under the firm name of **Mead, Belcher & Titus.**”³⁹ This does not say what the “family reasons” were. Nor has anything I found explained why there were two different grocery business in the Belcher family, or whether they competed or offered separate lines of merchandise.

In 1848, the **Gold Hill Mining Company** was incorporated in New York. This was noted by the North Carolina state legislature in 1855 when incorporating by legislative enactment the same company in that state, naming Henry W. Belcher and Amos M. Sackett as among the founders and Directors.⁴⁰ This venture is discussed further below.

The 1850 New York City Directory lists Henry W. Belcher as a **grocer** at **26 Pearl St.**, at which address are also found his brother William K., Amos M. and J. Ralph Sackett, and the firm of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, all **grocers**. His brother John S. Belcher is listed as a **grocer** at **55 Cortlandt St.**, at which address are also found William K. Mead, George P. Titus,⁴¹ and the

³⁷ Researching the Belcher brothers’ business ventures is confounded by the extensive New York City commercial business of **Belcher Brothers & Co.** and related entities in the ruler and hardware businesses, the owners of which appear to be unrelated. See Belcher, Charles Zachary, **My Ruling Family** (Belcher Genealogy Foundation of Delaware, 2013), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=bltaAgAAQBAJ>.

³⁸ **Doggett's New York City Directory for 1847 and 1848** (1847), pp. 44, 356, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=HQNLAQAAMAAJ>.

³⁹ **Record of the Class of 1845 of Yale College**, p. 14.

⁴⁰ State Legislature of North Carolina, **Public Laws of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at its Session of 1854-'55**, Chapt. 148, *An Act to Incorporate the Gold Hill Mining Co.*, pp. 139-40. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=G1ZNAQAAMAAJ>.

⁴¹ Ancestry and relationship undetermined, but he is possibly related. See list of individuals with the Titus surname in the Sackett family database. <https://sackett-tree.org/search.php?mylastname=TITUS>.

firm of **Mead, Belcher & Titus**, all listed as **grocers**.⁴² John S. Belcher and William K. Mead are living together with Dr. Elisha R. Belcher at 301 Broome St.

The 1852 New York City directory lists Henry W. and William K. Belcher, Amos M. and J. Ralph Sackett, and the firm of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, all **merchants**, at 26 Pearl St., 2 Water St., and 33 Whitehall St. The same directory continues to list John S. Belcher, William K. Mead, George P. Titus and the firm **Mead, Belcher & Titus**, all as **grocers**, at 55 Cortlandt St.⁴³

The change from 1850 to 1852 appears to reflect the time when **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** greatly expanded its business from one to three locations, unless they merely were not reported previously. It may also appear to represent the time that they moved from retail to the wholesale grocer business, given the change from “grocer” to “merchant” for each of the members, whereas the other family group remained “grocers.” However, they were apparently already in the wholesale grocery business at least by 1850, as will be seen by the description of the location at 26 Pearl St. in 1858, below. Also, the 1842 published notice of what was apparently the predecessor firm specifically mentioned the wholesale grocery and commission business.

In 1854, Henry W. Belcher and others not mentioned here established the **Garrison & West Point Ferry Co.** to ferry people and cargo across the Hudson River from Garrison’s Landing in Putnam County, to West Point in Orange County, both in New York.⁴⁴ This replaced a prior rowboat and horse-powered scow, and appears to have been a successful venture.

Also in Putnam County in 1854, Henry W. Belcher contributed three acres of land upon which to build a rectory for **St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands**, Garrison, with which he was deeply involved. Amos M.

⁴² **Doggett's New York City Directory for 1850-1851** (1850), pp. 47, 344, 437. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=tH8qAAAAYAAJ>.

⁴³ **Trow's Directory of the City of New York for 1852 - 1853** (1852), pp. 53, 421, 532. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=70M9AQAAMAAJ>.

⁴⁴ **History of Putnam County**, p. 144.

Sackett, Justus R. Sackett and William K. Belcher contributed to the building fund.⁴⁵

On May 9, 1854, Henry W. Belcher and Amos M. Sackett were elected Directors of the **Gold Hill Mining Company**, location unspecified but believed to be **Colorado**.⁴⁶ This appears to have been on the leading edge of the 1858-61 Pike's Peak or Colorado Gold Rush.⁴⁷ The venture does not seem to have gone well, as shareholders were soon assessed to pay company debts. Directors of such companies having little or no mining background were roundly criticized. However, at last report, the mine was still operating strongly.⁴⁸

In 1855, the **Gold Hill Mining Company** was incorporated in **North Carolina**, with the state legislature providing that the previously-incorporated New York corporation could adopt this charter.⁴⁹ One may surmise the state of North Carolina offered more favorable terms to the corporation to entice them to re-incorporate there.

In 1856, Amos M. Sackett, his nephew Elisha B. Sackett, and apparently the “house of **Sackett, Belcher, & Co.**” became involved in an international business dispute between a company known as the **United States, European and West Virginia Land and Mining Company** and the government of Mexico. Mexican authorities referred to it somewhat ominously as the “Woodhouse Affair.” It involved \$100 million of capital

⁴⁵ **History of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands**, p. 234. Henry W. Belcher was Church Vestryman 1852-1892, Warden 1864-76, Clerk to the Vestry, 1873-77 and 1878-92, and Treasurer, 1873-92. *Ibid.*, pp. 279-82. He was Vestryman with the **Church of the Epiphany** in New York City from 1848-53. Vestry of the Church of the Epiphany, *A Discourse, Delivered on the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Church Of The Epiphany New York, January 10, 1858, By The Rector And First Pastor, Rev. Lot Jones, A.M.* (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph, 1858), Appendix: Vestrymen, Internet Archive, https://web.archive.org/web/20200512194314/http://anglicanhistory.org/usa/misc/jones_epiphany1858.html.

⁴⁶ **The Mining Magazine**, v. 2, No. 6 (June 1884), p. 642. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=MPBAAQAAIAAJ>.

⁴⁷ *Pike's Peak Gold Rush*, **Wikipedia**, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pike%27s_Peak_Gold_Rush.

⁴⁸ *Mining in Wall St.*, **The Mining Journal**, vol. IV, Nos. V and VI (May-June 1855), pp. 370-75. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=G1ULAAAAYAAJ>.

⁴⁹ *An Act to Incorporate the Gold Hill Mining Co.*, pp. 139-40.

and supposed Mexican bonds to be issued based upon an underlying contract with a representative the government.⁵⁰

Higher authorities in the Mexican government early on asserted its representative had acted outside his authority and declared the contract null and void. The company's President, Daniel Woodhouse, denied the allegations and sought the assistance of the United States government.⁵¹

The **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** firm was also alleged by Mexico to have been involved in "running the blockade from Nassau to Charleston and other points" during the Civil War. I have not undertaken to fully understand this complex situation, or where the truth lies. However, again according to Mexico, one consequence of the affair was Amos M. Sackett having to withdraw from the partnership firm on account of one of its member

⁵⁰ The United States, European and West Virginia Land and Mining Company, **Prospectus, Contract for Mexican Inter-oceanic railway, Canal, and Telegraphs** (New York: Jared W. Bell, 1867), Google Books, informational only, <https://books.google.com/books?id=Njl6MwAACAAJ>; reprinted in **Message from the President of the United States** [Andrew Johnson], 40th Congr., 1st Sess., Exec. Doc. No. 33 (1867), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=lpqFAAAAQAAJ> at p. 102 (part of a larger collection scanned together).

⁵¹ *The Mexican Loan - Card from Mr Daniel Woodhouse*, **New York Times**, Mar. 2, 1867, p. 5, TiimesMachine, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1867/03/02/79356485.html?pageNumber=5>. The entire ordeal is written up in Frazer, Robert W., *The United States, European, and West Virginia Land and Mining Company*, **Pacific Historical Review**, vol. 13 No. 1 (Berkeley: University of California Press, Mar. 1944), JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3635737>.

absconding with those bonds.⁵² This may or may not be the same incident as that described below which, sadly, would lead to the ultimate failure of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** The Mexican government may or may not have described it properly.

Meanwhile, back in New York City, the 1856-57 City Directory shows Henry W. and William K. Belcher, **grocers**, at 26 Pearl St., Amos M. and Justus R. Sackett, and **Sackett, Belcher & Co., grocers**, at 26 Pearl St., 2 Water St. and 33 Whitehall St., and John S. Belcher, William K. Mead, George P. Titus and **Mead, Belcher & Titus, grocers**, at 55 Cortlandt St.⁵³

In 1858, the New-York Sketch Book, and Merchants' Guide published the first and only real writeup of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** that I have found. Since it is so informative, I quote it in its entirety here:

The Grocery Trade - Sackett, Belcher and Co.'s Extensive House

In a city like New-York (sic), enterprise is the sure road to success; it never fails to secure to its possessor hosts of

⁵² See, The Executive Documents of the House of Representatives for the First Session of the Fortieth Congress, 1867 (Washington, DC: U.S., Government Printing Office, 1868), including Message from the President of the United States [Andrew Johnson], 40th Congr., 1st Sess., Exec. Doc. No. 33 (1867), transmitting records, see pp. 1-250, with specific references to Messrs. Sackett at pp. 7, 12, 15, 34, 36-37, 73, 75, 77 (referencing "running the blockade" and Amos's withdrawal from the firm), 85-86, 140, 144, 146, 150, 157, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=lpqFAAAAQAAJ>. See also, U.S., Dept. of State, Documents Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States with Other Countries During the Years from 1809 to 1898, vol. 63 (1867), pp. 77, 85, 133, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=9bcTAAAYAAJ>; U.S., Dept. of State, United States, European, and West Virginia Land and Mining Company and Mexico (1867), *biblio. info.* at Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=WdY3HQAACAAJ>; Romero, Matías, ed., Correspondencia de la Legación Mexicana en Washington Durante la Intervención Extranjera, 1860-1868, vol. VIII (Mexico: Imprenta del Gobierno, en Palacino, 1879), pp. 73-74, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=ijMOAAAAQAAJ>; Contratos hechos en los Estados-Unidos por los comisionados del gobierno de Mexico durante los años de 1865 y 1866 (Mexico: Imprenta del Gobierno, en Palacino, 1868) (most if not the entire volume concerns the Woodhouse Affair, with specific reference to Amos M. Sackett at pp. 114-15, 118-19, 126-28, 177-78, 180, 207, 209), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=sPRYAAAAMAAJ>.

⁵³ Trow's New York City Directory, 1856-57, pp. 64, 718, 821. Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8773/images/NY-NewYork-NY-1857-0062660?pld=30210>.

friends. Men of enterprise not only build themselves up, but enhance the welfare and prosperity of the community in which they live. A striking instance of this truth is afforded in the prosperous career of Messrs. Sackett, Belcher & Co., who at this present date occupy a position in the grocery and commission business second to no other house on this continent. Their business was originally established about twenty years ago, and has since continued to enjoy a degree of uninterrupted prosperity. The firm now consists of Messrs. Amos M. Sackett, William K. Belcher, J. R. Sackett, William E. Townsend,⁵⁴ and William Swansboro,⁵⁵ all gentlemen of enlarged experience and practically educated to their business. For the transaction of their immense trade, they occupy the large and substantial structure situated at No. 26 Pearl-street (sic). This building was erected expressly for the purposes of the firm, and is six stories high. It has a depth of 130 feet, and is fitted up with a strict regard to a systematic, economical and cleanly (sic) method of doing business. The first floor of the building is appropriated exclusively to Sugars and Molasses, in which a heavy trade is done; and the second exclusively to Teas, where is to be found an immense stock, unsurpassed by that kept by any other house in the country. On this floor likewise is a sample room, in which are exposed samples of the various descriptions of goods sold. The sales are made exclusively in this manner, and the orders afterward filled as directed. The third floor is appropriated exclusively to coffees, and the fourth to sundry goods, such as wines and liquors of every description, a heavy stock of which is constantly kept on hand, and comprises all the finer as well as the lower priced brands. The fifth and sixth floors are used exclusively for storage. The busy scene which this establishment presented, on the day we visited it, afforded to our mind evidence of the immense business that is constantly being transacted. A force of thirty persons is required in the various departments of the building, while the amount of capital invested in the business

⁵⁴ William E. Townsend's relationship, if any, is unknown. However, see list of people with surname Townsend in the Sackett family database. <https://sackett-tree.org/search.php?mylastname=TOWNSEND>.

⁵⁵ William Swansboro's relationship, if any, is unknown. There are no Swansboro references in the Sackett family database as of June 5, 2022.

does not fall short of half a million of dollars. The stock of genuine groceries kept by this house, while it is heavy, is suited to the wants of all classes of buyers. Buying largely, they are fully prepared to suit all markets, hence it is that their business extends to various sections of the Union, including many parts of the South, where they do a fine trade.

It affords us great pleasure in directing the attention of Southern merchants to this house, not only because it stands high in its character, but on account of the incomparable facilities it possesses for selling goods, of a superior quality, at the lowest market prices.⁵⁶

Although these descriptions are perhaps taken to flowery excesses, nevertheless they give a picture of a very large, busy and prosperous firm. Keep in mind that the building described is only their main operation at 26 Pearl St. The firm has two other locations in operation at this time.

From 1855 to 1885, Henry W. Belcher also served as Vice President and Director of **Relief Fire Ins. Co.** in New York City.⁵⁷ From 1867 to 1876, he was a Director of the **Rutgers Fire Ins. Co.**⁵⁸ For several years, William K. Belcher was a Director of **American Exchange Ins. Co.**, **Great Western Life Ins. Co.** and **Corn Exchange Ins. Co.**, and, with Amos M. Sackett, a Director of **Goodhue Fire Ins. Co.** Justus R. Sackett was a Director of **Standard Fire Ins. Co.**⁵⁹ These are examples of their involvement with insurance companies, as I have not undertaken to locate every such affiliation for each year.

⁵⁶ Gobright, John C., **The New-York Sketch Book and Merchants' Guide** (New York: J. C. Gobright and Co., 1858), p. 43. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=2oH9dBAjs6gC>.

⁵⁷ **History of Putnam County**, p. 624.

⁵⁸ Fellows, Edward B., comp., **1853-1883: A Sketch of Thirty Years' Business of the Rutgers Fire Insurance Co.** (self-published, 1883), unpaginated list of Directors. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=3xILAAAAYAAJ>.

⁵⁹ **The United States Insurance Gazette, and Magazine of Useful Knowledge**, vol. 9 (1859), United States Insurance Advertiser section, unpaginated, multiple listings in various issues, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=lkZGAAAAYAAJ>; **Times Union**, Brooklyn, New York, Sept. 8, 1859, p. 3), Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102439332; **Express Office Hand-Book and Directory** (1850), entry following p. 52, Google Books, https://books.google.com/books?newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&id=MBMcOMB_ht4C.

The 1859 New York City Directory listings for the grocery businesses are the same as 1857, with these exceptions: Henry W. Belcher is no longer listed; and 33 Whitehall St. is no longer listed as a location.⁶⁰ **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** had announced that, effective January 1, 1858, Henry W. Belcher was no longer affiliated with the firm.⁶¹ In the 1860 U.S. Census, Henry W. Belcher is listed as residing in Philipstown in Putnam County (Garrison or "Garrison's Landing" is a village in Philipstown).

SACKETT, BELCHER & CO.,
WHOLESALE GROCERS,
 IMPORTERS OF
 FINE BRANDIES, WINES, OF THE CHOICEST AND BEST BRANDS, SEGARS, ETC., ETC.
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
 26 PEARL-STREET,
 Corner Whitehall-Street, foot Broadway.

Amos M. Sackett, Justus Ralph Sackett,	NEW-YORK. Wm. E. Townsend,	William K. Belcher, Wm. Swansboro.
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Debow's Review and Industrial Resources, Statistics &c., 1859

In this time frame, **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** is advertising regularly in diverse locations inclining in the south, such as in New Orleans:

AMOS M. SACKETT.	JUSTUS R. SACKETT.	W. E. TOWNSEND.
WILLIAM K. BELCHER.		WM. SWANSBORO.
SACKETT, BELCHER & CO.,		
WHOLESALE GROCERS,		
Importers and Dealers in		
WINES AND FINE LIQUORS, and Agents for VIRGINIA		
Manufactured Tobacco,		
No. 26 PEARL STREET, corner of Whitehall st.,		
my22 1y&W	foot of Broadway, NEW YORK.	

The New Orleans Crescent, Oct. 9, 1860, p. 3

⁶⁰ Trow's New York City Directory - 1859, pp. 64, 548, 697 and 798. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=8oUtAAAAYAAJ>.

⁶¹ Notice, New York Times, Jan. 5, 1858, p. 6. TimesMachine, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1858/01/05/issue.html>.

In March 1860, **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, 26 Pearl St., is listed as one of five New York City firms offering for sale The Vine Grower's Company of Cognac (France), having stated capital of £3 million. No individual names are stated on this listing (see **Appendix I**).

A business directory published in 1860 included a compilation of credit ratings from various agencies that included the two firms we have been discussing, as follows:⁶²

1860 Credit Ratings

Firm	Ratings	Definitions
Mead, Belcher & Titus	A A B B	A1: Most wealthy houses - Credit unlimited and beyond contingency A: Means abundant - Superior Credit
Sackett, Belcher & Co.	A1 A1 A A	B: Respectable Means - Credit very good - Desirable Customers C: Means and Business limited - but Credit good D: Means and Business small - Credit fair for small amounts E: Credit indifferent, or - - - -

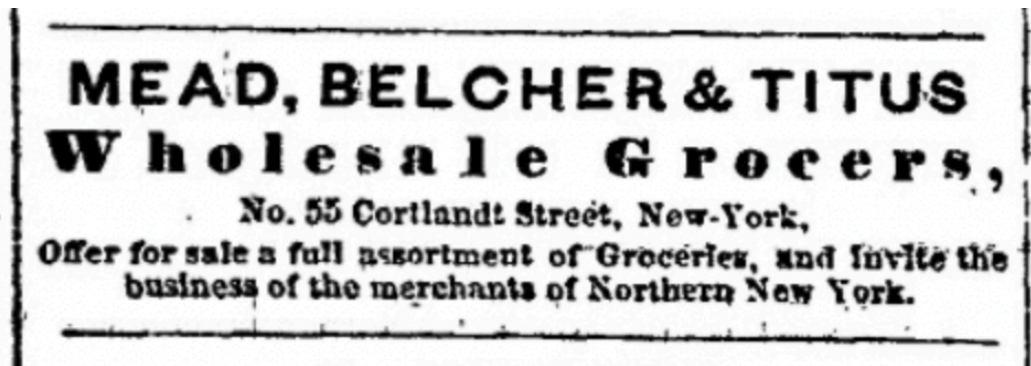
In 1860, Amos M. Sackett became involved in forming a new company to purchase a building on Whitehall Street (possibly 33 Whitehall) from Staats M. Mead for the purpose of replacing the now-decrepit **Corn Exchange** building where grocery merchants engaged in trades. Funds were raised from merchants to purchase the building, which occupied one entire city block, and the land for the sum of \$155,000. However, the building itself was not solid enough to support the intended purpose and had to be replaced with a new structure. A new entity, the **New York Commercial Association**, was formed and incorporated by the state legislature in 1862 to manage the new enterprise.⁶³ The Association was renamed the **New York Produce Exchange** in 1868, and utilized this building until replaced when outgrown in 1884.⁶⁴

⁶² **D. Plumb and Co's., Record of Mercantile Credits - 1860**, pp. 29, 50. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=dVRQAAAAYAAJ>.

⁶³ **New York's Great Industries**, pp. 67-68; **Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York**, pp. 492-93.

⁶⁴ *New York Produce Exchange*, **Wikipedia**, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Produce_Exchange. This article is rich with historical references including Edwards' book cited above.

Nothing of significance has been found for these businessmen and firms in the 1861-63 time frame, although it appears they continued to operate. I assume this is due to the nation's preoccupation with the Civil War. In a first level search, I did not find any military service records for the individuals discussed here.



Frontier Palladium, Malone, N.Y., Feb. 21, 1861

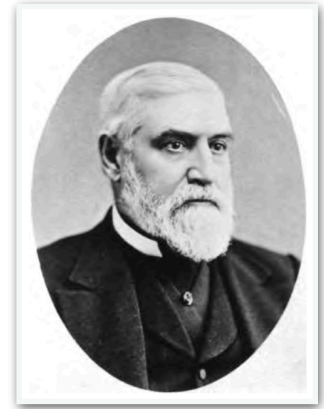
Interesting side note: In June 1862, in the second year of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln made an unusual, unannounced visit to West Point to meet with retired General Winfield Scott regarding military strategy and War Department staffing. Henry W. Belcher took President Lincoln and his skeletal staff across the Hudson on his **Garrison to West Point Ferry**, escorted him on a short ferry tour of the area, including the West Point Foundry cannon makers, and accompanied him on his private train back as far as New York City the next day.⁶⁵

In 1864, a New York City Copartnership Directory lists **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, at 28 Reade St. (a new location), as comprising Amos M. and Justus R. Sackett, William K. Belcher, William E. Townsend, William Swansboro,

⁶⁵ *The President at West Point - Five Hours' Consultation With Gen. Scott*, **Brooklyn Evening Star**, June 25, 1862, p. 3, Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102386846; *President Lincoln at West Point*, **Daily Missouri Republican**, June 30, 1862, p. 1, Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102392200; *The President at West Point*, **Detroit Free Press**, June 29, 1862, p. 4, Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102415718; *The President at West Point*, **New York Times**, June 26, 1862, p. 8, Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102390793. This event is summarized with further references in Eisenberg, Jonathan L., *Henry W. Belcher Accompanies President Abraham Lincoln During Visit to West Point* (unpublished manuscript, May 26, 2022).

and Henry Evesson, Jr.⁶⁶ This is the same composition as the 1859-60 ads reprinted above, with the addition of Mr. Evesson, about whom nothing more is known.⁶⁷

The firm of **Mead, Belcher and Titus** is not listed in 1864. A firm **Mead, Boyd and Titus** is noted as “dissolved,” and William K. Mead is in a new partnership, **Mead, Lacey & Co.** Therefore, we can conclude John S. Belcher and William K. Mead are no longer in business together. This is confirmed by Belcher’s Yale biography, which states that he was associated with the prior firm from 1846 to 1861.⁶⁸ It is noteworthy that John was a Hydrant Company foreman in 1850, Vice President in 1855, and President 1856-(1860?) of the **New York Fire Department**.⁶⁹ He was later a broker for a fire insurance company, yet to be identified, from 1876 to nearly 1883, the year of his death.⁷⁰



John S. Belcher, c.1881

On April 14, 1864, William K. Belcher was elected a Trustee of **Star Gold Mining Col. of Colorado**.⁷¹ Nothing more is reported on this venture. In November 1864, he was elected a Director of Chatham Bank, where his brother Henry has been an officer and Director.⁷²

⁶⁶ Wilson's (Trow's) New York City CoPartnership Directory, for 1864-'65 (1864), p. 77. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=Se8pAAAAYAAJ>.

⁶⁷ Henry Evesson, Jr.’s relationship, if any, is unknown. There are no Evesson entries in the Sackett family database, and only one Everson entry that appears unrelated, as of June 5, 2022.

⁶⁸ Record of the Class of 1845 of Yale College, p. 14.

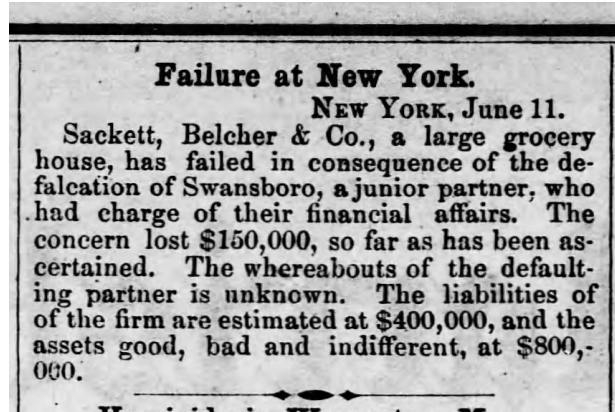
⁶⁹ Sheldon, George William, The Story of the Volunteer Fire Department of the City of New York (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1882), pp. 121, 372-73, 443. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=tMM1AQAAMAAJ>.

⁷⁰ Record of the Class of 1845 of Yale College, p. 14; Obituary Record of Graduates of Yale College 1882-83, p. 142.

⁷¹ Hartford Courant, Apr. 14, 1864, p. 2. Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102514427.

⁷² The Bankers Magazine and Statistical Register, vol. 19 (1864), p. 532. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=CxxKAQAAMAA>.

In June 1866, a news report was widely published that **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** has failed, or its business has been suspended (see insert below).



Harrisburg Telegraph, June 11, 1866, p. 2

The stated reason is that a “junior partner,” William Swansboro, embezzled some \$150,000 and “left for Europe,” never to be seen again.⁷³ (See longer article at **Appendix II.**) This would be nearly \$3 million in today’s dollars.

Further clarifying these 1866 events is an 1868 court ruling in New York, which stated the following history:

The action was brought against the members of the firm of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, and their assignees, to set aside an assignment made for the benefit of creditors,⁷⁴ as void, and a preliminary injunction was obtained, restraining the defendants from parting with the property of the firm. From the papers used on the motion for the continuance of the injunction, it appeared that previous to June 4, 1866, the firm of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** included among its members one William

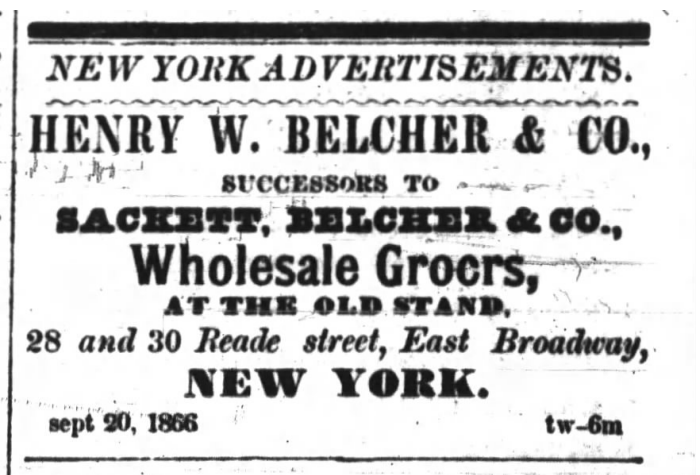
⁷³ **Harrisburg Telegraph**, June 11, 1866, p. 2, Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=103140703. To similar effect: **Chicago Tribune**, June 11, 1866, pp. 1, 2; **Rutland Daily Herald** (Rutland, Vermont), June 11, 1866, p. 1; **Detroit Free Press**, June 11, 1866, p. 5; and others, available on Newspapers.

⁷⁴ An assignment for benefit of creditors is “when a debtor transfers title to a trustee who can then liquidate the property to pay creditors.” **Black’s Law Dictionary** (2nd Ed. 1910). <https://thelawdictionary.org/general-assignment-to-creditors/>. It is an alternative to a bankruptcy liquidation. A creditor may challenge it if it seeks priority over other creditors.

Swanboro (sic). On that day he absconded with a large portion of the assets of the firm, and had never since been heard from, nor had the remaining members been able to communicate with him. He never had any capital in the firm, but on the contrary, was largely indebted thereto. The remaining members gave notice immediately, by publication, that Swanboro was no longer a member of the firm, and that the business would be conducted by them. On the 8th of October, 1866, the remaining members assigned the partnership property to the defendants Britton & Gerard, in trust for the payment of the firm's debts. The assignment was executed as the act and deed of the firm, and is signed individually and executed individually by every member of the firm, except Swanboro.⁷⁵

The court held that the assignment for benefit of credits was valid and binding despite not having been signed by Swansboro. By absconding with the funds and leaving the firm bankrupt, , the court ruled, Swansboro was deemed to have consented to the inevitable assignment of remaining assets for satisfaction of the firm's debts.

In September 1866, an announcement was made that **Henry W. Belcher & Co.** was the successor to **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, "wholesale grocers," doing business "at the old stand, 28 and 30 Reade St., East Broadway."⁷⁶ I found no indication of just how Henry W. Belcher became involved in the grocery business again, but we may assume it was due to the failure of **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**



The Tri-Weekly Old North State
Sept. 20, 1866

⁷⁵ *National Bank of Baltimore v. Justus R. Belcher, and others*, New York Court of Common Pleas (June 1868), pp. 395-400. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=9HZMAAAAYAAJ>.

⁷⁶ *New Advertisements, and Advertisement, The Tri-Weekly Old North State* (Salisbury, North Carolina), Sept. 20, 1866, pp. 2, 3. Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102446104; https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=102445997.

In 1867, a New York City directory lists Henry W. Belcher as a **grocer** and **H. W. Belcher & Co.**, grocers, at 41 Warren St., with Henry having his home at Garrison. John S. Belcher is employed as a **clerk** with no employer identified and only a residence address stated. Amos M. Sackett is listed as a **merchant** with only a home address. William K. Belcher, Justus R. Sackett, **Sackett, Belcher & Co.**, and William K. Mead are not listed at all.⁷⁷

In 1867, John S. Belcher filed a bankruptcy petition and was adjudged a bankrupt. He was discharged in 1869, with no reason found for such a delay. William E. Townsend and Henry Evesson, Jr. similarly filed bankruptcies.⁷⁸

The 1868 New York City Copartnership Directory⁷⁹ lists **H. W. Belcher & Co.** at 41 Warren St., as comprising Henry W. Belcher and William G. Dickinson.⁸⁰

In 1868, several other family members filed bankruptcies and were discharged:⁸¹

Justus M. Sackett, filed Feb. 14, discharged Sept. 16.
William K. Belcher, filed Feb. 19, discharged July 21.
Amos M. Sackett, filed May 20, discharged Sept. 18.

⁷⁷ Trow's New York City Directory, 1867-68 (1867), p. 77. Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1421139718:2469>.

⁷⁸ Van Wyck, P. Vr., The Internal Revenue Record and Customs Journal (Jul. - Dec. 1867), entries for John S. Belcher, William E. Townsend and Henry Evesson, Jr., filings for bankruptcy in the Southern District of New York. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=OJotAQAAMAAJ>.

⁷⁹ Wilson's New York City Copartnership Directory, 1868-69 (1868), p. 10. HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101065143552>.

⁸⁰ William G. Dickinson (1821-1891) was the husband of Henry W. Belcher's sister-in-law, Sarah King (1829-1906), so effectively his brother-in-law. He is also possibly related to the Sacketts. See list of individuals with surname Dickinson who are related to the Sacketts. <https://sackett-tree.org/search.php?mylastname=DICKINSON>. For biography, see, Andreas, A. T., **History of the State of Kansas**, vol. 1, (1883; republished by Atchison County Historical Society, 1976), p. 560. <https://books.google.com/books?id=5t09AQAAMAAJ>.

⁸¹ The Weekly Bankrupt Register (1868). Bankruptcy petitions and discharges for Amos M., States M. and Justus R. Sackett and William K. Belcher are on various pages of different volumes and issues. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=ScZFAQAAMAAJ>.

States M. Sackett,⁸² filed May 20, discharged Sept. 18.

In June 1868, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court noted that William K. Belcher had filed a bankruptcy petition on February 19 and had been adjudged a bankrupt. The Court issued a ruling confirming jurisdiction in the Southern District of New York even though William resided in New Jersey, because of his numerous business dealings in New York City.⁸³ His attorney's comments to the Court are interesting:

The petitioner had carried on business and resided in the city of New York for more than twenty years prior to June, 1866. In the month of June in that year, he failed in business, and made a general assignment for the benefit of his creditors. He sold out his residence in the city of New York, and retired with his family to New Jersey, where they now reside upon some property which belonged to the separate estate of his wife. Immediately after his assignment he engaged as a clerk, upon a yearly stated salary, with his successors in business, and has ever since continued with them as such clerk upon such salary. All the partners of petitioner, except one, were, and now are, residents of the city of New York, and have obtained a discharge in bankruptcy in the Southern District. The petitioner's creditors are 212 in number, of whom 170 are merchants carrying on business in the city of New York. Under these circumstances, it is submitted that the petition is properly filed in the Southern District of New York.

The Court agreed and the matter was closed. Not long after, though, on April 25, 1869, William died at age 54. He is buried at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Newark, New Jersey.⁸⁴ Amos M. Sackett died shortly thereafter on May 9. He is buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.⁸⁵

⁸² States Mead Sackett, #16591, the son of Amos M. Sackett and Sarah E. A. Mead, and the grandson of Justus R. and Clarissa (Belcher) Sackett and Staats (States) M. and Lydia (Holmes) Mead.

⁸³ **The National Bankruptcy Register Reports**, v. 1 (1874), pp. 665-66. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=oo9CAQAAMAAJ>.

⁸⁴ *Find-a-Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148619291/william-k-belcher>.

⁸⁵ *Find-a-Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/201664669/amos-mead-sackett>.

From 1870 forward, Henry W. Belcher continued to be listed as residing in Garrison or Philipstown, but has various ongoing engagements in New York City. From 1877-85, he was Assistant Auditor then Auditor at the **New York Custom House** of the U.S. Treasury Department, one of the most senior positions in the office.⁸⁶ He was also Vice President then President of Chatham National Bank, today part of Manufacturer's Trust.⁸⁷

On January 17, 1870,⁸⁸ the copartnership of **H. W. Belcher & Co.** was dissolved and a new copartnership, **Belcher, Park & Co.** was established, comprising Henry W. Belcher, Noel R. Park⁸⁹ and Henry's son, James H. Belcher.⁹⁰ City Directories in these years show this firm at 43 Warren St., and from 1875, 35 Warren St.

In the 1870 U.S. Census, Justus M. Sackett is listed as a **merchandise broker**. From 1872-77, City Directories list him as a **broker** with a home at 108 Henry St. and business address of 96 Wall St. The 1874 Copartnership Directory lists the firm of **J. R. Sackett & Co.** at 96 Wall St., comprising Justus M. Sackett and his nephew States M. Sackett with no type of business specified.⁹¹ The 1879 Copartnership Directory is to the same effect.⁹²

⁸⁶ History of Putnam County, p. 624; U.S., Secretary of the Interior, Official Register of the United States, Containing a List of the Offers and Employés in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service (various listings for multiple years), Ancestry, <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=2525&h=1981925&indiv=try>. Also noted in various New York City directories during this time period.

⁸⁷ History of Putnam County, p. 624. New York City directories for 1875-77 list him as Vice President or President without specifying the business.

⁸⁸ Announcement, New York Times, Jan. 22, 1870. Newspapers, www.newspapers.com, https://www.newspapers.com/clip/44933820/the_new_york_times/?xid=637.

⁸⁹ Noel R. Park's relationship, if any, is unknown. There are six individuals with the Park surname in the Sackett family database, but none in New York. <https://sackett-tree.org/search.php?mylastname=PARK>.

⁹⁰ James Henry Belcher (1849-1888), my wife's second great uncle. See, History of Putnam County, p. 624.

⁹¹ Wilson's New York City Copartnership Directory, 1874, p. 98. HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101065143560>.

⁹² Wilson's New York City Copartnership Directory, 1879, p. 113. HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101065143594>.

Belcher, Park & Co. continues to be shown in the 1876 Copartnership Directory at 35 Warren St.⁹³ However, in 1878 it is listed as “dissolved,” with a former address of 23 College Pl. A firm at the same location is listed, **Park & Belcher**, comprising Noel R. Park, James H. Belcher, and special partner Rufus Park⁹⁴ investing capital of \$7,000, with the firm to terminate April 30, 1878.⁹⁵ It is possible these two entries are for the same firm.

As of 1880, James H. Belcher was at Topeka, Kansas, where he had gone to work in the Treasury office of the **Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Co.**, with James Moore,⁹⁶ husband of Henry’s daughter and James’s brother, Annie Louise Belcher.⁹⁷ James died prematurely on May 2, 1888, at age 38, and is buried in the Topeka Cemetery, as are James and Annie Belcher Moore.⁹⁸

John S. Belcher’s life came to a tragic end on February 20, 1883, when he committed suicide at age 59.⁹⁹ His Yale College class reunion biography had noted in 1882 that he had been seriously ill but had been improving.¹⁰⁰

⁹³ Wilson's New York City Copartnership Directory, 1876, p. 10. HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101065143578>.

⁹⁴ Rufus Park’s ancestry and relationship, if any, are unknown. See note above regarding Park surnames.

⁹⁵ Wilson's New York City Copartnership Directory, 1878, pp. 10, 84, HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101065143586>.

⁹⁶ James Moore (1848-1916), Paymaster of the A. T. & S. F. Ry., my wife’s great-grandfather. History of Putnam County, p. 624; History of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, p. 372; Berrett, Howard D., Who's Who in Topeka (Topeka: Adams Brothers 1905), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=Lk8q6eZMe7cC>.

⁹⁷ Annie Louise Belcher (1851-1913), my wife’s great-grandmother. See sources cited for James Moore above.

⁹⁸ Find-a-Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12710901/james-henry-belcher>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15651038/james-moore>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15651042/annie-moore>.

⁹⁹ The Weekly Underwriter, Feb. 24, 1883, p. 161. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=-JZ11ivLNboC>.

¹⁰⁰ Record of the Class of 1845 of Yale College, p. 16.

John is buried in the Christ Church Cemetery in Greenwich, Connecticut.¹⁰¹

William Henry Sackett died on January 29, 1885, at age 78. He is reported to be buried at the New York Marble Cemetery in Manhattan, although the cemetery record states, “removed to Moravian,” which may be a reference to one of the Moravian Cemeteries in Manhattan, the one on Staten Island, or elsewhere.¹⁰²

On November 27, 1885, Justus R. Sackett died at age 66. He is buried at the New Burial Grounds Association Cemetery in Greenwich, Connecticut.¹⁰³

The 1888 New York City Copartnership Directory lists **Belcher & Parks**, comprising Henry W. Belcher and James B. Parks at 10 Burling Slip, business not specified.¹⁰⁴

Henry W. Belcher died on October 25, 1892, at age 72 in Garrison, and is buried at the St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands, in the same town.¹⁰⁵

CONCLUSION

The Belcher, Sackett and Mead family members mentioned here worked together, successfully, for many years in New York City. While the business

¹⁰¹ *Find-a-Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153158190/john-s.-belcher>.

¹⁰² *Find-a-Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72917091/william-henry-sackett>. For nearby cemeteries that have Moravian in their name, see, https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/search?cemetery-name=Moravian&cemetery-loc=New+York%2C+United+States+of+America&only-with-cemeteries=cemOnly&locationId=state_36&page=1#cem-2627940.

¹⁰³ *Find-a-Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162554480/justus-ralph-sackett>. The Sackett family database, record #16623, indicates he is buried at the Second Congregational Church Cemetery in Greenwich, which this cemetery is often called as it is adjacent to the Second Congregational Church.

¹⁰⁴ The Trow City Directory Co.'s (formerly Wilson's) Copartnership and Corporation Directory of New York City, 1888, p. 19. HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101065143602>.

¹⁰⁵ *Find-a-Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33777304/henry-w.-belcher>; History of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, p. 286

ventures did not end well for most, Henry W. Belcher seems to have done well. He withdrew from the business at an opportune time to pursue other ventures. He then returned to the New York City business, perhaps to salvage what remained, and hopefully to profit further from the venture. Meanwhile, he certainly seems to have prospered in Putnam County.

Of the various members of the Sackett family, Justus R. Sackett seems to have fared best. He returned to the brokerage world and remained in business for several years after his discharge in bankruptcy.

This review of the working relationships of these closely-related families leaves open several questions:

- Why were there multiple family businesses in the grocery field? Did they compete with each other, work together, or work in different lines of goods?
- What was the “family reason” for John S. Belcher to go into the grocery business rather than the field of medicine which he was studying, most likely with his father, Dr. Elisha Reynolds Belcher?
- What became of the various Colorado gold mine ventures?
- What is the true story of the **United States, European and West Virginia Land and Mining Company**, and what was the involvement of Amos M. Sackett in the so-called “Woodhouse Affair”? Did this situation really lead to his withdrawing from the **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** firm, or was the demise of that firm solely related to the embezzlement by William Swansboro? Or, were those two events tied together?
- Was Swansboro ever found and any of the firm’s money recovered, or did that remain a dead end?

There are several matters not researched and described in this review, which may merit follow-up at some point:

- There are a number of court cases involving **Sackett, Belcher & Co.** from a variety of states that appear to pertain to their general trade or mortgage lending practices. A review of these cases may

shed further light on the nature and extent of their business outside the grocery field.¹⁰⁶

- There are also a number of court cases involving land owned by these Mead and Sackett family members, most notably in the Adirondacks in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, New York. They appear to relate to issues of title for subsequent owners, but may be worth examining by those interested in the Sackett line.¹⁰⁷
- Lastly, and of potentially great importance to those interested in the Mead family line, there were several lawsuits filed by nearly all of the grandchildren of Staats M. Mead alleging the mishandling of his estate and property distribution. The suits involved real estate in the heart of Manhattan believed to be worth over \$1 million, and sought damages of \$235,000.¹⁰⁸ I did not find an outcome to this action using basic search methods, but did not review legal case reports. The court file itself would surely be interesting.

I hope those who are interested in these Belcher, Sackett and Mead family lines will find the information presented here to be useful in their family research.

¹⁰⁶ See, e.g., *Sackett, Belcher & Co. v. Partridge*, 4 Iowa 416 (1857) (action on bill of exchange), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=9LgDAAAAYAAJ>; *Welch v. Sackett*, 12 Wisc. 243 (1860) (action relating to note and mortgage securing goods), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=NPkaAAAAYAAJ>.

¹⁰⁷ See, e.g., *Ne-Ha-Sa-Ne Park Ass'n v. Lloyd*, N.Y. Sup. Ct., App. Div., Appeal Book summarizing exhibits and testimony, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=xibHm1KMcPQC&dq=Sackett%20%22herkimer%20county%22;+ruling+at+45+App.+Div.+631> (1896), *affirmed*, 167 N.Y. Rep. 431 (1901), Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?id=lwA0QAAMAAJ&pg=PA431>.

¹⁰⁸ See, *Accuse Dead Parents of Betrayal of Trust: Staats M. Mead's Grandchildren Sue to Recover Real Estate*, *New York Times*, Sept. 13 1903, p. 1, TimesMachine, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1903/09/13/102434192.html?pageNumber=1>; *Children Make Charges Against Their Parents*, *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Sept. 13, 1903, p. 48, Newspapers, https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=103208959. Bruce Browne, mentioned previously, alerted me to this controversy and the N.Y. Times article.

Appendix I

WINES.

THE VINE GROWER'S COMPANY OF COGNAC.

CAPITAL, THREE MILLIONS OF FRANCS,

THE COUNT DE SAINT-LEGIER, President.

JULES DCRET, Esq., Manager.

AGENT IN NEW YORK,

JOHN OSBORN.

45 Beaver street.

THIS CORPORATION, numbering amongst its Shareholders fourteen hundred Proprietors of the best Vineyards in the District of Cognac, its extensive Establishments being located in the centre of the town of that name, was organized for the express purpose of maintaining the standard character of

PURE COGNAC BRANDY,

by shipping that article in all its native purity and excellence, to Correspondents in Foreign Countries, and is bound down by its Statute of Regulations, to confine its transactions entirely to the Brandy grown within the District of Cognac, and wholly the produce of Vineyards in that highly-favored locality—on no condition whatever admitting into its store-houses any Brandy which may have been produced without the limits of said District.

With the object of extending the just reputation of their Brand, by such means only as will meet the approval and co-operation of the most respectable Wine Merchants in the United States, THE VINE GROWER'S COMPANY has authorized the Agency in New York to put up their choice Cognac Brandy, in cases of one dozen full-sized bottles each, and the same will be disposed of to the Trade and the Public, by the undermentioned respectable firms.

Every bottle is sealed with the capsule of the Company—the corks bear the same stamp, and the labels contain an exact description of the quality, duly signed in fac-simile, by the Agent of the Company.

The Brandies now offered consist of two different qualities both guaranteed to be equally pure in quality, differing only in point of age, and degrees of strength depending thereon, the oldest being the least potent. One description termed

THE VINE GROWER'S THREE YEARS OLD.

is an excellent article of the age represented, suitable for family or medicinal purposes; and another quality is designated

THE VINE GROWER'S ANTEDILUVIAN,

so called on account of its extreme age, and because the remote year of its actual production is beyond positive verification.

Objections having been urged that the bottles are too large and the Brandy of a greater strength than is usually supplied to the Public, the Agent of the Company ventures to express the opinion that a large bottle may be preferred to a smaller one, and that in obtaining the article of the exact strength at which it was exported from Cognac, consumers may recognize the advantage of adding water to suit their own taste, instead of purchasing "Croton" at the price of Brandy.

For sale by

CARRHART & BRO., 58 Broadway,
FRED'K S. COZZENS, 73 Warren st.
HACKETT, BELCHER & CO., 25 Pearl st.
HALL, DIXON & CO., 149 Chambers st.
W. WILSON, 23 Beaver st. mh12 is

Appendix II

FROM NEW YORK.

President Roberts—The Cholera—Santa Anna—Fenian Movement, etc.

NEW YORK, June 9.

Nothing new in Fenian circles to-day, and the excitement is rapidly dying out. Roberts is still in Ludlow street jail. He says there is no reason to anticipate any violation of the law by Irish people, and expresses a belief in the triumph of the Fenian cause ultimately. A numbers of persons call on Roberts, who continues to refuse to abstain from active co-operation with his fellow-countrymen.

There are reports of several cases of cholera in the city to-day, and two deaths in the Oliver steamer, though grave doubts are entertained as to the exact character of the disease. No alarm is felt here. The excitement is increasing at Seguin's Point, and many Staten Islanders declare they will not have quarantine ground there. Next Monday or Tuesday they hold a meeting to denounce the authorities and for urging that some other place be selected.

In a few days Santa Anna will issue a manifesto defining his position and policy, declaring himself in favor of the Republican party in Mexico, and his faith in an early and complete triumph of the Liberal cause.

Sackett, Belcher & Co., grocers, suspended here to-day; liabilities \$400,000; assets said to be twice that amount. Swansboro, one of the firm, recently embezzled \$150,000 and left for Europe, which is given as the cause of the failure.

Detroit Free Press, June 10, 1866, p. 1