

ANNOUNCEMENT OF



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

A Family That Doesn't Know Its Past Doesn't Understand Itself

**FOR THE YEAR 2002
SEVENTH EDITION**

Hi Everyone:

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's that time again! Every year I cogitate on whether or not to continue with the newsletters. In fact I thought seriously about discontinuing them until Joan decided to put each page of all the issues into a notebook. When I reviewed the thick volume of stories and pictures, I realized that especially with her 17 grandchildren and all the other grandchildren, these records in the future would be a valuable history for their families.

Each of these grandchildren is 10th generation in this country on the Durland, Crane, Free and Elson sides. That means that each one could have more than 1,000 ancestors. In my research I have not been able to find all of them so perhaps some will undoubtedly remain be unknown. The German side of the family doesn't go back that many generations. Also, in that 1000 there could be duplicates because of cousin intermarriage. It is estimated that before 1800 about 40% of marriages were between first, second, or third cousins. This information is from one of the genealogy magazines I subscribe to. I only found two examples so far

It then became clear to me that I was the only one making this family history a personal historical one. No matter that the writing is not as colorful as it could be. The only thing that matters is that these were real people whose blood is our blood, whose genes are our genes, and whose actions brought us to where we are today. So, I made the decision to continue for the seventh year, even though it takes me a couple of months to prepare, plan, and write each issue. Each year I promise myself I will learn how to do address labels, each year I fail! (Maybe in the future, I will clean up the first years when I didn't have a scanner and it was a cut, paste and copy production.)

My goal for this year on the Durland, Crane, Free, and Elson sides is to trace as many as these 1000 ancestors back to their origins in this country which includes the females who have added their unmarried names to our heritage. The four male names mentioned above are on record back to the 1600 and 1700s. Many of the female families you have yet to hear about. Therefore, I caution you again, there will be new names and new families, which comprise those 1000 ancestors

On the German side, I'll do my best to make the female names clearer. These families will not be so easy to relate to. I'll continue to look for the parents of Charles Kuhnert as that branch of the family stops with him. While I have excellent help from Ulrich Holscher, my true German friend, his expertise is mainly with the Westphalia area. He has tried to find Kuhnert in the Duchy of Brunswick and has made several calls at his own expense, but has not been able to find the parents of our illustrious ancestor. However, I'm doing quite well with the Wiggenghorns and will continue with the Brockhaus family. (This was Wilhelma's mother.) In the Schueneman/Greitenevert family, I do have some more names, which take us back through the females so you'll hear more about the Dankbars and the females in that branch. (Remember, Johann's mother who is buried in Johnsburg was a Dankbar.) I can go back to the 1600s with them. Germany is particularly hard to research because the church records only go back so far. Before that only land records are available. That means if any of the family did not own land, there is no record.

Again as in the past, I thank all of you for your contributions to the cause. Subscribing is voluntary and I let it up to you to decide what value these issues have for you. There has been a slight increase in the number of subscribers as families grow larger and as others want to know the historical stories of their heritage. There are a disappointing few who are not at all interested and ignore my requests for information. As a result, there are many cousins all over who do not care about their roots. I'm sorry for them, for in this uncertain world, we cannot be unaware of who we are and where we came from.

Those of you, who contribute to the cause, be assured that your contributions are most welcome and put to good use. They enable me to buy more books, subscribe to more services, pay for more records, and underwrite the cost of stamps and supplies. Genealogy is a very rewarding occupation but is quite costly because many records are no longer free. I continue doing my issues on my new Mac Cube, which I love, but in the future as finances warrant I would like to have a better scanner and laser printer.

I'm hoping my nephew, Jerry Larkin, will again help me clean up the issues. He does a magnificent job. The issues pre Jerry had many typos and errors I passed right over. For his help, I am eternally grateful.

I have to reiterate the importance of the enclosed coupon. Please do not put me in the position to deny anyone the issues because of no coupon. I have accepted your suggestion of putting the coupon on a separate piece of paper. The coupon is all-important for your address and my records. While I certainly do not consider myself as important as any other publication, one cannot renew any subscription without returning a record of an address. Therefore, you must send in the COUPON. NO COUPON NO NEWSLETTER. And as much as it will pain me to do so, if there is a check without a coupon, I will return the check.

Since I have subscribers who only want certain issues that pertain to their respective families I have included as always each issue separately so that the pertinent ones can be checked off. I shall continue with a separate Durland issue and a Crane issue. The Crane ancestry through Mary Ann Crane has as many old names as the Durland one.

I am open to any suggestions so please do not hesitate to express your ideas.

