

# A PERSONAL LETTER TO MY SUBSCRIBERS



## **KNOW YOUR ROOTS**

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

Dear Subscribers:

On what would be the tenth year of the newsletters, I think it is time for me to wrap up this effort. I began the newsletters in 1996 with four issues, which were based on my grandparents and expanded them to five in the year 2000 because I found that the Crane ancestors arrived on these shores in 1637 even before the Dorlandts in 1652. Our Crane ancestry began with Mary Ann Crane who was the grandmother of Harry Elson Durland. The Crane issues as well as the other issues, the Free/Elson, the Kuhnert/Wiggenhorn and the Schueneman/Greitenevert led me on many journeys and many discoveries, but now before it is too late, I want to clean up all my records. Because of the pressure of getting the newsletters out, records were added willy-nilly to each name and after each newsletter went out, these records were tabled until the following year. Consequently, the disarray and quantity has reached gargantuan proportions.

I concentrated on bringing the families to their arrivals in the United States. And with some I have taken them to their original roots abroad even tracing their roots historically to Charlemagne. In expanding the families and not adhering to only the male parents I researched the females as well. That brought into our heritage additional names like Treat, Meeker, Budd, Shuler, Purdy, Brockhaus, Dankbar, not to leave out the French Huguenots. There are many others but they were much more difficult to find and took more time and energy than I had to devote to them, namely the Stewarts, the Caskeys, the Turners, the Fletchers. It meant another trip to Salt Lake but then the world situation developed and I cancelled that trip.

When I began these newsletters, I experimented with logos and even margins. They were cut and paste deals because I had no scanner. My aims were not only to leave a legacy for the families to come but also to tell the stories of our brave adventurers of the past. As I said above it was nine years of total dedication to these aims. I hope that I have achieved them to some extent.

And all of you helped with your contributions. Without them I couldn't have achieved as much as I have. This is not a cheap avocation. The costs entail not only the obvious office supplies, etc. but also the requests for records that the counties hold. I have 30 notebooks; some so thick I have trouble lifting them, with records and records and records. Now granted, I'm sure there are several duplications but culling through all of them takes time as they all contain information of our families. Plus I have bought several reference books. I wish I had kept a time sheet of the hours and hours I spent thinking, planning, learning, writing, researching. The quantity would be astounding.

My point in telling you all this is to advise you that even though the Know Your Roots newsletter will be discontinued I am working on two more booklets. They will join the previous ones, The Dorlant 1898 reprint, the Chicago Clusters (the Kauss booklet) and Glimpses of Harry Elson Durland, The next booklet, Sisters, will be about my Grandma Minnie and Aunt Jo and will more or less chronicle the Kuhnert family.

Following that will be a booklet about Nana. A few years ago, I sent notebooks to my sisters for their anecdotes of Nana. I hope they have contacted their children for their remembrances also. I will collect those in May when I'm in McHenry. There will be a charge for the SISTERS and the NANA booklet also. I will advise you when each is ready. These two booklets will fit into the slipcase, which not all of you have. The title of the slipcase is OUR FAMILIES. If those of you who do not have it, would like for my bookbinder to make you a copy they cost \$35.00 each. The SISTERS booklet will cost around \$20.00. I am very sorry I have to charge you for these booklets but up to now, everything was included in your past contributions.

Then, as I mentioned at the Reunion last year, there will be a surprise. I also hope to have that completed in May. It is not a booklet. However, there will be an expense with that also, as it entails not only a printer but also a binder. I will advise you of that when it is finished.

At this time, I am thinking of indexing all the nine years of stories of Know Your Roots. Jerry Larkin my editor has offered to do it for later in the year. I have included a coupon so that I will know who wished to order it. There will be no charge.

I truly hope that through these newsletters you have more insight into who you are and how you got to be. I hope that the coming generations will have as much pride in their heritage as all those who went before us. I hope that love of country will always prevail and, with these stories, that everyone has a deeper appreciation of the dreams that accompanied our ancestors had when they withstood all the hardships to make their journeys. We are so lucky they survived and have given us such great legacies.

