

Mary Durland, Author/Researcher



# *KNOW YOUR ROOTS*

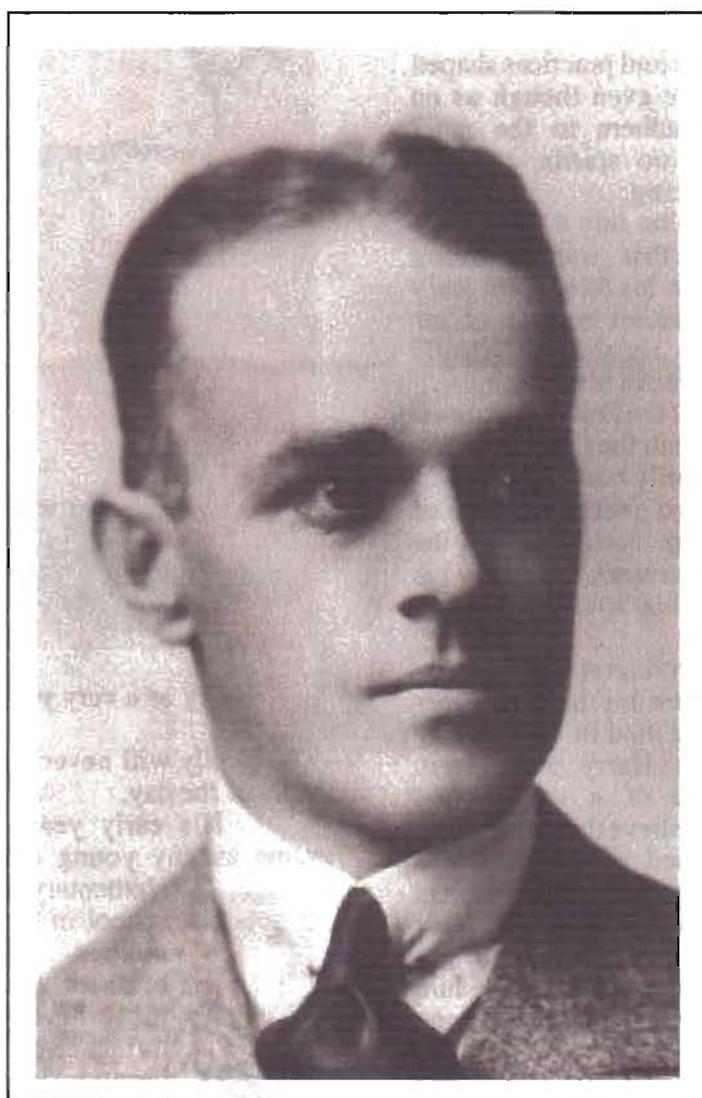
*A Family That Doesn't Know Its Past Doesn't Understand Itself*

VOLUME III NUMBER 1

DURLAND/CRANE

MARCH 1998

**THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO HARRY ELSON DURLAND  
WHOSE LOVE FOR HIS COUNTRY AND PRIDE IN HIS HERITAGE  
INSPIRED ITS CONTENT**



Father of Mary Elvera-Jane Ann-Martha Audrey-Joan Erwin

## A PROFILE OF HARRY ELSON DURLAND

Harry always said when his last daughter was born that now he had four queens. Yes, he was a poker player and he felt that was a pretty good hand that he was dealt. But this story begins long before that time period. It will cover the time when a national event shaped his life from which he never recovered.

He was born in 1888 in a small town called Flora, Illinois that was thriving at the time because of the railroad going through. His father was part owner in a profitable hardware store and his mother was active in the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

These beliefs and practices shaped his life for the future even though as an adult he did not adhere to the strict abstinence laws of no spirits, no card playing, and no dancing.

He was born on July 4, the day of Independence and that was a strong influence throughout his life. Not only was he a supreme patriot because of his birth date, but also because his family name was an early one in history.

He knew that the Durlands arrived in this hemisphere with the Dutch in 1652 because he had a family book that told of this event. These two events, the date of his birthday and the early date of the arrival of his ancestors, fueled his patriotic spirit and his love of country was ever present.

He was the youngest of the family of three boys. Before his birth, another son was born but he died in 1886 at the age of six, before Harry was born. However, a picture of a very young Harry leads one to believe that, after three sons, one having died when Harry was born, his mother wanted a girl. He had wonderful curly strawberry blond hair that his mother kept in long curls.

The following picture shows him as a toddler in a dress with these long curls.



Harry as a very young child

The family will never know if it was the style of the day.

His early years were much the same as any young child. He went to elementary school and high school in Flora. Besides his mother, his two older brothers, Charles and Oscar, must have had an abiding influence on his development because Harry had a deep sense of family.



The picture is Harry without his curls

While he was growing up, his brothers helped out at the hardware store but eventually took other jobs and left Flora.

Charles went to Chicago, and Oscar to High Point, North Carolina.

Their leaving home must have given Harry the desire also to leave the small town of Flora for after a short time in a business school, he found a job also in Chicago as a bond salesman for an investment firm.

The picture below shows Harry in his teens.



In those days, young men did not have apartments but rather rented a room in the big city. The room that Harry rented in Chicago was in the home of Josephine Heimer, a sister to Minnie Schuenemann. It is there that he met Henry Schuenemann, her son, who had a sister, Elvera.

Elvera, a few years younger, was an accomplished singer and pianist. Her brothers took her with them to parties and no doubt at one of these parties Elvera and Harry became acquainted. Thus begins the story of how the four queens happened to be.

In the following excerpt of a letter Harry wrote to his mother he tells of his engagement to Elvera Schueneman.

They were married 9 June 1917

My Mother, I have a little secret to tell you and I do not want you to feel bad and I know you will not. I am engaged to Elvera Schueneman and if nothing prevents we will be married next month. She is the finest in the world in my estimation and you are going to like her. For



Harry and Elvera at Lake Michigan

Unfortunately, World War I started and on October 15, 1918, he was drafted into the Army. Elvera went back to live with her parents when Harry went into the Army.

Fortunately, the Armistice was signed shortly afterwards and he was honorably discharged. Harry went back to Chicago to resume his career and the first of the four queens, Mary, was born.

Then followed the other three, Jane, Martha known as Mitzi, and Joan, and the four queens were complete.

In the meantime the family moved several times: first to Evanston, IL. then to New Orleans, and then back to Chicago. Eventually, the family moved to McHenry, IL and Harry commuted daily to his work on LaSalle Street in Chicago.

All would have been well, except for the great depression. Many in Harry's business were jumping out of windows because they were financially ruined. He did not do anything that drastic but suffice it to say, this national disaster took its toll on his life and he was never the same. He suffered a stroke and after a long illness died April 26, 1949

The picture on the cover shows the way his family remembers him. He lived by his word. He was an honest man. He loved his country. Yes, he had his faults. He was strict with his queens to the point of their exasperation. He was a hard taskmaster and their good grades in school were never quite good enough. But he was proud of his family and would have been proud of his grandchildren because he loved children.

May he rest in peace.



An impression of Nieuw Amsterdam in the middle of the 17th century Detail from the Cyclorama, Dutch Galleries Museum of the City of New York

## NEW AMSTERDAM

The Dutch colony of New Netherland was one of the first permanent European settlements in North America. Unfortunately this colony was surrendered to the British some 50 years after it was founded.

However, the forefathers of the Durland family and the originator of the Durland name in North America began in this colony shortly before the surrender.

Because of the Dorland family book by Cremer, each descendant has known for some time that all the Dorland/Durlands in the American continent have come from two Hollanders, Jan Gerretse Dorlandt and Lambert Janse Dorlandt, who arrived in 1652 and 1663 respectively.

The Harry Durland family is from Jan Gerretse, the first to arrive in Nieuw Amsterdam.

The settling of New Netherland, the colony called Nieuw Amsterdam was begun in the early 1600s. It was based on commerce and at that time the Dutch had the largest merchant fleet in the world and were looking for new conquests.

However, it is not clear why Jan Gerretse decided to sail from Holland to

the new land. It could be that he was a sailor with the Dutch West India Company that was promoting colonization in North America in order to strengthen its commercial position.

The first colonists were free citizens who could own their own homesteads.

Also, there were the indentured servants who worked under contract on the farms owned by the Dutch West India Company. There is no record of why the Dorlandts came but they did seem to begin farming immediately.

It could have been because the Dutch West India Company had worked out a plan for those who came. They offered to give large tracts of lands in America to any members of the company who would be responsible for bringing fifty adult settlers to Nieuw Amsterdam. In five years these settlers could own their own lands. Perhaps this is the way the Dorlandts acquired their farmlands.

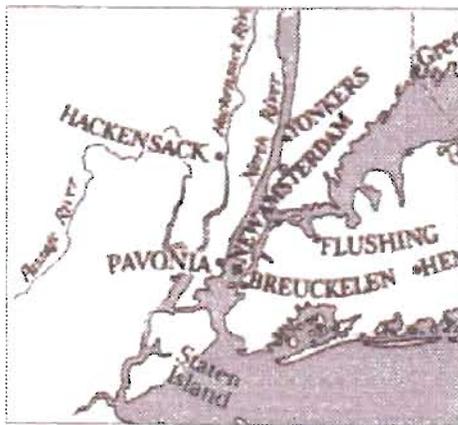
History tells us that these Dutch colonists felt little loyalty towards the Dutch flag. This may have been the reason Jan Gerretse took the oath to the English Kings when Nieuw Amsterdam

became an English colony in 1664. This record is in *The Roll of Oaths of Allegiance in Kings Co., N. Y.*

It seems that Peter Stuyvesant was not a popular Governor and the Dutch were eager to rid themselves of his rule.

In spite of New Netherland becoming New York, the Dutch had a profound influence on the area. Many of the names were kept by the English even though the city changed its political structure.

On the map below, one can recognize many names that remain from the early Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam.



Note the names of Hackensack, Yonkers, Flushing, Staten Island, and Breuckelen that later became Brooklyn. This is the area that originally was Niew Amsterdam.

Breuckelen is the area in Holland where the original Dorlandts were from. Today the area in the Netherlands known as Breuckelen is the place where the name of Dorlant was part of the estate of Nijenrode. It is from this family that the use of the Dorland crest was given to the descendants. This is the same crest that is found in the Dorland book by Cremer.

Even famous Wall Street in present day New York was named for the fortification built in 1653 when the Dutch colonists wanted to defend their area against the Algonquin Indians.

Harlem, New York, which is well known throughout the US was named for Harlaam in Holland.

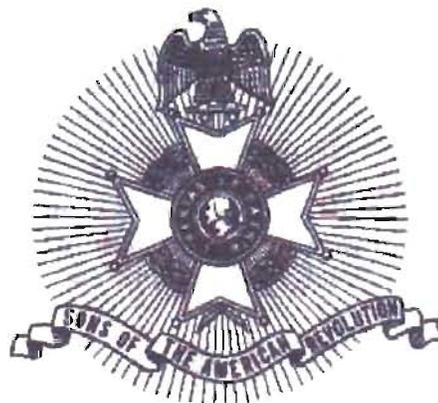
There are possibly other names that can be traced to the Dutch colonization. History would have taken a very different road if the Dutch had not given up when the English fleet sailed into the New Amsterdam harbor.

The town surrendered before the fleet fired a shot and the English took control of New Netherland immediately. The town was renamed in honor of the Duke of York.

The English received Manhattan Island for which the Dutch had paid \$24.00 in trade goods but the Indians were NOT the simple, naive people that history has recorded. The Indians were quite happy with the bargain because Manhattan did not belong to them but to another tribe! (From a story in the Family Chronicle, January/February 1998)



## PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS



The two best known of the patriotic organizations are THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, DAR, and the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, SAR.

The DAR will be the one discussed as the SAR does not apply to me.

Historically the DAR was incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1896 although it was founded in Washington, DC in 1890. Presently there are nearly 180,000 members in some 3,000 chapters in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan.

The DAR lists three objectives: Historic Preservation, Promotion of Education, and Patriotic Endeavor.

The most important one for our family purposes falls under Historical

Preservation. It concerns the Vital Genealogical Preservation of records.

The requirements for membership are quite exclusive. Anyone who wishes to become a member must give proof of an ancestor who served in the American Revolution or an ancestor who helped in some way in the cause of our Independence.

These men and women are called Revolutionary War Patriots and one who cannot prove she is a descendent of a Patriot is not eligible. This is especially intriguing when one can trace her roots back to that time but does not have a record of any participation of the ancestor in any way.

The Society publishes an index of all those who have traced their heritage to that time. In searching the list, I was able to find four Patriots who corresponded to my genealogical records. These were Patriots whom others had already proved through the screening process.

There is a very strict Lineage Research Committee which checks all the documentation for locations, dates, relationships between generations and correct service of the ancestor.

There is one saving grace however. If the lineage has been proven by someone else, it is possible to use that number and only prove relationship to that number. This is the way I chose to go. Even though I found four distinct Patriots, the easiest one I could prove my relationship to was William Dorland.

His records were proven by a descendant of Nelson Coleman Durland so there was an existing record that I could use. Nelson Coleman Durland was the brother of Robert Durland, my great-grandfather, so the only thing I had to prove was that relationship.

Fortunately, in my records I had a little booklet containing letters that Nelson Coleman Durland had written to a cousin about his family. This letter was published for the family and in it he speaks of his brother Robert. This little booklet has been accepted by Washington as proof of that filial relationship. Also it is contained in the Dorland book by Cremer which Washington has in its library.

From there it was comparatively easy for I had the documents proving my relationship to Robert, his son, James, my father, Harry, and my birth certificate. I had to supply proof of my relationship to each one with census records, death certificates which included the names of the parents, and marriage certificates.

It was not too arduous a task, only time consuming. However, I have been accepted and now I must pay the fee.

You might ask, "but of what benefit is this to me?" The answer to that is two fold. First, from the DAR I can get all the other Patriots which is a big help in ascertaining ancestors for whom I have no record. My ancestors are your ancestors.

Second, I know that my father would be happy that I was keeping alive his love of country by proving that I was

descendant from those who served in the Revolution.

These are the reasons. Can other females in the family join the DAR if they wish? Yes, of course, for they can use my number and just prove their relationship to me. Who knows what the future may bring and who might want to join.

The SAR has somewhat the same qualifications for membership but obviously it is more male oriented.

It contains not only information on Prominent Patriots, but also Revolutionary War Battles, and the development of the Constitution.

It has re-enactment groups, a color guard, and contests for Eagle Scouts, JROTC, and ROTC awards.

The SAR also has a Historical and Genealogical Library but it is located in Louisville, KY.

Other notices about it are a bit ambiguous: "The applicant must also be personally acceptable to the Society. Family tradition in regard to the services of an ancestor will not be considered."

Since this Society is not in my personal interest I shall not pursue those statements. If there is anyone in the family who wishes to know more I am sure all libraries would have more information.

The other organization I am learning more about is the Colonial Dames. See Mary's Messages for more on that.

In the meantime, I am a member of the DAR and will be privy to its information.

## OUR DIRECT LINEAGE TO THE KINGS OF ENGLAND AND CHARLEMAGNE

When speaking about historical lineage, many say, "well, we're all descended from Charlemagne, the first King of England." That might be true of those who boast of royal heritage but maybe it cannot be proven.

The Durland/Crane family, on the other hand, is able to prove its lineage but it might surprise you to learn most of it happened through females.

Try to follow the chart below and it will show you how this is possible. The chart starts with Robert, Harry Durland's grandfather. Remember the strain many times is through the female.

Robert Durland  
to  
William Dorland Jr. m\*. Sarah Youngs  
to  
Phineas Youngs m. Dorothy Budd,  
to  
her father and back many generations of male Budds  
to  
John Budd m. Katherine Browne

Katherin Browne is the one with Royal blood. She was the first one on this American continent. Her direct ancestors including her *father* were Sirs, descendants of *Sir Thomas Browne*. While the Brownes are a famous family, Sir Thomas is the one who married into the royal family.

Sir Thomas Browne m. Lady Eleanor Fitzalan, heiress to Betchworth Castle

Here we switch to the history books of the Fitzalan family, very prominent in English History. There are books written about their estate Arundell. Eventually we come to Richard Fitzalan II.

Richard Fitzalan m Eleanor Plantagenet

Anyone who has studied English history knows that the Plantagenets are the line of the Kings.

The first King through all these generation is Henry III was a Plantagenet and from 1216 to 1272. Before him was Henry II m to Eleanor of Aquitaine.

These from the Brownes, the Fitzalens and the Platangenets can be traced in any history book or encyclopedia. But I'm sure you're asking "what about Charlemagne?" For him we need to go back even farther, to

Geoffrey Plantagenet m Matilda,  
daughter of  
Henry I. and from Matilda  
to  
William I, the Conquerer

William I is the Norman who invaded England in 1066.

From here the line of succession goes back to Robert I, The Magnificent,  
to  
Richard II, The Good  
to  
Richard I, The Fearless,

through William Longsword, Pepin, Bernhard, and another Pepin of Lombardy who was Charlemagne's son.

We have now arrived at

### CHARLEMAGNE

who ruled 768-814 King of the Franks and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and believe it or not, a real ancestor of Harry Durland.

If there are any doubters there are myriads of books with the proven lineage but for those doubting Thomas' I challenge them to disprove their heritage.

\*m = married

## MARY'S MESSAGES



This newsletter contains the information about the sons and Daughters of the American Revolution but there is another organization which predates that one and I'm thinking about becoming a member of that one also. It is called Colonial Dames. (By the way when I checked the grammar component of this article I was told "Dames" is a sexist expression. How times do change!)

We qualify on two fronts, with the Dorlandts who came with the Dutch in 1652 and the Cranes who came with the English in 1637. I'm sure I will find others when I start checking. Those names are the obvious ones. Maybe, since I joined the DAR under Durland, I might try the Colonial Dames under Crane. I'm not sure how much of that ancestor I can prove.

I haven't ascertained the value of the memberships in these patriotic organizations but it is all predicated on the love my father had for this country and the pride he took in his ancestors. I guess those are good enough reasons for they stress patriotism and love of ones heritage.

Sometimes in researching ones heritage one might find an undesirable ancestor but, be that as it may, the majority in whatever country I find them are fine upstanding human beings. You can be sure that I shall report if I find anything amiss. The only one I know of is a Durland first cousin who swindled the Newberry Estate in Chicago out of money and also swindled his mother. Someday I will look into the particulars. He served time for it I am told. My Dad knew we had a crook on his side but it was unmentionable. Just recently I was told this same cousin was not a very nice man in other ways. also, Family stories are always fascinating to hear but must be tempered with discretion.,

I sent out the announcement for the newsletters of 1998 in plenty of time but there are some I haven't heard from. If you have ever ordered back copies, of anything they always cost more. I'm thinking of following that procedure because sometimes it is a headache to have to pull out the records. What do all of you think about that policy?

The Durland/Crane research has sort of been at a standstill because of the time I'm spending on the Schueneman book. In fact, I was asked if I hadn't depleted all the information that I had after two years of newsletters. The answer to that question is no. I have much more to write about but I try and vary the information and besides, new records are being discovered every day.

The article about our being a distant, distant, distant relation of Charlemagne caused me no end of grief. I tried to put too many pictures of the Kings in it and I kept losing what I had written. I just decided to go ahead without the pictures and explain it the best way I could. Let me know if it is not clear. So much of it is history but it's kind of fun to know we have royal blood!

It pleases me very much that the children are reading the newsletters. I have been told from different families that their children have found them interesting. This is my objective. History is so much more relevant when one can actually know that his or her specific ancestors took part in making it. Our ancestors living in the times I write about personalize the era.

I remember Durland asking me at one time what Nana had to say about the political tenor of her time. I'm sorry to say, I never asked her about it and how I wished I had! Many things were happening in the early 1900s when she was a girl. I'm sure she wasn't oblivious to her surroundings in Chicago and yet we must remember that , even though Nana was quite avant -garde for her time, she was a female who felt that females had to maintain a certain amount of propriety. I plan to feature Nana in the Schueneman newsletter.

For those of you who have the Internet, access the Reunion web page. George worked very hard on it.