



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

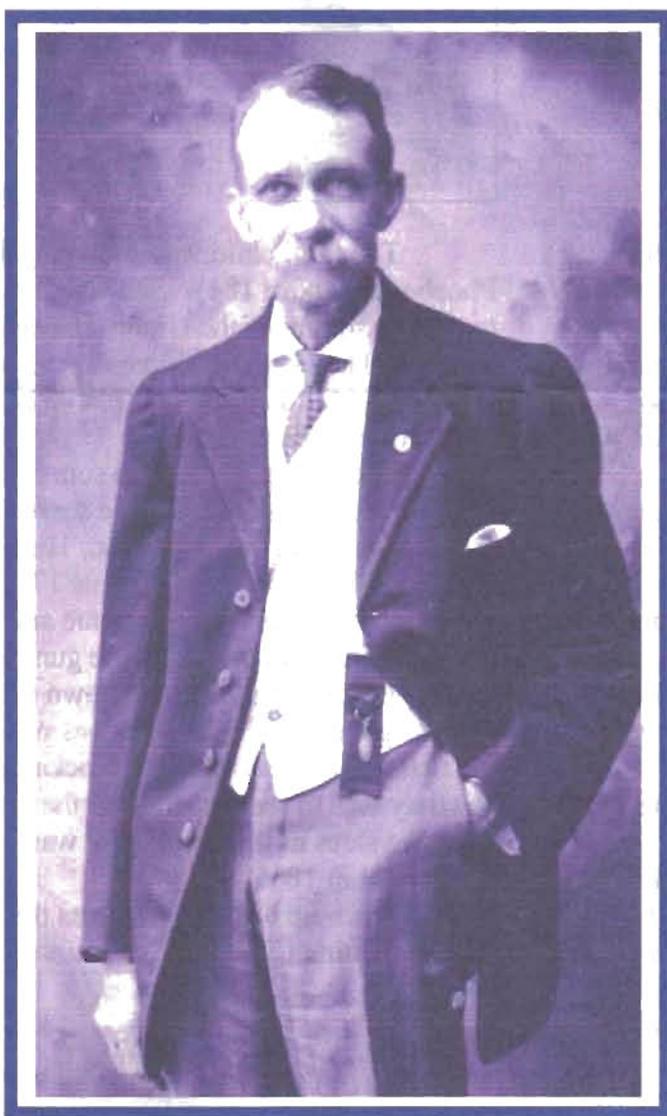
A Family That Doesn't Know Its Past Doesn't Understand Itself

VOLUME VI ISSUE 1

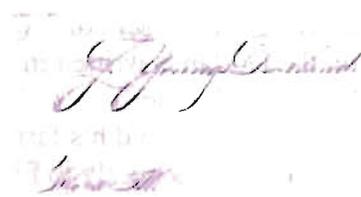
DURLAND

FEBRUARY 2001

Mary Durland, Author/Researcher



**JAMES
YOUNGS
DURLAND
1850-1927
Son of Robert**



HIS PERSONAL CARD



TOMBSTONE IN FLORA ILLINOIS

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT DURLAND

Robert Durland, the father of the Flora, Illinois family was born in New York in 1818 but was reared on a farm in Indiana with eight brothers and sisters. It is there that he married Mary Ann Crane of Jackson County, Indiana where they began their family in 1839.

“The opportunities for schooling which they (the children) were good, at least so far as the school privilege was concerned, for the school house was located upon one corner of the Durland farm. The school was maintained largely by subscription, and the attainments of the teachers, were often times most meager. Examinations did not test these as they do now-a-days, and anybody might become a teacher. Naturally these conditions did not make a very effective school.” (from a book on the Durlands written in the year 1900 by A. D. Shreiner.)

Robert sold his farm in Indiana and moved his family to Flora, Illinois where he bought 8 acres in the town. He also bought out a small hardware store and began his life as a hardware merchant. In the 1870 census he had assets of \$14,800 and \$3000 in personal property.

He was quite influential in the town because not only was he a stockholder in the Clay County Bank which later became the First national Bank but also he was a director. The store prospered and provided a good living for his family. (See the Hardware Store story in the 1997 issue.)

The first child and eldest sister of James Youngs was Eliza Ann born in 1840. In Flora in 1865 Eliza married William Hancock who served in the

Union Army during the Civil War. Eliza died in Florida and this is where some of her descendents now reside.

The second in the family was another girl, Amanda Ellen, born in 1842. She married Dr. George Adams, a dentist from the East, in 1862. They had a daughter Grace who moved to California when she married but Mattie and George stayed in Flora.



Mattie
Adams

The third child was another girl, Phoebe Jane, born 1845. She also married a soldier of the Union, Henry Tonney. They had 4 children. There are no Tonneys left in Flora and I have no record of her descendents.

The fourth child was a son, William Robert born 1847. He served in the U. S. Navy in the Civil War. His obituary relates that when he was 17 years old, he ran away from home and enlisted. He was detailed to the gunboat Benton which cruised up and down the Mississippi river. The Benton was one of the first to run the Vicksburg blockade. His duty was to feed the cannon that lined the sides of the vessel. He was discharged in 1865.

When he died at 91 he was the only remaining Civil War veteran in Flora

William
Robert



William had three girls and a boy. I am in contact with descendant of one of the daughters who married a Chaney. However, I have no record of the others.



James Youngs, our direct ancestor, was the next born in 1850. I refer to him with his middle name because he was named after one of his grandmothers, Sara Youngs. This is where the Youngs name started, He is the only one who was given a family surname. When you read about the Youngs in the future, remember James.

He attended the Durland school in Seymour, Indiana before the family moved to Flora and even spent time on a farm in New York after moving to Flora. Farming was his love.

James was already 15 when his father sold the property in Indiana and bought the property in Flora, Illinois. Seven years after moving there he married Rebecca Free in 1872

After his father died, he joined his brothers William and Maurice in the hardware store renaming it The Durland Brother Hardware and Implement Store He died in 1927.



After James Youngs, there was only one more child, Maurice Gould born in 1854..

Maurice
Gould



After two years in high school, Maurice joined his father in the hardware store when it was Durland, Miller & Company. After Robert's death the three boys, William, James, and Maurice continued running the store. (See the February 1997 issue)



All of Robert's children married in Flora, Illinois but today there is not one descendant remaining in the town.

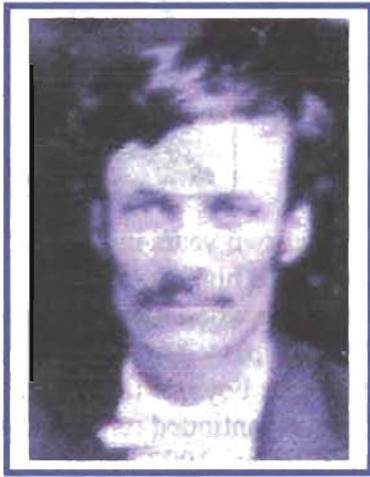


The tombstone of Robert in the Elmwood Cemetery in Flora is quite weatherbeaten but it stands tall as a reminder of the Durlands who contributed much to the small town of Flora, Illinois.

His property was known as the Durland subdivision and was subdivided into several lots. The hardware store is gone but the National Bank is still there.

JAMES YOUNGS DURLAND

Revisited From the 1997 Issue



At the time of James birth in 1850 his father, Robert Durland, was a farmer and this is where James' love of farming began.. Even when he was part of Durland Hardware, he returned for a short time to work on the farm of a cousin in the East.

Since his sister, Eliza married in 1865 in Flora, James must have been at least fifteen when Robert bought land in Flora, Illinois and moved his family there.



This is a photo of the Durland home in Flora and quite possibly James lived there before he got married.

He married Rebecca Free in 1872 and became involved in the hardware business as a clerk with his father. When his father died, he and his brothers bought the hardware store from their mother and then it became The Durland Brothers. Because of James' love of farming, it is said that he traveled a large territory selling their wares. This was in

contrast to his other brothers who were mostly involved with store details.



One can imagine his calling on customers in his horse (or is it a mule?) and buggy shown below. It's even quite possible he would deliver some of the merchandise of the store.



The house where the family of James lived is still in Flora but it is in disrepair. I visited the street and took the picture on the left..



On the right is a 1900 photo of the house in the Clay County Historical Society., On the left, the shutters are gone, but some of the gingerbread remains. The picket fence is not longer there and is not in a desirable neighborhood. As fastidious as James was, he would be sadly disappointed at its appearance today.

Most of these photos were given to me by Ruby Moore. She is sadly missed.



NOTE: This account of James Youngs Durland appeared in the Souvenir Supplement of the Clay County Record of Flora Illustrated October 1900

JAMES Y. DURLAND.



NY man who daily well performs his allotted task; who meets life's great moral questions and decides his own position upon them all by the forthcoming answer to the interrogative, is it right? who is so correct in his own individual habits of life that he unconsciously impresses his example and character upon his family and community for the lasting good and upbuilding of both is a hero in life's battle.

To have the courage to live up to one's convictions regardless of social or financial conditions denotes the highest order of moral courage.

James Y. Durland was born upon the old home farm near Seymour, Indiana, December 17th, 1850. Something has been said of his parentage in the article entitled, Durland Brothers. James Y. is the second son of the late Robert Durland. His early schooling was acquired at the country schoolhouse until the age of sixteen when he was sent to the Seymour High school. There he remained till his parents decided to move to Illinois, their idea being to find a good location for some mercantile business instead of farming. As told elsewhere the family came to Flora and during the school year 1867-8, James attended the Flora Public School then directed by the lamented Professor James H. Thompson who later became famous as a teacher and City Superintendent at Des Moines, Iowa. He worked on the farm, which his father had purchased three miles north-west of Flora, through the summer of 1868, and later went to Dunkirk, New York, with his brother-in-law Dr. G. T. Adams and worked on the old Adams home farm for one year. Returning to Flora he again entered the public school then managed by Mr. Harding and spent the school term of 1869-70 in earnest study. On August 22, 1870, he entered the employ of Tonney Brothers & Durland as hardware clerk where he remained till 1874. Having become tired of the confinement of the store he resigned his place and went to farming for four or five years. He was married to Miss R. J. Free, January 2nd, 1872.

In 1880 the co-partnership of three Durland Brothers was formed and since that time Mr. James Durland has applied himself very closely to the interests of the business. For twenty years he has not taken a vacation longer than one month. In all these years he has become very familiar with a vast number of people living within a 25 mile circumference of Flora. Mr. Durland has long been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for ten years has served upon the Official Board of the Church. He has been a teacher in the Sunday School for many years and was for 8 years its Secretary and Treasurer. He is a determined advocate of Temperance, and no vote or influence of his has ever gone in favor of the saloon. While fairly conservative on the temperance question he does not hesitate to stand by his convictions as to the

terrible evil.

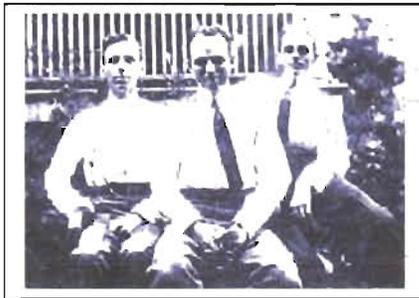
Mr. and Mrs. Durland's family comprises four sons. The eldest died of Diphtheria at the age of six years. Their second son Charles F. Durland graduated from the Orchard City College and went to Chicago and engaged as Stenographer and Book-keeper for the Newberry Warehouse and Storage Co. He has served the company for over eight years and has received several promotions and now is their manager and confidential agent. The third son Oscar C. Durland graduated from the Flora Public School and then attended the College and graduated from the Shorthand and Typewriting Course. At present writing he is traveling salesman for the Townley Stove Company of Terre Haute, Ind. Their fourth son Harry E, is still at home and a student in the Flora Public School. Herewith we give a view of the Durland family and home. In the center stands Mr. Charles F, and his young wife, Mrs. Fannie Durland of Chicago, but visiting at the old home.



Left to Right
Charles, Harry, the two wives, Fannie and Bess, Oscar
In the from Edwin, son of Charles

THE FAMILY OF JAMES YOUNGS

This is a family photo on a postcard dated 1909. The tall man in the back is son Charles. In the next row left to right, the young woman is not identified. Next to her is son Harry. I believe is Fannie, wife of Charles, Is between Harry and Oscar. Then Rebecca, mother. I think the two children are Edwin and Harold, sons of Charles. The one in the derby hat is James Youngs.Durland. These picture postcards were very popular at this time and this one has a 2 cent stamp. Below is a later picture of the three sons, Charles, Oscar, Harry..



I have no record of when he left Flora, for River Forest, IL. I know that he was involved in real estate with the well known Newberry family in Chicago.

He was probably very successful because he appears in the Blue Book chronicling the well known in Chicago in 1914 but it only says to refer to the 1906 edition. The Harold Washington Library in Chicago did not have that specific year so and I found no other reference to the reason he was included.

CHARLES FREE



When Charles was born in 1872, he was given the name Free from his mother before she was married

I know very little about Charles but I do remember going to his house in River Forest, Illinois. They had a big drawer of toys in the hall way and it was great fun to play with all of them because they were boys toys and very different from our girls toys at home.



The family picture is his wife, Fannie Ricketts whom he married in 1898 and

two of his children, Edwin (next to his mother) and Harold (with his father.)

A third boy, Charles Free Jr. was born to Charles in 1912. Charles Jr. married Grace Gilbertson in 1936.

Of the three boys, I remember Harold and Charles Jr. well. Harold always drew pictures for me when I saw him.

And I visited Charles Jr. in their Wisconsin home and he visited us at our home in McHenry, Illinois.



The three children of Charles Jr, Charles III, Priscilla, and David.

Originally all of the children of Charles Sr. stayed in the area although later they all disbursed. Charles Sr. died in 1928

OSCAR CRANE

Oscar was the second son of James born in 1888. He also was given a family name, that of his grandmother, Crane.



When Oscar finished his schooling he also left Flora but he went to the southeast and eventually became very prominent in High Point, North Carolina.

Because he lived so far away, I have no recollection of him at all. He died in 1934. But I visited his widow Bess in High Point in 1937 and I remember both of his children,

Betsey who was the older of the two was very beautiful

Jim was the tallest and most

handsome young man I had ever seen at that time but also the wildest. He took me to a party that I have never forgotten. Unfortunately it was sort of a foreboding for what was going to happen for Jim committed suicide not long after.



Jim and Betsey

GEORGE ROBERT

George, the third son and named after his grandfather Robert was born in 1880 and died in 1886. This is the correct succession of his birth. I do not know the cause of his death.

HARRY ELSON

Harry, the youngest, was my father. born in 1888. His story was in the 1998 issue. This baby picture shows his curls. He died in 1949.



There's no doubt we have many cousins in many areas. Maybe some day I'll know more about them and with any luck we'll get to know one another.

DURLAND TID BITS

The site that was the Durland orchard in Flora was selected for a new hospital in 1945. (However, the hospital in 1999 was vacant and abandoned.)

The following excerpt is from a booklet by Clarence Vergil Price, entitled Memories of Flora.

"In my day in Flora, the hot stove league was a very important factor. With no radio, those talks around the hot stove were very entertaining and important. One of the busiest was at the Durland Brothers hardware store. Back in the days that they were contemplating the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad from St. Paul to the Pacific Coast, this league was very busy."

Eric Durland wrote in an email asking for information but also supplied this interesting tid bit.

"My brother and I are trying to track our family's genealogy and haven't hit pay dirt yet..Did you know that there's a tiny town in Orange County named Durlandville? It has rich

agricultural soil (black) that they used to grow all sorts of vegetables in. When we visited Durlandville a couple years ago we found that they only grow onions. We took some Durlandville dirt and put it in a clear glass with bulbs and painted 'Durlandville Dirt' in gold on the outside of the glass. Just to let you know about some quirky Durlands in Denver, CO."

In a later email from the same Eric: "The only business left in the town of Durlandville is a small bar. When the four of us dropped in a couple years ago a patron bought us a round - felt that was the least we deserved having come all the way from Denver to find Durlandville... We had our picture taken in front of the bar."

Published in the Flora paper years ago. "As a final tribute to honor the memory of William Durland, all business houses in the city were closed for 30 minutes yesterday, during the time the funeral cortege was wending its way to the cemetery. He was 91 years of age."

MARY'S MESSAGES



I want to thank all of you for your contributions to the Newsletters.. Believe me they help to defray many of my expenses. Each year I make a little more progress into the histories of our families. I didn't accomplish all I set out to do on the present descendants because there are those today who do not return my requests. My only alternative is to research the census for their histories and that can only be done through 1920. The 1930 census won't be available for a few more years.

There seems to be quite a few Durland artists. The Christmas Angels card was sent to me by Jean Durland True but it was drawn by her sister Alice Durland Rynicker. She has illustrated many books and taught art in a Jr. College. She is the daughter of Clyde a son of Maurice.



Alice Durland
Rynicker

In the James Youngs family there is Donald Durland, son of Edwin Durland. I believe he was a professor in the art department at West Texas University in

Lubbock. He has retired and now lives on the West Coast. I know of him only by reputation.

In the past, also in the James Youngs family was the commercial artist Harold Durland who was famous for the Morton Salt girl holding an umbrella. He painted the oil painting of San Juan Capistrano that I have in my house. When he died, his wife Dorothy gave it to my mother, Elvera, and Elvera passed it on to me. In turn I'm passing it on to Mitzi Griffith Jr. our current family artist descended from James Youngs. She has several very interesting pieces in the homes of her siblings. Her forte is fantastic weavings and wall collages.



Mitzi

I'm sure that we will see this inherited talent in future generations. Perhaps it already exists.

I'm continuing to look for more Durland cousins. There must be many from the Robert Durland family out there. I belong to the Clay County Genealogical Society and each month I look for news of the Durlands that they uncover.

Pages 5 and 6 in this issue are from a commemorative book let written in 1900 about Flora. The information on George Durland is wrong as is so often with old records. One just has to keep digging and verifying all data.

Now for the surprise photo. This one came to me through the mail with no name on the back but if you look real hard you can make the connection!

