



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

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JULY 2009

VOLUME X

ISSUE 1

WELCOME TO THE FIRST REVIVAL ISSUE

The original issues for nine years were based on
THE GRANDPARENTS

of

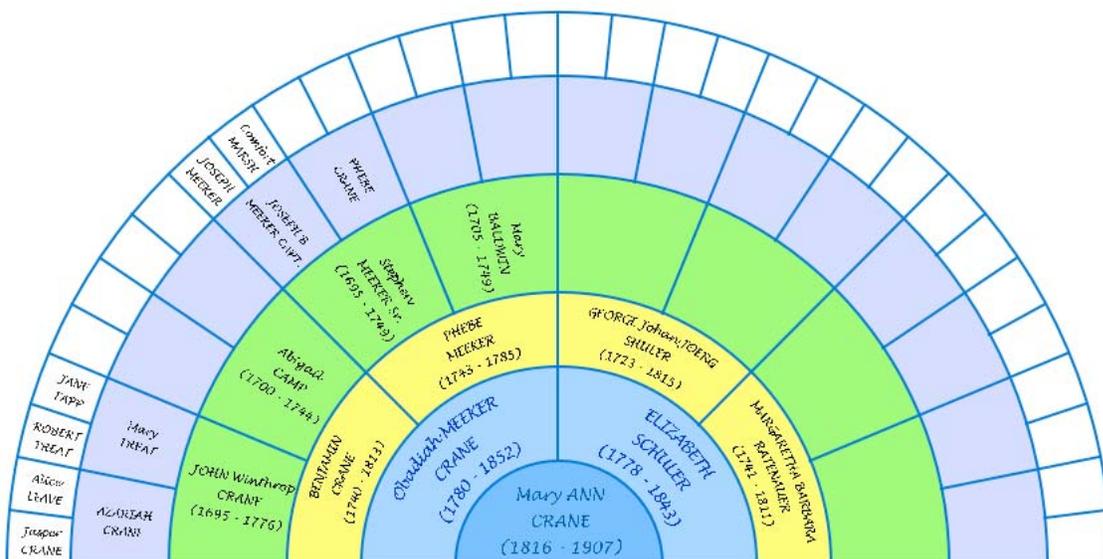
MARY – JANE – MITZI – JOAN
DURLAND

JAMES DURLAND REBECCA FREE JOHN SCHUENEMAN MINNIE KUHNERT

However, because the mother of James Durland had such an extensive important history I carried it back one more generation to his father, ROBERT DURLAND and his mother, MARY ANN CRANE. So the stories will be on the five underlined GRANDFATHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS.

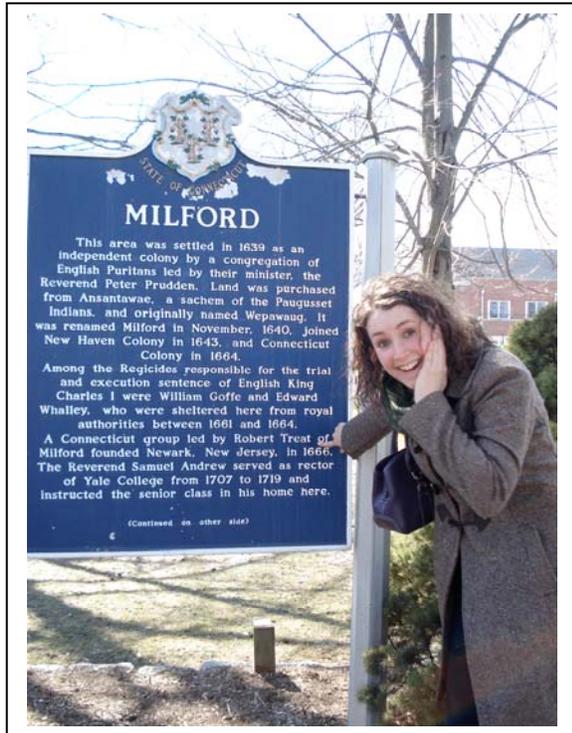
To make it easy for you to see the relationship pictorially of the names to the original five, each one of the five will have a fan chart for you to trace the person in the story from one of the original five. Then you can ascertain how many generations of “GREAT-” each grandmother or grandfather is to you. Have fun with the families and your history.

The first story will illustrate the explanation of the above. In the fan chart below you will notice MARY ANN CRANE at the bottom of the chart. Determine what generation of great-grandmother she is to you. My first story is about Grandfather ROBERT TREAT. To find your generation of grandfather Robert Treat, begin at Mary Ann Crane’s name and follow her ancestors to his name ROBERT TREAT on the far left adding a “great” with each generation.



A GRANDDAUGHTER FINDS HER ANCESTRAL GRANDFATHER

Most of you know that Emily Larkin has taken up her new position in Connecticut in the Teach for America corps, not only contributing to our country by her service but also following a long tradition of one of our illustrious ancestral grandfathers, Robert Treat. She is pointing to a plaque in Milford, Connecticut, which reads, “A Connecticut group led by Robert Treat of Milford founded Newark, New Jersey, in 1666.” However, this is only one of the accomplishments of this famous grandfather ancestor. He was no ordinary man. Let’s start at the beginning to deduce how he became extra-ordinary.



So much has been written about our distant grandfather as an adult. You can find stories historically about his exploits and important positions but not much about the man. I hope this little story will help you visualize Robert as an individual and will help you to understand his metamorphosis from a teenager to a famous adult. For this it is imperative to take you back first to his role model, his father Richard.

In England Richard Treat had a long heritage whose ancestors date back many generations. He himself was a merchant from this noble respected family but most importantly he was a Congregationalist, which has a definite bearing on our story.

Congregationalists of Richard’s time were described as capable, competent, inventive, masterful and well educated. Many of these characteristics exemplified Richard and were most important in defining the personality of Robert. Perhaps the most significant concept of Congregationalists was that of individualism. Keep this in mind when thinking about Robert.

About 1638, Richard, with his wife Alice (Gaylord) and nine children, all born in Somerset, England, first arrived in Watertown, Connecticut and then moved to Wethersfield. This is important because Congregationalist Richard Treat was an original member of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

However, this story is not about Richard but about his second son Robert. It is well documented that a son’s position in the family has a direct bearing on his personality. Consider all the literature about middle children striving to always be better, to be more competitive. Robert found himself in this position. Of these nine children of Richard’s at the time, the first three were girls, then the first son was named Richard after his father and Robert was next, a middle child for sure. Then three more girls before another son was born.

Robert chose to leave the family at age 16 and move to Milford and is on record as being appointed to survey lands. Quite a feat for a teenager. This was his emancipation, so to speak, and ushered him into the beginning of his public service.

However, he soon returned to Wethersfield as a tax collector and from then on the offices Robert held were many, among them being Commander-in-Chief of the Connecticut forces deployed against the Indians, and Governor of the Colony of Connecticut for 15 years, just to name a couple. His exploits and accomplishments go on and on, all recorded for posterity. But now you know how he was inspired by his father, by Congregationalism, and probably most importantly, by his determination to become more than just a middle child. Happy 4th of July.

Note: Look for the next issue August 1.

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