



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

Mary Durland, Author/Researcher

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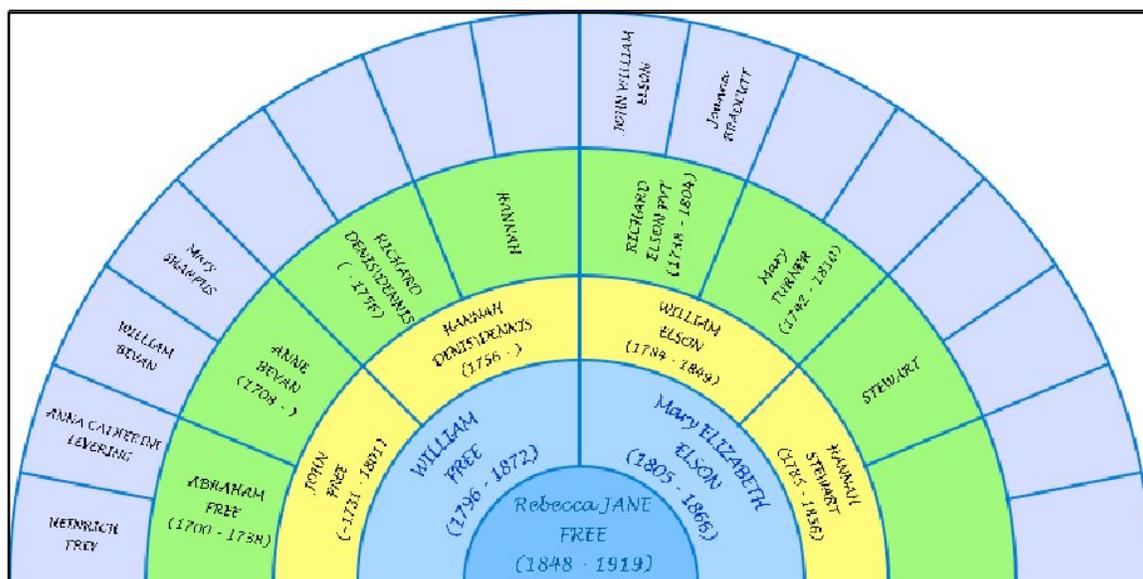
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IRONY

The patriotism of Harry Elson Durland is well documented by his daughters. (See Mary's Blog July 1, 2009.) It originated from his being born on July 4 and his book "Records of The Dorland Family in America" written in 1898. There is no doubt that his middle name, Elson, came from his mother Rebecca Free's mother, Mary Elizabeth Elson, but it is ironic that Harry did not know that his name, Elson, was also the name of a Revolutionary ancestral grandparent of his, Richard Elson. That also would add to his patriotism.

Follow the ancestral fan of Rebecca Free below. Note on the fan chart of Harry's mother, Rebecca Free, the Elson ancestry begins with Rebecca's Free's mother, Mary Elizabeth Elson on the right. Her father, in yellow, is William Elson and in the green you will find Richard Elson, who was born in 1738 in Maryland but served in the Revolution from Virginia.



Richard was living in Augusta County, Virginia at the time of the Revolution. He served as a private in the 4th Battalion, Washington County. After the Revolution, he and his wife became prominent as pioneer settlers of Virginia in what is now Brooks County, West Virginia. Richard died on the 28th of December 1804 and left this will which mentions his son William, father of Mary Elizabeth. I hope you enjoy reading about one of your ancestral

Elson grandfathers who served in the Revolutionary Army. After independence he obviously became a man of means, as you will read in his 200-year-old will.

WILL OF RICHARD ELSON 1804

In the Name of God. Amen. I, Richard Elson, or (sic) Brook County, and the State of Virginia, being very sick and weak in body, but of sound mind and well disposing mind and memory, do hereby make this my last will and testament.

In the first place, I desire that all my just debts and funeral expenses be honestly and punctually paid.

Secondly, to my beloved sons, Richard Turner Elson, John Harris Elson, Archibald Henson Elson, and my beloved daughter, Ruth Baxter, I leave each one dollar, having given them already as much as is consistant (sic) with equal distribution of my estate.

Thirdly, I leave to my beloved wife, Mary, the possession, use and profits of my mansion house, and farm during her natural life or widowhood, also all my personal property in like manner.

Fourthly, I leave to my beloved son, William Elson, all my land and houses and other real property, after the expiration of his mother, eight in all them above stated, also the gray mare, saddle and bridle, which I have heretofore given him, likewise bequeath to him one-fourth of all the personal belonging to the estate, at the death or marriage of his mother.

Fifthly I bequeath to my grandson, Richard Baxter, (son of Captain Edmond Baxter) the horse saddle and girdle which have already given him, and likewise three-forths (sic) of all the personal property belonging to the estate at the death or marriage of his Grandmother.

Sixthly, it is my will and request that matters may be so ordered between my dear wife, my son William, and grandson Richard Baxter shall have attained the age of twenty-five years and before that period of time, I wish the same arrangement to continue between my son and grandson on until that time so that the latter if industrious and prudent, may be able to purchase land for his future settlement.

Sevently (sic), I hereby appoint and constitute my son, John Harris Elson and Archibald Henson Elson, joint executors of this my last will and statement, and it is my correct request that if a dispute shall arise between any of the persons interested in my estate, that my executors may settle it between themselves and by the assistance of a third person, as by such decision.

Sealed and signed and delivered as his lat (sic) will and testament this 4TH day of December, 1804.

Richard Elson

*In the presence of
John Edington
Jos. Doddridge
Samuel Meeks*

*copied by Emma E. Lewis
Brook County, West Virginia
Court House Records*

Note: Look on the News page for more on the Elsons.

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