



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

Mary Durland, Author/Researcher

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BROTHERS

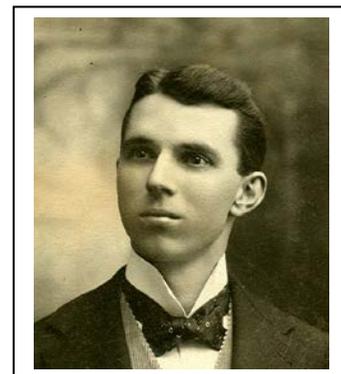
When Harry 1888 there were in the family. Charles Oscar Crane Durland. had even been another but he lived to be only quite sure what he died This picture is of Charles on the left, and in all, Rebecca Free had given birth to four the one that died all three boys eventually left Flora, IL and all three were fated to die young.



Durland was born in already two other boys Free Durland and Prior to Harry there boy, George Robert, six years old. I'm not of; I think diptheria. Oscar in the middle, Harry on the right. All and James Durland sons and aside from

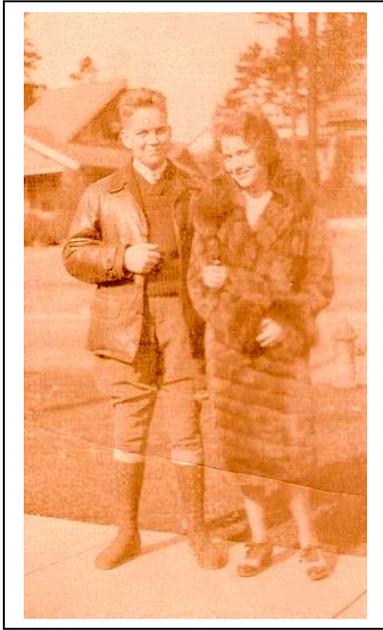
Oscar was born in 1875 in Flora, IL and was the younger of Harry's brothers. In 1900 and to 1910 he was single and lived at home with the family and was a traveling salesman for a varnish company. However, in 1910 at age 32 he was still single but he could be found also as a boarder in the town of High Point, NC working for a varnish company. Shortly after that 1910 census he married Bessie Cecil whose father was the minister in a Methodist Church. It is probable that Oscar met Bessie through the church because his mother Rebecca had been very active in the Methodist Church in Flora, so it was natural for him to seek friends in a comparable High Point church.

Eventually with a group of associates he bought the Lilly Varnish Co. and from then on continued to flourish, not only financially but also socially. He became a director in several businesses, among them the Lock-knit Hosiery and Robbins Knitting companies and held several executive positions in companies in which he had financial interests.



Oscar became a steward of the very church of his father-in-law and continued to be a member of several fraternal and civic groups. Unfortunately, as prominent as Oscar was, it might have been too much for him because he died at age 58 of a cerebral hemorrhage from arterial hypertension.

In 1911 Oscar and Bessie had a daughter named Betsey. Betsey lived in High point all of her life. She went to the High Point High School, Converse College, and High Point College. She too, like her father, became very socially prominent, being a member of the High Point Junior League and the Country Club.



Another child was born to Oscar and Bessie in 1914, Oscar Crane Jr. Unfortunately this child only survived a few months. Bessie took this child's death very hard, never really recovering from it, and this event seems to be the beginning of all of Bessie's travails.

Then following, another boy was born to Bessie and Oscar, James Cecil, in 1917. Like his sister, Jimmy, as he was called, also was a very sociable fellow. As a handsome young man he had a wild time in high school never really settling down. He was 17 when his father died and because Bessie had lost one other son earlier, this son was showered with much attention and forgiven many escapades. Sometimes a mother's love is blind.

In the meantime before Oscar died, Betsey married a very prominent physician in 1931 and was leading a life of a socialite in High Point. She eventually had three children, two boys and one girl also named Betsey.

Oscar's death in 1934 was sudden and a big shock to Bessie. This too was another ordeal for her. In 1940 her son Jimmy was living with her at home but was continuing his wild ways. At one time, he was a bouncer in a night club which must have been very hard on Bessie being a minister's daughter and very strict in her beliefs. Jim, as he was now called, seemed to always be in trouble, so much so that he was estranged from some family members.

This all led up to the fateful event when Bessie obviously was so distraught she committed suicide by jumping from the 7th floor window of a Sheraton Hotel in 1958. There are those in High Point who believe she was such a strong woman and had such high principles that she fell, but her death certificate tells it all.

Betsey, her daughter, married to Dr. Philip Davis, lived 2 years after the Dr. died in 1992, and she in 1994. Bessie's granddaughter Betsey Davis married and moved away from High Point. I don't know anything about the two sons Philip and James Davis but neither of them lives in High Point.

As for Jim Durland, he did go to his mother's funeral in High Point but was almost unrecognizable from the dashing young man he had once been. There are many rumors circulating in High Point about him, where he went, and whom he married but I have no record of anything except his gravestone. The story of Oscar's family after Oscar died is a sad one.

The newsletter in May will be about Charles, the elder brother of Harry.

