

ANNOUNCEMENT OF



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

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

YEAR 2003 -EIGHTH EDITION

It is hard for me to believe this is year eight for the newsletters and there is so much more to uncover because there are still mysteries that evade me.

On the DURLAND family I have made some progress with Oscar with the help of an acquaintance in High Point. Katherine FLETCHER, Margaret CASKEY, and Sarah YOUNGS are my brickwalls, a genealogy term for not being able to find family connections. You haven't heard about Dorothy Abigail BUDD or her mother Mary PURDY whose families are well documented. These two families, the Budds and the Purdys have books written about them so they are forthcoming.

With the CRANES, I'm still trying to trace Mary Anne's father, Obidiah Meeker Crane. He had a very colorful life but tracing his wanderings is very challenging. The MEEKER connection needs more work. Mary Anne's mother, Elizabeth SHULER presents other challenges.

I'm still looking for when and how Abraham FREE got his land in Philadelphia. So far I'm stumped. You learned about the ELSONS. This was a fun discovery. Along with that research I need to authenticate the family of Mary TURNER, wife of our Revolutionary ancestor Richard Elson. The name of STEWART begins with the wife of William Elson, son of Richard. Hannah Stewart is another brickwall.

All of these names are a part of our history. They were all here when the Revolution occurred. Philadelphia was the largest city at 40,000. New York had only 18,000 and of the thirteen states, Virginia remained the richest and most populous and maintained the greatest political influence. We have ancestors along the entire east coast.

Wages were low and money was scarce. There was no standard American coinage. British, Spanish, French and German coins all were in use along with the coins of the different states. In the entire county there were only three banks.

The great majority of our ancestors lived and worked on farms. Approximately half of the territory was still occupied by Indians. This information came from the book about John Adams by McCullough. I tell you all this because every one of the names mentioned above were a part of the Revolutionary era.

And now for our German connection which began in the U. S. in 1850. You all know that I made some progress on the KUHNERT side. However, Charles Kuhnert Sr. made such a break in Germany, I haven't been able to find even the ship he came over

on. But I'm determined to find his family in Germany, some way, some how. There must be many stories about the Kuhnert family in Johnsburg and the Schuenemann family from the farm, as they knew each other through the church St. John the Baptist. How to uncover these stories is a big task but not an insurmountable one.

We are fortunate to have a picture of Johann Heinrich SCHUENEMANN AKA JOHN SCHUENEMAN, the patriarch of the Schueneman clan. I would like to do more about his children but unfortunately I lost my best connection to Elizabeth this year, Marie Kristan Johnson. She was such a loyal supporter. Marcella Schueneman is my contact for Albert, John Schueneman in Waukegan, for Gerhard, and Marilyn Sherry for Katherine. While there are no descendants for Henry, Frank Suerth, a connection to Henry, has been tireless in helping me not only with Henry but also with the brother of Johann Heinrich, Bernhard. I would like to know the story of Anna who married Frank Ehart and also more about the child Johann who died at age 4. I wish I could find what happened to Lambert Greitenevert, Maria's brother, who accompanied the Schuenemanns to Chicago. I will do my very best to bring these siblings to life but I need the help of everyone to give me input so I'm appealing to those mentioned above to search their memories for family stories.

You all have been very diligent in returning your coupons and I thank you for being so prompt. Now, I have another request. Perhaps there are those in the family who would like copies of the newsletter. Why not give me their addresses and I will send them this announcement? You know the contribution is entirely voluntary but I do not hesitate to tell you that it is very helpful. Because there are so many today searching for their roots, costs have gone up tremendously and without your help, I would be hard pressed to continue.

Again, on the coupon, please check the issues you want. I do intend to continue with a separate Crane issue so there will be five issues in 2003. My snail address and email address is listed in every Mary's Messages. Please do contact me with any suggestions or ideas.

P. S. For those who have received the Dorland booklet, read the postscript at the back to find the reason for this printing.