



# KNOW YOUR ROOTS

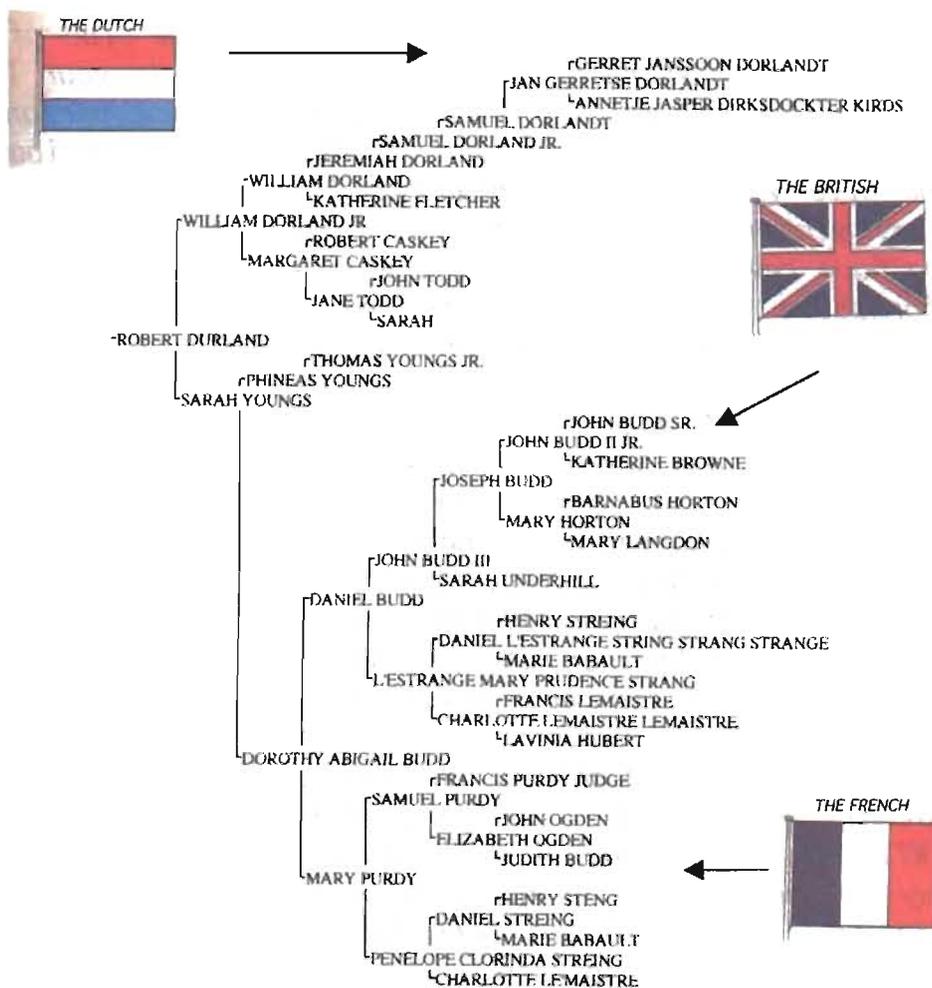
*A Family That Doesn't Know Its Past Doesn't Understand Itself*

VOLUME V ISSUE 1

DURLAND

FEBRUARY 2000

## THE DURLAND ANCESTRY



## ABOUT ROBERT DURLAND'S CHILDHOOD

(See Know Your Roots, Volume I, January 1996)

"There is probably not a member of the DURLAND family but what is desirous of knowing something of it history. This little pamphlet comprises two letters, one from a daughter of a cousin of my father, and his reply, which together give a brief history from the landing of the first of the family that came to America  
(Signed) SOLON S. DURLAND"

*Following is an excerpt of the reply to the cousin copied verbatim.. It was written by the brother of Robert Durland, Nelson Coleman Durland*

*Seymour, Ind., March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1890*

*"My Dear Cousin, Delphine :-You will probably never know just how glad we all were to get a letter from you. We both laughed and cried during its reading, for we found the sad side of life came in for its full share of space... Dear cousin, in your letter you ask a big thing of me. To write a history of the Durlands is something I dare not undertake, but am willing to contribute my mite, and give you all the information I can. The subject has been on my mind more or less for more than 25 years... But now since you have revived the subject, I will write and give you all the information I can, which is mostly of a traditional character, stories that my mother used to tell, and some old letters, one dating back to 1807..*

*Dear Cousin, I will now write about my father and his family. My father was born in Morris county, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1778, and my mother was born same county, Feb. 22d, 1782; her maiden name was Sarah Youngs, daughter of Phineas and Dorothy Youngs, all of Morris county. My oldest sister, Sibyl, who died in infancy, was born Jan. 23d, 1802; my next oldest sister, Jane, was born Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1803; my oldest brother, Phineas was born Oct, 5<sup>th</sup>, 1806; my next oldest sister, Eliza Ann. Was born April 2d, 1809. These were all born in Morris county, J.J. I have no record of the marriage of my father and mother, but from other dates suppose it was about the year 1800... The next birth in the family were twins, William Caskey and Gilbert Budd, born May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1815. Robert my youngest brother, was born April 2, 1818. About the year 1819 or '20, my father left New York for Indiana, and settled at Brownstown, Jackson county, and here my youngest sister, Sarah Mariah, was born, June 2d, 1821. This was a disastrous move for my father, for he not only, mainly lost his farm in New York through the villainy of one Hacket, to whom he*

had sold, but died March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1823, comparatively a young man. He had bought two farms of 120 acres each; he had moved a few loads of plunder to one of them, but took sick and died before the move was accomplished, leaving us a strange family in a strange land. Mournful as the occasion was, it was upon us, and we had to face it. The move was completed, and although I was still small, I shall never forget it, it was more like going to a funeral than to our future home. We went to work-springtime was upon us. My brother, Youngs as we always called him was about 17 years old, and we all looked to him to tell us what to do. We made a good living for that early day, and that was our home and rallying point for the family so as there were enough of us left to make a rally. My brother Robert finally became the owner, and lived there till something over 20 years ago, he sold the farm and moved to Flora, Illinois. Since that time the old homestead has been in the hands of strangers. The farm was three miles north of Brownstown, on the main road through the country. My father's grave and the family burying ground is on one corner of the farm. (Public ground.)...

Dear Cousin, I will now close this very long letter. Will you have patience to read it? I have tried to make it plain and not be tedious, how well I have succeeded, you must be the judge. Any of the family would be glad to correspond with you. Be sure to write to Ed., also Solon; write to me as often as you can while I am here. Can't you come? With sincere affection, we all send our kindest regards to you.

Nelson C. Durland"

Nelson didn't include his birthday in the list of his siblings. He was born 26 Apr 1815 near Bath, New York. He was 3 years older than his brother Robert was. There is much more to the pamphlet, which was printed by a stationer in Seymour, Ind. I have the pamphlet that was in Cremer's Dorland book.

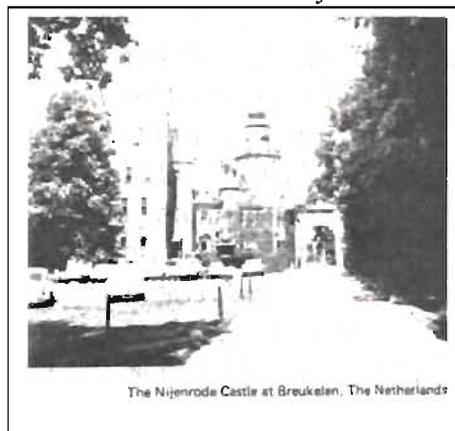
## THE DORLAND FAMILY NAME IN HOLLAND\*

The Dorland/Durland family had been known in Holland for almost four hundred years before Jan Gerretse Dorlandt and Lambert Janse Dorlandt immigrated to the New World and started the American branch of the family. John Dorland Cremer, who published "Records of the Dorland Family in America" (1898) says that he found some indication that the Dorlands "originated in France, possibly in the city of Orleans, and then migrated in whole or in part to Holland perhaps to the village of Breukelen. (*Brooklyn N.Y. named from this area.*)..

Wherever the Dorlandts may have lived before their appearance in Holland, the first to carry the name in Holland, was a natural son of Ghysbrecht (Gerald) van Nijenrode. The earliest record of the Nijenrode family was in 1298 when a member of the family, Splinter van Ruwiel occupied a castle in Breukelen between Amsterdam and Utrecht. The castle, pillaged and rebuilt a number of times over the years, still stands, and is the site of a business and commercial college.



In the early days of the van Nijenrodes, the castle was probably not much more than a blockhouse. It was destroyed once by the French Army. After the French invasion, a wealthy Amsterdam merchant who was also a horse breeder, rebuilt it. The old stables now serve as a dormitory.



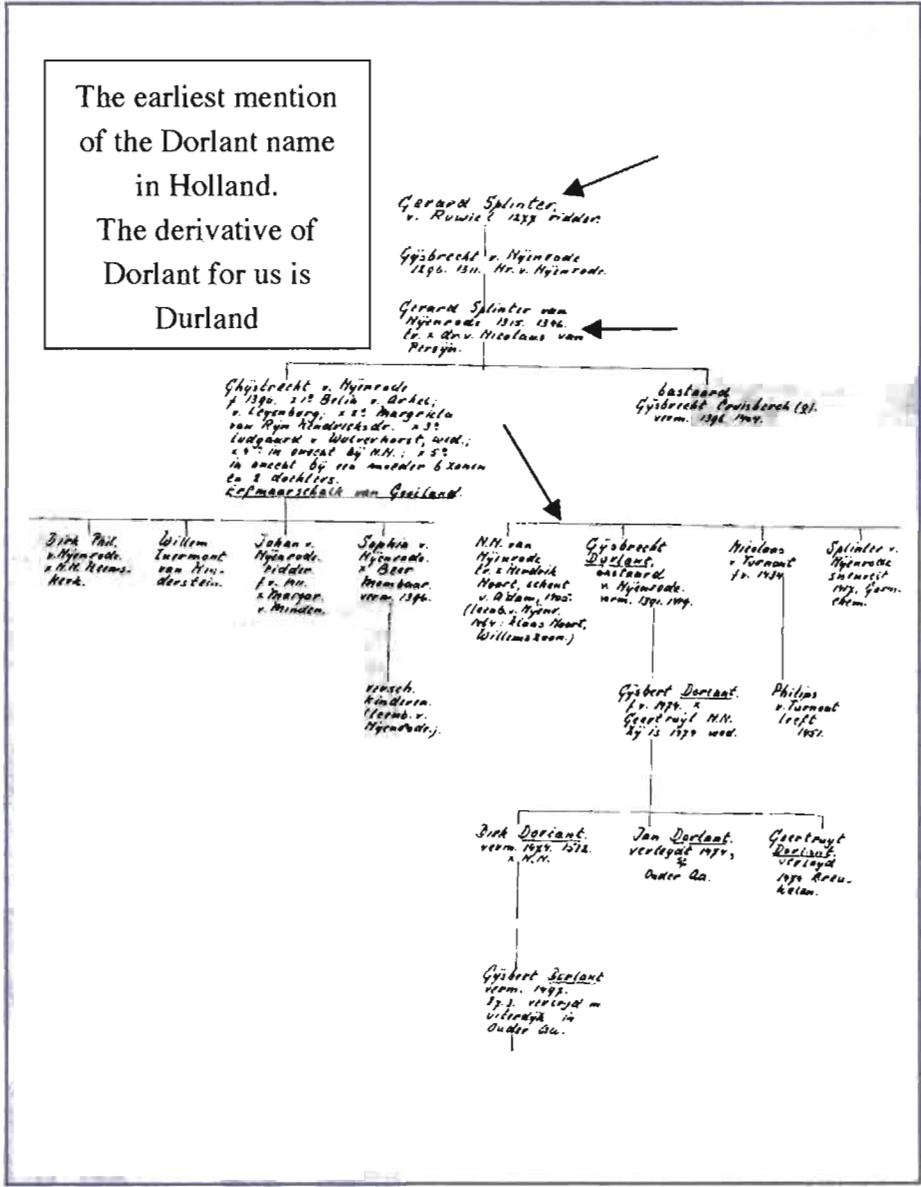
In its present state the castle is a spacious and imposing structure surrounded by a park and formal gardens. One drawbridge leads from the road to the castle grounds, while a second crosses the moat to afford access to the castle. Some of the original walls are still standing and can be seen in the cellar. Classes are held in the castle and in one of the rooms the coats of arms of the early tenants, including those of the van Nijenrodes, are displayed on the beams.

One natural son, Gysbrecht Dorlant van Nijenrode, named after his father, later dropped the van Nijenrode name and became simply Gysbrecht Dorlant. The records show it is this son who was the first Dorlant in Holland. The departure of Jan Gerretse and Lambert Janse for America in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century began the Dorlandt/Durland name in this hemisphere.

\*THE NIJENRODE CONNECTION TO DURLAND



The earliest mention of the Dorlant name in Holland. The derivative of Dorlant for us is Durland



## SOME OTHER DURLAND GIRLS

A first cousin of Harry Elson Durland also had a family of girls. While Harry was the son of James, this cousin, Clyde Durland was a son of Maurice, a brother of James.



*Clyde Durland*

Clyde as born in Flora but this story is not about Clyde. Suffice it to say, history tells us Clyde was a star of his high school football team in Flora and after graduation went on to the University of Illinois graduating as a civil engineer.

“Ike” as he was called became interested in homesteading in Montana, acquiring a spread 15 miles south of Billings and met his future wife, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, a teacher. Thus began the western dynasty of Clyde Durland.

They had three daughters, Mary, Alice, and Jean who were always known as the Durland Girls.

Mary was the first one I knew. Somehow I received her address in Billings. Nana had written that a Wiggernhorn had been a librarian in Billings so, even though, the Wiggernhorns had no connection to the

Durlands I thought I would write and ask Mary to check for me. She did.

Through this serendipitous old letter of Nana’s I was able to start my research for the Wiggernhorns. But that too is another story.

Mary and I started corresponding and she introduced me through her letters to her sisters, Alice and Jean. I know that she has a daughter who is also very interested in family history. I know too that Mary taught English as a Second Language so we had much in common. We exchange Christmas cards every year. Without her help my research on the Wiggernhorns would have taken much longer.

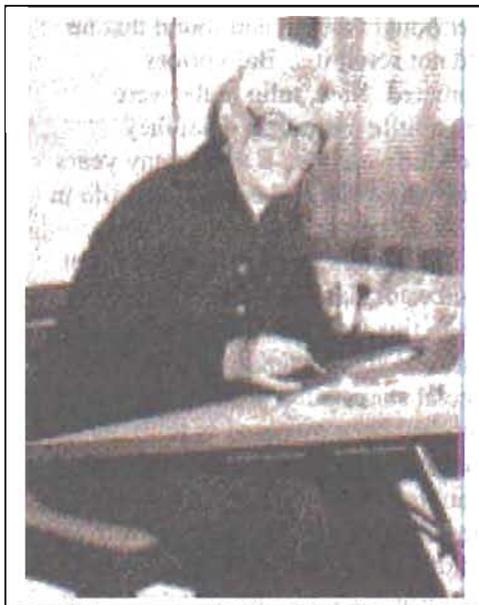


*Mary Durland Roberts*

The next cousin I met was Alice. At that time her husband had a brother in San Antonio. She contacted me and I

was lucky to meet her in San Antonio. We had a wonderful visit and I learned she was an artist. Alice told me about the book she had written about the Crow Indians. When she returned home, she sent me a copy and I quote from the book jacket.

“Alice Durland Ryniker has always loved Indian country. She is a Montana native and lives near the Crow Indians. Mrs. Ryniker holds the title of Professor Emeritus at Rocky Mountain College, Billings, where she taught in the art department for twenty-three years. Alice... has six grandchildren, all of whom have listened intently to her stories and delighted in her drawings. *Eagle Feather for a Crow* is her first published book but she has exhibited as an artist for many years.”



*Alice Durland Ryniker*

The last of the trio is Jean. We have corresponded for a few years and through the Trues News I have learned a little of her family.

Her husband was a true wildcatter which is defined by Webster as “a person who drills for oil in territory

not known to be oil bearing.” But Jean’s husband, Dave True, did strike oil and became one of Wyoming’s well-known entrepreneurs.

In the book written about Dave True, Jean describes her happy childhood in Montana. Today, she travels between Casper, Wyoming, her ranch and Arizona where she winters.

Tammy, her daughter, gives a beautiful tribute to her mother in the book about her father. “She used to break horses and train them for friends in Billings...she sang light opera when she was in college... She had a beautiful voice.” There is much more Tammy has to say about her. Indeed Jean is more than an accomplished horsewoman and singer.



*The Jean True Family*

There is much more to write about these illustrious Durland Girls. Perhaps in future editions I can tell you more about them.

Someday, it would be nice if Clydes’s daughters, Mary, Alice, and Jean, could meet Harry’s daughters, Mary, Joan, Mitzi, and Joan. Methinks this calls for another Reunion in Montana. Wouldn’t that be exciting?

## THE TULIP CRAZE



THE TULIP SQUARE BY MELINDA LARKIN

The Dorland Family Redwood (see the 1997 Durland/Crane issue) had this interesting story about Tulips and how Holland became the Tulip Country.

The story was first printed in the Denver Rocky Mountain News on Sunday 23 May 1999. This is a condensed version.

"Recently I purchased some tulip bulbs for about 10 cents each. But tulip bulbs were not always such a bargain. Let's go back more than 400 years when the first tulip bulbs were introduced to Western Europe. The tulip was a commodity of interest to the wealthy and considered to be a mark of distinction. The Dutch, in particular, were smitten with it. About 1607, the Amsterdam Stock and Commodity Exchange underwent a decade of speculative frenzy in the stock market.

'By 1620, tulip bulbs were commanding huge prices and the general public was attracted. By 1633, tulips were such the rage among the Dutch that ordinary industry became neglected. Virtually everyone became involved in growing, buying, and selling tulip bulbs.

'Prices started to rise steadily. Some of the more exotic varieties cost as much as \$2000 per bulb (in today's dollars.) The Semper Augustus cost more than \$5000 per bulb! Even a successful brewery was traded for a single tulip bulb.

'In Amsterdam, it was reported that one resident made \$90,000 from his garden in 4 months. People stayed up at night keeping watch over their garden with some devising trip wires connected to bells to alert them of bulb burglars. Sellers sold bulbs they didn't own to buyers who pledged money they didn't have. This was called *windhandel* or trading air... Prices soared and there seemed to be no end to it.

But all bubbles eventually burst. One day in Feb. of 1637, a tulip bulb dealer bought a bulb and found that he could not resell it... Bulb prices plummeted. Now, tulip bulbs were worth a little more than what they resembled - onions. It took many years for the economic and commercial life in Holland to recover."

(Editors note I remind you that our ancestor, Jan Gerretse Dorlandt came to this land in 1652 from Holland. We do not know anything of his financial status but it would be curious if he too had been involved in tulip bulbs. We do not believe he was an indentured servant but rather worked for the West Indies Company. But then he also was a child of a landowner so maybe he relinquished his inheritance to start life anew in New Amsterdam or maybe he sold his tulips. Who knows?

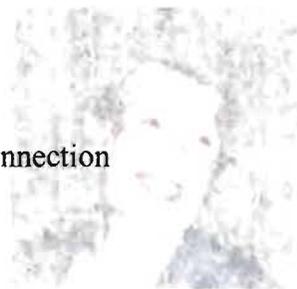
At any rate the tulip craze was over when Jan Gerretse decided to leave Holland. But today Holland is still noted for its tulips that historically started in 1607.)

# INDEX OF PAST DURLAND/CRANE ISSUES

JANUARY 1996

VOLUME I

The Robert Durland and Mary Ann Crane Connection  
Various Faces of the Coat-of-Arms  
Preface by Wayne Dorland  
Welcome by Mary Durland



FEBRUARY 1997

VOLUME II ISSUE 1

James Youngs Durland  
"The Hardware Store"  
The Dorland Family Redwood  
Mary Ann Crane-The Matriarch of the Robert Durland Family  
Mary's Messages

MARCH 1998

VOLUME III ISSUE 1

Issue Dedicated to Harry Elson Durland  
Profile of Harry Elson Durland  
New Amsterdam  
Patriotic Organizations  
Our Direct Lineage to the Kings of England and Charlemagne  
Mary's Messages

MARCH 1999

VOLUME IV ISSUE 1

A Perspective of Our Colonial Roots  
And Then There Were the Huguenots  
Seeing Our Ancestors as Real People in the 1600s  
Where is Samuel? Or the Naming System of the Dutch  
Mary Ann Crane-The End of a Journal  
Mary's Messages

## MARY'S MESSAGES



A new photo, a new Millennium, a new computer, and a new scanner. What way to start the New Year!

I was overwhelmed by the response from those, old and new subscribers, to these newsletters. I am humbled by the checks I received. You all may be sure I will continue to keep you informed of recent developments. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your interest.

Referring to the cover, for those who are not quite sure where Robert Durland, the beginning of the Durland clan, comes in, I want to remind you that Robert was one of the grandfathers of Harry Elson Durland. (one of Harry's grandmothers was Mary Ann Crane, wife of Robert, and the beginning of the Crane branch.) I hope all of you know that Harry Elson was the father of Mary, Jane, Mitzi and Joan.

As I wrote in the announcement, the Cranes will have their own newsletter. While the Crane family isn't as extensive as the Durland family, it too goes back to the beginnings of this country for

many generations. The females are not as easy to trace but the Cranes alone have a long history.

I hope by putting the Durland Ancestry on the cover you will become familiar with some of the other family names and how different ethnic groups have become part of the family.

You will notice on the Durland/Dorland ancestry names such as Fletcher, Caskey, Todd, and Youngs. I am working on those now so please remember where they belong and keep this ancestry form for reference.

Extensive research has been done on the Budd line and it is through our ancestor Dorothy Abigail Budd that our ancestry on the Durland side is traced back to the kings of England and Charlemagne (see Volume 3 Issue 1 March 1998.) Did you catch the brother of Robert who was called Gilbert Budd?

It seems that family names were the custom to be given to the male children. Harry was Elson, one brother was Oscar Crane, and the other Charles Free. Genealogists love this custom. Hence Gilbert Budd. To show the link to the Budds.

It is through that same Budd line that the French came into the family. That line, also, has been well documented so please take special note of the LeMaistre and Streing names. They are the Huguenots which fled France because they were protestants. (Volume IV Issue 1, March 1999.)

Because these families all arrived in the 1600s and 1700s there has been much written about them historically. It is not possible to tell you about them in one issue a year, so each year, you will learn more and more as I include more data.

I took you back to the beginning of the Dorlant name because those records have been researched thoroughly by Dr. Evert van Alphen, a descendant of the Dorland family in Holland. He found the records in old Dutch archives after much digging. The records indicated Ghijsbert Dorland sought unsuccessfully to recover land given to him by the Nijenrodes. Although van Alphen wrote in Dutch his native language, his research was translated into English by Loeskin Small.

Dr. van Alphen writes before he began his research, he first encountered the name in England in a classical English class taught by a Miss Dorland. He asked the question in his research, "Was Dorland an English name?"

As I referred to Cremer, he thought it was a French name but subsequent studies did not prove this to be a bonafide link.

Today, in the Netherlands, the Dorlandt descendants accept Dr. van Alphen as the authority on the name and its first connection to the name of Nijenrode.

I have an email contact in the Netherlands who is still working on the Dorlandts who remain in the

country today. He accepts van Alphen but there seems to be a broken link that occurred just as our ancestors left for the new world. I will probably report on that in the future.

This issue is larger than usual. The first one on Durland/Crane I had to cut and paste. Now that I have a scanner, pictures are no longer a problem to print but the quality needs work. George did the one of the True family. It is the best.

I promised I would be more careful and check all the stories for errors but Joan will let me know if I missed any!

Hope you enjoy this one on our ancient Durland ancestors and our contemporary cousins.

MYSTERY PICTURE.. Two of my most loyal supporters. Who are they?

