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# **KNOW YOUR ROOTS**

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

VOLUME VI Issue 2

CRANE

APRIL 2001

## **MOTHER & THE CRANE GRANDMOTHERS OF MARY ANN CRANE WIFE OF ROBERT DURLAND AND THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CRANE HERITAGE**

### Mother-

ELIZABETH SCHULER CRANE  
Born in Amsterdam, NY. 1788  
Died in Brownstown, IN

**MARY ANN\***



### Grandmother

PHOEBE MEEKER CRANE  
Born in New Jersey 1743-1785  
Died along the Ohio River, OH

### Great Grandmother

ABIGAIL CRANE  
Born about 1700-1744  
Died in Newark, NJ

### Great Great Grandmother

MARY TREAT CRANE  
Born in Connecticut 1652-1704  
Died in Newark, NJ

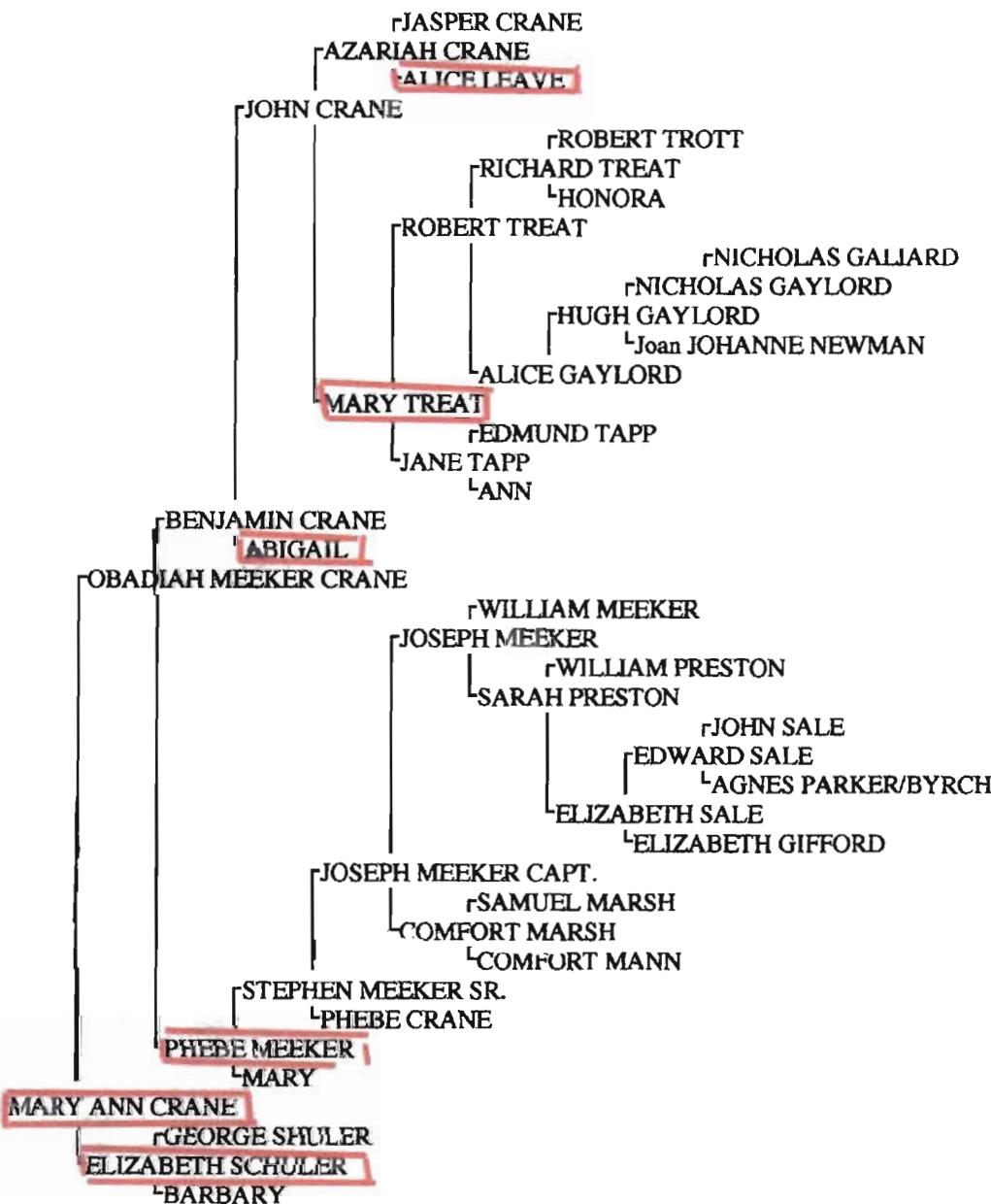
### Great Great Great Grandmother

ALICE LEAVE CRANE  
Born in England 1608-  
Died in Newark, NJ

**1816-1907**  
**Died in Flora, IL**

\*Picture from before 1879 when Robert died.  
Taken with Robert on the porch of their home.  
Robert's picture not clear.

# MARY ANN CRANE'S PEDIGREE OF HER CRANE GRANDMOTHERS



*(Ed. note, To touch on the stories of the females preceding Mary Ann Crane, we begin with her mother. Keeping in mind the times of their lives, the identities of women were most often lost when they married. That is the reason the information revolves around the men.)*

## **ELIZABETH SCHULER CRANE**

### **Mother of Mary Ann**

There is much controversy about Elizabeth Schuler. It is not that she wasn't the wife of Obadiah Meeker Crane, father of Mary Ann, but that it is not clear who her parents were.

Among family genealogists, there is always some doubt unless parentage can be proven by first hand sources, namely birth records, wills, church lists, or government accounts. The only records that are clear are her birth the on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1778 in Amsterdam, NY, that she married Obadiah Meeker Crane 28 Feb 1804 in Amsterdam, and that she died 17 Dec. 1844 in Brownstown, IN.

First there is the spelling of the name Schuler. Is it Schuler, Shuler, or Schuyler? Very often variations in spelling occur because those recording the documents were not very conscientious and sometimes families were not very scrupulous recording their events.

The records in Brownstown, IN where she died in 1844 have spelled her name SCHULER This is according to the Crane cemetery in that area.

A researcher whose wife is a Crane descendant and a genealogist believes that Elizabeth is the daughter of George Shuler. In Amsterdam, NY there is the will of George naming a daughter Elizabeth. But notice the discrepancy in the spelling. She did name a son George Clinton Crane. Was he named after her father? Where did the Clinton come from? It doesn't appear in any Crane family so far. Her first son was named John Schuler Crane. Was he named perhaps after her grandfather or after Obadiah's grandfather John Crane? It's hard to tell when the name John appears in both families.

Another researcher who is deceased was working with the name SCHUYLER. The SCH was kept but sometimes the Y was dropped. The name Schuyler is very prominent in New Amsterdam and early New York history. What is missing is the will naming a daughter Elizabeth. If that can be authenticated, the family can be traced back to the early days of the Dutch. She never finished her research.

Another confusing aspect is that the Germans SCHULER (SHULER) and the Dutch SCHUYLER were in Amsterdam, NY at the same time so it easily could have been either of the families.

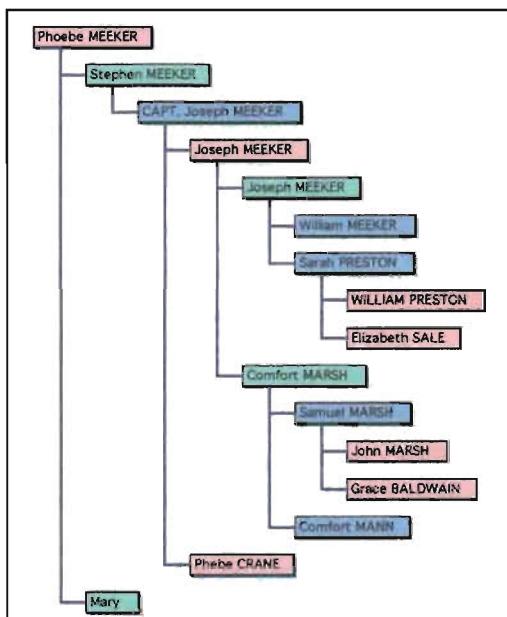
*(To be continued in a future issue).*

## PHOEBE MEEKER CRANE

(The introduction to our Meeker family appeared in the Crane Issue 2 VOLUME 5, 2000. Ed.)

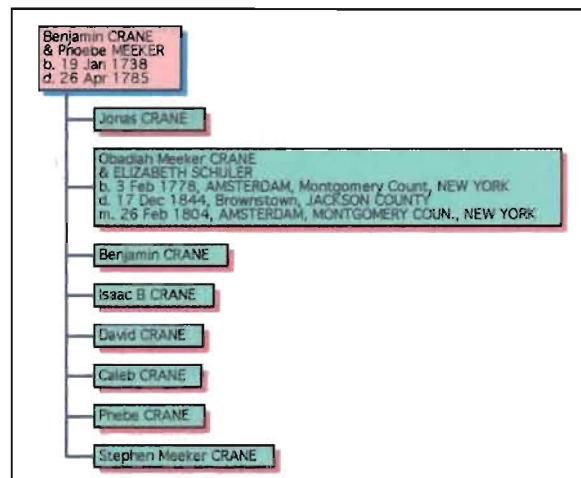
Phoebe Meeker Crane was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. At the age of 21 she married Benjamin Crane. This is the beginning of her life as a Crane. There are variations to the spelling of her name. - sometimes it is Phoebe and other times it is Phebe, which shows up on some of the records.

On the chart below there is no record of her mother other than the name Mary.



However, we do know that Phoebe is the grandmother of Mary Ann because she married Benjamin Crane in 1764. This statistic was needed to prove the ancestry of Benjamin for my acceptance into the National Society of Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.

During her marriage she gave birth to eight children one of them being Mary Ann's father Obadiah Meeker Crane, all boys except one girl. The chart of the family shows them all but perhaps not in order.



I believe the eldest to be Jonas who figures prominently in Phoebe's death. Jonas was born 1766 and as our records show, Obadiah Meeker was born 1778. Within this time frame of Phoebe's marriage of 1764 and when Benjamin died in 1831 all the other children including Obadiah were born. Somewhere in that time frame Benjamin moved from New Jersey to Amsterdam, NY. where he died in 1831.

In 1785 Phoebe decided to accompany her son Jonas westward. I do not know their exact destination or the reason for the journey. Along the way and before they could reach their destination, Phoebe took sick and died. I have read that they were traveling on the Ohio River and that she was buried in Ohio.

An primary account of her death states she was "quite an old lady." It is interesting to note that although she was in her forties, she was considered old.

Jonas must have continued his journey because he died in Jackson Co. Indiana. Both Obadiah and Josas lived in Indiana because this is where Mary Ann's mother is buried and where Mary Ann married Robert Durland.

## ABIGAIL (?)

Not much is known about this great grandmother of Mary Ann, only that she was the first wife of John Crane and was the mother of Benjamin our subsequent ancestor. Her birth date is an estimated figure. However the date of her death is listed in the records as 1744

John Crane, her husband, was quite prominent in the area and a man of means. We find his name as a witness to many wills and his own will was quite extensive. When he died in 1775 at the age of 81, his second wife Rebecca and not Abigail, was mentioned. His will is an example of Revolutionary language and the customs of the day. The will is dated Dec. 14, 1767 but it was not proved until May 1, 1778 three years after he died. It is printed here exactly as it was written in the language of the day.

1767, Dec. 14. Crane, John, of Newark, Essex Co., yeoman; will of. Wife Rebecca, the use of the house we live in, and the labor from my Negro, Ceaser, and wench Sue, and she may keep 2 cows, and use of £100, until my son, Jonas, is 21. If she moves from my house, my sons John and Obediah, are to pay her £5 a year. If she remove from my house, then the goods are to be divided between my son, Samuel, John, Obediah and Jonas. Son, John, land I bought of the heirs of Samuel Cooper, Esq.: also 1/2 of my land at the Cove, his part to be on the east side, joining Caleb Wheeler's land: also 1/2 of my land over the Cove, which I bought of Moses Ball and John Crane and his part to be on the north: also 1/2 of my land on the Hill called the Pasture, the west part: also 1/2 oof my land near Moses Baldwin. Son, Obediah, home lot where I live, and 1/2 of the land at the Cove,

his part to be next the Ferry road: and 1/2 the land over the Cove, the south part: and 1/2 the lad on the Hill, the lower part: and 1/2 the land near Joshua Baldwin: and also meadow at PlumPoint. Son Samuel, 1/2 my land in the Great neck, near Beaf Point ,which I bought of Thomas Alling and Jonathan Ball, and is to be the upper part: and 1/2 the land on the Hill which I bought of Thomas Alling: to be the upper part: and 1/2 my upper salt meadow, near Wheeler's Point, and to be the upper part, next the creek. Son, Elias, 1/2 the land in the Great Neck, near Beaf Point, that I bought of Thomas Alling and Jonathan Ball, to be the lower end: and 1/2my land on the Hill that I bought of Thomas Alling, and to be the lower part: and 2 acres of meadow over the Great Swamp, next to that after herein devised to son, Eliakim. Son Eliakim, 5 acres of meadow over the Great Swamp, to be the lower part. Son Mathias, 3 acres of meadow over the Great Swamp. Sons, John and Obediah, my 2 lower lots of salt meadow near Wheeler's Point, and 1/2 of my upper salt meadow at Wheeler's Point, and to be the lower end: and also the rest of the meadow over the Swamp. Sons, Samuel, John and Obediah, my land in Newark, that joins Joseph Riggs" home lot, called the tanyard. Sons, Samuel John, Obediah, Eliakim and Benjamin my apparel. Sons, Jonas, £100. when he is 21. Son Mathias, £100. Grandson, Rufus Crane, £30. Son, Eliakim, £20. Son, Benjamin £10. Witnesses-John Ogden, Abiel Campfield, Thomas Longworth. Proved May 1, 1778.

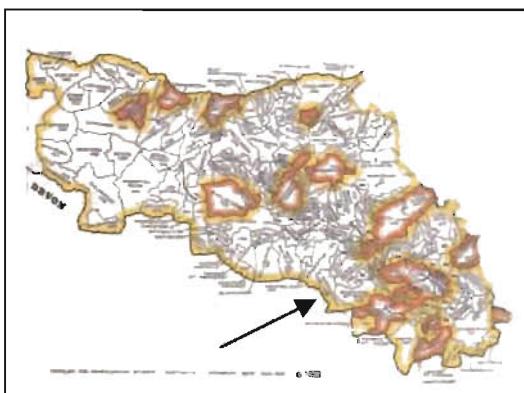
From the Colonial and Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey-Calendar of Wills published in 1931.

## MARY TREAT

### Great, Great Grandmother of Mary Ann

The union of Mary Treat and Azariah joined two of the most illustrious families of New Haven, Ct. Mary's father was Robert Treat and her mother was Jane Tapp also from one of the first families of New Haven.

Robert Treat has a long pedigree in England. It goes back 15 generations and 450 years. He left Pitminster, England to migrate to the new colony in the 1600s.



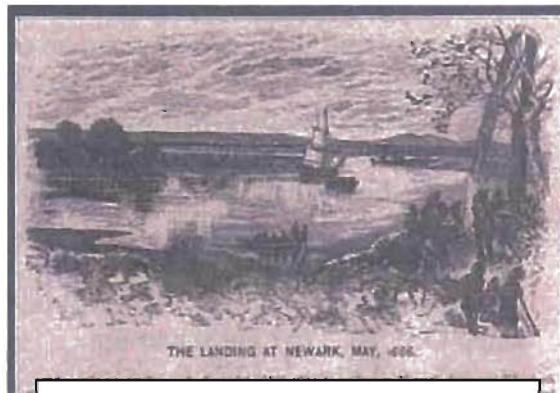
Arrow locating Pitminster, Somerset, England. from where the Treats and the Tapps migrated.

Robert Treat arrived in Milford in the new Haven Colony in 1639 and soon became very prominent in public affairs. He became a deputy and eventually became governor. One account says "Governor Treat is commonly said to have had twenty-one children" but this is not substantiated.

However, Mary is recorded along with six others. Mary was born in Milford in 1652. This is undoubtedly where she met her future husband Azariah Crane, son of Jasper who was also born in Milford.

In the meantime, her father along with Jasper Crane was talking with the Indians and settlers to purchase land in an area, which eventually became

Newark, NJ. Newark was under Dutch control for a short time. Nevertheless, the two men moved their families there. Shortly after that time it was returned to English control.



Robert Treat visited Newark in 1666

Mary Treat and Azariah were married in Newark in 1663. At that time the recorded population was 86 men but we know that Jasper Crane and Robert Treat had brought their families there when they purchased land. They are known as the founders of Newark.

Mary Treat Crane had six children, one of them being John, our ancestor. While there is much written about her father Robert and her husband Azariah, only the bare details are given about her life. We know that in Newark she lived on the lot of her father on the southeast corner of Market and Broad Streets.

Azariah became known as Deacon and had the care of the Treat interests in Newark for many years. He established the first tannery in the town in 1698. This was Mary Treat's life with Azariah.

Mary died in Newark in 1704.

## MARRIAGE LAWS IN NEWARK, NJ

### Before 1795

Three of the Crane grandmothers were married in Newark, New Jersey. Historically these marriages were before the Revolution and still under English law.

They were Phoebe Meeker married to Benjamin Crane in 1764, Abigail married to John Crane about 1717, and Mary Treat married to Azariah Crane in 1673.

The laws that existed since the 1600s were in effect until 1795 when they were changed

Here is a condensed version of the State of New Jersey Marriage Records. You might find some of the restrictions interesting.

- I. No man or woman shall intermarry, within the degrees hereafter named that is to say, No man shall marry his Grandmother [etc.,etc.] This list of prohibitions was usually found in the opening pages of the King James Version of the Scriptures as well as the prayer Book of the Church of England
- II. Every justice of the peace of this State and ordained minister of the gospel may lawfully enter into the matrimonial relations.
- III. No justice of the peace, minister of the gospel or other person having or pretending to have authority to join any male under the age of twenty-one years, or female under the age of eighteen

years, unless the parent or parent, guardian or guardians give their consent...

- IV. Every justice of the peace, minister of the gospel, or other person having authority to join persons in marriage, who shall marry any minor or minors by virtue of certificate shall register the same ... within three months...to be filed in the clerk's office.
- V. If any justice of the peace, minister of the gospel, or other person, having or pretending to have authority shall marry an minor or minors without the consent of the parent ... shall, for every such offence, forfeit three hundred dollars...the one half of said forfeiture to be paid to the treasurer of the State... and the other half to be for the use of the parent, guardian or other person having charge of such minor.
- VI. Every justice of the peace, and the minister of the gospel, shall make and keep a particular record of all marriages solemnized before him, and transmit a certificate of every...marriage containing Christian names and surnames [*sic*] within six months...
- VII. If any justice of the peace, or minister of the gospel, shall neglect, omit, or refuse to make return to the clerk of the county

- as aforesaid, of all the marriages by him pronounced, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered, with costs, by the clerk of the said court of common pleas...
- VIII. The respective clerks of the courts... shall register and record all such returns of marriages at large in a book to be kept for that purpose, and no other, ... for which service the said clerks respectively shall be allowed and receive, for each and every entry aforesaid, the sum of twelve cents, to be paid by the persons married... If any such clerk shall refuse, neglect or omit to register and record, within the said time, any such return so to him made or any part thereof, he shall forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recovered, with costs, by any person who shall prosecute for the same...
- IX. It shall and may be lawful for every religious society in this State to join together in marriage such persons as are of the said society, according to the rules and customs of the society, to which they belong...
- X. Such books of marriages, so kept by the respective clerks of the court... and by the clerks of such religious societies... shall be admitted as evidence in all courts of law and equity in this State.
- XI. If any justice of the peace or minister of the gospel, shall willfully and knowingly make a
- false return of such marriages, or any of them, to the said clerk of the court... then every such person, offending shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, on conviction, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court.
- XII. The act entitled, "An act to prevent clandestine marriages," passed the twenty-seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred and nineteen, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

These acts were from a group of laws, some passed in 1675, 1682, 1683, and others from the English Marriage Act of 1734. They remained on the statute-books [sic] without change until 1795; that of course was after the Revolution and therefore all English laws were changed.

All of our ancestors who were married in New Jersey were subject to these laws. The amounts of the penalties were quite large for this time.

## ALICE LEAVE CRANE

And now to the last grandmother of Mary Ann's in the colonies. It must be apparent to you that there is a myriad of information about the males but practically nothing on the females unless they were mentioned in the will of their father or husband.

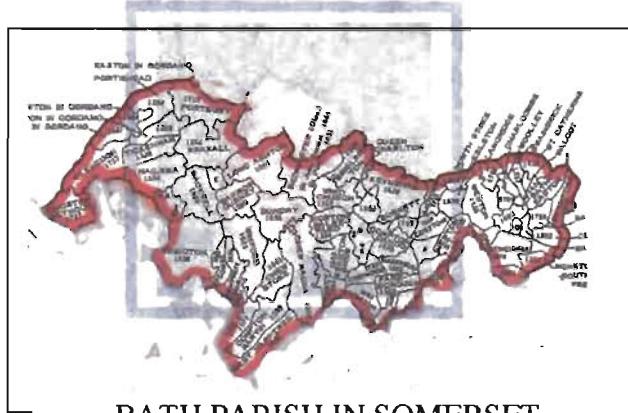
In our colonial history, the identity of the female was absorbed by her husband when she married. All that we can do is look at the customs of the times and surmise what her life would be like. With each one, I've had to look at the accomplishments of the husbands.

This is not to say that these women were not strong or determined. Life was not easy but generally they were protected. Their lives were only their husbands and their children. Big families were the norm rather than the exception.

Alice Leave was one of those females about whom we know almost nothing. She was born in about 1608 in Somerset, England and we think was married to Jasper Crane about 1632. Jasper Crane was one of the first settlers in Milford, CT and was very prominent there before he and Robert Treat founded Newark.

Jasper and Alice had seven children and they were the beginning of our Crane heritage on this continent. It is not definite that Jasper came to Milford, CT from London but it is fairly certain that Alice came from Bath, in Somerset, England. There is no mention of her being on the same boat, the Hector, with Jasper, but many did bring their families.

According to the records, he arrived at New Haven in 1637. However, his marriage to Alice was



BATH PARISH IN SOMERSET,  
ENGLAND

recorded, as mentioned, in 1635 so it can be assumed she was with him on his voyage. The marriage date is according to the record of "New England Marriages Prior to 1700" as reported in 1985. Therein lies the dilemma. If Alice and Jasper married in London before he arrived in New Haven, why wasn't the marriage mentioned as having taken place earlier?

Their first child John was born about 1635 as recorded in the "Crane Family Volume II" by Ellery Bicknell Crane written in 1900. Azariah our ancestor was born about 1647. He was the sixth child of the marriage.

With this story, you have all the names of the women who married Crane men. Our Crane ancestor was the daughter of a Crane man but after Mary Ann married Robert Durland, from then on she was known as Mary Ann Durland. So too the women before her, Schuler, Meeker, Treat, and Leave, all lost their names but not their heritage. I may never find the parents of Abigail, wife of John.

And so I depart from this historical issue about our female ancestors. Searching our roots is a never-ending quest.

## MARY'S MESSAGES



Several things have come to my attention since the Durland issue

Please correct a most blatant error I made in the last Durland newsletter. Oscar Durland, page 8, was born in 1876 NOT 1888. Sorry about that.

Also, Jean True wrote that in my Mary's Messages same issue, I had misspelled Alice's name and also did not give her enough recognition. Her name is Alice Ryniker and she was the Dean of the Art Department at Rocky College, a very fine four year college in Billings, Montana.. I'm sorry ,Alice.

But continuing on in that vein, namely the artists in the family, I have discovered that there is one who has already received many accolades for her artistic talent.



Nicole Griffith, descendant of Mary Ann Crane and daughter of Harry Durland and Sally Griffith, has already

been the recipient of many awards for her artistic talent. While she was in primary school, she took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U. S. in a national Rexall poster contest. Following that, her pottery entries for the City of Lake Forest won their highest award for two years in a row. One of them went on to be the best of Northeastern, IL. Now at the University of Texas at Austin she has switched her talent to photo journalism. I saw examples of her work for her grandmother Mitzi's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and they were outstanding. So you see I surmised correctly. The artistic gene is still working.

You will note with this issue that I have concentrated on the female families. Some of them are incomplete but with every day, more and more information is coming to light. I don't need to remind you that these females are as important to our heritage as the males that in the past dominated the records.

I know that keeping the names in order is not easy for all of you but I must warn you there are still some names I haven't reported on.

The mystery photo in the last Durland issue was Mitzi Griffith Jr. I thought every one would see the resemblance with the adult picture that preceded it, but many didn't. The following one is really tough.

## MYSTERY PHOTO

