



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

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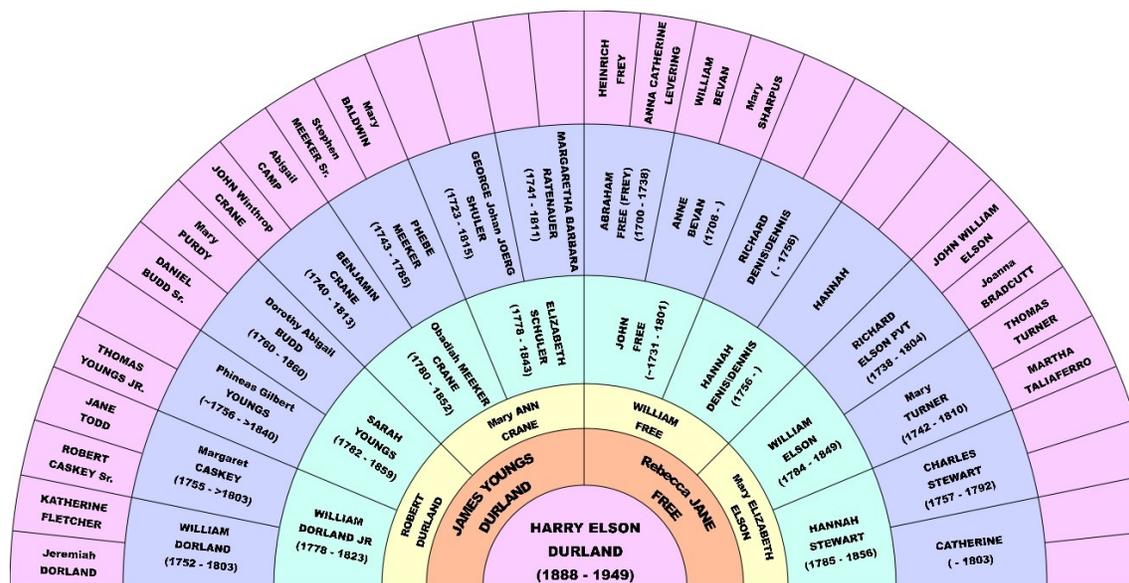
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MARGARET - DOROTHY - SARAH

What do these names mean to us? Answer: All three are our grandmothers born in the eighteenth century. Sarah Youngs, Margaret Caskey, and Dorothy Budd. They lived through the Revolutionary War in the same state (New Jersey), all while molding the characters of their children and making us what we are today. That was their job. The men were to supply the sustenance besides fighting for independence. That was their job. Everything else, the house and the children, were up to the women. Look on the chart below and you will see what all three had in common. Find Sarah in the aqua arc on the left, up one level from Robert Durland. Also on the left, but one generation earlier in blue, is Margaret Caskey. In the same generation, also in blue going to the right, is Dorothy Budd. By now you have probably figured out that Dorothy was Sarah's mother and Margaret was her mother-in-law.



Text Caption

Looking at their lives in the 18th century is a stark contrast to our lives today. I've read that children of that time had about a 50% chance of being subject to disease and not surviving to adulthood. For our grandmothers of that time, there was no anesthesia for childbirth. Nevertheless, both Margaret and Sarah had nine children. In fact there was

no anesthesia for any surgery whatsoever. All cooking had to be done in or around the fireplace. That must have been a challenge in itself. Of course women could not vote, (see the note below) hold public office or, unless widowed, own property. The sole source of heat was the open fireplace, so while the men were out, it was up to the women to keep the fire going.

After sunset the only illumination was either by moonlight or candlelight. There was no indoor plumbing - chamber pots, outhouses and buckets were a way of life and our grandmothers had to empty them. They had to make the candles, soap, foodstuffs and clothing. So you see, our grandmothers had a busy time just doing all those chores and taking care of their children.

Not only were these women accustomed to their hard lives, but added to it were the Revolutionary War skirmishes. All three of them lived in New Jersey. This too they had in common because it was the time when their men were fighting for our freedom. A time when battles raged around them.

This story of Margaret and Dorothy is a continuation of the Durland newsletter of February 2004. That newsletter was about General Washington's winter encampment at Morristown, New Jersey in 1780 and was primarily about the families of William Dorland, Phineas Youngs, and the Budds: Margaret, Sarah, and Dorothy in that order.

Picture Margaret having babies with the battles being fought close to her, with her husband giving food and help to the soldiers. Or Dorothy from the very prominent Budd family married to Phineas Gilbert Youngs who was in the militia. Dorothy's father Daniel was a captain in the war. Nearly one thousand battles took place all around New Jersey and these women, besides dealing with the hardships of the times, had to inure themselves to the fear of soldiers trudging through their homesteads.

Margaret was married to William Dorland in 1774 in New Jersey shortly before the skirmishes started. Dorothy was married to Phineas Gilbert Youngs in New Jersey in 1780, the year of the terrible winter in Morristown. Sarah was born in 1782 also in New Jersey. So you see, all were contemporaries of the Revolution in New Jersey.

It is ironic that all three of our grandmothers, while they physically didn't fight in the Revolutionary War, were certainly a factor in the strive for independence. We can be proud of their contributions even though there is no organization depicting their valor. They were women of high principles and stood their ground with their men in our fight. To understand them better and to empathize with their lives, reread once again what their men went through to gain our independence and silently thank our women for their help in maintaining their households during this period of uncertainty.

(By the way, New Jersey in the 1790s was the first state to give women the right to vote, but this prerogative was taken away from them in 1807 "for the good order and dignity of the state," because of the charge of fraudulent voting!)

So Margaret, Dorothy, and Sarah made their contributions and played their roles, unsung patriots equally as important as their spouses in our quest for independence.