



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

Mary Durland, Author/Researcher

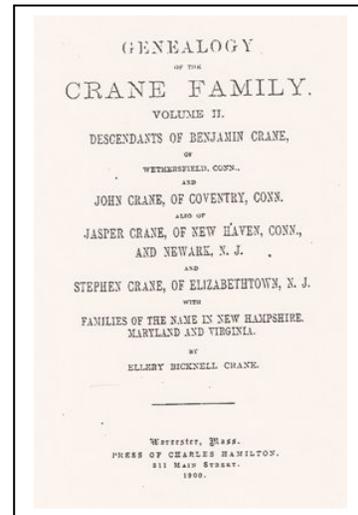
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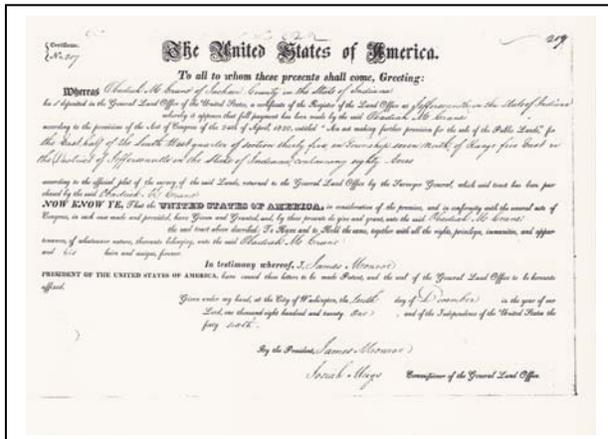
ISSUE 9

TRACING MARY ANN CRANE'S ROOTS

In the August newsletter there was the marriage record of Mary Ann Crane and Robert Durland which proved to you when the Crane family came into the Durland family. The Durland background to the year 1656 in New Netherlands has been proven and accepted by the genealogical pundits through the Dorlant book by Cremer so by working backward, the Crane history can also be authenticated by a family book, in fact several. Using the one here, which is accepted by the genealogy experts, Mary Ann is mentioned but her marriage is not. Therefore, in order to prove which Crane she is descendent from, it is necessary to work backwards through the generations.



That is no easy task because Mary Ann was born in 1816 and while her life with Robert Durland in Flora is well documented, her life before her marriage has to begin with her father, Obadiah Meeker Crane, and what there is known about him. To begin with, he fathered 11 children of which Mary Ann was the 9th. Obadiah was a man who had an adventurous spirit for he went from New York where he was born in 1780, to Ohio after he was married and where Mary Ann was born, and finally to Indiana where he bought land, and that is where his daughter Mary Ann married Robert Durland. This is our beginning.



There is not much to say about Obadiah in Indiana except he bought land and he did serve a short time in the Indiana Legislature in 1825. The records show that he died in Keokuk, Iowa. I am not sure but he did have a son there, Obadiah Meeker Jr. who he could have been visiting. From Obadiah Sr. the Crane Family book becomes the source of all the families but there are many siblings in each generation. Our Obadiah was the youngest of seven children of Benjamin Crane who was the

next one in the line. Benjamin is most interesting to me because he was in the Revolutionary War. His records show that he served as a private in Captain John Scudder's Company, Major William Crane's Battalion, and Colonel Silvanus Seely's New Jersey State Troops in 1780. Now you know you have a Crane ancestor in the Revolutionary War.

Following is an abstract of Benjamin's will mentioning his son Obadiah. Benjamin died June 8, 1813 in Amsterdam, New York.

BENJAMIN CRANE, of Amsterdam, will dated 7-15-1809, probated 6-8-1813. Mentions,—wife Phebe; only dau. Phebe French; sons Stephen M., Caleb C., Isaac B., David, Jonas, Benjamin and Obadiah M. Executors: wife, John Crane, Timothy Crane, of Charlton. Witnesses: John W. Crane, John Kested, Henry Kested.

You can see that Benjamin had only one daughter Phebe who was named after her mother Phebe Meeker and this is where the Meeker family joined ours but that is another story.

Boys seem to run in the Crane family, for Benjamin not only had one daughter, he also only had one sister. Of his father John's eight children he was the youngest from Abigail, John's first wife. John's second wife had another two boys. John, born in 1695, lived a long life in New Jersey and an influential one. In the history of New Jersey, his name is found many times, attesting to wills and holding many civic appointments. His will is long and detailed about his property. Benjamin is mentioned at the end with an inheritance of 10 pounds. He died in 1776 at age 81.

John is the youngest child of Azariah Crane and Mary Treat. (See newsletter of August 2009, A Romance.) Azariah died in 1730 as his wife had predeceased him in 1704.

1721-2 Feb. 10. Crane, Azariah, of Newark, Essex Co., yeoman; will of. Wife ——. Children—Nathanael, Azariah, John, Robert, Jane Richards, Mary Baldwin. Home lot adjoining David Pierson's, a piece of boggy meadow in the Great Cove, salt meadow on Maple Island Creek, formerly belonging to John Ward, land on a branch of Second River between James Nuttman and Nathanael Ward; personal property (a silver bowl, given to Christ Church,¹ Newark, a negro man). Executor, son John. Witnesses—John Baldwin, Samuel Cooper, Simon Huntington. Proved January 12, 1730-1. Lib. B, p. 183

Azariah's parents give us the answer to the original Crane, and a mighty important man he was, Jasper Crane, whose history is well known after he arrived on these shores in 1639. So with our Cranes we have a Legislator, a Revolutionary War soldier, a very rich prominent land owner, a historical figure, and one of the first men to settle New Haven and New Jersey. Each one has his own important story to tell.

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Crane was probably born about 1605, and died 1681, his will having been proved that year, and names wife Alice. Children of Jasper Crane, 1st, and wife Alice:

- 2-1. JOHN, b. about 1635.
- 3-2. HANNAH, b. about 1639.
- 4-3. DELIVERED, b. July 12, 1642; settled at Newark, N. J.; left no children. On map published 1806 his house lot appears on High street, near the northerly end.
- 5-4. MERCY (or MARY), bapt. March 1, 1645.
- 6-5. MICAH, bapt. Nov. 3, 1647.
- 7-6. AZARIAH, b. 1649.
- 8-7. JASPER, b. April 2, 1651.

(Webmaster & Technical Advisor: Jerry Larkin)