



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

Mary Durland, Author/Researcher

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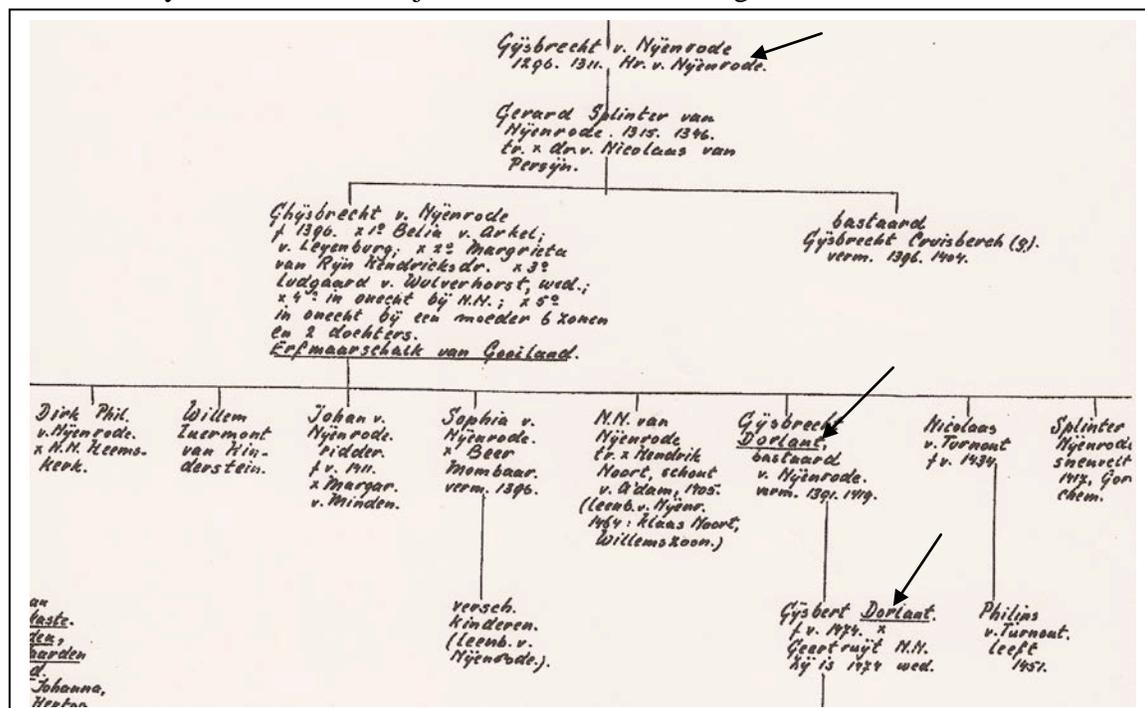
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THE DURLAND ANCESTRY

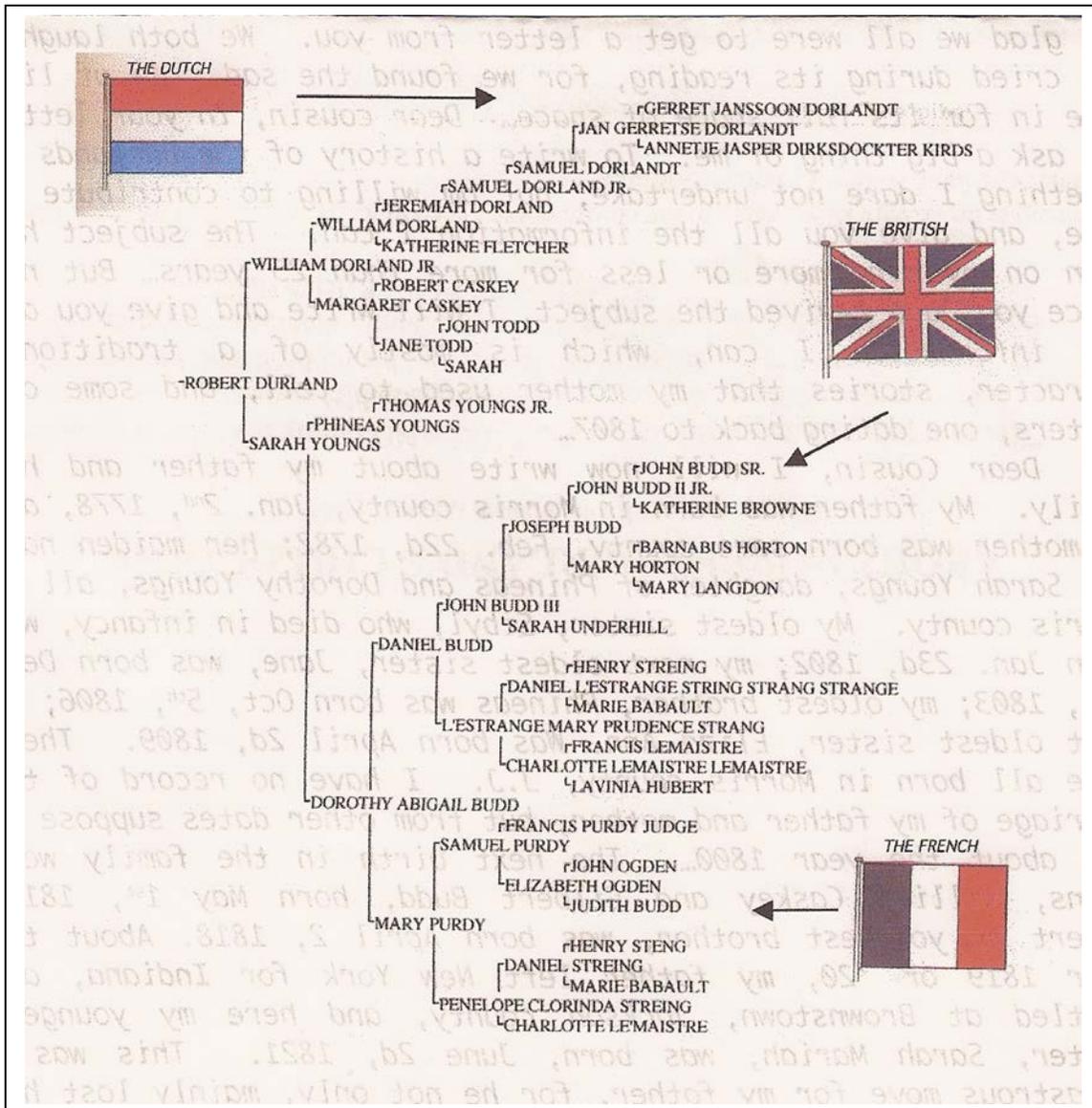
In one of my travels in search of more information about my heritage I went to The Hague Library in Holland to see if they could tell me more. At first when I showed them the Dorlant book with the crest, they laughed and said all Americans thought they had an ancient heritage. I persisted and one of the men said to wait a moment and he disappeared for what seemed like hours. When he did come back he had with him a large ancestry tree and I show part of it to you today. It seems there has been a great deal of research done by a Dutch ancestor about the name Dorlant and therefore I was not only able to copy his work but also the librarian was most generous with his help.

According to some researchers, about the year 1400, the Dorlandt name (refer to Cremer's book for that spelling) of Dorland originated when a wealthy Dutchman van Nijenrode had an illegitimate child with one of his employees. His approach to hiding his relationship was to provide mother and child with a cottage on a plot of level land away from his castle. The mother and son were referred to in Dutch as the dorlandts, or the flatlanders, the beginning of the spelling of the Dorlandt name. There still exists in Holland today the former van Nijenrode Castle and its original remnants.



The castle has a very unique position in the Netherlands today. It was destroyed once by the French Army and rebuilt by a wealthy Amsterdam merchant. Now it is a university and it even bestowed an honorable degree on Bill Gates. Classes are held in the restored castle and in one of the rooms displaying the coat of arms, it includes the one of the van Nijenrodes 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.

In 1652 Jan Gerretse Dorlandt, our ancestor, arrived on these shores with the Dorlandt (Durland) name which originated from Gysbrecht Dorlant. This year you will learn more about others who became a part of the family from this original Dorlant.



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