

Foreword

Volume I of the series *DURAND* contains two works that first appeared separately. The first work is an English translation of *Jean Durand et Sa Postérité*, the “life and times” of Jean Durand *dit* Lafortune (1636-1671), primogeniture of our Durand line in the New World. The second work is the family tree of this Jean Durand.

In 2004, the Durand Heritage Foundation (DHF) combined these two works in a single volume that is now out of print. Demand has prompted DHF to republish these works as Volume I of a projected two volume series.

Volume II will be a selection of articles and photos from the archives of DHF and the *DHF Newsletter*, now in its 14th year of publication. These materials will bring to life Jean Durand’s descendants and their worlds, many of whom lived long ago, but also many who lived more recently, or are living now. This second volume will serve today’s (and tomorrow’s) young people as an easily accessible touchstone to their Durand heritage.

Publishing History of Volume I Works

Jean Durand and His Posterity

Originally published in 1954 as *Jean Durand et Sa Postérité*, this work is based in part on the research of Elden E. DuRand, a Kentucky descendant of Jean Durand. Using DuRand’s manuscript material as a starting point, Joseph and Viateur Durand, clerics with the Catholic order *Clercs de Saint Viateur du Canada (C.S.V)*, used original documents and other sources to produce *Jean Durand et Sa Postérité*, in French, including a family tree of Jean Durand’s descendants that numbered over 3,000 names.

In 1976, Beatrice Durand Derrick included an English translation by V. Marie Johnson of the narrative portion of *Jean Durand et Sa Postérité* in her self-published family history and family tree, *Durand*, but she did not include graphics from the original. Derrick’s work is long out of print.

In 1999, *Clercs de Saint Viateur* gave DHF permission to publish a new English translation of the narrative portion of *Jean Durand et Sa Postérité*. This translation was made by Ronald Balding, husband of Marianne Durand Balding of the “East Coast Durands.” Marianne and her sister, Anita Durand Oakey, prepared a press-ready version of Balding’s translation that included the graphics in the French version, and offered their work to the Durand Heritage Foundation for publication. Their *Jean Durand and His Posterity* went through a first printing of 200 copies in 2000. Then, inventory of the book running low, DHF decided in 2004 to combine a second printing of the Balding translation with an updated version of the Jean Durand family tree. For this Second Edition, Balding submitted a number of corrections.

DHF revised this Third Edition to help today’s readers enjoy and be enlightened by *Jean Durand and His Posterity*. These revisions include changes in punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and consistent use of the French *dit* (“known as” or “called”) to append so-called “second names” commonly found in the original, as in “Jean Durand *dit* Lafortune.” Occasional chapter endnotes provide useful, supplemental information.

Balding used “pound” in translating financial transactions (as in “English pound”).

However, the monetary unit in the original French text was the *livre*. This edition restores the *livre* as the monetary unit, valued at about 1/10 of an English pound at the time.

We note that the many statements in *Jean Durand and His Posterity* regarding the Catholic Church and matters of faith reflect the religious grounding of Joseph and Viateur Durand. Nonetheless, in the early history of New France, the influence and importance of the Catholic Church and its rituals can hardly be exaggerated.

We also note that Joseph and Viateur Durand's unrestrained enthusiasm and flowery praise *pour Durand choses* somewhat diminish their work. Surely, there were sinners as well as saints among our forebears! Another defect is their culture-bound description of Native Americans as "savages," "barbarians," and "children." As Benjamin Franklin noted, "SAVAGES we call them, because their manners differ from ours, which we think the perfection of civility; they think the same of theirs" (*Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America*)

Finally, we note that the spelling of Native American names, including that of Jean Durand's Huron wife, Catherine, are phonetic approximations. In historical documents, Catherine's last name appears as "Anenotha" and "Annennontak" and other variations. Both "Anenotha" and "Annennontak" will be found in these volumes.

Durand Family Tree

Like so much information concerning our Durand heritage, the main body of our current family tree was first assembled by Beatrice Durand Derrick for her book *Durand*. Using the family tree of Joseph and Viateur Durand as a starting point, Derrick made contact with dozens of families to update family tree information. Laboriously typed for print reproduction, her new family tree contained 6,400 names, and remained the most popular source for information about our family line until long after her death in 1980.

Soon after DHF was established in 1998, Roger Durand of the "Minnesota Durands" converted Derrick's family records to a computerized database, and then added entries from his own research and the research of others. At the same time, Richard Durand of the "Wisconsin Durands" was extending Derrick's work to include the later generations of many families in her family tree. The two researchers combined their efforts, which Roger Durand posted on the DHF website, www.durandfoundation.com.

Primarily through constant solicitations in the DHF *Newsletter* and contacts through the DHF website, the online database has continued to grow. People send information that adds to or corrects the database, sometimes in great chunks of names. By 2004, when DHF first combined in one volume a second printing of *Jean Durand and His Posterity* and the DHF family tree, the database had grown to over 13,000 names.

The online family tree is updated twice a year – at midyear and at year's end. The family tree in this volume was produced after the mid 2012 update. It contains over 16,000 entries, of which over 12,000 are direct descendants of Jean Durand *dit* Lafortune.

Cover motifs

The image of the *fleur-de-lis* with the signature of Jean Durand *dit* Lafortune below is the official logo of the Durand Heritage Foundation.

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