

## DHF Launches New Publishing Venture

John Durand

DHF will soon publish a third edition of its “big blue book,” which combines an English translation of *Jean Durand et Sas Postérité* and his family tree. Jean Durand is the primogeniture of thousands of Durands in the U.S. and Canada. The new edition is revised, which means that DHF has made extensive changes to the previous, second edition. In the forthcoming edition, the narrative of the “life and times” of Jean Durand has been edited to render it more readable, and the updated family tree now numbers some 16,000 names, including 12,000 direct descendants. Copies of the new edition will be available for purchase later this year.

The new edition (the third) is labeled “Volume I,” because it is the first of a projected two-volume series. Volume II will be comprised of a selection of articles and photos from the archives of DHF and the *DHF Newsletter*, now in its 14th year of publication. It will bring to life Jean Durand’s descendants up to the present day. Editorial notes will supplement those materials to help to create a seamless flow in the 350-year history of the descendants of Jean Durand and Catherine Annennontak. Volume II will serve as an easily accessible touchstone to our Durand heritage for today’s (and tomorrow’s) young people.

Both volumes will have hard covers of deep blue with gold lettering. The books will be in 8½ by 11 inch format.

Volume I contains 425 pages. Purchase and shipping costs are yet to be determined. The family tree in the book is current through midyear, 2012.

The length of Volume II is yet to be determined.

### Jean Durand and His Posterity

*Jean Durand and His Posterity* tells how 21-year-old Jean Durand came to Quebec from France in 1657, when Quebec was a frontier settlement of several hundred residents. Five years later, he married an Amerindian orphan of the

Huron nation, Catherine Annennontak. From that union comes the lineage of Durands that is the *raison d’être* of the Durand Heritage Foundation.

After describing Jean Durand’s activities in what was called New France, and his early death in 1671, the narrative follows the lives of his widow Catherine, their daughter Marie, and their two sons, Ignace and Louis. Both sons became *voyageurs*, and made several trips as fur-traders to what is now Michigan and Wisconsin. They traveled in canoes that measured about 24 feet in length and carried hundreds of pounds of trade-goods. Their journey to the Midwest by way of rivers and lakes, with several difficult portages, measured hundreds of miles.

*Jean Durand and His Posterity* was originally written in French by Joseph and Viateur Durand in the early 1950’s. Joseph and Viateur were fraternal brothers and were descendants of Jean Durand. Both were educator clerics in Montreal with the Catholic religious order, *Clercs de Saint Viateur*, which first published their book. When DHF received permission in 1999 to publish an English translation of *Jean Durand et Sas Postérité*, Ronald Balding (the translator, now deceased) kept the sentence structure, punctuation, and other conventions of the French version. That narrative was bur-

dened by long, complicated sentences and dated punctuation, such as a generous use of colons and semi-colons. The revised, third edition simplifies sentences and punctuation and is much easier to read.

A new forward in Volume I describes the publishing history of *Jean Durand et Sas Postérité*, which first appeared as a book of 460 pages. In addition to the narrative of Jean Durand and his children, the book included a family tree of some 3,000 descendants, the great majority of them Canadians.



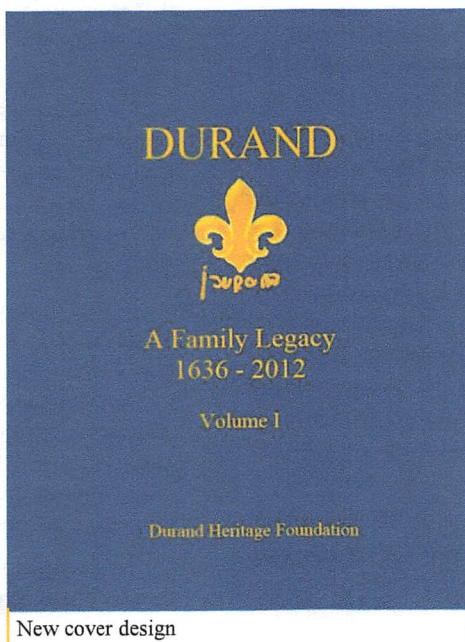
Figure 33 A French colonist’s dwelling

In 1976, Beatrice Durand Derrick included 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*. Whether she had permission to publish an English translation is unknown. Her version did not include graphics from the original. Derrick’s work is long out of print.

Ronald Balding, who made the second English translation, was married to 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. This was the work the Durand Heritage Foundation published in 2000. The first printing was 200 copies. Then, inventory of that 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.

### The Latest Family Tree

The family tree included in Volume I has a similar evolutionary history. Like



New cover design



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 Mike Durand established what became the Durand Heritage Foundation 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](http://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 Volume I was produced after the mid 2012 update. ♣

## ORDER YOUR COPY of *DURAND* NOW!

...and some further thoughts

*Ellen Durand Olson*

The Third Edition of newly titled *DURAND: A Family Legacy, 1636 – 2012, Volume I*, is now at University of Minnesota Press. *DURAND* is the first of a two-volume set to be published by DHF. (See John’s article on page 11 for more information.)

*DURAND, Volume I* is \$95, the same it was for the Second Edition of *Jean Durand et Sas Postérité* published in 2004. The price may seem high until you consider that the printing cost per book is two-thirds that amount. Add on the costs of mailing materials, postage and taxes, and the profit per book shrinks rapidly. As all profits return to DHF’s General Fund, it is, as they say, “all good.”

This printing is for 50 copies of which a dozen are already spoken for. I encourage you to order soon.

Some further thoughts. If ever the words “for posterity” can be said to apply, they do here. The stated mission of DHF when founded in 1998 was to be ... “dedicated to the preservation of our family heritage.” The two volumes of *DURAND* that will embrace some 355 years of family history embody our *collective* dedication to that mission. *Collective* because DHF would have faltered long ago were it not for your loyalty and support. We, all of us, have honored that mission above and beyond all expectations. The two volumes of *DURAND* ensure that the priceless gift of our heritage will be shared and cherished for generations to come. This gift to them is an accomplishment in which our generation should take a great and deserved pride.

To order, contact me at [ellenolson@aol.com](mailto:ellenolson@aol.com), or PH 715-698-3070. My mailing address is P O Box 172, Woodville, WI 54028.