



Durand Heritage Foundation

Dedicated to the preservation of our family history

Bulletin# 2

April 1, 2026



UPDATES

John Durand Scholarship Program (JDSP)

The deadline for applications is April 15!! Application criteria and deadline information for the 2026-2027 school year is available by clicking the "2026-2027 Scholarship" button on the Durand Heritage Foundation website at www.durandfoundation.com.

DHF Family Tree updates are suspended. Expect calls for tree additions/corrections in July.

"JEAN DURAND ET SA POSTERITE" by Joseph and Viateur Durand. The Association des familles Durand, Inc. is reprinting the 1954 book

This 1636-2026 edition by Louis-Gilles and Brigitte Durand, brother and sister, is at the printer and the books should arrive in April. The manuscript is in French as is the original book. The book's descendant tree does not require translation and most importantly includes all known Durand surname descendants (plus one generation) beyond those found in the original 1954 book. The extension of descendants includes families in both Quebec and the United States!

Order details will be sent out as a DHF notice once the book is available for purchase. Stay tuned.

FEATURES

Msgr. Arthur H. Durand Survey Project

DHF Bulletin #1 Jan 2026 told the story of Linda Moreland Manke's effort to seek information about her childhood pastor, Msgr. Arthur Durand. The article mentioned Mr. Ron Eustice, who, almost 30 years ago, informed Ed, Mike, and Roger Durand about a 1930's pioneer survey by Msgr. Durand, when he interviewed families of Rice County pioneers in his parish in Faribault.

I reconnected with Ron last fall. He still had Msgr. Durand's survey papers, and decided it was time to donate them to the Rice County Historical Society (RCHS). Ron's DECLARATION OF GIFT form DESCRIPTION, and his "statement of provenance" explain the history of the Durand survey documents, which are reproduced below.

The DHF has offered to assist the RCHS as Msgr. Durand's work is cataloged so that it can be electronically viewed and analyzed. The July 20026 DHF Bulletin will describe the assistance provided.

Walter George Durand by Mary Durand Thomas and Patricia Elliott July 1997

Summer 1999 DHF Newsletter reprint

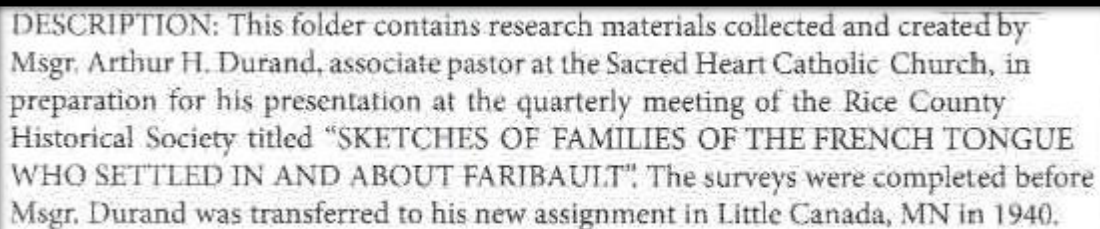
WE REMEMBER

Iyone Marie Bartels (Wilcox) August 15, 1928 - December 7, 2025

BULLETIN FEATURE

Msgr. Arthur H. Durand Survey Project 1 April 2026 Progress Report Manke query to Survey folder donation

On 11/20/2025 Ronald Eustice completed and submitted his **DECLARATION OF GIFT** form to the Rice County Historical Society (RCHS) which accompanied the folder containing Msgr. Durand's survey papers. The DESCRIPTION section is reproduced below and is a general statement and summary of the gift.



DESCRIPTION: This folder contains research materials collected and created by Msgr. Arthur H. Durand, associate pastor at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in preparation for his presentation at the quarterly meeting of the Rice County Historical Society titled "SKETCHES OF FAMILIES OF THE FRENCH TONGUE WHO SETTLED IN AND ABOUT FARIBAULT". The surveys were completed before Msgr. Durand was transferred to his new assignment in Little Canada, MN in 1940.

Ron also provided a detailed "statement of provenance" to the RCHS accession committee. His statement documents the history of the survey documents. It is reproduced in its entirety here as it was an integral part of the gift donation.

"SKETCHES OF FAMILIES OF THE FRENCH TONGUE WHO SETTLED IN AND ABOUT FARIBAULT

By Ronald F. Eustice

Reverend Arthur H. Durand (1898-1986) (later Monsignor) was a Rice County native who following graduation from St. Paul Seminary served as associate pastor at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Faribault. As a son of French-Canadian parents, he had a lifelong interest in history. During 1938-39 Fr. Durand interviewed members of French-speaking families who immigrated to the Rice County area from Quebec and Belgium between 1850 and 1880. Nearly all of those interviewed were parishioners of Sacred Heart parish, which in those days considered "the French church."

Father Durand's goal was to use this data to compile a history of French-speaking families of the Rice County area. More than 70 questionnaires were completed by Fr. Durand. Those interviewed were first generation offspring of the pioneers that harvested the timber to build the cabins, plowed the prairie to raise the crops, and owners of grist mills to grind grain to produce flour to make the bread that fed the large families that transformed Faribault from a small village to a vibrant community.

Fr. Durand was invited to speak at the quarterly meeting of the Rice County Historical Society titled "SKETCHES OF FAMILIES OF THE

FRENCH TONGUE WHO SETTLED IN AND ABOUT FARIBAULT”.

Fr. Durand was transferred to a new assignment at the parish of St. John the Evangelist in Little Canada in 1940. Saint John's also founded by French Canadians, was the fourth oldest Roman Catholic parish established in the Minnesota Territory. It is the second oldest Catholic church in the state occupying the same plot of ground under the same name.

Fr. Durand took the questionnaires with him to Little Canada with plans to complete the project later. Fr. Durand remained as pastor of St. John the Evangelist until he became the pastor at Annunciation Church in Hazelwood. At Little Canada, Fr. Durand took on many projects in addition to his pastoral duties. He helped establish a credit union in 1946 and built a new church in 1956. He also served as a valuable resource for “Little Canada: Heritage from The French,” an article written by Margaret Whitney Wall, published in the Fall 1964 issue of “Ramsey County History.” The Faribault questionnaires remained on Durand's “to do” list, however failing eyesight in later years prevented completion of the project.

In the late 1970s, my wife and I became interested in family history. My maternal ancestors were French Canadian settlers of Rice County and include Joseph Perron of St. Ours and his wife Marie Chapdelaine, of Sorel; Alexander Remillard and Josette Goyette of Napierville, and Narcisse Richer/Richie of Deschaillons, all small villages in Quebec. During the search for my roots, I stopped at the Sacred Heart parish office in Faribault to see what records existed. The office secretary mentioned that Monsignor Durand had started a project some 35 years earlier and suggested that he could provide additional information. My grandparents were lifetime parishioners of Sacred Heart parish and had mentioned Fr. Durand, so I was vaguely familiar with him. The secretary gladly provided me with a phone number and encouraged me to contact him. Frankly, I was surprised to learn Fr. Durand was still alive. I dialed up the number, not knowing what type of reception I would receive. A friendly voice answered the phone on the first ring. It was Monsignor Durand. I explained why I called and asked about the project he had started in 1938. He said that his eyesight had failed and he was not sure what had happened to his notes. He said, “I may have thrown them away long ago, but I would love to have your visit.” I asked when he could be available. His response, “Can you come over now?” Without hesitation, I asked directions to the Archdiocesan Priest's Retirement home on Summit Avenue. A half hour later, I was knocking at his door which was unlocked. He said please come in and sit down. He offered me a small glass of cognac. I asked about the project and his interest in French Canadian history, and he explained what he had done 35 years previously. He said, “Unfortunately, I threw the papers away during “downsizing” but if they are still here, they would be in the bottom of one of the lockers. He explained that he was nearly blind but encouraged me to search through the papers. I proceeded to the locker and anxiously dug through a stack of correspondence and miscellaneous files. Near the bottom was a light green folder with a stack of yellowed papers. I told

Monsignor Durand what I had found and he said, "That is the folder. I didn't throw them away after all." I was thrilled. We began to look through the papers, and I read off the names which included many of my relatives. He said, "I knew many of your family." I asked what he planned to do with the papers. His response, "They are yours. Make use of them." The papers were immensely helpful in my research and in 1990, I completed a family history titled, "Perrons: French Canadian Pioneers of Minnesota," a 300-page book. The papers have traveled with me to several locations during my career including three years during an assignment in Indonesia. Through the course of my research, I have met Roger Durand and members of the Durand family who share my passion for family history. During one of our conversations, the subject of Monsignor Durand's papers came up and Roger agreed to scan them. More to come...."

The July Bulletin will include another update on this project. The individual survey papers were scanned into the PDF format at the end of 2025. The next three months will be used to catalog the Msgr. Durand survey collection pages into the RCHS Collective Access library. We hope to transcribe each survey into a readable and searchable format that is also contained in the Collective Access database. Then, historians can search and use the information efficiently. Volunteers will be sought to help with transcriptions.

Roger Eugene Durand
412-708-9688
red.cee.dee@gmail.com

Walter Durand

by Mary Durand Thomas and Patricia Elliott
July 1997

Birth

Walter George Durand was born January 7, 1911, on the family farm near Ross, North Dakota. On that day, it was snowing as his father George took a team of horses to meet the doctor at the 4:00 p.m. train. As George and the doctor were returning, the blizzard became so intense that it was impossible to see, and they had to let the horses find the way back to the house. The storm continued to be so blinding that George and his son Gilbert tied harness straps together to make a guide line between the barn and house in order to find their way back after stabling the horses. Walter had lots of company in his first days of life--parents, brothers and sisters, the doctor, the teacher, and the school children all stayed for three days until the weather cleared.

Growing up

In the Spring of 1916, Walter began grammar school "to get used to it" and then started going regularly the following Fall. By this time the family was living in Minnesota. The one room school serving all eight grades was 2 1/2 miles from the farm. Although they walked when the weather was good, on cold winter days they used a horse and cutter. Walter's favorite subjects were arithmetic and geography, and he liked having the teacher play the guitar and sing. After school he would go home, change into work clothes, and do chores until supper time. After supper, he would milk cows and do homework.

On Sundays, Walter and his family would drive the horses six miles to church--about three hours for the round trip. After church, they would stop at another family's house for dinner or others would stop at theirs. One family was the Slaughts who had four boys about the same age as Walter and some of his brothers. Growing up there were always farm chores to be done, but also chances to visit friends on other farms, to go swimming, and to attend fairs and the travelling circus. An early memory Walter had of his mother Eleanor was her making yarn from wool and then using it to knit sweaters and stockings.

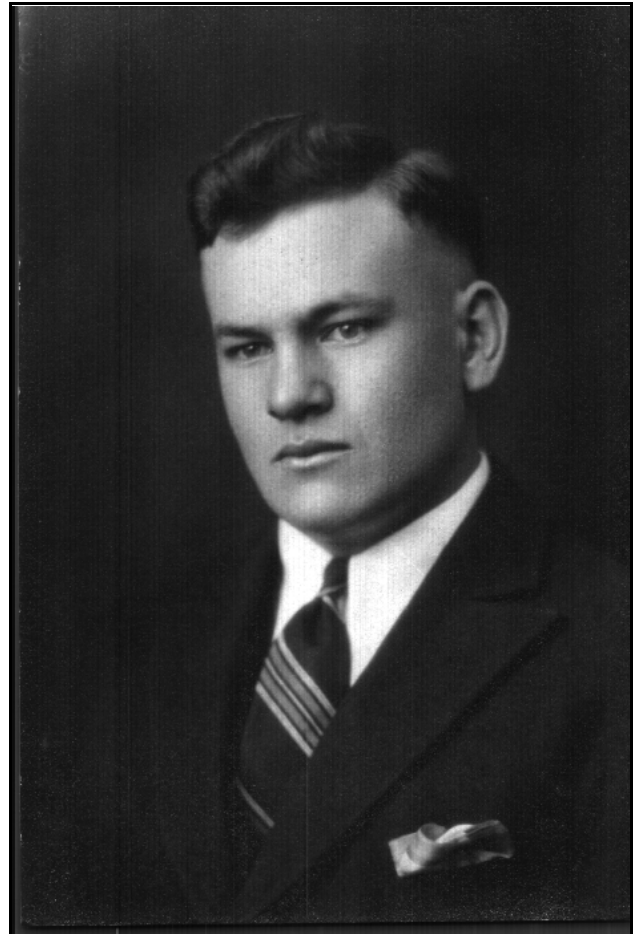




Figure 45. Walter and brother Donald.

He especially liked being allowed to help with the process of twisting three or four strands of fiber together to make the yarn. During the heavy Minnesota snowfalls, his father George and other farmers would hook three teams of horse up to a V-shaped snow plow. Walter was pleased that the other farmers wanted his father George to drive the six horse team.

When he was 12 years old, Walter joined a 4-H Club and raised 1/8 acre of potatoes as a project. He won a trip to the county fair to show a sample of the potatoes. He traveled to the fair in Park Rapids by train and won the opportunity to choose between the state fair and a short course at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. He chose the latter and traveled by bus to St. Paul where there were classes in the mornings on new methods of farming and sightseeing excursions in the afternoons.

Walter attended high school at the Nary Consolidated School, Nary, MN, which was about 2 miles north of the one room school. His two hour trip to school was in a home made bus chassis which was put on a horse-drawn wagon or sled

depending on the season. A special occasion in 1925 was the school principal taking Walter and some other students to his house to hear the inauguration of President Coolidge on a battery-operated radio. Most homes were not electrified and radios were a luxury. In fact, this was the first inauguration that was ever broadcast.

On His Own

On November 11, 1927, two months before his seventeenth birthday, Walter left home and moved to Minneapolis where he attended Barry's Telegraph and Business College. He studied telegraphy and typing. Learning telegraphy was like learning a new language and seemed almost impossible at first. But at the end of the six month course of study, he was proud that his name was at the head of the list entitled "Available for Work When Needed." As a student, Walter paid \$3 a week for a room. He earned the money doing janitorial work at the college. In addition, he worked three hours a day in the cafeteria in exchange for meals. During his free time, he and another student explored Minneapolis on foot and by streetcar.



Figure 46. Wedding day. Evelyn Corcoran and Walter Durand, on Aug 31, 1935 at Arlington, MN. Best man is Leo Durand, Walter's younger brother. Maid-of-honor is Lucille Doheny Mueller. Flower girls are Jacqueline and Joan DeVoy.

Marriage

When he completed his program of study, he took a job working for the railroad and moved to a boarding house-hotel in Arlington, MN. He attended St. Mary's Church in Arlington, a small parish where he noticed another parishioner, Evelyn Corcoran. She and her mother had moved into Arlington after her father's death when they sold the family farm. In decorating their new home, Evelyn and her mother ordered light fixtures and other furnishings which were to arrive by train. On her visits to the depot to check on their arrival, they talked. When they began courting, he was 19 and she was 26. He was working as a relief agent which required him to move between jobs at Fairfax and other stations in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa relieving other agents who were on vacation or sick leave. But he frequently took an early morning train to Arlington on Sunday and left on the last train at night. In between visits, he'd go pheasant hunting and often send some game on the train to Evelyn and her mother. Evelyn taught school during the year and took various jobs during the summer, including working at Father Foley's Camp for Boys where Walter's mother also worked. Walter and Evelyn were married on August 31, 1935, at St. Mary's Church in Arlington.

Married Life and Work

Walter and Evelyn first lived in Belle Plaine, MN. Because the railroad business was suffering during the Depression, Walter took a leave of absence and sold Watkins Products from the spring of 1936 until the spring of 1939. During this time, he continued with occasional relief work for the railroad. In April of 1939, he went back to Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad full time. They moved to Minneapolis because he would be travelling around to different jobs and they thought a home base in Minneapolis would work best since he could catch a train to different locations. They purchased a four-plex on Pleasant Avenue South that Walter planned to fix up between railroad jobs. But he decided in January of 1940 that it would improve his fortunes to move to the Eastern division of the railroad. They rented a house in University Park near Oskaloosa, IA, where he worked for six months and then moved to Farmington, IL, in October, 1940, and to Middle Grove, IL in August, 1942. During this time he worked at various depots in the area--Cramers, Hanna City and Middle Grove. In February, 1943, Walter had the opportunity to bid on a second trick (evening shift) position in Monmouth, IL. and they rented a five-room house on 1st Avenue in Monmouth. They settled happily into Monmouth and in October, 1946, purchased the home at 114 South G Street where they lived until 1986.

Initially Walter worked the 4:00 to midnight shift in Monmouth, then changed to the day shift in 1953. In August 1956 he was assigned to be Agent-Telegrapher assuming work that had previously been done by two people. In 1959 the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad merged with the Chicago Northwestern which eliminated much of the business coming through Monmouth. In 1962 Walter's hours were changed to 2:30-10:30 p.m. Although he had been doing some landscaping work as a sideline over the years, especially when he had worked the evening shift previously, he now intensified his involvement in the landscape business. He wanted to have an alternative to railroad work so that they could stay in Monmouth even if the railroad closed down the depot there.

Since 1948 he had periodically used his tractor to dig basements, clear snow from parking lots in winter, and cut grass along highways. He now found there was great demand for his services. There were many new homes being built and Monmouth College was building dormitories and renewing its athletic fields.



Figure 47. Walter holding Elizabeth, Evelyn holding Patricia, and Mary.

He bought sod rights from various farmers nearby and used a sod cutter which he had invented to cut sod. It was necessary to buy other machinery and employ help to meet the growing need.

Durand Landscaping received a special commendation from the President's Council on Youth Opportunity signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey recognizing Walter's employment of young people. In April, 1966, Walter left the railroad to devote all his efforts to Durand Landscaping. The following year, he bought 34 1/2 acres of farm land near Monmouth and erected a 40' by 80' building for use as a retail center. Plants and gardening supplies were sold from this building, and it also served as a garage for some of the machinery. A lath house was also built on the property to protect plants. The remainder of the acreage was subdivided into home lots but he grew alfalfa, soybeans, and corn while waiting for the lots to sell. In 1976, Walter and Evelyn, who had been helping in the Garden Center, retired from the business, and the Garden Center and 1 1/2 acres were sold. The Monmouth housing market had slowed down, and the remaining land was eventually sold to a neighboring farmer.

Raising a Family

When Walter and Evelyn first moved to Monmouth, their daughters were 3 1/2 years, 2 years, and 3 months. Mary Evelyn had been born at St Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, June 11, 1939. Elizabeth Ann was born February 3, 1941, and Patricia, November 13, 1942--both at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, IL, the city nearest to Farmington and Middle Grove. Pat's birthdate fell on Friday the 13th. Before taking Evelyn to the hospital to deliver Pat, Walter had stoked the furnace in the basement and found a

dead black cat. Although both Walter and Evelyn denied being superstitious, Pat did not hear this story until she was 36.

When the girls were growing up, the yard was full of swings, a teeter totter, and best of all a large playhouse with a stove, refrigerator, and table--all built by Walter. He was very handy with tools and made many improvements to their home as well. Evelyn sewed dolls, other toys, and made the girls' clothes. The yard was a gathering place for the neighborhood. Both Walter and Evelyn enjoyed children. As the girls left for college, Evelyn started a babysitting business in their home. Some of the children cared for later even brought their future spouses to meet Evelyn and Walter before becoming engaged. When the girls were teenagers, Lake Warren was constructed outside Monmouth, and Walter and Evelyn purchased a lot. Walter, always great at scavenging, found a small two-room cottage to move onto the lot.

Walter often raised some pigs or calves for butchering and sometimes had one or two cows for milking on property nearby. Walter and Evelyn had a huge garden with much produce canned and, during later years, frozen for the winter. The girls were active in 4-H with the encouragement of Evelyn, who was a club leader, and Walter who supported all the various endeavors including annual trips to the county and state fairs.

Both were very involved in Immaculate Conception Parish in Monmouth where the girls attended grade school. Walter was active in the Knights of

Columbus, serving a term as Grand Knight. Walter also was a Cub Scout leader for a time, perhaps because he missed having sons of his own. However, when some of his friends teased him about not having sons like they did, he would respond with his typical humor: "Well, the good Lord looks down from heaven and when He sees a man is needed in a family, He sends one."

Walter and Evelyn were always pleased with their daughters' achievements and especially fond of their grandchildren, and Walter would talk at length on these topics. A summary:

Mary Durand Thomas (nee Mary Evelyn Durand):

Born, June 11, 1939, Minneapolis, MN

Diploma and Bachelors in Nursing, St. Ambrose College, Davenport, IA; Masters in Nursing,



Figure 48. Walter and Evelyn's 25th Anniversary Aug 1960. L to R: Pat 17yrs, Liz 19 yrs, and Mary at 21yrs.

Marquette University; PhD in Anthropology, University of Hawaii. Married to John B. (Jack) Thomas, June 17, 1967, Seattle, WA

Son:

Hugh Durand Thomas, born June 22, 1978, Honolulu, HI

Will enter Seattle University Fall, 1997, majoring in Humanities. He is employed with Bartell Drugs.

Jack and Mary presently reside at 233 North 172nd Place, Shoreline, WA, 98133. Jack works in the Marine Design field and Mary is on faculty at the University of Washington.

Liz Turner (nee Elizabeth Ann Durand):

Diploma in Nursing, St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Ia;

Bachelors in Nursing, Marquette University.

Married to Cuthbert John (C.J.) Turner, December 1, 1972, Westminster, CA.

Children:

Gillian Anne (Jill) Turner, born August 13, 1974, Huntington Beach, CA.

Received Bachelor of Arts in English, University of California, Irvine.

Now living in San Francisco where she is a copy editor for BusinessWire.

Andrew John Turner, born February 2, 1976, Huntington Beach, CA.

Andy was born with craniosynostosis and had surgery for this birth defect. He had a reaction to the anesthetic used for the surgery with two strokes that left him brain damaged. Died August 8, 1985, Tustin, CA.

Jared Cuthbert Turner, born April 6, 1979, Orange, CA.

Will be attending Chapman University, Orange, CA, in Fall, 1997, where he will study music. Jared is a gifted violist.

C.J. and Liz currently reside at 11862 Amethyst Court, Fountain Valley, CA, 92708. C.J. is with McDonnell-Douglas and Liz is a homemaker.

Patricia Elliott (nee Patricia Lee Durand)

Diploma in Nursing, St. Ambrose College; Bachelors in Nursing, Marycrest College, Davenport, IA.

Married to Robert John (Bob) Elliott, July 16, 1966, Madison, WI.

Sons:

James Edward Elliott, born July 1, 1968, Champaign, IL.

Received accounting degree from Marquette University.

Is a C.P.A. with B.B.O.Seidman LLP, Milwaukee.

John Charles Elliott, born March 7, 1970, Janesville, WI

Received business degree from Marquette University and M.B.A. from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Married Jody Glynn Tressler, March 25, 1994, Toledo, OH

Charles Patrick Elliott, born December 4, 1996, Milwaukee

Employed by Ernst & Young Consulting LLP, Milwaukee.

Joseph Robert Elliott, born June 25, 1975, Janesville, WI.

Received Bachelors in biomedical engineering, Marquette. Employed with Special Electric of Canton, MI.

Jeffrey Thomas Elliott, born October 9, 1977, Janesville, WI.

Just completed freshman year at University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Jason Alan Elliott, born October 9, 1977, Janesville, WI.

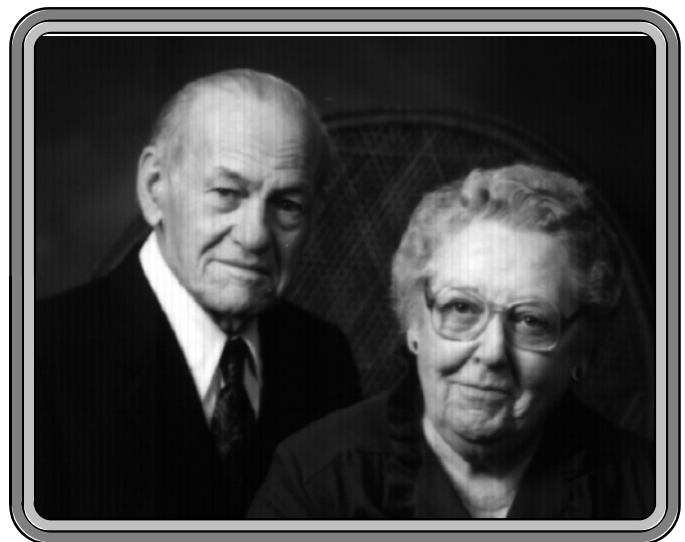
Just completed freshman year at University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Bob and Pat reside at 2922 Yale Drive, Janesville, WI 53545. Bob is an attorney and Pat is a homemaker.

The Later Years

Grandchildren were a special joy to Walter and Evelyn in their later years. In answer to a question in a Grandparent memory book that asked: "What are you most proud of being?", Walter answered, "a Grandpa." Bob and Pat's boys were geographically closest, so Walter and Evelyn were able to see them most frequently and they often had humorous stories to tell about the latest escapades. As long as they were physically able to do so, Walter and Evelyn also made an annual trip to the West Coast with stops in California and Washington. They enjoyed travelling especially by camper and used these trips as an opportunity to visit states that they had not yet seen. Other trips took them to the Northeastern states, Canada, Mexico, and Hawaii.

In 1985, a Golden Wedding Anniversary party for Walter and Evelyn was held in Monmouth. A large hall was rented for the festivities with many long time friends and neighbors and some relatives in attendance. Walter and Evelyn renewed their wedding vows at Immaculate Conception Church. Walter was getting more frail at this time, and Evelyn also was beginning to show her age. In the spring and early summer of 1986, it became apparent that Walter was suffering from Alzheimer Disease. Both Walter and Evelyn were used to being very independent and it was hard for them to accept help from home health caregivers. Walter became increasingly more agitated, even with medication, and had a stroke in August of that year. On September 24, 1986, Pat moved Walter and Evelyn to the Caravilla Skilled Care Facility/Retirement Home near her home in Wisconsin. At that time it was discovered that Walter also had metastasized lung cancer. He died at the Caravilla with Evelyn and his daughters with him on November 20, 1986. Evelyn continued to reside at the Caravilla until her death on January 22, 1993. In accordance with their wishes, both Walter and Evelyn were buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Monmouth, IL.



Durand Heritage Foundation Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of our French Canadian Heritage

Summer edition 1999

\$3.95



Treasures from the past (1888) (probably taken in Faribault, MN)

Pierre & Marie Louise Durand, with sons Elzear, standing and baby Adlelard

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Web site

Please visit our web site at
www.Durandfoundation.com

You will see new pictures and content added monthly. Soon, you will be able to read the newsletter at our web site in the archives, in color. It will not be able to be printed out though.

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More Treasures from the past, 1891, (most likely taken in Minneapolis, or St. Paul, MN)

Pierre & Marie Durand, Elzear in back standing, Adelard on left, Moses on Mom's lap; Napoleon, Pierre's lap



Correction of error in last issue.

*See the note on the bottom of this page.

The Minnesota and Wisconsin French Connection Revisited

By Roger Durand

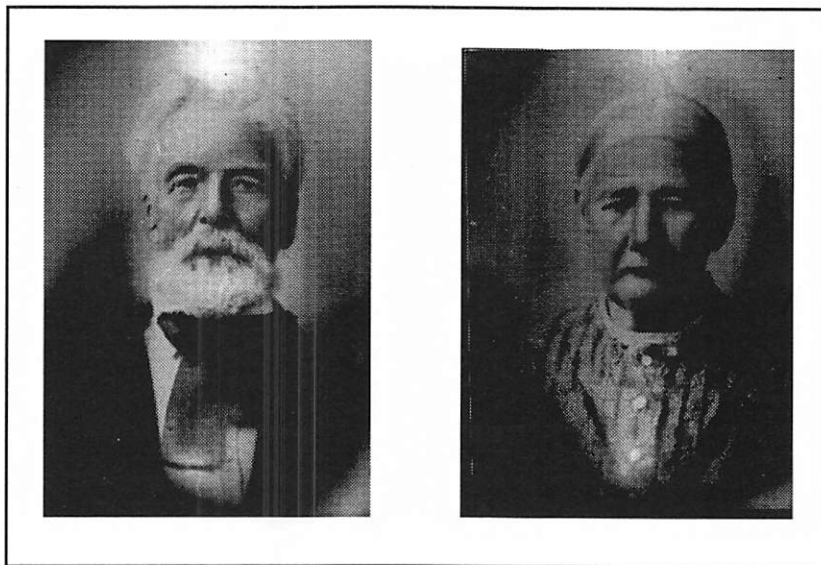
JOSEPH DURAND (1770-1835), ELIZABETH VADNAIS, and LOUISE SARRAZIN

Joseph Durand was born in 1770 at Berthier, Quebec and died in 1835 at St. Cuthbert, Quebec. Joseph is the first common Durand ancestor to the majority of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Durand families. His first wife was Marie Elizabeth Vadnais. They were married in 1793 in St. Cuthbert and they had seven children. After Elizabeth died, Joseph married Louise Sarrazin in 1805 at St. Cuthbert, Quebec. Louise and Joseph had fifteen children which made Joseph the father of twenty-two children! Joseph was a farmer and his farm remained in the family for many generations.

Jean-Baptiste Durand, ancestor to most of the Minnesota Durand families.

Three of Joseph and Louise Sarrazin's grandchildren, children of their son Jean-Baptiste Durand, immigrated to Faribault, MN. Nazaire, (picture below), Joseph, and Eugenie Durand Champagne all lived in Faribault and started their families there. Their sister, Euphemie Durand, married a Charpentier and their children also moved to the Minnesota area.

Picture-Nazaire and Leocadie (Berneche) Durand (pictured below) are Great Grandparents to many of the MN Durand's, immigrated to Faribault MN from Canada in the 1860's and settled in Cannon City, just to the northeast of Faribault. They had 11 children. Marie Archilie (Sarah), Joseph Albert, Mary Clara and Marie Rosanna (Rose), Joseph Patircuis, Joseph George, Mary Elizabeth, Mary Jenevieve (Jennie), Joseph Nazaire, and Alfred Frederic. (See diagram on page seven)



*Editors note: In the last issue, the right information was in the article, however, I put the wrong pictures in for Nazaire & Leocadie Berneche Durand. The photo's that were put in by mistake were those of Felix and Leocadie Durand. Too many Leocadies! I apologize for the error. Mike Durand

Resolution to Incorporate, drafted by Mike Durand.
Presented to Board for approval.

**Resolution to Incorporate
Durand Heritage Foundation
April 18, 1999**

Whereas the Durand family has formed an organization, naming as such, the **Durand Heritage Foundation**, which began with early initiatives on April of 1998. And whereby the first meeting was held on July 11, 1998 where officers were elected, committees were formed and members had joined and..

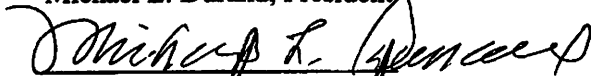
Whereas the original intent of the formation of the Durand Heritage Foundation was to eventually officially apply for recognition of exemption under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (3) and to officially register with the office of the Secretary of the State of Minnesota and....

Whereas the membership has grown to a total of 54 members and it appears in the best interest of the members to apply for the above listed status in the most expeditious manner possible.

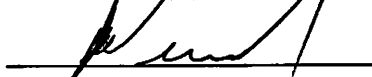
Therefore, let it be resolved that the officers of the Durand Heritage Foundation listed below and signed individually hereby authorize the filing of such and to be completed no later than Oct 31, 1999

Signed this 18th day of April 1999 at Burnsville, MN

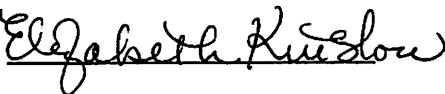
Michael L. Durand, President



John C. Durand, Vice President



Elizabeth Kinslow, Secretary



Susanne Krasovich, Treasurer



Were Pierre & Marie Louis Durand really cousins?

By Mike Durand

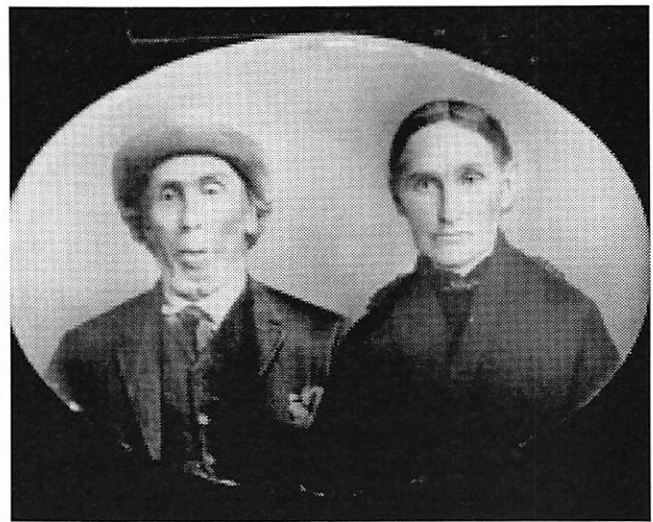
I am sure you heard it before. Pierre and Marie Louise, whose maiden name was also Durand, were cousins! No, couldn't be, could it? Well, if you look at the diagram compiled by Roger Durand listed on the next page, the issue can be put to rest. Forever! You will notice that three of Joseph Durand and Elizabeth Vadnais grandchildren, (children of Francois and Elizabeth Belanger Durand) came to the Faribault area. Pierre and Marie Boucher Durand, (pictured on the right) and which you will find on the diagram had twelve children. Marie, Delia, Pierre, (1861-1936), Joseph, Louis, Julia, Narcisse, Zoe, Francis, Edward Charles, Oliver and Leon.

Listed below Pierre and Marie Boucher Durand on the diagram is Felix and Leocadie Thibodeau Durand. (See their picture to the right) Therefore, Pierre and Felix were brothers. You will then follow down and see their children listed. The first one is Marie Louise 1867-1934. Leocadie, Hedwidge, Azaire, Rose, M.Emmalise, Anna, Valerie, Henry, John, and Simeon.

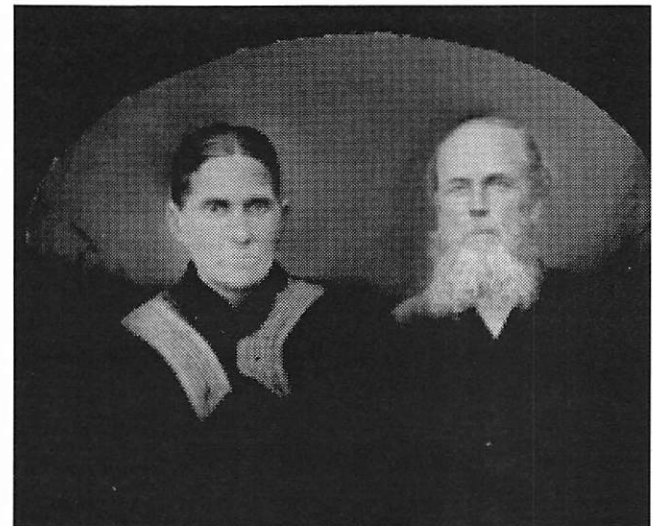
Now, Pierre and Marie Boucher Durand's son Pierre 1861-1936 married Felix and Leocadie Thibodeau Durand's oldest daughter, Marie Louise, (1867-1934). Were they cousins? Yes, first cousins.



Pierre & Marie Durand, with sons Elzear & Adelard



Pierre & Marie Boucher Durand, (Pierre Durand's 1861-1936) father and mother.



Felix and Leocadie Thibodeau Durand, parents of (Marie Louise Durand, 1867-1934).

Depending on what generation you are, and if you are descendants of Pierre and Marie Durand (picture to the left), you now have everything on one sheet of paper. Your grandparents are to the left if you are in my generation, (tenth), and both sets of great grandparents are pictured above. It wasn't until this past year that I discovered for the first time all these pictures. Before, I looked at family tree diagrams and branches with few faces to connect with. Now we have pictures to put with the diagrams. They will forever be a part of our archives, and posted at our web site, www.Durandfoundation.com. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this effort.

As promised on page 10 of the last newsletter, this is a visual diagram of the origin of most "Wisconsin" (Vadnais line) and "Minnesota" (Sarazin line) Durands---Roger Durand

Joseph Durand's Ancestors will be outlined in the next Durand Heritage Foundation Newsletter

Joseph Ambrose 1794-1879 m. Ursule Brissette
Ancestors of Dennis Durand

Elizabeth Vadnais

m. 1793
St. Cuthbert,
Quebec

Joseph Durand
1770-1835

m. 1805
St. Cuthbert,
Quebec

Marie-Louise Sarazin
1782-1852

Elizabeth Belanger
1808-1853

m. 1793
St. Michels
des Saintes,
Berthier,
Quebec,

Francois Durand
1795-1877

Jean-Baptiste Durand
1809-1876

m. 1829
St. Cuthbert,
Quebec

Mary-Esther Marteau
1770-1835

Marie Boucher
1835-

m. 1855
L'Île Dupas,
Quebec

Pierre Durand
1832-1898

Nazaire Durand
1834-1924

m. 1862
St. Barthelemy,
Quebec

Leocadie Berneche
1834-1824

Leocadie Thibodeau

m. 1865
St. Gabriel
de Brandon,
Quebec

Felix Durand
1837-1915

Joseph Durand
1836-1915

m. 1855
St. Ambroise,
Quebec

Celanise Neveu

Dieudonne Thibodeau
1845-1928

m. 1866
St. Gabriel
de Brandon,
Quebec

Olivia Durand
1848-1903

Euphemie Durand
1839-1919

m. 1857
St. Gabriel
de Brandon,
Quebec

Onezime Charpentier
1836-1917

Marie 1856-1943
Delia 1858-1929
Pierre 1861-1936
Joseph 1863-1915
Louis 1864-1925
Julia 1866-1890
Narcisse 1868-1933
Zoe 1870-1957
Francis 1872-1920
Edward Charles 1877-
Oliver 1876-1903
Leon 1878-1957

Marie Louise 1867-1934
Leocadie 1868-1939
Hedwidge 1870-1939
Azarie 1871-1952
Rose 1873-
M. Emmalise 1874-1910
Anna 1879-
Valerie 1880-
Henry 1882-1949
John 1884-
Simeon 1886-1948

Delima ?-?
Fred ?-?
Genevieve ?-?
Anna ?-?
Marie-Celaniese-Cordelia 1855-
Rose 1857-
Marie Josephine 1859-1949
Joseph Ludger (Eugene) 1860-1929
Marie Olivine 1862-1879
Marie-Eugenie 1864-1951
Joseph Cyrille 1866-
Marie Celina (Selina) 1867-
Joseph Azaire 1869-1877
Marie Adele 1869-
Marie Emma 1872-
Joseph Mederic 1875-1949

Marie Arcille (Sarah) 1862-
Joseph Albert 1864-1929
Mary Clara 1865-1932
Marie Rosanna (Rose) 1867-1925
Unnamed 1869-1869
Joseph (Joe) Patircuis 1871-
Joseph George 1872-1949
Mary Elizabeth 1875-1933
Mary Jenevieve (Jennie) 1877-1948
Joseph Nazaire 1879-1879
Alfred (Frederic) 1882-1962



Pierre & Marie Louise Durand's 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration

1933

By Mike Durand

The year was 1933, and Pierre and Marie Louise Durand celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at their homestead in the town of Scott in NW Wisconsin (picture on page eight). They were both born in Canada, later moved to Faribault, MN with their parents, and were married in Faribault in 1883. A total of seventeen children were born to this union. Their first two children died at less than one year of age, followed by the birth of Elzear, and then sadly again the death of their fourth child also less than one year old.

They homesteaded land in Northwest, Wisconsin in 1896 and built a log cabin on the shores of a small lake, under a large White Pine, after moving from Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. The big lumber companies had logged off much of the virgin timber in the area in the 1880's. Pierre & Marie Durand were pioneer's in this new land, "homesteaders", and Lawrence, their son, proclaimed to be the first "white child" born in the township of Scott. A few years later, they built the large main log house and barn with the help of their able bodied and hardworking children. The land was cleared and broken with horses.

The "thirties" were difficult times. The country was trying to pull itself out of the worst depression that it has ever known after the crash of 1929. These were also the "Dust Bowl years". You couldn't get or buy a job. People were going hungry and lined up in the big cities in soup lines. But, these were also good times. You could buy a new car, (like the ones in the background of the picture, 1930's vintage), for about four hundred dollars. Gas was about sixteen cents a gallon. They adjusted to the times by being able to farm and live off the land, and also worked hard in different professions, including masonry, carpentry, working on the railroads, and logging, etc. They were great gardeners and took pride in being able to feed their families from the land. Northwest Wisconsin was a great place to live and raise a family, with clear blue skies, plenty of fresh air, and crystal clear lakes. "C'est le pays de Dieu", they would say, meaning (This is God's Country).

At one time their total land holdings included a little over 600 acres. They had their own sawmill and it was powered by a huge steam engine, one of the first in the area. It also powered the threshing machine.

Many of their children would already be established in their own farms now, sprinkled within a few miles around the old homestead, and a part of the original homestead. Or, some of them lived close by in the city of Spooner, about 15 miles away. They had begun their own families by then. There were twenty-nine grandchildren in 1933.

Great things were happening in other parts of the country in 1933. With the age of the automobile being in full swing, it was causing problems with congestion. The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, a marvel to this day, was being built to handle the increased traffic and sometimes eight hour wait for a ferry to transport them across the bay.

This picture was taken about a year before Marie Louise's death. Marie Louise died in 1934, two years before Pierre died. My father, (Louis), used to tell me that Grandpa died from a broken heart. He missed his lover and life long partner so much, the pain was unbearable for him.

I never knew my Grandparents, Pierre and Marie Durand, they died about ten years before I was born. I know them now, though. I can see from the pictures and stories that they were great people. They had great faith, pride, and a value system that dwarf the Rocky Mountains. May peace be with you Grandpa and Grandma and all the Uncles and Aunts.

Pierre and Marie Durand's family photo Standing in back row, left to right, page eight

Joseph Elzear
Adelard Joachim
Napoleon Joseph
Moses Frank
Peter Andrew
Felix Alfred
Louise Marie, (Sister Ignace), (twin)
Arthur James
Lawrence Rudolph
Raymond Azarie
Louis Martin, (twin)
Gilbert Benjamin

Sitting, left to right

Florida Rose
Pierre
Marie Louise
Beatrice Pearl

More results from Board Meeting, April 18th, 1999

Sails are set

Lots of work was accomplished! Here's some more of the results. The Mission Statement drafted by John Durand for the Durand Heritage Foundation was revised and adopted as follows:

Mission Statement of the Durand Heritage Foundation Drafted by John Durand

To preserve the family and cultural heritage of Jean Durand of Doeuil-sur-le Mignon, Saint Onge, Charente Maritime, France (1636-1671), the Durand Heritage Foundation researches and disseminates genealogical and other information about his ancestors and descendants through the voluntary efforts of its members.

Membership Committee Mission Statement Drafted by Mary Brusegard, Membership Chairperson

- Expand current membership to as many Durand relatives as possible.
- To publicize and inform membership of Durand family reunions and special events that may be of interest to members.
- Work closely with Board of Directors to maintain memberships.
- Develop, add more content and maintain website for members.

Family Stories Committee, Mission Statement Drafted by John Durand & Ellen Durand Olson

The Family Stories Committee will solicit and record individual and family stories of the Durand family so that future generations will share a heritage that endures because of the strength, integrity, loyalty – and great humor – found in the lives of our forebears. Family stories bind us, and can comfort, encourage, and strengthen us. We believe that it is our privilege and obligation to collect and preserve these stories.

Research Committee Mission Statement Drafted by Roger Durand

The mission statement for the Research Committee was published in the Winter 1998 edition of the Newsletter. It is also posted at our web site in the library at www.Durandfoundation.com

Durand Heritage Foundation

Newsletter Committee Mission Statement Proposal

Drafted by Mike Durand, April 1999

The first Durand Heritage Foundation Newsletter was published in April, of 1998. The main purpose of the Newsletter is to serve as the primary means of communication for the members. The Durand Heritage Foundation Newsletter is governed by the Newsletter committee, and is under the direct supervision of the Board of Directors. The newsletter committee promotes a good faith effort to assist in the recording and preservation of our French Canadian Family Heritage. The Durand Heritage Foundation newsletter committee performs this duty and obligation by being committed to portraying those people and events that are so valuable in assisting us in understanding and appreciating our heritage. It provides this by;

1. Announcing main events, i.e. board meetings, family reunions, wedding anniversaries, births, and deaths as well as any other noteworthy news.
2. Relays information generated by the committees, and /or other members or independent authors about the Durand Family Heritage, both from a historical and current perspective.
3. The newsletter publishes the structure of the organization and the membership list and designates contact people with telephone numbers, e-mails addresses and postal addresses so that it serves as a resource guide for the membership.
4. Provides a means of marketing the organization by providing appealing and valuable information to the members.
5. Promotes the Durand Heritage Foundation web site and informs the reader about new information that they might find of value.
6. Promotes and informs the membership about other organizations that have developed a relationship with the Durand Heritage Foundation.

Susanne Krasovich, Treasurer, shines with French language skills!

On page twelve is the letter which Susanne drafted at the direction of Mike Durand, requesting copywrite to translate the book, Jean Durand et Sa Posterite' (written in French in 1954 by Joseph and Viateur Durand). This book is considered to be "the bible", of the Durand Family history and genealogy.

The French version is still in print and is published by the Durand Association in Canada, who have been given the rights to publish the French version. The book costs about twenty dollars. On page 13 is their response, also in French, granting the Durand Heritage Foundation the rights to translate this book into English and publish it. Test your own French language skills by reading these letters. Susanne has played a very valuable role in being able to converse with our French Canadian relatives and contacts in Canada, as well as in France. Thanks a million, Susanne! Is a new updated Durand book in the works?

Thanks for the Donations

A special thanks to John Durand and Robert and Joanne Berres for their donations to the Durand Heritage Foundation.

Letter to French Canadian's

DURAND HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Michael Durand, President
1501 Rushmore Drive Burnsville, MN 55306 USA

LES CLERCS DE SAINT-VIATEUR CANADIENS

Service des archives
7400 boulevard Saint-Laurent
Montréal H2R 2Y1

Le 10 avril, 1999

Messieurs,

Je m'appelle Susanne Krasovich, trésorière de la Fondation de l'Héritage Durand, une organisation à but non-lucratif nouvellement née. Vous pouvez consulter www.Durandfoundation.com, notre site internet. Vous y trouverez notre arbre généalogique.

Nous avons été en contact avec M. Martin Durand, président de l'Association des familles Durand, Inc., au Canada. Conscients de notre ascendance commune, nous nous rendons compte de l'importance du livre, Jean Durand et Sa Prosterité, de Joseph et Viateur Durand. C'est à cette oeuvre historiquement importante à notre famille que je fais référence. Nous désirions publier une traduction anglaise à la site internet. La traduction en anglais donnera aux membres de nos familles qui ne parlent pas français, l'occasion de mieux comprendre et apprécier leur heritage. C'est possible aussi que les membres de la famille voudraient faire éditer une version courrante de l'histoire de la famille qui ferait inclure cette traduction anglaise du livre de Joseph et Viateur Durand. Nous vous demandons l'autorisation d'utiliser le livre de susdite façon. Pourriez-vous me donner cette autorisation?

Bien sûr, nous donnerions aux clerks et aux auteurs originaux de cette oeuvre, les crédits et les reconnaissances dûes. Nous serions heureux de vous envoyer une copie pour votre usage personnel. Je vous remercie par avance pour avoir considéré notre proposition. Dans l'attente, je vous prie d'accepter, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus distingués.

Suzanne Krasovich, Trésorière
Fondation de l'Héritage Durand
1457 South 77th Street
West Allis, WI 53214
U.S.A.

C.S.V. Résidence St-Laurent

LES CLERCS DE SAINT-VIATEUR DU CANADA

Service des archives
7400, boulevard Saint-Laurent
Montréal H2R 2Y1 Canada

AUTORISATION

Je, soussigné, Robert Hémond, responsable du service des archives des Clercs de Saint-Viateur, donne autorisation à

DURAND HERITAGE FOUNDATION

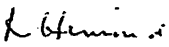
Michael Durand, president
1501 Rushmore Drive Bunsville, MN 55306 USA

FONDATION DE L'HÉRITAGE DURAND

Suzanne Krasovich, trésorière
1457 South 77th Street
West Allis, WI 53214 USA

de publier une traduction anglaise sur site Internet du volume Jean Durand et sa Postérité, de Joseph et de Viateur Durand, et d'éditer une version courante de l'histoire de la famille avec traduction anglaise dudit volume.

A l'agrément des Clercs de Saint-Viateur à cette initiative, je joins mes vœux pour une réalisation heureuse du projet qui veut honorer et rappeler la mémoire des auteurs de l'oeuvre, Joseph et Viateur Durand.


Robert Hémond

Fait à Montréal le 15 avril 1999.



50th Wedding Anniversary Announcement

By Mike Durand

Nevin & Mary Durand Morrow will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 14th, 1999, at Bend, Oregon where they reside. Nevin and Mary were "high school sweethearts", and were married on Oct 11th, 1949 at the Cresnet Lake Catholic Church in the town of Scott, located in NW Wisconsin. Mary is the first born child, of the late Louis (Lewis) and Jenny Stafne Durand family of ten children.

A celebration is planned by their children at 1:00PM with a luncheon at the Aspen Hall in Bend, Oregon. A picnic is also planned for the following day. The children are extending an invitation to friends, and relatives who would like to join them in this celebration. No gifts please.

For further information, you can contact Debbie Morrow Hanson tel. # 541-389-4207 or e-mail laadhan@bendnet.com

Debbie's mailing address:

Debbie Hanson
61767 Wickiup Rd.
Bend, OR 97702

Classical Photos Blue Ribbon Award Winners

By Mike Durand

Great treasures from the past, don't you think? Thank these two couples below who took the time to research and bring in photos from the past. Joanne Durand Berres developed a family photo album back in 1971 as a gift for her parents, Gilbert and Fern Durands 40th wedding anniversary.



Robert (Bud) and Joanne Berres



Russell (Rod) & Connie Swanson

Thank Rod and Connie Harris Swanson for the treasure on page three and eight. Connie obtained a print a few years ago from her Uncle Wilfred for the photo on page eight. Connie is the granddaughter of Napoleon & Louise Durand, and the daughter of Irene Durand Harris and the late Warren Harris of Hastings, MN.

Proposed Budget for 1999
Durand Heritage Foundation
As of April 18th, 1999

	<u>Annual Budget</u> Projected	<u>Amount Paid to date</u>	<u>Balance due</u>
Budget for producing Newsletters 100 ea. (Printing costs only)			
<u>Spring</u> <u>Summer</u> <u>Fall</u> <u>Winter</u>			
\$ 225.00 \$ 225.00 \$ 225.00 \$ 225.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 221.52	\$ 678.48
Postage 75 x .77 cents x Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter	\$ 231.00	\$ 57.75	\$ 173.25
Mailing envelopes	\$ 19.50	\$ 4.78	\$ 14.72
Web Site Power Surge Service Provider Fees <u>25.00 month X 12 months</u>	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	<u>\$ 75.00</u>	<u>\$ 225.00</u>
Total Newsletter and Web Site Costs	\$ 1,450.50	\$ 359.05	\$ 1,091.45

Incorporation costs

Seminar costs from Management Assistance Program for Nonprofits (Map)	\$ 300.00
Registration with Internal Revenue Service Fee	\$ 150.00
Registration with State of Minnesota Fee	<u>\$ 70.00</u>
Total other orgaizational costs	\$ 520.00

Possible Anticipated Revenue

Membership due for renewal in 1999 = 35 x \$15.00	\$ 525.00
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A Peek into the Biannual Meeting

By Joanne Durand Berres

I sat in on the recent Durand Heritage Foundation meeting in April, not because beyond being a member by paying my dues have I done anything to enhance this organization, but because I live close by and all members are welcomed and even encouraged to attend. Plus, it's fun to be in the midst of action!

Roger and Carol Durand of Burnsville, MN opened their home to host the meeting which consists of four officers, and various committee chairpersons and myself, a total of about nine people attended. After all the greetings, hugs and squeezes (which the Durands are pretty good at), the meeting got underway.

The meeting lasted from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM with a great luncheon furnished by Roger and Carol, served during noon break, which in itself made me glad I came. I was totally in awe at the quality of my, (our) relatives who have taken the initiative to come together to form the back bone, (structure) of this newly formed foundation. I want you all to know, Mike, the President, handled the meeting most professionally, having done his homework prior to the meeting.

Susanne, the acting secretary drove 5 hrs. from Milwaukee, and did an absolutely amazing job with writing the minutes of the last board meeting. It was like a story unfolding. History made six months ago revealing such unique progress already made by this young organization with individual committee reports and mission statements.

Then they began with all that computer jargon, "e-mails, Internet, download, gigabytes, megabytes, and scanning" etc. etc. Roger's computer even had it's place at the conference table making and bringing together our yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's history into a tangible reality. As for my computer abilities, when I take the mouse in hand, the arrow goes off the screen, forever!

I want to commend this group for all their knowledge, diligence and the wonderful achievements they have accomplished in less than a year. Because of their efforts, we are all able to have a better understanding and appreciation of our heritage. We also are enjoying these newsletters, which in itself reflects a quality of excellence.

When God created the world, he stepped back and said "Ah, It is Good"! As I sat back, taking the

whole day in, all I could think was, "Ah, This is Good"! It made me want to now become more active and to be a part of what's happening.

I saw a need that this organization has. A need we can all help with. Monies! Our organization has grown to the point where several important matters need to be addressed. A resolution was passed to Incorporate, (see page five) and seek a tax exempt, non-profit status, under section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. This whole process could cost anywhere from \$800.00 to \$3,000 if they were to hire an outside law firm to do all the paperwork and filings. They are is going to accomplish this however, for \$300.00, by utilizing a Management Assistance Program, (MAP) and a seminar for non-profits offered here in Minneapolis from the Business Economics Education Foundation. MAP will help us draft our by-laws and walk us through the application process for both the State of MN and the Internal Revenue Service. I also found out what it costs to print and send out the newsletter and our \$15.00 a year membership fee just doesn't make it fly. Fundraising was discussed, but do you have time to work on fundraising, or even want to? There is an easier way in which each of us can help. I have listed them below.

- (1) Promoting interest of others to join.
- (2) Renew our dues on time.
- (3) Pay for a subscription for a relative who may not realize what they are missing.
- (4) Donate: give above and beyond our dues: (most of us have the means to do this)

Let us unite and help bear the burden as we all benefit from the Durand Heritage Foundation.

Said in Love,
Joanne Durand Berres
Lakeville, MN

Board of Directors Meeting Is Scheduled For Oct. 10th, 1999

The Board of Directors of the Durand Heritage Foundation meet twice a year, usually a Spring and Fall meeting. The next meeting will be on Oct. 10th from 10:30 AM to 3:30PM at the Mike & Marilyn Durand residence at 1501 Rushmore Dr., Burnsville, MN. The meetings are open. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please call Mike or Marilyn at 612- 431-5610 as a common courtesy and also for directions. Mike can also be reached by e-mail at MDurandMn@aol.com.

List of Main Contact People

This is a list of people who have assumed areas of responsibility in addition to the listing on page two.

Research Committee

Roger Durand, Chairman
76 Marcin Hill
Burnsville, MN 55337
tel. 612-898-2896 e-mail, rogdurand@msn.com

Richard Durand
320 Em St.
Spooner, WI 54801
tel. 715-635-3888



Family Stories/Research

John Durand, Chairman
931 Jennifer St.
Madison, WI 53703
tel. 608-255-2662 e-mail jcdurand@aol.com

Ellen Olson
1020 Edgewood Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
tel. 415-388-3911 ellenolson@aol.com

Membership

Mary Brusegard, Chairperson
Derek Brusegard
6425 Eagle Lake Dr.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
tel. 612-533-9879 e-mail mkb@durandfoundation.com

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for help in many different areas to assist us in our numerous on-going projects. Do you have special interests and skills that you would like to help out with? If so, contact anyone of the officers or one of the contact people listed above.

We are especially interested in finding more "classical pictures". But better yet is to record information about the life events surrounding the pictures. You don't have to write an article. Just jot down main points of information that you have. We can have someone take it from there.





Iyone Marie Bartels (Wilcox)

August 15, 1928 — December 7, 2025
Crosby

August 15, 1928 – December 7, 2025

Iyone Marie Bartels, born in Bemidji, Minnesota, on August 15, 1928, passed away peacefully at the age of 97. She was the fourth of seven children born to Peter Cornelius Petersen, a Norwegian immigrant, and Isabel Durand Petersen Cahill of Bemidji. Iyone led a full and vibrant life, marked by love, family, and resilience.

Preceded in death by her first husband, Donald Wilcox, son, Thomas Wilcox, grandchild, Crystal Wilcox, great grandchild Isaac Banegas, son in law Gary Bohler and siblings, Joseph Petersen, Clifford Petersen, Gurine Brune, and Francis Petersen. She is survived by her husband Arlen Bartels, her sister Sr Vivian Petersen (Lucille) of Crookston, MN, her sister Cornelius Smith of Baltimore, MD. And her four surviving children, Brenda Bohler, Lydia Marohn (Wayne), Collenn Kokesh (Mark), and Bruce Wilcox (Terra). Iyone also leaves behind 25 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, and 13 great, great grandchildren, and many more extended family members who will cherish her memory.

Iyone worked tirelessly throughout her life, raising her family and contributing to her community through her work at the local bank and later for the State of Minnesota's vocational rehabilitation department, where she had a fulfilling 25-year career. Together with Donald, she owned and operated the Sky-Blue Drive In Theater on Lake Mille Lacs, creating countless memories for family and friends.

A devoted mother, grandmother, and friend, Iyone was known for her great sense of humor, intelligence, and loyalty. She lived her final years at Heartwood and Crosby Care Center, where she was cared for with the love and attention she had shown to others throughout her life.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter, MN on Friday December 19, 2025, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm, to honor and celebrate her life. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.