

Nine Letters from Frederick Durand Beach to Harvey Durand, 1898-9, Plus Three Cover Letters

Transcribed by Alvy Ray Smith III
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Introduction

Frederick Durand Beach is the author of a manuscript, *Durand Genealogy, Descendants of Dr. John (Jean) Durand, Huguenot, Who Was in Milford, Conn., in 1696, Later Derby Conn., where His Children Were Born ...*, which now resides in the Whitney Library of the New Haven Colony Historical Society (NHCHS) in CT. The manuscript, dated 1918 when Beach died, is the basis for much of the small book *Durand Family, Descendants of Dr. John Durand, a Huguenot, Born 1664, La Rochelle, France*, by Samuel Relf Durand, 1965. Durand published the book himself and distributed to over a hundred libraries across the US. It is available as a photocopy from Higginson Books, Salem, MA.

The nine letters transcribed here are from Beach to one of Dr JOHN DURAND's descendants, Harvey Durand [Du715]¹, five generations removed. So they show the technique Beach used to do his research: He found descendants and then hounded them for information about their respective branches of the family. I do not have the original letters, but rather old yellowed copies of typed transcripts of them. In fact, I inherited two sets of these old copies. One of them now resides at the NHCHS too. It is these old copies of typed transcripts of the letters that are transcribed here. Included in the old set is (a copy of a typed transcript of) one of the three cover letters mentioned in the title. The location of the originals of these nine letters and their immediate cover letter is not known. The other two cover letters are described in the next section. The originals of these are in my possession.

I am a descendant from Harvey Durand's uncle SAMUEL DURAND²[Du139]. These letters were passed down to me by Great Aunt Arlien (Reiter) Sifleet via my mother EDITH HORTENSE (SANDERS) SMITH, a descendant and namesake of MARY HORTENSE (DURAND) PARROTT [Du724], SAMUEL's granddaughter. Aunt Arlien received them from Philip Mitchell Niederaur Jr, son of Janette Nancy (Parrott) Niederaur, daughter of MARY HORTENSE. Phil obtained them from Charlotte Augusta (Durand) Neiswanger [Du960], daughter of William Angelo Durand [Du725], brother to MARY HORTENSE. See the cover letters below.

Durand's book, *Durand Family*, is the principal source of genealogical information about the extended Durand family. It is often lacking, unfortunately, in cited sources of evidence. I have been double-checking, whenever possible, all information in Durand. My experience is that he has made very few errors, and

¹ This notation means item 715 in Durand, and also in Beach. Dr JOHN is of course [Du1].

² I habitually uppercase persons in my main genetic line.

that several of these are minor transcription errors from the Beach manuscript. Nevertheless, I continue the exercise of building confidence in Durand where I have been unable to find corroborating sources. Since Durand counts so heavily on Beach, it seems important to me, and hopefully others, to understand how Beach gathered his information. How careful was he? How diligent was he? These letters answer some of these questions. This, of course, doesn't prove anything, but, for me at least, the letters have inspired further trust in the Durand book (when corrected occasionally by appeal to the Beach manuscript).

Cover Letters

Here are transcripts of the sequence of three cover letters for the Beach letters, as I received them from Aunt Arlien Sifleet. The first is a brief extract from a letter, date unknown but after 15 May 1975 (the date of the second cover letter), from Aunt Arlien Sifleet to EDITH SMITH, my mother, and before 11 Feb 1993 when Arlien died. Most of this first letter is irrelevant to the Beach letters and is not transcribed here.

Mrs. Alexander Corwin Sifleet
95 Fairmount Avenue
Chatham, New Jersey

Wednesday

Dear Edith –

...

Enclosed are some things which I came across – so am passing them on to you – knew you'd like to have them. The genealogical chart³ might help you too. Write when you can as I love to hear from you – my love to the family & yourself.

Aunt Arlien.

The second letter is from Phil Niederaur Jr to Aunt Arlien.

Bryan, O.
May 15, 1975

Dear Arlien:

I have done my best to dig up some history of the family tree for the relations – Hazel's children⁴.

³ A chart of the Parrott family.

⁴ The children of HAZEL ADA (SIFLEET) SANDERS are my mother EDITH and her sister Alice Jeanette. HAZEL is the daughter of WILLIAM JAMES and MARGUERITE ALICE (PARROTT) SIFLEET.

I am enclosing some literature from Cousin Lotta Durand from Akron to Mother. It to me just [sic] a lot of “chit-chat” put together by a semiprofessional researcher that leads nowhere.

Back in those days there were a lot of charlatans that preyed upon the newly rich that needed a coat of arms to hang in the entrance hall, that only in most cases enhanced the decor and gave the family a feeling of substance.

However Frank⁵ said that he would search his castle⁶ to see if he can come up with something that has truth in it.

It really is too bad that Mother did not jot down what she knew about the family.

If we can find more we will surely send it along. Did Aunt Alice⁷ ever give you a briefing?

Uncle Will⁸ was the dominant [sic] figure in Cousin’s life and I imagine you know considerable about Uncle John⁹ from England, John D¹⁰ etc.

Love Phil

P.S.

When Hazels [sic] children visited you last year did they have any history of the Parrotts and Durands?

The only thing right now that I can tell you is that I had the bodies of my grandparents John and Hortense¹¹ taken from the Bryan Mausoleum that had begun to deteriorate [sic] and buried on a large double lot that belongs to Peg¹² and me. We have a nice stone for them and an identical one [sic] for Peg and myself.

All of grandfathers [sic] parents are buried at Alvarado¹³ a few miles from Edon Ohio.

Peg and I have visited the cemetery but I can’t find the names and dates that I had written down.

I just ran across [sic] the enclosed note – a kind of thumbnail history of “Gramp”¹⁴.

⁵ Frank L Niederaur, Phil’s brother.

⁶ The word “home!!” is written above “castle”.

⁷ MARGUERITE ALICE (PARROTT) SIFLEET, daughter of MARY HORTENSE (DURAND) PARROTT.

⁸ Probably his great uncle William Angelo Durand, Charlotte’s (Cousin Lotta’s) father and MARY HORTENSE’s brother.

⁹ Probably his great uncle John H Alexander, who died in Malmsbury, England, maternal uncle of WILLIAM JAMES SIFLEET

¹⁰ Probably refers to John D Rockefeller, who put his hated rival John H Alexander out of business early in the oil tycoon’s business career.

¹¹ JOHN MITCHELL and MARY HORTENSE (DURAND) PARROTT.

¹² His wife Mildred “Peggy” (Pennell) Niederaur.

¹³ Indiana.

¹⁴ This note is missing.

The original cover letter in the chain is from Charlotte “Lotta” August (Durand) Neiswanger to her cousin Janette Nancy (Parrott) Niederaur, Phil’s mother.

St. Augustine, Fla.
Feb. 10th. 1920.

My Dear Cousin:-

I trust you will pardon the delay in answering your letter. Mother and I are here for the Winter and Mother’s sister and husband¹⁵ also. On receipt of your letter I wrote to Ruth¹⁶ and had her send me the papers I had promised to send you long ago, (but which I utterly forgot to do). I was anxious to have her send them here for fear they were not the right ones. So I am sending them to you and asking you to return them whenever you are thru with them. No, I have never become affiliated with the D.A.R’s but expressed my intention of some day doing so, as we are surely eligible. My brother¹⁷ met a young man a short time ago who is a Durand and he gave us a vivid description of the Durand coat of arms of the house of “DuRund”, pronounced Du Ran, sort of thru your nose. Ha! Ha! Some Frenchman! It is a shield of light blue with gold knots or clovers. I thought I had the book with me that contained the entire description but I don’t seem to find it, but will send it to you when I go back. I enjoy knowing some of these things and its some satisfaction to know that we are descendants of the old rascals after all.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Lotta.

The Beach Letters

Following are the nine letters from Frederick Durand Beach of Derby, CT to Harvey Durand of New York City, NY, written over the period 18 Nov 1898 to 8 Mar 1899. These are transcripts of the copies of transcripts of the originals that I inherited. These were fastened together with the last of the cover letters above, which was also a copy of the typed transcript of the original. The word “COPY” appears at the top of the cover letter and also at the top of the first page of the nine Beach letters. After that each page is numbered successively at the top “-2-“ through “-13-“. There is a blank page following these 14 pages, which were all held together by a small metal paper clip of old design.

Spelling is preserved except for simple typographical errors, in which cases I substitute the errant letter with the correct one in *italics*. The second of two re-

¹⁵ “Mother” is Sarah (Berg) Durand. Her sister is Libbie Berg but I do not know whom she married.

¹⁶ I have not identified Ruth.

¹⁷ Edward Berg Durand [Du961].

peated words is replaced by square brackets. Insertion of a space is indicated by square brackets, as is the deletion of an extra, incorrect letter.

Letter 1

325 Hawthor[n]e Ave.,
Derby, Conn.
Nov. 18 1898.

Mr. Harvey Durand, No. 5 W. 47th. St., New York

Dear Sir:-

I am interested in the genealogy of the Durand family. Dr. John Durand, a Hug[u]enot, came to America A. D. 1685. (P. 718 Hist. Derby, Ct.)¹⁸ He married Elizabeth Bryan of Milford, Conn. They had a family of nine children, six of them were boys who grew to manhood, married and all had families.

I would be pleased, dear Sir, if you would give to me any facts, or knowledge that you may possess of the genealogy of your own family. Any knowledge with which I am familiar that you would desire to know, I will gladly impart the same to you. Hoping, kind Sir, that I shall hear from you soon, I remain.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Frederic D. Beach,
Derby, Conn.

Letter 2

Derby, Conn. Nov. 23 1898.

Mr. Harvey Durand,

Dear Sir:-

Although the hour is late and I am somewhat fatigued, I can not but take just a little time from rest to express thanks and appreciation for your promptness in answering my communication. As it is such an unusual event with me, I was pleased beyond measure. I am sorry of being under the necessity of demolishing your tradition of Ebenezer Durand, emigrating from France in 1768. According to my record, Ebenezer Durand¹⁹, your great grandfather, was born Feb. 24 1755. He was the son of Ebenezer and Hannah (White) Durand²⁰. Ebenezer and Hannah White were married March 17 1754. Ebenezer, your great, great, grandfather,

¹⁸ Orcutt's *History of Derby*.

¹⁹ [Du48]

²⁰ [Du11]

was the youngest child of Dr. John and Elizabeth (Bryan) Durand²¹. He was born in Derby, Conn. December 7 1724.

Your great grandfather was in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted Jan. 16 1778, Capt. Leavenworth, Co. Disch. April 1780. He was in the Sixth Regiment, served on the *Hudson* in Parscus Brigade under Putnam and engaged in all movements made in consequence of enemy's move against Fort Montgomery, etc.

January 1./81. He then joined the Fourth Regiment, Col. Butler, and served to end of War. Discharged Sept. 1 1782.

He owned a beautiful farm on the hill called "Sentinel Hill", situated in the town of Derby, but sold it when his children were small. I had not a full list of his children until I received yours. I am anxious to secure dates now to each of their names.

I am quite sure that Hon. George H. Durand of Flint, Mich. comes through the line of Samuel, brother to Philo M²². If I could secure the date of Samuel's birth, I would be quite sure that it was the right Samuel. Perhaps you could give me the address of someone who could supply dates. I would consider it a very great favor. Any address of those possessing the name Durand would be gratefully received by me. At some future time I may write you about Dr. John and a little about the Bryan family. Please accept many thanks, my dear Sir.

Your very truly,
(Signed) Frederick D. Beach.
Derby, Conn.

Letter 3

Derby, Conn. Dec. 7th. 1898.

Mr. Harvey Durand,

My Dear Sir:-

Yours of Nov. 20th. and Dec. 6th, at hand. The delay in my writing was unavoidable, I having been away from home for ten days, my correspondence meanwhile accumulating each day. I naturally found quite an amount of work at hand to be attended to. Mr. Henry S. Durand²³ of Chicago, formerly of Racine, Wis. is very much interested in correcting his ancestral line. He is the gentleman to whom you refer in your letter. My work has been for some months principally on John and Andrew's line²⁴. Mr. Hamilton H. Durand of New York in his writing to me spoke of a Harvey Durand as being in the City which accounts for my receiving

²¹ [Du1]

²² [Du721], [Du139], [Du136], respectively.

²³ Henry Smith Durand [Du427].

²⁴ [Du2] and [Du3], respectively.

your name, and my great pleasure in becoming acquainted with you. Mr. Hamilton H. Durand, his sisters Miss Katherine and Miss Mabel²⁵, are descendants of John, the eldest son. Asher B.²⁶, the celebrated landscape painter and engraver, also the Durands, Jewelers, Union Square, whose Mnfy. is in N. J. are descendants of Samuel²⁷.

Prof. Durand of Cornell University, the expert on Marine Architecture, is a descendant from Joseph²⁸.

You speak[]of looking over Parscus history of early Derby, Ct. I never heard of it. Do you not refer to Orcult's²⁹? If so, I can inform you that it is one of the most unreliable histories published. Everything is haphazard, things assumed and then stated as facts. You need have no fear of anything in that direction from me. My aim is to be accurate as it is possible for one to be. It is impossible to have an absolutely perfect genealogy, that is, I mean, one extending through a long period of years, for the reason old records are so worn and defaced that it is almost impossible to decipher the writing. But, my dear Sir, you need have no fear in the dates pertaining to Ebenezer, born Dec. 7 1724. The marriage of Ebenezer and Hannah White, the birth of Ebenezer, the son, as Feb. 24 1755, for I took these names and dates myself from the town records of Derby, Conn³⁰.

You seem to be apprehensive that Ebenezer, b 1755, would not be old enough to be the grandfather of your father³¹, born July 4 1813. Why, my good man, he would have been 58 years old, and many a man is grandparent when they are 50 years of age, and even less.

My grandfather³² occupied that position when he was 47 years of age. So on that score I think you need have no apprehension as to age qualification.

I have not ascertained who your great grandfather³³ married. He lived in Oxford, Ct. I intend some day to go there, and search carefully the archives of that town. I have been told that he left Oxford and went to live East of the Connecticut river, what town I do not know. I was also told that he drew a pension. Sometimes I thought that I should write on to Washington, D. C. to see if I could ascertain any facts. Now, my dear Sir, I have a proposition to make that you yourself write to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C. and obtain

²⁵ [Du416] Hamilton Hill Durand, [Du416a], and [Du416b], respectively.

²⁶ Asher Brown Durand [Du116].

²⁷ [Du7]

²⁸ [Du625] and [Du6], respectively. Dr William Frederick Durand is the father of aeronautical engineering, inventor of the variable-pitch propeller, a founder of NASA, namesake of a building at Stanford University, etc. He inherited the Beach manuscript from his first cousin, indexed it, and donated it to the NHCHS.

²⁹ Probably a transcription error for "Orcutt's".

³⁰ As I have done so myself.

³¹ Treat Durand [Du361].

³² David Durand [Du106]; Beach is son of Mary Elizabeth (Durand) Beach [Du278].

³³ EBENEZER DURAND [Du48].

all the facts in the case possible³⁴. His pension, I was informed, was obtained under the law of 1818. Please ask implicitly what town he resided in when payments, also ascertain if possible, when he died. If you receive the knowledge, some day at your convenience I would be glad to receive the same.

I do certainly appreciate your interest in the Durand genealogy, and all information collected at this time, is some day going to be of inestimable value. How much I wish my grandfather had preserved a list of the family.

I can assure you that I am proud of the fact that I am allied by the ties of consanguinity to such a law abiding family. Clean in every way. No Black Sheep. Something remarkable. I have yet to find where one man was ever arrested for any misdemeanor. None ever in jail. If you will please make note of every name of Durand that comes in under your observations and forward the same, it would be gratifying. I hope that before long I may place my whole attention in tracing Ebenezer's line.

Again let me thank you for your interest and am ever glad to hear from you, I remain.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Frederic D. Beach,
Derby, Conn.

Letter 4

Derby, Conn. Dec. 30th. /98.

My Dear Sir:-

I was happy in securing your communication from Washington, D. C. as it confirmed a tradition that had been told to me that Ebenezer married for second wife Polly - - - - -³⁵. I was also told that his family did not receive her in a very cordial spirit. The knowledge so far received is good. But, kind Sir, I would now like for you to ascertain if Ebenezer himself received a pension, and where it was made payable, whether in New London, or in Middlesex County. If his pension was paid in either one of these counties, it would connect this Ebenezer with that which I now have. For the tradition is that Ebenezer, the father of many boys, and but one girl in the family, once lived in one of these Counties; that the daughter's name was Polly; that she married ----- -Seeley, [] moved to South Carolina³⁶. I am anxious to see a "White" genealogy. There are two books I have been told that have been published. One, I think by Carlton White. One by A. L. Kellogg. Would it be possible for you to find them in the Lenox Library? If you could look for Hannah White, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Moss) White. Mary Moss, or Morse as the

³⁴ There is a letter from Harvey Durand in EBENEZER DURAND's Revolutionary pension file.

³⁵ Polly (Stow) Williams.

³⁶ Mary (Durand) Seeley [Du134].

name is now spelt, was the daughter of Rev. Joseph, Jr. and Abigail "Russell" Morse. Rev. Joseph Jr. was the grandson of John Morse, who came from London England, with the first colonists to New Haven, Ct. Signed the compact Feb. 18 1639. A prominent man in the colony. In asking this of you I hope I am not trespassing on your good nature. It is impossible for me to find a White family genealogy anywhere about here. I am not discouraged one bit about Ebenezer's branch. All will come right soon. I wish some of the other lines were as easy of solution.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) Frederic D. Beach.

Letter 5

Derby, Conn. Jan. 6th. 1899.

My Dear Sir:-

I am a sufferer with the "grip" and would not think of answering any letter but the one received from yourself. Pardon me if I say I think you were somewhat rattled on genealogies. If I had met you coming from the Lenox Library and had asked you, what is your name? Could you have told whether it was White, Morse, Durand or Russell? I have been just there myself several times, and know just what it is. Sometimes after searching old records for an hour or more I would come to a full stop and ask, that if anyone there knew what I was looking for, they would tell me, for it was more than I knew myself. I am not egotistical, but I don't hesitate to say that I could make a better Morse genealogy than the one you examined. The name of Morse is an old name in the town of Derby. In fact from first settlement. In my research of town records I have found the name Morse many times. Rev. Joseph Morse, Jr. was a minister in Derby for many years. His first wife was Mary-----. She died in 1712. Her gravestone and that of Dorcas Rosewell, whom he married in 1714 and died Sept. 1715. Now how could any compiler make Dorcas the mother of three daughters. Now the town records say, Rev. Joseph Morse married Oct. 3 1716³⁷ Abigail Russell, then in the book of births recorded Sept. 23 1717, Abigail, and again Aug. 28 1721 Mary, daughters of Rev. Joseph and Abigail Morse. Now Abigail married Elisha Kent of Newton, Ct. and Mary married Ebenezer White, Danbury, Ct. Now Hannah, the daughter of Rev. Ebenezer and Mary Morse White married Ebenezer Durand³⁸. Now that was what I was trying to find out, and if a perfect genealogy the White should have had the first generation of Hannah White Durand's descendant. Your extract from Danbury History is nearly correct, for Rev. John insert Rev. Joseph.

³⁷ Obviously 1716.

³⁸ Based on Beach's uncertainty about Hannah White elsewhere, I assume that this is only an exercise to show Harvey how one would properly invent a lineage.

Ebenezer Durand, Sr. is lost from Derby after 1760. I am anxious to locate him. I shall find him sometime. If it were not such a journey I would go to Oxford myself some day but it is a little inland country town, with no railroad facilities, have to drive over poor roads and that for 15 miles is too much for me in winter time, and in short days at that. You can not hire anyone to search records for such[] an object, that will do it any how. But some day the knowledge will come. I, Andrew's branch³⁹ (2nd. son of Dr. John) there was a break that seemed impossible of bridging for every trace seemed lost, when unexpectedly from a source you would not have look for it came the desired information. So with the line of Ebenezer everything will be clear. I am surely confident I am on the right track, and that you are a descendant of this Ebenezer and Hannah White Durand. Thanking you very much for all the trouble you have taken in this subject of the genealogies and wishing you a Happy New Year, I am,

Heartily yours,
(Signed Fredc. D. Beach.

Jan. 17.

P.S. Since writing the enclosed letter I have been to Lenox L. and looked up the Peregrine White in Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth by Davis. T'is very incomplete. (Page 284) I find Hannah, dau. of Ebenezer White of Marshfield, who was born in 1721. What became of her I can't trace. He married Hannah Doggett in 1713. He is a son Daniel, son of Peregrine, son of 1st. William who came 1620 Mayflower.

In Braiton
Record.

P. 754. I find a Hannah White, dau. of Joseph White and Sarah – his wife. Born 1724. Can't trace her father.

I hear there is a Peregrine White family record in the Historical Library. I have no access to that. Will follow it if I can.

Sheperd says that two of these Marshfield brothers, Joseph and Ebenezer, came to Eastern Conn., were as far down as Chathan. A Peregrine White is found in Colchiston. Shows how extremely the family of Peregrine White spread over Eastern, Central and Northeastern Conn.

Letter 6

Derby, Conn. Jan. 18-1899.

My Dear Sir:-

My cold has been prostrating to me, but am on the gain[] although somewhat debilitated. I have perused your items with a great deal of interest. The one from the "Oxford Hist." about the Durands was interesting as it confirmed that that I already had. I think when data comes from

³⁹ [Du3]

two sources and they agree, it is safe to conclude they are about right. Many thanks for the kindness.

I think the Hannah White we are looking for may be a daughter of Ebenezer, but not "Rev." The Morse family in Derby have always claimed an intermarriage somewhere of their family, with the Durands, and have placed it on Ebenezer's side, but last a friend of mine unearthed an old record of a Noah Durand having business relations with a William Morse. Now this Noah Durand I had heard of, but I am not tracing him, only descendants of Dr. John Durand. How this Noah was related to Dr. John Durand I have not ascertained. What little I have found out about the family, there are too many illegitimates in the family to suit me, so I have left them alone. In my research of Dr. John's descendants, numbering, as I have *about* 400, not one illegitimate have I yet found, which is somewhat remarkable as nearly every family that has been traced through two hundred years or even less time, there has been found a black sheep somewhere.

If I were you I would confine my research to the two Hannahs on enclosed paper. You find a Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer, who was born 1721; the other being a daughter of Joseph who was born 1724, showing that these two lived contemporary with Ebenezer Durand, who was born 1724. These genealogists that make it a business would not hesitate one moment in putting one of these Hannahs into the Durand family. The beauty of a genealogy is correctness. But so many of these genealogies are in many cases just manufactured. If they come to a break in the line of investigation, they just insert a "John Dow" or a "Richard Row" and let it go at that. So you will perceive that I have not a very high opinion of a genealogy where the work has been hired. I know it is somewhat aggravating, when one wants to find out some little point of fact, and be just baffled, but when once found it affords great satisfaction. However, if one could trace Dr. John's family, I for one would be very glad, but as it now is I can't see what there is for one to work on, for Dr. John left not a scrap of documentary evidence that he ever was in France, or that he ever had a relative there, in fact he left not a paper, not even a Will, his estate was distributed according to law, (for I have hunted the archives in New Haven thoroughly). That he came from France is tradition, but a tradition as well verified as many a family possess. There is no doubt but that he came when the DeForrests came. Also the Delevans and Harges families and many others. That they first came to New Rochelle, N. Y. and from there many families of French origin have drifted through the country. I have no hesitancy in affirming that he came from Rochelle, France, although the proof is not forthcoming.

I would greatly desire to know more of his history, but the data at present is to my mind is very insufficient to warrant any investigation as Durands are, I am informed, quite a common name in France. A friend of mine once said to me, you might just as well try to trace the Jones or Smith families in this Country as to try to trace the Durands of France.

Some day when I have regained my strength, I am going up to Torrington, Ct. I have found that at the beginning of this century there were Durands living there. I dislike very much to impose any task on you, but I would like to ask a favor of you outside of the line of Ebenezer.

Jeremiah Durand⁴⁰, son of John, grandson of Dr. moved from Derby after the death of his wife, which occurred in 1676. All trace of him lost. I have been informed that there was a Durand in Fair Haven, Vt. Will you find a history of Fair Haven, Vt. published by Adams, and see if you find the name, and report to me? I would appreciate the kindness very much, for a poor soul out West who is allied to this branch is goading me somewhat sharply.

In my investigation into the Torrington family, if I find them allied to Ebenezer's line, rest assured I shall lose no time informing you, but still hunt for Hannah White. If there were Whites in Easton, Ct. possibly a Hannah might have been visiting there (but not herself a resident), and as Derby is but a short distance, I can see how Ebenezer might have found her, but work it out.

Most cordially,
(Signed Frederic D. Beach.

Letter 7

Derby, Conn. Feb. 2 1899.

Dear Sir:-

Your correspondence with the Pension Office attentively read. GOOD! GOOD!! I say for you. I have had experience somewhat akin to yours and I have been disgusted many a time. As good a way as any, I find, is to let it rest for a time, then again apply; but not a hint that a previous communication had been sent.

You have worked with uncommon perseverance, and my advice would be, to let it rest for a short time, but all the time be on the alert for the name of Durand in every periodical you take up. It will surely come after awhile. The town of Barkhamstead is in Litchfield Co. near the line of Hartford County, more direct to go to the city of Hartford than to the county town of Litchfield; that I think explains mistake in papers. The first information I receive favorable to you I shall inform you immediately.

My strength does not return as I would wish, consequently I shall not think of going any farther North this cold weather, viz: to Torrington, Ct. I think it best to be careful this cold Winter.

I was in New York for a couple of hours last Saturday and regret that I was so hurried for the time that I could not find you, even long enough to say, "how do you do?" or "Good Bye". I do not wish to intrude or to make myself disagreeable, but when I take a run down to the city again, I

⁴⁰ [Du17]

certainly shall send you my card that you may know that I am in the (town). I desire to express my thanks and appreciation for your kindness in sending me the extract from (Adams, Fair Haven, Vt.). Just what I desired, but did not care to be to expense of purchasing book for the one item that I desired. Your kindness saved me that expense. I hope that I may reciprocate some day. I have been so busy working on another branch of the family that I have not written as yet to Mich. or Indiana, or Ill. I would appreciate the kindness if you yourself would communicate with them, sometime when you have the leisure.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Very Truly Yours,
(Signed Frederic D. Beach.

Letter 8

Derby, Conn. Feb. 27 1899.

My Dear Sir:-

Yours of 26th. inst. received. You must have overlooked the Col. Sanford letter for it was returned with the others, and to make sure I have examined all of m^{ine} carefully, and I find it not with mine. The suggestion to call on Mrs. Nathan Pond at Mil[]ford, Ct. I would say would not bring anything to light concerning Ebenezer's line. Her papers and data pertain I might say exclusively to Andrew's line, the second son of Dr. John Durand.

I have written three letters (Stamps enclosed) to John S. Durand, 126 W. 79 N. Y. and no reply. After a time shall write again, asking him if his father's name was not John, and that in 1856 he married Martha Stewart⁴¹. I judge by his name that he must be their son, for their names I have on my list. If I get no reply and shall then write to an uncle of his in Chicago and [] receive the desired information.

You are certainly persevering in your efforts to find out the Hannah White. Have I ever informed you that Hannah White was second wife to Ebenezer born 1724? H^{is} first was also named Hannah. Whose dau. she was I do not know. She died in 1852 in childbed, leaving no children.

With this information possibly you may look upon the Hannah White born 1820, and being three or four years older than her husband, in a different light than though she was the first wife.

I have had a letter from Torrington, Ct. and they are of Andrew's line. I was greatly disappointed. I thought surely they must be of your line, viz: Ebenezer's.

My health is very much better. By April I shall strike in again tormenting everyone that I can find by the name of Durand for information as to their antecedents.

⁴¹ Perhaps this refers to John W Durand [Du720] of NY and his father John S [Du369] b 1830, but the John who married Martha Stewart in 1856 is [Du428], whose father was Samuel [Du175].

Very truly,
(Signed Frederic D. Beach.

Letter 9

Derby, Conn. March 8 1899.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 5th. at hand. Suggestions are good, but truth forces me to say some I have thrashed and rethrashed until nothing is left. Mr. Sharpe of Seymour, Ct. is a personal friend of mine. He has nothing about Durands. I have harpooned the poor man to such an extent that I should think he never would want to see me again.

The Woodbridge or the Ora[n]ge records, I have never searched. Will try to do so when weather becomes more settled and County roads passable. Huntington records I have had access to. Nothing there. I intend to be alert and take advantage of all and any suggestions that appear reasonable. By the way, I just have a suggestion for you. Where did the compiler of the Wetmore genealogy get his information? How would a line dropped to his address asking if among his papers (if handy of access) he has any data that would explain where information was secured. I just throw this out as a hint.

The land records of Derby are simply signed by Ebenezer Durand. Never once does his wife's name appear.

You ask me how I am connected with the Durands. Your great great grandfather was Ebenezer, born 1724. My great great grandfather was Joseph, born 1709. They were brothers. I leave it to you to figure out the degree of cousinship.

I am getting along nicely on the other branches of the family, so that soon I can give more attention to Ebenezer's line. Have been at work more on John and Andrew's line. Modestly I state there is no one that has anything of a family list outside myself. And this has been accomplished by perseverance, the same that you are exercising. If they could receive some of your push and energy, much would be done in a short time.

Hoping you will soon receive letter from Mich. containing lots of information.

Very truly,
(Signed Frederick D. Beach.