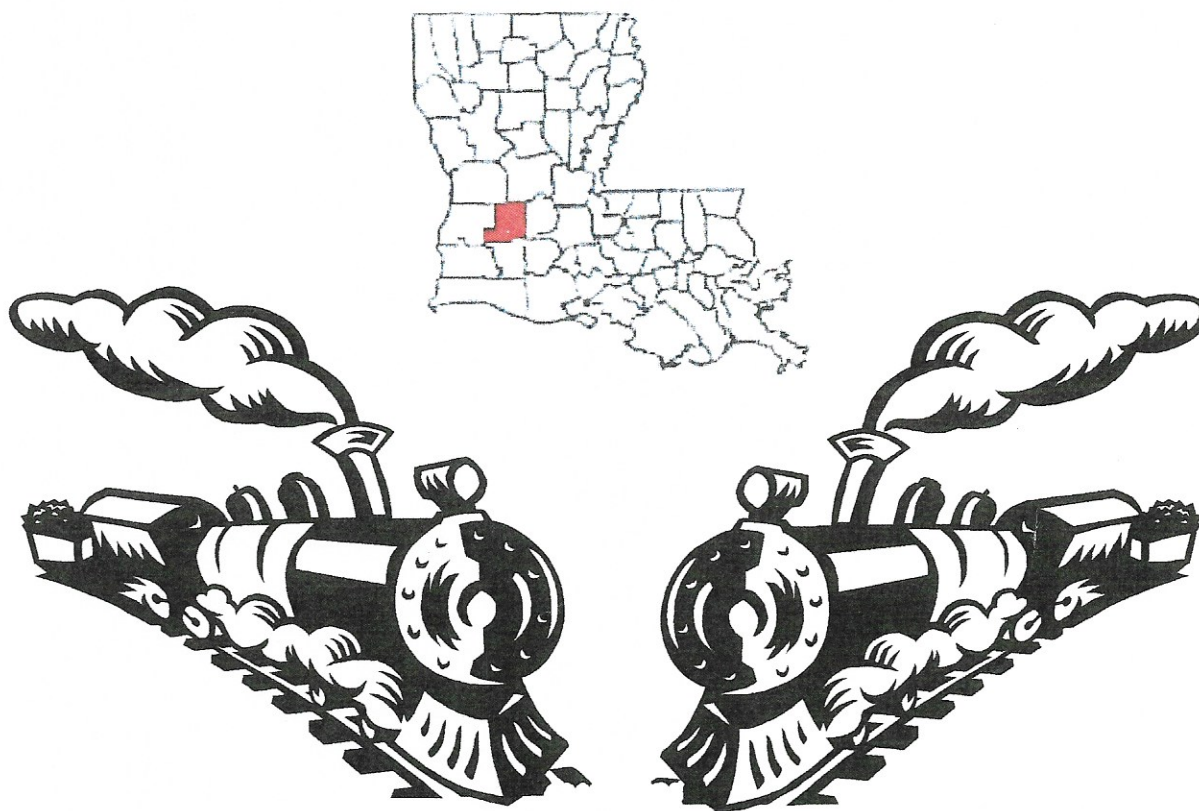


ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013 - 1st Quarter

P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648

Issue No. 245



CROSSROADS

COVERING

Oakdale, Oberlin, Kinder, Elizabeth, Reeves, LeBlanc, Mittie
and surrounding communities.

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648

2013 Officers:

President—Betty Sarver

Vice President--- Durvin LaFleur

Secretary/Treasurer---Fran Clemmons

Publishing Editor--- Fran Clemmons

Assistant Publishing Editor--- Ethel Sacker

Reporter/Tourism Envoy--- Ouida Savant

The society meetings are held every other month rotating the meetings on the first Tuesdays and Saturdays of the month at 10am in the genealogy room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Library located at 833 4th St., Kinder, La. Members are willing to help visitors with research and to answer their questions.

Membership fees are \$15 per calendar year per person. This includes an annual subscription to *CROSSROADS*. Single copies and back issues of the publication are available for \$3 each to anyone.

CROSSROADS is published quarterly. Queries are free to members, \$3 each for non-members and will be published as space permits. When sending in a query, please include all pertinent information such as names, dates and places along with your name and address.

We encourage and welcome contributions of genealogical and historical material that pertain to Allen Parish locations and families for inclusion in *CROSSROADS*. The society does not assume responsibility for accuracy for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject material we deem not suitable for publication.

The society accepts donations of books, periodicals and other material of genealogical and historical interest relating to Allen Parish. Other suggested items include 5 generation charts, family histories, newspaper clippings, and old photos, etc. These items will be placed on file in the genealogy room at the Kinder library for research purposes. Memorials and honorariums are also welcomed by the society and marked as such.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY ALLEN GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following books are published by the AGHS and are available for purchase at the prices listed plus \$2 each for shipping and handling.

Rev. Paul Leeds' Congregational Church records("Marriages & Funerals"—1895-1957—vol.1) \$25

Rev .Paul Leeds' Kinder Congregational Church records(1893—1957—volumes 1, 2, 3, & 4) each \$25

Rev. Paul Leeds' Bethany (Green Oak) Church records \$15

Congregational Church records of the Indian Village, Edna, and Emad Communities \$15

Congregational Church records of Elton and China Communities \$15

Congregational Church records of Iowa, La. \$15

St Peter's Bayou Blue Indian Congregational Church records(1901-1957(includes St Luke's early church)) \$15

China Cemetery, Elton, La. \$8

LeBlanc Cemetery, Allen Parish \$8

Indian Village Cemetery, Kinder, La. \$15

Sonnier Cemetery, Allen Parish, La. \$8

Resthaven Cemetery, Oakdale, La. \$8

Lyles Cemetery—Barnes Creek, Reeves, La. \$15

Index of Surnames in all recorded Allen Parish Cemeteries \$10

St Augustine Cemetery, Basile, La. \$15

Ancestor Charts—five generation charts—Allen Parish ties \$25

THESE BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

TUESDAY, 10 A.M.----MAY 7, 2013

SATURDAY, 10 A.M.---JULY 6, 2013

TUESDAY, 10 A.M.---SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

SATURDAY, 10 A.M.---NOVEMBER 2, 2013

**PLEASE COME AND BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU!!! MEETINGS ARE ALWAYS
INFORMAL AND WE HAVE FUN DIGGING UP "BONES".**

President's Comments

We are embarking on a new year and a new calendar to fill with appointments. I hope that you will be sure to mark the dates of the AGHS meetings on yours. There are only six meetings in the year and we certainly would like to see you there. We always like hearing what you have found since the last meeting. We also like your input on other ways to improve our society and/or new projects.

Those of us who enjoy genealogy feel family is very important, even ancestors we have never known. There is just something about family that gives us a sense of belonging, security and comfort. That is why we enjoy the research and get so excited when we are able to connect to past generations. We really get excited when we are able to find an old photo. We immediately begin to look for features in that person that are similar to ours or other current family members. It's like added proof they are part of our family.

Any photos you may find of people or buildings in early Allen Parish are needed for our records and for the museum. We can copy them and return them to you or the owner. These are part of recording and preserving the history of the parish which is one of our main goals.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful New Year,

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President

from the editor.....*Fran Clemmons*

Some of the staff members of the Allen Genealogy and Historical Society have recently undertaken the very much needed work of going through materials and refiling everything that the society has housed in the files of the genealogy room in the Kinder Library. The genealogy room received a face lift, fresh paint on the walls and on all the file cabinets that the society store files in, so of course all the files had to be taken out and placed out of the way until the paint dried. The Society has family file folders, which contain family histories, family group sheets, old newspaper clippings, books, and lots of items of interest to be used as sources of genealogy research.

The Society will accept items of interest to publish in **CROSSROADS**, such as pedigree charts, articles of family histories, copies of Land records, Wills and probates, Marriage certificates, birth/baptism certificates, copies of Obituaries are some suggestions.

As the editor of **CROSSROADS**, I really need everyone to help me out by sharing any information, comments, or suggestions you may have to assist me with material to publish. It is a real struggle to receive material to print and put **CROSSROADS** together quarterly. Thank you all for being as patient as you have been with the delays in getting your publication.

This is just a reminder to the newest members of the Society, to please supply a five-generation Ancestor Chart to be filed in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library.

DUES are due!!! \$15.00 to renew your membership for year 2013. Please mail to AGHS, P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La .70648

The next meeting of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society will be held at **10:00 am on Tuesday, May 7, 2013** in the genealogy room at the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Library, located at 833 4th Street, Kinder, La. Mark your calendar now so you will not forget to come, and bring someone with you!!! Look forward to seeing you!!

OAKDALE

Oakdale Louisiana was first known as "Bay", and had a post office by that name also. The post office was located approximately two miles southwest of the present town site of Oakdale, and was named Bay because it was built between the Calcasieu River and East Bay (a low area of land). The first postmaster at Bay was William T. Dunn.

Mr. Dunn was an industrious man, having a gristmill, a cotton gin, and a sawmill. He was the first man to build a two-story house in the community. He was born in Amite County, Mississippi. In 1854, when he was about four years old, his family moved to Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, near Columbia on the Ouachita River. He came into the Bay (Oakdale) area after he had reached adulthood to homestead.

On May 4, 1885, Dunn was given a patent by the U. S. Government for 160 acres of land. Dunn donated eighty acres of the land for a town site, on which Dunnsville was founded in 1890. Dunnsville was part of Calcasieu parish at this time, as Allen Parish had not yet been created.

In 1893, when the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern railroad came into the area, Dunnsville became Oakdale because a team of surveyors were so impressed with the beautiful live oak trees that were on the town site, the name was changed.

By 1905, Oakdale had 500 inhabitants. There was a school with an enrollment of 150 students. There were three churches in town—Catholic, Methodist, and Baptist. There were 10 stores, 2 hotels, a livery stable, a doctor, and a dentist, and also telegraph and telephone facilities in Oakdale. The Oakdale post office came into existence on January 21, 1911. Allen Parish was created out of Calcasieu Parish on June 12, 1912, to include the towns of Oakdale, Elizabeth, Oberlin, Kinder, and the Village of Reeves. Oberlin, La. was named as the seat of the parish, as it was in the center of the parish. Today Oakdale is the only City in Allen Parish. Kinder, Oberlin, and Elizabeth are incorporated as towns, and there is the Village of Reeves.

In the 1920 census, Oakdale is listed as the " sixth largest city in Louisiana.

In 1925, Oakdale had five sawmills in the area. Calcasieu River Lumber Co. located a mile northwest of town was built in 1896 soon to be on the Santa Fe Railroad to Pitkin and it's mill cut 85,000 feet of lumber daily on it 66 inch double circular saw. In 1904 the mill shipped 30,000,000 feet of lumber and employed 175 mill hands and loggers. The Oakdale Lumber Co. mill was built in 1900, one mile north of town on the St. Louis Railroad. It also employed 175 mill hands and loggers, cutting 85,000 feet daily. In

1925 the sawmill of Forest Lumber Co. was located northeast of the city and it cut 70,000 feet of lumber daily. The Bowman Hicks sawmill was located southeast of town, and it was the newest and most modern of the pine mills. West of the city, the plant of Hillyer, Deutsch, Edwards Inc. cut 150,000 feet daily of hardwood making it, with two band saws, the largest hardwood mill in Louisiana. Sawmilling became principal industry in Oakdale, employing about 1000 persons, with weekly payroll of \$60,000. Oakdale's five mills shipped 750 box cars of lumber every month and the town had become the largest shipping center in the south.

As more timber was cut out and large acreages were cleared for agriculture, the parish farmers organized the Oakdale Fruit and Vegetables Growers Cooperative to buy and market their products. One hundred acres of cabbage, one hundred acres of irish potatoes, and two hundred acres of sweet potatoes were planted. One company formed an operated a yam curing plant in Oakdale. Yams became a major crop throughout Southwest Louisiana.

In 1925, the Oakdale Chamber Of Commerce, with its 125 business house members located a branch of Calcasieu Marine Bank in Oakdale. The Chamber of Commerce also organized a parish fair to exhibit their produce and livestock during the month of October.

Oakdale is still a vibrant and bustling city, still surrounded by countless acres of timber and meadowland and proud to be one to the key communities in Allen Parish.

Sources

(A Glimpse of Oakdale between 1890 & 1925 by W. T. Block)

(Clare D'Artois Leeper Jan 27, 1974 Baton Rouge Morning Advocate

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Did you Know ?

1. It is recorded that the world's largest tupelo gum tree was located just north of Kinder, tucked deep in the woods near the Kinder Pump Dam on the Calcasieu River.

2. The Allen Parish Court House still resides on land that was bought on January 27, 1913 for the sum of \$1.00. The Court House was built in 1914.
3. St. Paul Baptist Church—Morehead School Built in 1919, nominated to be on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of the country's few surviving segregation-era African-American schools. The building still is used as a fellowship hall, and is located at 772 Hickory Flat Road in Kinder, Louisiana.

Pine tree crosses are out

(From Internet)

Last Spring on a Saturday afternoon we took one of our "nowhere" drives through the country. My husband was quietly driving along some back roads. I was occupied in the front passenger seat watching out the window as the scenery went by.

I noticed out of the corner of my eye that my husband was straining to look out my

window. This startled me, since his eyes should be on the road in front of him. I asked him what he was looking at out the windows, and he quietly replied, "Nothing." He could have said he was looking for pine tree crosses for Easter. His eyes went back to the road in front of him.

After a few minutes, I looked over at my husband and noticed a tear running

down his cheek. I asked him what was wrong. This time he told me, "I was just thinking about Pop and a story he had once told me." Of course, because it had to do with his Pop I wanted to know the story, so I asked him to share Pop's story with me.

He said, "When I was about 8 years old, Pop and I were out fishing and that's when he told me that the pine trees know when it is

Easter." I had no idea what he meant by that, so I pressed him for more information.

He continued on. . . "The Pine trees start their new growth in the weeks before Easter—if you look at the tops of the Pine trees a week before Easter, you will see the yellow shoots. As the days get closer to Easter Sunday, the tallest shoot will branch off and form pine tree crosses for Easter. By the time Easter Sunday comes around, you will see that most of the Pine trees will have small yellow crosses on all of the tallest pine shoots."

I turned to look out the window and I couldn't believe my eyes. It was a week before Easter, and you could see all of the pine trees with the tall yellow shoots stretching to Heaven.

The tallest ones shone in the sunlight like rows of tiny golden crosses.



DO PINE TREES know it is Easter? Pine trees start their new growth in the weeks before Easter. As Easter Sunday approaches the tallest shoot will branch off and form a cross. By Easter most pine trees will have a cross. This picture was taken at Good Hope Church by Pastor Steve Ramsey. (Photo submitted by Alda Clark.)

QUERY FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please type or print clearly all information. Use a separate form for each person you are seeking information on. Please capitalize the last name of each person you are seeking information on. Fill in all the applicable blanks. If not applicable, place a dash in that space. Place a question mark where the information is speculative. Use "ca" for any date that is approximate or a good guess.

Subject's name: _____

Date and place of birth: _____

Date and place of death: _____

Father's name: _____

Father's birth year: _____ Death year: _____

Mother's maiden name: _____

Mother's birth year: _____ Death year: _____

Spouse's name: (Maiden name): _____

Spouse's date and place of birth: _____

Spouse's date and place of death: _____

Date and place of Wedding: _____

Subject's children: _____

Subject's siblings: _____

Subject's places(s) of residence: _____

Subject's military service: _____

Any additional information on subject: _____

Queries are free to all members. Non-member fee is \$5.00 per Query.

Send Queries to:



**ALLEN GENEALOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. BOX 789
KINDER, LA. 70648

A STORY WORTH REPEATING

about

The Reverend Paul Leeds

In the CROSSROADS issue number 232, 2009-4th quarter, was an article titled, "Pioneer Preacher of the Piney Woods". This article was about Reverend Paul Leeds and his call into the ministry of Southwest Louisiana in the year 1893. This story is worth repeating as Reverend Leeds was a true man of God, who deeply loved his fellowman. The things he valued were religion and learning. The words of Jesus became literally and eternally part of his creed: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." He went beyond the common practice of communing with God at set times and places, and trained himself by prayer and fasting, to pray without ceasing-to Ask, Seek, Knock. Brother Leeds ministry lasted sixty-five years and he stayed active until his death in 1958.

Brother Leeds accepted Jesus Christ as his savior in 1891, at the First Congregational Church Of Dallas, Texas. Early in 1892, he dedicated his life for missionary work and felt a call to go to Central America. In July 1893, Dr. C. I. Scofield, the superintendent of the Congregational Home Mission work in Texas and pastor of The First Congregational Church of Dallas, sent Brother Leeds to Jennings, La. to serve as interim pastor of the small Congregational church there until they could find a pastor, and thought the experience would help prepare him for missionary work in Central America. While in the Jennings area, Brother Leeds made a missionary journey into the Piney Woods of Southwest Louisiana. He saw in Southwest Louisiana "a field white unto harvest" and at the end of his first missionary trip into the backwoods accepted the call of God to minister to the people of the Piney Woods. In 1894, Brother Leeds was licensed as a preacher of the Gospel and on Oct 1895, an ecclestical council met to ordain him.

In 1895 a church was organized in the Green Oak Settlement known as Bethany Congregational Church. In 1902 Brother Leeds took his work into the growing town of Kinder, but he continued to minister to fourteen or fifteen groups meeting in schools and homes in the surrounding area. Besides the churches at Clear Creek, and on the Whiskey Chitta, Brother Leeds ministered at Oaklin Springs, Martin and Loxley Trams, Marsh Bayou, Ham's Creek, Bundicks Creek, Indian Village, The Indian Church on Bayou Blue, Emad and Edna. As each organized church grew strong enough to support a regular pastor, he "turned loose" in order to concentrate on the church at Kinder.

In 1906, Brother Leeds accepted the call to serve the small church in Welsh, La. In 1907 he married Besse Allen and they moved back permanently to Kinder.

Brother Leeds was instrumental in organizing more than twenty missions and churches. Since 1895 he performed 656 weddings and preached 1,164 funerals besides assisting in many others. He kept journals and wrote valuable church records of Marriages he performed with names of couple, date, and where wedding took place. He also recorded births, with the parent names, the sex of the baby and name, and also included Baptisms with names and dates. He kept dates of deaths and funerals with cause of deaths also. He wrote information of some of the churches and names of church members, ministers, and many of the meetings. All of Brother Leeds church records are in the safe keeping of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society. His records offers a very rich source of genealogical and historical information for researchers in this area.

Mrs. Kathryn S. Johnson wrote a non-fiction book, "Patteran", about Brother Leeds, as he was affectionately called by all. The information in this article about Brother Leeds was taken from "Patteran".

Included with this article is a copy of a Certificate of Baptism and Birth of Daryl Durvin LaFleur Jr.. He was dedicated in the First Congregational Church of Kinder, by Brother Leeds in 1948. Durvin is the Vice President of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society.

Christian Baptism
and Birth
This Certifies

That Daryl Durvin Lafleur Jr. a son
of Daryl Durvin Lafleur Sr. and his wife
Margy Nell Rougeau Lafleur was born on the 17th. day of
October 19 47, at Kinder, Allen Parish, Louisiana

Received

Christian Baptism DEDICATION

on the 31st. day of October in the year of our Lord 19 48
In the First Congregational Church, Kinder Louisiana

Paul Leeds Pastor.

WITNESSES

This child is the 6th. generation, in direct
line, from his great great great grandparents
I have baptized, received into the church, and
now dedicated, in my ministry.

Date (of this Certificate) May 3rd. 19 54

Dear Daryl Durvin Jr.

I baptized your great great great grandmother, Mrs. Jenny
Bullett October 20th. 1901; and your great great great grandfather
James (Dupre') Nevils, June 22nd. 1902. Your great great grand
father and great great grand mother, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Nevils, May
25th. 1902; your great grand mother, Mrs. Leonore Nevils Fontenot
Lormand January 26th. 1902; your grandmother Mrs. Lillie Fontenot
Rougeau I received into the church on profession of faith; baptized
your father, Daryl Durvin Sr. October 21st. 1934; your mother April
13th. 1941, and I married your father and mother and also your
great grandfather and great grandmother..

Now, dear boy, you must give your little heart to the Lord Jesus
and trust Him as your aviator, just like five generations back before
you have done, and keep the family line faithful to our God clear on
until our Lord Jesus comes back for us all.

Your loving pastor,

Paul Leeds

Great Great Great grandfather James (Dupre') Nevils was born
July 10th. 1828 and died February 26th. 1910.
Great great great grandmother Eugenia Buller, was born 1827,
and died June 20th. 1914. Both buried at Indian Village.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Complete and mail this form with payment to:
ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 789
Kinder, LA 70648

Please make checks or money orders payable to
Allen Genealogical and Historical Society

Although not required, we ask that you please send a five generation
chart of your lineage for our records. A blank chart is attached.

>>>>>>>>><<<<<<<<<<<

Please enroll me as a member of the Allen Genealogical and
Historical Society for the current year, 2013

I understand that with my \$15 membership fee I will also receive 4
quarterly issues of CROSSROADS published in January, April, July
and October. I can also have my queries accepted for publication in
CROSSROADS for no cost.

Record this membership under the following name and address:

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL (optional) _____

Surnames I am researching: _____

Please attach any queries you would like published.

Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____
 Date _____

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. 1 on chart No. 1.

Chart No. 1

b. Date of Birth
 p.b. Place of Birth
 m. Date of Marriage
 d. Date of Death
 p.d. Place of Death

<p>4 (Father of No. 2)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>8 (Father of No. 4)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>16 (Father of No. 8, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
<p>2 (Father of No. 1)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>9 (Mother of No. 4)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>17 (Mother of No. 8, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
<p>5 (Mother of No. 2)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>10 (Father of No. 5)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>18 (Father of No. 9, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
<p>1</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>11 (Mother of No. 5)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>19 (Mother of No. 9, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
<p>6 (Father of No. 3)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>12 (Father of No. 6)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>20 (Father of No. 10, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
<p>3 (Mother of No. 1)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>13 (Mother of No. 6)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>21 (Mother of No. 10, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
<p>7 (Mother of No. 3)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>14 (Father of No. 7)</p> <p>b. p.b. m. d. p.d.</p>		<p>22 (Father of No. 11, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
		<p>15 (Mother of No. 7)</p> <p>b. p.b. d. p.d.</p>		<p>23 (Mother of No. 11, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
				<p>24 (Father of No. 12, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
				<p>25 (Mother of No. 12, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
				<p>26 (Father of No. 13, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
				<p>27 (Mother of No. 13, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
				<p>28 (Father of No. 14, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	
				<p>29 (Mother of No. 14, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. d.</p>	
				<p>30 (Father of No. 15, Cont. on chart No. _____)</p> <p>b. m. d.</p>	

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