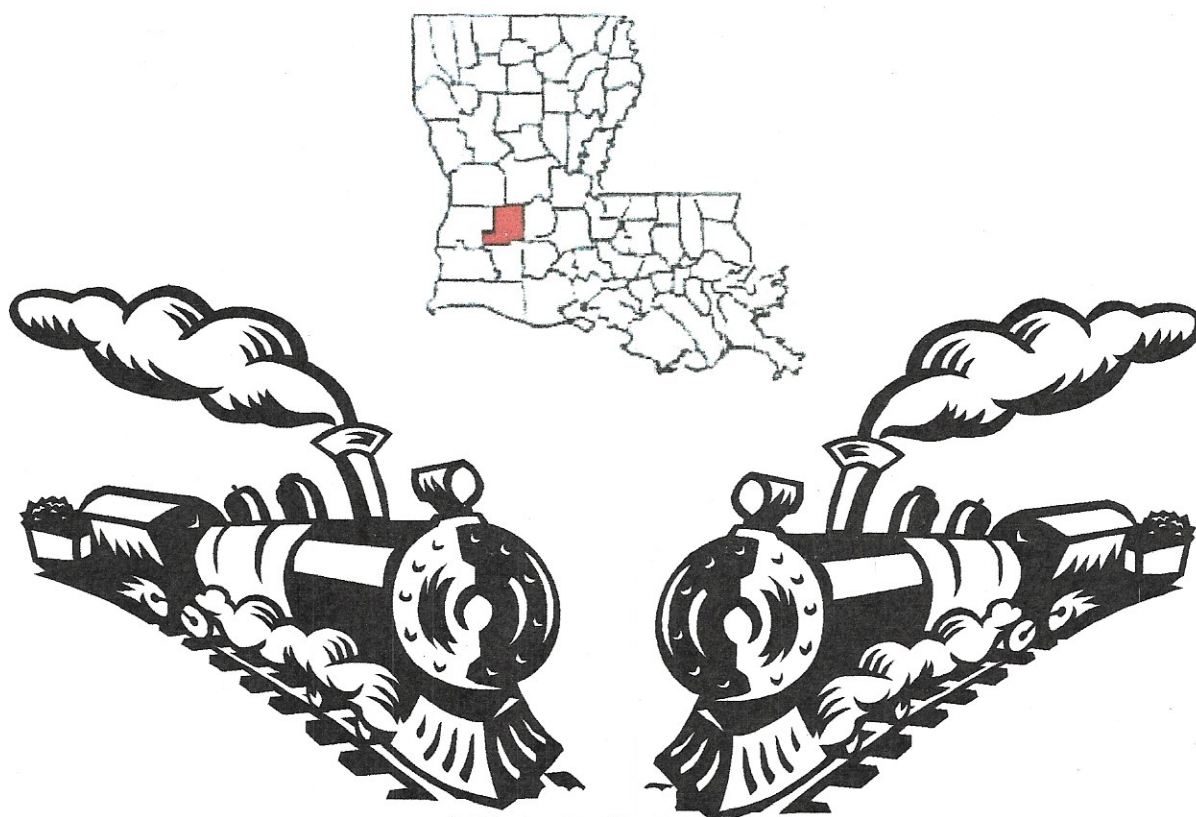


ALLEN GENALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2009 - 3rd Quarter

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

Issue No. 231



CROSSROADS

COVERING

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

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

2009 Officers:

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Quarterly society meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 AM in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library, a branch of the Allen Parish Libraries, located at 833 4th Street, Kinder, La. Members are always willing to help visitors with research and answering questions they may have.

Membership fees are \$15.00 per calendar year per person. This also includes an annual subscription to **CROSSROADS**. Single copies and back issues of the publication are available for \$3.00 each to anyone.

CROSSROADS is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Queries are free to members, \$3.00 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 pertaining to Allen Parish locations or families for inclusion in **CROSSROADS**. The society does not assume responsibility for accuracy of information submitted and published, nor does it assume responsibility 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. Suggested items include 5 generation charts, family histories, newspaper clippings, old photo, etc. All of these donated items will be placed on file in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library for research purposes. Memorials and honorariums are also welcomed by the society and will be marked as such.

**BOOKS PUBLISHED BY
ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The following books published by the AGHS are available for purchase for the prices listed plus \$2.00 each for shipping and handling fees.

Rev. Paul Leeds' Congregational Church records "Marriages and Funerals"– 1895-1957–Vol. 1.....	\$25.00
Rev. Paul Leeds' Kinder Congregational Church Records—1893-1974 Volumes 1 & 2.....	ea. \$25.00
Rev. Paul Leeds' Bethany (Green Oak) Church Records.....	\$15.00
Congregation Church records of Indian Village, Edna and Emad Communities (one vol.).....	\$15.00
Congregation Church records of Elton and China Communities.....	\$15.00
Congregation Church records of Iowa, La.....	\$15.00
St Peter's Bayou Blue Indian Congregational Church records-1901-1957 (Includes St Luke's early church).....	\$15.00
China Cemetery, Elton, La.—(by special permission).....	\$8.00
LeBlanc Cemetery, Allen Parish, La.....	\$8.00
Indian Village Cemetery, Kinder, La.(includes family histories).....	\$15.00
Sonnier Cemetery, Allen Parish, La.....	\$8.00
Resthaven Cemetery, Oakdale, La.....	\$8.00
Green Oak Cemetery, Kinder, La (updated version).....	\$15.00
Lyles Cemetery, Oberlin, La.....	\$6.00
Lyles Cemetery - Barnes Creek, Reeves, La(with family histories)...	\$15.00
Liberty Cemetery, Elton, La(close ties to Allen Parish families and includes family information).....	\$15.00
Index of Surnames in all recorded Allen Parish Cemeteries.....	\$10.00
St Augustine Cemetery, Basile, La. With short history (Close ties to Allen Parish).....	\$15.00
Ancestor Charts – 5 generation charts– Allen Parish Ties.....	\$25.00
1941 Kinder High School Year Book Copy(by special order only).....	\$30.00
Jessie Johnson Cemetery, Kingsfarm, Kinder, La (Includes photos and family history).....	\$15.00
Nevils Cemetery (with photos and headstone inscriptions).....	\$12.00
Kingrey Cemetery, Barnes Creek, Allen Parish, La with recent photos and history(Old abandoned cemetery) (by order only).....	\$12.00

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

President's Comments

Summer has arrived with a vengeance it seems; hot and hotter. These days are not conducive to working or doing much else outdoors. That makes this a perfect time to begin working on your family tree. Those who have started and laid it aside, pick up where you left off. You may find that you have unknowingly acquired some material or other knowledge to help you on your way to finding more than you expected. Sometimes at family gatherings things are said; stories are told that have a tidbit that can spark new research.

The genealogy room at the Kinder Branch of the Allen Parish Library is a good place to spend time researching in a nice air-conditioned environment. If you find you need help, plan to attend an AGHS Meeting and those present will be happy to aid you any way possible.

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President



A POINT TO PONDER

The first step to wisdom is silence;
the second is listening.

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

It's that time of year again that we celebrate and observe the patriotic holidays of Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the Fourth of July. These holidays bring to our remembrance all the men and women that paid the ultimate price for our freedom with their lives, and we also need to remember and pray for our young men and women overseas still fighting for our liberties. Our flag, The Star Spangled Banner, yet waves over the land of the free and home of the Brave! The song, The Star Spangled Banner, was written in the year of 1814 by Francis Scott Key, and more than a century later, in 1931, Congress designated the song as our national anthem. Many people sing the verses of this song not really knowing the story of how our flag became the national symbol of perseverance through perilous times.

The year was 1814, and Maryland was in grave danger from a British fleet of fifty ships with their cannons aimed at towns along the shores. The people thought the British would destroy Annapolis, so they loaded household goods onto wagons and carts and fled inland, but the ships sailed on past heading for Baltimore, the third-largest city in the country. To take Baltimore, the fleet would have to get past Fort McHenry, which guarded the harbor.

The crews of the warships soon could see a gigantic flag with fifteen white stars and fifteen red and white stripes fluttering in the breeze above the ramparts. The flag was the work of widow Mary Young Pickersgill, a seamstress who specialized in making flags for Baltimore's merchant ships. She had to work on the flag in a Baltimore brewery, as her home wasn't large enough for the job of stitching the enormous banner together. She had help from her thirteen year old daughter, Caroline. The flag flew as a proud, defiant symbol of a sudden risen country.

On September 13, the big guns from the British ships aimed at the flag and let loose firing huge 200-pound bombshells. The shelling lasted nearly twenty-four hours. The fleet used signal rockets when darkness fell. The rockets traced fiery arcs across the night sky making a spectacular sight.

A Maryland lawyer had a view of the battle that made history. Francis Scott Key watched from a little American vessel tied to the side of the British flagship. A friend of his had been captured as a prisoner by the British, and Key had gone out under a flag of truce to ask for his friend's release. The British officer agreed to release his friend but not until the battle was over. Key had to wait the whole time pacing the deck and praying the fort would hold out. If Fort McHenry could stand, the city would be safe.

When the firing stopped, Key strained his eyes to see if the flag was still flying. The Stars and Stripes was still waving through the smoke and mist! Fort McHenry had stood and the city was safe.

Key overcome with emotion, took an old letter out of his pocket and

began writing on the back of it a few lines and phrases.

The British left, and Key sailed back to the city. He gave a copy of the poem he had just written to his uncle, who had been helping fight for the fort. His uncle sent the poem to a printer who had it put on some handbills. Before the ink dried, the printer took one and went to a tavern where many patriots were meeting.

Waving the paper in his hand, he yelled for everyone to listen as he read:

*O say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

The crowd cried out "Sing it! Sing it! The words of the poem were sung to a tune, "Anacreon in Heaven", then widely known in America. Francis Scott Key's words never lost their popularity, and became our national anthem.

The next time you are present at an event where the national anthem is being played, remember that our flag still waves over a great nation under God! "In God We Still Trust!!!"

The Staff members of the **Allen Genealogical and Historical Society** want to encourage and welcome everyone to come attend our meetings and take part in genealogical research. Our next meeting will be **October 6, 2009 at 10:00 AM** in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library. Reverend John Cernek has been invited to be our guest speaker for the meeting, so be sure to mark your calendar now so you won't forget to come.

We hope everyone enjoys the articles submitted in this issue of **CROSSROADS**. Let us hear from you! We ask you to share any information and family histories with us for future publications.

Just a reminder about membership dues!!! There are still some of you that have not renewed your membership. Please send in your dues so we will be able to send you your issues of **CROSSROADS**.

Stay Cool everyone and enjoy the rest of the summer!!!

Information used from "The Moral Compass" by William J. Bennett

COURIR DE MARDI GRAS

The Tradition

Allen Parish is rich in Cajun heritage and culture and one such tradition is the Courir de Mardi Gras, which dates back to the Middle Ages and was brought to America in 1765 by the early French colonist. Mardi Gras actually means "Fat Tuesday" in French. Fat Tuesday took place in Paris by parading a fat bull down the street on "Shrove Tuesday". This was the time that Christians would confess their sins and would be "shriven" or forgiven of their sins.



Courir de Mardi Gras came about in the Middle Ages, A.D. 500-1500, when the society in Europe was divided between those that had and those that had not. During the severe winters when the poor people were unable to grow food in the fields, their food became scarce. In efforts to keep their families fed, small groups of the have nots would gather up to go from castle to castle of those that had begging for food. In exchange for any food given, the have nots would entertain those that had with music, singing and dancing.

Their clothes were most often torn and tattered because there was no money for new ones.

This medieval flavor is kept up in the Louisiana Courir de Mardi Gras. Costumed riders travel by horseback through the countryside stopping in at farms and homes begging for donations for the huge community gumbo that would be held that night. For this gift, the Mardi Gras dancers would dance and sing as payment.

The costumes consist of a pair of pants and loose fitting shirt. Some have rows and rows of fringe and sewn on both the shirt and pants. The fringe represents the torn and tattered clothes of the people from the original Fete de la que'mond.

The Capu'chon (cap ee shon), a hat that was worn by noble men and jesters throughout the middle ages is also a part of the costume. This hat is a tall pointed hat usually colored to match the colors of the shirt and pants. A mask is worn by each Mardi Gras. The mask can be homemade or purchased. It can be made out of cloth, screen metal, plaster of parish, or just about anything. The mask, capuchin and costume are very important to the Mardi Gras. This disguise gives the Mardi Gas a secret identity and lets them get rid of their inhibitions.



Examples of Capu'chons and Mardi Gras costumes



How It Is Done

The Capitan, who wears a cape and carries a flag, is the one who makes all the rules. He is in charge of all the riders and their safety.



The Capitan leads the Mardi Gras throughout the country side going from house to house. The Capitan will leave the riders and approach the owner of the house asking for a donation for the community gumbo. If the owner gives permission the Capitan waves his flag and the Mardi Gras come rushing in with music, dancing and a whole lot of mischief. After a dance or two, a few outrages stunts and good time horsing around the owner will give a gift of onions, sausage, rice or spices to go in the gumbo. But the best gift of all is the live chicken.



The chicken chase is on! The chicken is thrown into the air squeaking and squawking. The riders run after the bird and the on lookers can't help but laugh as the Mardi Gras run, tackle and wrestle with each other trying to win the prize. The winner holds up his prize high so everyone can see it. After a song or two, the Capitan blows his horn and the merrymaking stops and the riders proceed to the next house to start the procedure all over again. After about a 15-mile trail ride, the tired riders come into town and parade and entertain all the parade goers with more music, fun and antic.

The feast begins that evening with a huge gumbo supper. The riders eat first but there is plenty enough for everyone. The fun, music and dancing promptly ends at 12:00 midnight when Ash Wednesday is ushered in.



DORIS MARICEL / AMERICAN PRESS
 Captain John Weatherford serves lunch to krewe members Phillip Taylor, Paul Savant and Ricky "Cabbage" Manuel from the back of a pickup truck during a stop off Clyde Chacherie Road near Kinder.

'Chicken chasers' do their thing in Kinder

KINDER — Rural Allen Parish came to life Tuesday as masked riders on horseback took to the back roads for the annual Courir de Mardi Gras. About 10 horsemen and 30 "chicken chasers" from the

Krewe de Chene traveled the countryside on horseback and in flat bed trailers pulled by tractors in search for gumbo ingredients. This is the eighth year the krewe, which includes both

men and women, has held the run. The nine-hour ride ended with a parade through downtown Kinder followed by a gumbo dinner and dance.

DORIS MARICEL

The feasting and partying is put aside and this day is the beginning of the 40-day fast that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. This time is called Lent. People travel to their churches to receive a "cross of ashes" on their foreheads. This is done as a symbol of penitence and purification. Lent has begun.

Courir de Mardi Gras is celebrated by young and old alike. It is a time of feasting, camaraderie, and celebration dating back to the Middle Ages. It has been passed down from generation to generation and has changed very little over the years. When the time of Mardi Gras comes, it is at time of celebration of the Cajun Culture, history, music and a very special unique identity from days of old.



THE FIRST ANNUAL THE LEATHERWOOD HAUNTING

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SCHOOL DAYS—THE EARLY DAYS AND NOW

The first school in the Kinder area during the nineteenth century was started in the year around 1888, by Franklin Philbrick, a settler from Kansas, the midwestern section of the country. He had several children and education was very important to him for them, so he took on the task of building a school system. At this time, the state of Louisiana, did not supply a state paid teacher until an individual would teach without pay for awhile. Mr. Philbrick became the first teacher in the new school, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as the area residents called the small plank building, located two miles north of Kinder. The students were taught reading, writing, and "ciphering", later termed arithmetic, and some geography. Students were promoted by the books they completed instead of grades. The school had about twenty students, in which several were Mr. Philbrick's own children. Some of the students paid tuition to attend the school. The school term lasted the three summer months.

As Kinder grew to be a sizable town, the residents felt it was time for a larger school. In 1893, a new school was built on a triangle lot across from the area we know today as the old "Masonic Hall", in which today houses the "B&K Music Co." on North 10th street. J.S. Tingle, Jay Brown and E.M. Jenkins were teachers that taught in this school. Again the school became overcrowded and in 1903, another building was built on the site where the "B&K Music Co." now stands. The principal was Miss Lula Gray and her assistant principal was Miss Minnie Griffith. Miss Griffith later married Dr. J. W. Mayes, Sr.

Mr. R.G. Cockran was the principal in 1905. He had three teachers on faculty to assist him with a student population of about ninety pupils. Free room and board was given to teachers as an incentive to get them to come to Kinder to teach by Mr. Milton B. Mc Rill. Mr. McRill and his family homesteaded 160 acres of land and built a home north of the present site of Kinder. He was a very civic minded man and wanted to help in the development of the town and the school, so he would give room and board to teachers to get them to stay and teach the children.

Mr. Cockran was made Superintendent of Education in 1918, so Mark Pickeral became principal.

In 1913, Kinder's first brick, two story with basement, school building was built, but it burned down in 1918. A new school replaced it, opening in 1922. This beautiful school building stood and saw several generations attend classes everyday. A new high school was built in 1960, but the old building was used as an elementary school until 1973, when it was demolished and a new grammar school was built. The school built in 1960, is presently getting a face lift and additions built onto it, and also new additions are going

on at the grammar school and middle school. Kinder keeps growing by leaps and bounds. So much has transpired since the early days of school in Allen Parish. Back then, teachers had to sign a pledge that they would not dance or play cards. Marriage was not allowed, so because of this, a teacher sometimes married secretly. There was also another by-law that was to be enforced by truant officers, which was that the parents must send their children to school, and if they failed to do so, the officer would visit the parents to find out why the child, or children were not in school, then they could be fined up to a dollar per day but not to exceed a total of ten dollars. Mr. Willie Gidlow was one of the truant officers.

In 1948, the graduating class was the last class that had to complete only eleven grades. It then became a twelve year school as mandated by state law.

The earliest school known was taught at Phillips Bluff, prior to 1875. The exact date and information on the school is not known. There were other rural schools developed. One was at Green Oak, known then as Pitre Settlement. Helen Ratcliffe was one of the early teachers. She rode a bicycle round trip about twelve miles to teach every day. There was a school at the Emad Lumber Company, located about two miles northwest of Kinder, adjacent to what is now U.S. 190, which was a three room school house and they had three teachers, with two grades in each room and went through the sixth grade in the early 1900's. Lauderdale, another community east of Kinder had a rural area school. It was a two room school with teacher H.A. Keys. In 1880, a log house was built and used as the first school in the Harmony Settlement. The settlement was named for the teacher, Mr. Harmony. The school consisted of the first through the third grade, and the term was only for three months of the year during the cold weather, so that the children could be home during the better weather to help work in the fields. The school burned down so another was built and used until in the early twenties, when it closed down. The school children then went to school at "Johnsons Settlement", a few miles south of Harmony. The "Johnsons Settlement" was located in an area everyone today knows as "across the river". The school was held at one of the area residents homes, which is where the teacher also resided, as was common during this time. There was a school taught by Mrs. T. T. Wallace between Kinder and Indian Village. Miss Freddie Stagg taught a small school at Kings Farm. The Weber-King sawmill about five miles south of Kinder on U.S. 165 was built and the mill was called "Edna". The sawmill was a large operation and had a boarding house, commissary, and a school that had classes through the seventh grade. Miss Manheim was the principal, with Miss Southerland and Pauline Bougois as teachers. The school closed when the sawmill closed down around 1920. The Langley settlement was another known location of early rural schooling. Tutors were brought into the pupils home.

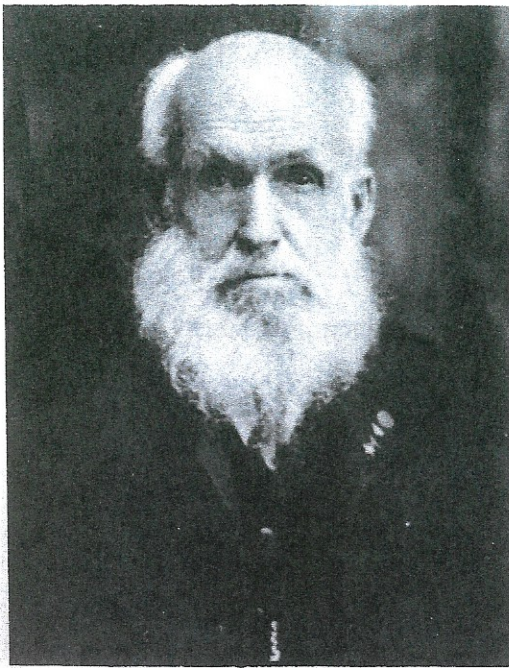
Superintendents who served Allen Parish from early days until present are as follows:

R. J. Cockran	1918-1929
H. A. Buie	1929-1934
T. J. Griffen	(appointed in 1934 to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Buie)
L. L. Smith	1949-1973
A. L. Kennard	1973-1987
Louis Jeans	1987-1990
Jim LaBuff	1991-1995
Louis Karam	1995-1999
Michael Doucet	1999-current

Kinder School Board members from early days until present are as follows:

P. Simpson	1913-1918
C. C. LaFleur	1918-1922
J. T. Jordon	1922-1927
George Deaton	1927-1929
Azinor Manuel	1929-1935
Henry Unkel	1935-1968
Mike Unkel	January 1968-December 1998
William B. Jackson	January 1977-December 1998
Lyndon Livingston	January 1999-December 2002
Carolyn Manuel	January 1999-December 2002 and January 2007-current
Charles Nevils	January 2003-December 2006
Mike Unkel Jr.	January 2003-September 2006
Durell Peloquin	October 2006-December 2006
Brett Fawcett	January 2007-current

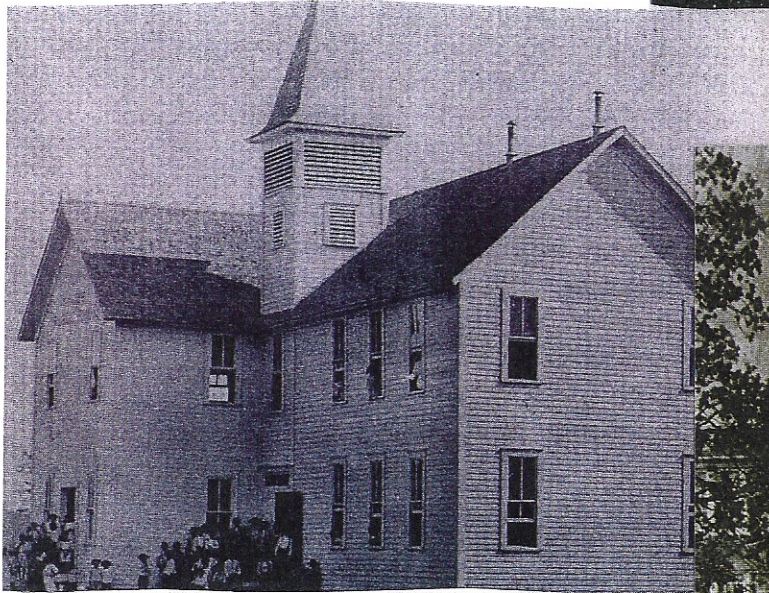




Mr. Franklin Phibrick
First teacher in new school



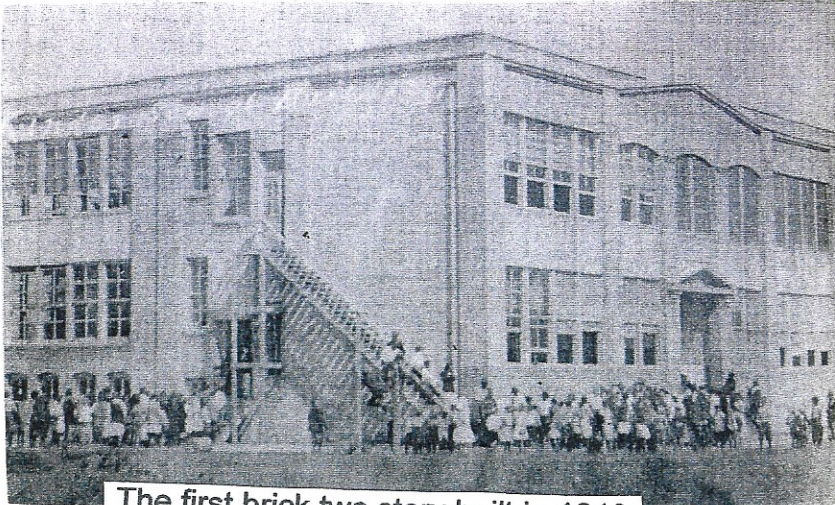
Early Kinder School-possibly
Second one built about 1893



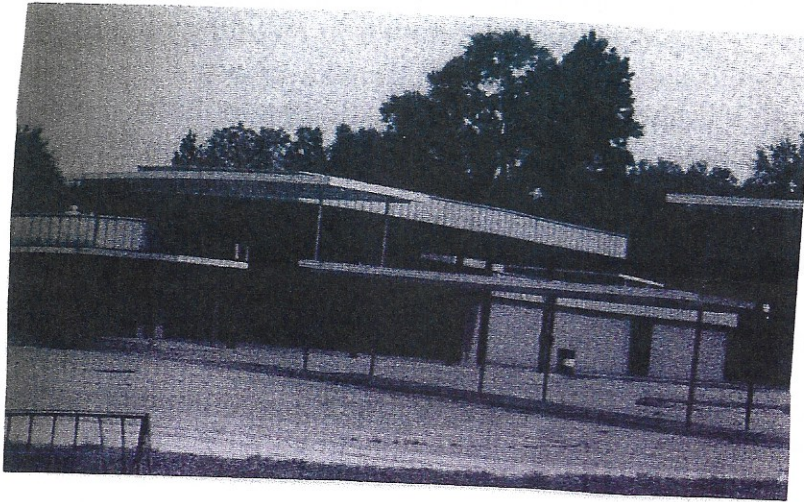
Kinder School built around 1903



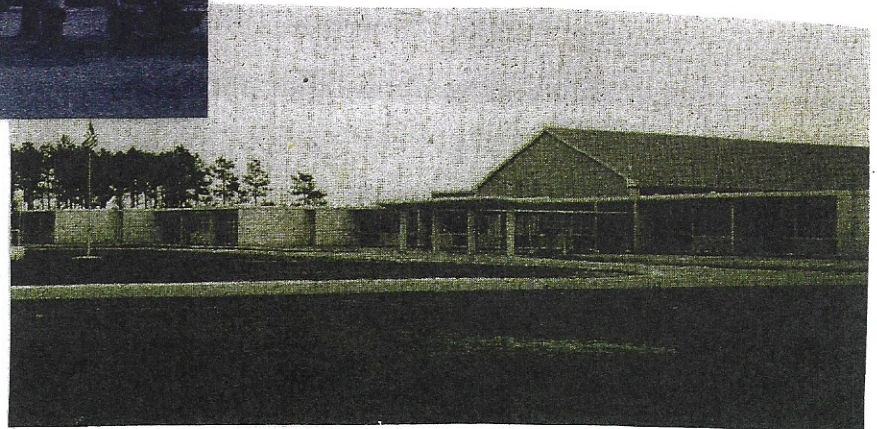
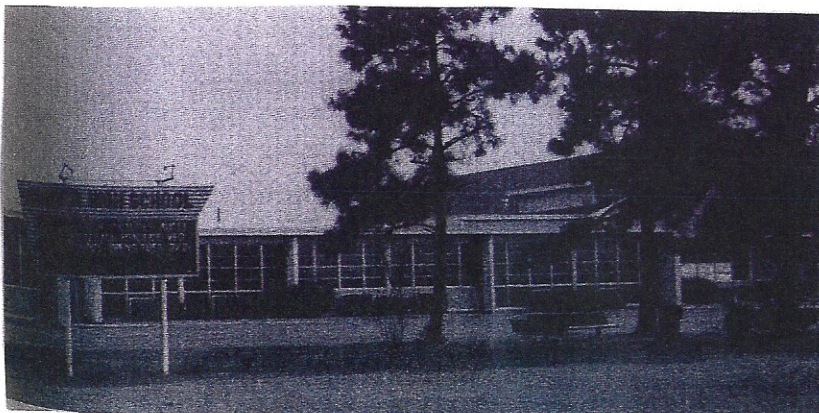
This school built in 1922 to replace
Burned school and stood til 1973



The first brick two story built in 1913
But burned down in 1918



Kinder Elementary School



Kinder High School

CHECK IT OUT!!

I was reading in a recent publication of the **KINSFOLKS**, an article on misinformed research. The article was titled "GENEALOGISTS BEWARE!" and stated that some researchers are not careful about passing on erroneous information. We should always check out any information we get from researchers because we don't know where they got THEIR information. We can use information garnered from others as clues for further research, but not as documentary facts. Sometimes misinterpretations and typographical errors account for many mistakes. If the researcher list any references, ALWAYS check it out for yourself, especially the original source. You will need documentation for your records so the original source is the best.

I have included some tips on taking care and preserving your family records. They are as follows:

- * Never travel with your originals to research. They can be lost or stolen!
- * Make photocopies of everything! Keep your originals in a safe place separate from your working research.
- * Store your documents and photographs in archival quality albums, scrapbooks, and envelopes.
- * Do not allow items to be handled excessively. The natural oils in hands cause deterioration. Use white gloves to handle fragile items.
- * Photocopy newspaper articles. Newspaper deteriorates quickly.
- * Store letters and other papers flat. Folding will eventually cause wear marks.

The following list are causes of Deterioration:

1. Natural---- Light (fades), Temperature changes (splitting, cracking)
Excessive humidity(mold & mildew) dryness, Dust & Pests
2. Manmade----Metal clips and staples, rubber bands, Adhesive tape, paste & glue, Ink(especially ball point), highlighters, magnetic photo albums
Lamination, Pollution
3. Disasters----Accidents, Flood, Fire, Tornadoes, Hurricanes and storms
Family indifference

Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler _____

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

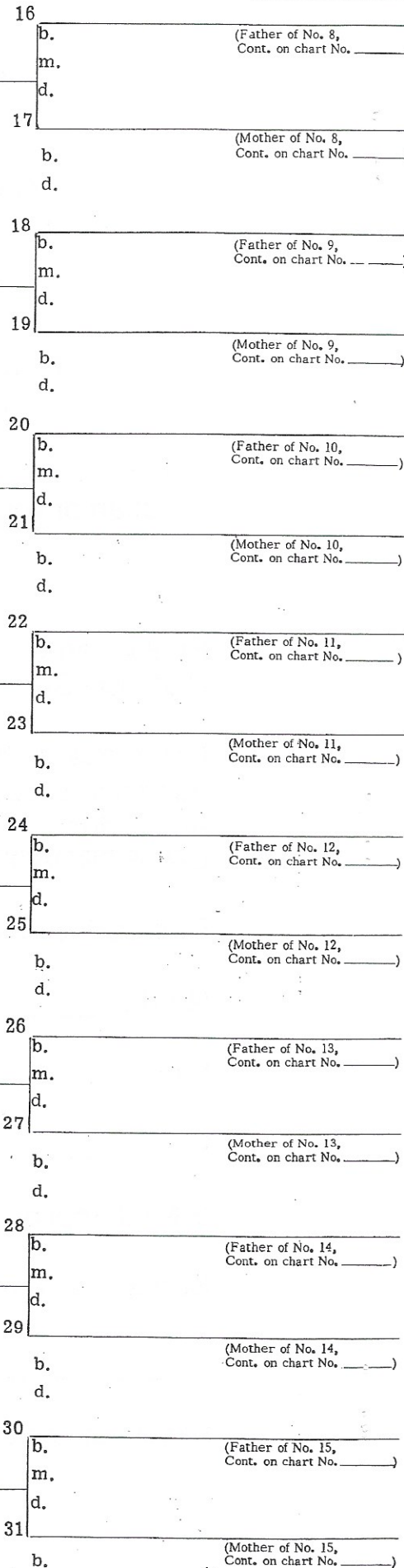
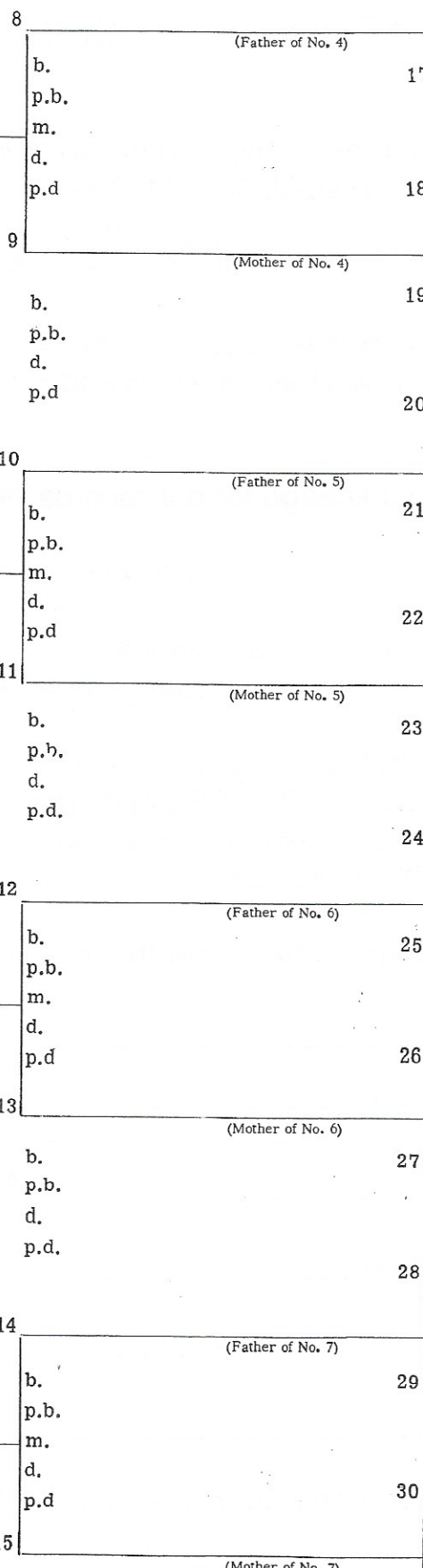
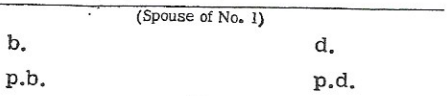
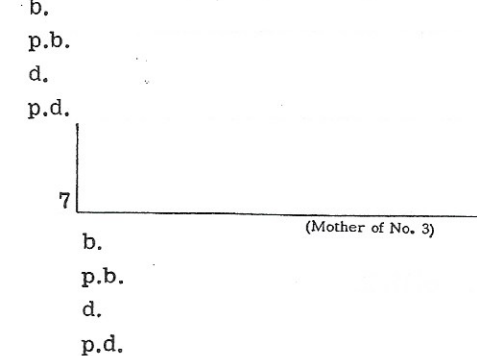
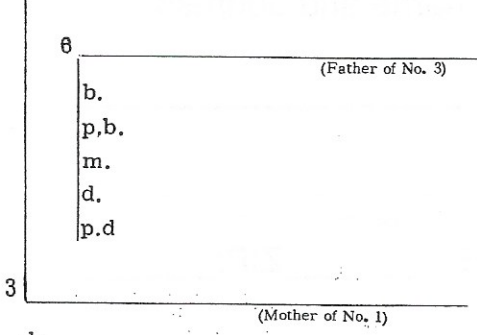
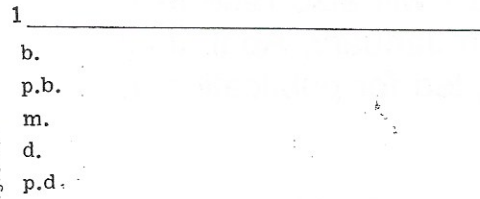
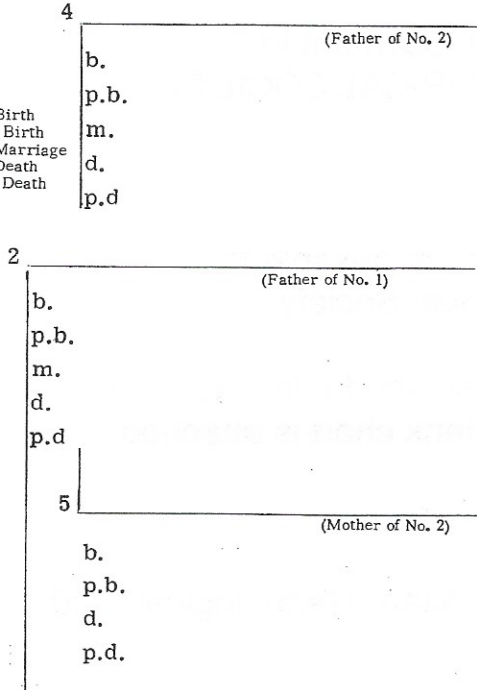
Chart No. 1

Address _____

City, State _____

Date _____

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



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