

ALLEN GENALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2009 - 4rd Quarter

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

Issue No. 232



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:

President — Betty Sarver
Vice President — Loretta Headrick
Secretary - Treasurer — Melvina Kroll
Publishing Editor — Fran Clemmons
Assistant Publishing Editor — Ethel Sacker
Historian — Loretta Headrick
Reporter & Tourism Envoy — Ouida Savant

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!**

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We would like to give a warm welcome to the following new member:

Mr. Charles Nevils, P.O. Box 307 Kinder, La. 70648



President's Comments

We have an active season in store of us. The months of Oct., Nov. and Dec. all have holidays and times of remembrance which bring families together. I want to take this opportunity to wish all you **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** and blessing innumerable!

On the subject of remembrance, Adagria's Museum Page article should stir some memories. I remember several years ago when our society hosted "Pioneer Days" we had ladies demonstrating tatting and crocheting. I never attempted tatting and my crocheting skills are not the best. I'm sure many of you were taught and like me laid the craft aside. However in the early years these skills were almost a necessity.

The article also reminded me of my mother and grandmother sewing on the old Singer treadle sewing machine. They made lovely garments that I was proud to wear.

Well times have changed but oh, how wonderful are the memories!

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President



A POINT TO PONDER

**Ability will enable a man to go to the top,
but it takes character to keep him there.**

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

Looking around, I think we may say it is officially the fall of the year as the days get shorter and cooler. I hope everyone had a happy, fun filled summer with family activities that will be in your memories forever. As we look ahead at the next few months, with holiday planning for the fall festivals of October, and family Thanksgiving get together, and Christmas celebration, I would like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

The speaker for the October meeting of the **AGHS** was Reverend John Cernek, who spoke about his thesis he wrote while at Moody Bible College on Reverend Paul Leeds, the founder of Bethany Congregational Church in 1895, (Green Oak Bible Church), St. Peters Congregational Church in 1901 with the Koasati (Coushatta) Indians, (Indian Bible Church of Elton) and in 1902 First Congregational Church (Kinder Bible Church). Rev. Cernek is the pastor of the Indian Bible Church in Elton. Everyone at the meeting enjoyed Rev. Cernek's informative talk.

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 **January 5, 2010 at 10:00 AM** in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library. **Duane Clemmons**, a History Teacher and Civil War Reenactor 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 have good coffee and fellowship at the meetings and guests are always welcome.

I hope everyone enjoys the articles submitted in the issues of **CROSSROADS**. Let the Society hear from you!! Please share any information and family histories you may have so we may submit them for future publications of **CROSSROADS**.

Have a fun Fall, Happy Thanksgiving, and a very Merry Christmas to everyone!!

(I wish to apologize to everyone for the lateness of getting this issue of **CROSSROADS** out to everyone. I have no real excuse except procrastination. Please accept my apology as I promise to do better in the new Year!!)

**ALLEN PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION
LEATHERWOOD MUSEUM
MUSEUM PAGE**

My grandfather used to tell me that when a hog was slaughtered everything was used by the family or livestock except the oink! I remember stories of how the people used to use what was available to make into what was needed. People had to live off the land in order to survive.



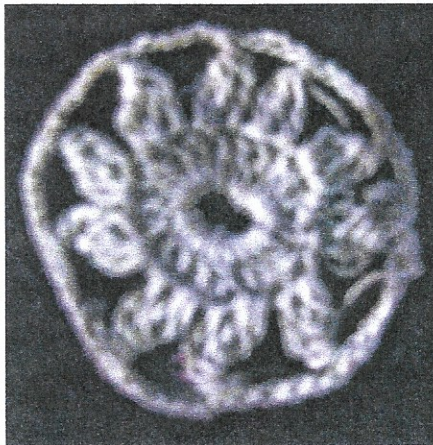
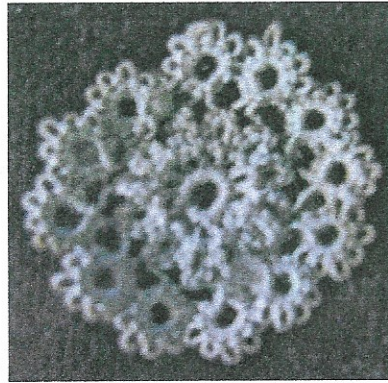
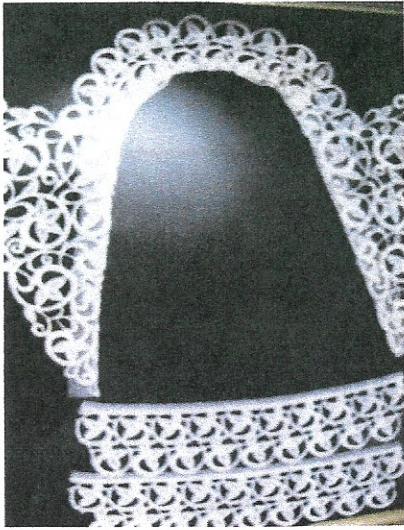
The buttons above were made out of acorn, walnut and pecan shells. These were donated by Elaine Gordon. It is very interesting to see the skills and talents that people had by just learning to survive and living off the land. Who would think about using a pecan and making it into a button in these days and time?

When making the clothes with the peddle-operated sewing machines, a person would get a good work out. Some people did not have the luxury of having a machine and had to make their clothes by using just needle and thread.



The peddle-operated sewing machine was original to the house and was brought over by the Leatherwood family from Alabama in 1912. It is early nineteenth century.

Another interesting skill and art was known as "tattooing" Below is a picture of a matching collar and cuff set which was tattooed in 1920. The others are tattooed buttons.



These are exquisite works of art. The people who sat down and did this was probably taught by their mothers with patterns passed down from generation to generation.

These are just a few examples of our heritage and culture we are losing out on because these types of work are not done by hand any more. Through technology, we now have machines that make the buttons now. And through technology, we lose a part of our history.

QUERIES???

Queries are free to members and will be printed as space permits. Please make all Queries clear, concise, and easily understood. Give **full names** of the person; **exact date**, if known, or an **approximate period(ca)**; and a **location**. State **exactly** what information you are looking for. **Remember**, that someone may have that missing link you need in your family tree and you won't know until you ask!

BOOK REVIEWS

We would like to encourage our members to send in a book review of any book you think would be of interest to other members. The review can be on a Historical novel, that includes this area, or a family history. Let us hear from you!

The following book review written by *Loretta Headrick*
"Patteran" by Kathryn S. Johnson

This book is non-fiction about Brother Paul Leeds. It is very interesting and very thorough. Brother Leeds graduated valedictorian of his senior class at age 16. From 1891 til his death in 1958, the Lord was his master and mainspring. He said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Ask- Seek- Knock. His only pastor was Dr. C. I. Scofield of the First Congregational Church of Dallas, Texas. He valued religion and learning. He was an avid scholar all his life.

This book a great read. Patteran----A patteran is a handful of leaves thrown on the ground by a gypsy to indicate to other gypsies the path taken. Brother Leeds left in his study many 'leaves' indicating the path taken in his travels.

GENEALOGY HUMOR: One in Every Family

MORE AND MORE people are tracing their roots. As both a computer professional and a genealogist, I am often invited to speak on the latest technology available for family historians. During a presentation at a local historical society, a woman raised her hand and asked, "Is it possible to erase a black sheep from a family photograph?" Everyone laughed, because we've all thought of dropping a not-so-great uncle or some other ne'er-do-well from our family tree. "That's not what I mean," she insisted as the laughter stopped. It seems the only photo she had of her grandparents was of them standing outside at their farm in Hungary. She wanted to preserve the photo, but remove one distracting detail. In the background, and at an angle as to appear to be sitting on Grandma's head, was one very large black sheep!!

PIONEER PREACHER OF THE PINEY WOODS
The Reverend Paul Leeds

Back in the Good Old Days, church, religion, and all things spiritual weren't just things the people did once a week—they were part of their lives. When the early settlers arrived in the areas around Kinder, there were no churches to worship in and they wanted to have places of worship for their families, but it took time for permanent church buildings to be established. "Circuit Riders" would come through the area about once a month and they were welcomed by all the settlers.

In July of 1893, Dr. C. I. Scofield, superintendent of the Congregational Home Missionary Society in Texas and Louisiana, of Dallas, Texas, sent a young man from his church to serve as a supply minister to a small group of rice farmers in the Jennings area for a couple of months to give the young man some experience in preaching to help prepare him for missionary work in Central America. The young man that Dr. Scofield sent to the Jennings area was Paul Leeds. Dr. Scofield sent Mr. Leeds to this area as a proving ground to see if the young man could endure and be ready to make a successful missionary in Central America, where he wished to go.

While Mr. Leeds was supply preaching in Jennings, he made a missionary journey into the Piney Woods of southwest Louisiana at the urging of the Reverend J.C. Huntington, Missionary-at-large, who was working with the unchurched population of noman's land between the Calcasieu and Sabine rivers. (During the late 17th century, when Louisiana was being settled, the territory which is now Allen and Beauregard Parishes was a neutral strip between Spanish Mexico and French Louisiana; the laws of neither government were enforced in the strip, so that few permanent residents stopped, and for a number of years the section was a refuge for renegades. In 1840, Calcasieu Parish was created from part of the original St. Landry; the parish seat at Lake Charles attracted many who valued law and order.) At the time Mr. Leeds arrived, the homesteaders had been increased by rice farmers who had been brought in from the Midwest and Northeast by land agents and railroad promoters.

It is no wonder that Paul Leeds saw in southwest Louisiana a "field white unto harvest." At the end of his first missionary trip into the backwoods, Paul Leeds accepted the call of God to minister to the people of the Piney Woods.

On March 14, 1894, Mr. Leeds—henceforth *Brother Leeds*—was licensed as a preacher of the Gospel, and on October 9, 1895, an ecclestical council met to ordain him.

Throughout his ministry, Brother Leeds kept a diary. He found this practice so beneficial that he later insisted that each of his assistants make this a habit, advising them, "Keep a diary. It will be of inestimable value to you as well as to the people you serve." The entries he made in his diary were typical of the record during those years when he was a circuit-*walking* preacher in the Piney Woods.

Brother Leeds was kind, courteous, fearless, yet diplomatic and tactful, with a sense of humor that helped him to cope with the diversities of ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the settlers and also the different religious beliefs some had. He had a deep understanding of man and a boundless measure of the love of God.

The rugged dressed settlers were impressed by the personal appearance of the young preacher. They approved of his carefully groomed, immaculate person he was. The personally manicured hands took hold and helped with whatever work was being done, and although they were always cared for, they were calloused and skilled enough to convince everyone that they belonged to a worker. He worked in his suit until the elbows came through, and the white shirts were washed and ironed so much the collars frayed. His shoes were walked in, through the virgin pine forest and river swamp, until the toes came out. He grew a moustache which probably helped in a couple ways; it made him look more like the moustache and bearded men of that time and place, and it covered the smile that might have betrayed his amusement at inopportune times, for he had an enlivening sense of humor.

Because he was tactful and because he truly and deeply loved his fellowman, he was able to hold services where none had ever been held. One of the early converts said, "Brother Leeds simply ran things. He would tell everyone, 'we'll have preaching here tonight so you all get the word around.' And we would." The things he really valued were religion and learning; he was an avid scholar all of his life.

At first he walked through the woods as he followed the admonition of Jesus to GO and to PREACH THE GOSPEL. Dr. Scofield wrote Brother Leeds a letter in Feb of 1894, about a love gift of \$43.05 his church in Dallas sent him with the purpose of buying a pony. His brother also sent a saddle. And so Brother Leeds became a circuit *rider*.

In 1895, Brother Leeds held services in a small plank school in an area known as the Green Oak Settlement. In the summer of 1895 a church was organized, known as Bethany Congregational Church. (now Green Oak Bible Church—Pastor Rev. Jerry Long). In 1902, Brother Leeds took his work into the growing town of Kinder, on the Watkins railroad, but he continued to minister to fourteen or fifteen groups meeting in schools and homes in the surrounding country. There were mission churches at Emad and Edna, both sawmill towns. As each organized church grew strong enough to support a regular pastor or became so small to justify full-time work, he 'turned loose' in order to concentrate on the church at Kinder, which grew fast from a nucleus of Northern homesteaders. The church was built and dedicated the First Congregational Church of Kinder, (now Kinder Bible Church—Pastor Rev. Robert Jones) and a parsonage was built next to the church. In 1904 the Ladies Aid Society was formed, and weekly prayer meetings were held on Thursday night. Besides having services for the families still in Green Oak Bethany church, Brother Leeds established another permanent work with the Koasati Indian Tribe, a remnant of a "lost Tribe," scattered about the region where they had been since about 1800. Brother Leeds worked out forms of worship comprehensible and acceptable to the Koasati, yet he did not violate his own fundamental faith nor the doctrines of the

Congregational Church. The Indian church was, from the time of its organization in 1901 on Bayou Blue, (Elton, La., now called, Indian Bible Church—Pastor Rev. John Cernek) a unit in the widespread missionary net of the Congregational Church, with the main office of the Home Mission Board located in New York City. The Church was named St. Peters Congregational Church. The Constitution of the Indian church, written by Paul Leeds in ink on lined tablet paper, has been preserved.

Brother Leeds met his future wife while helping in a meeting at the First Congregational Church in Lake Charles. Her name was Besse Allen. She was a new school teacher in Kinder and taught the first and second grades. Miss Allen was an active worker in the church.

In June of 1906 Brother Leeds accepted the call to serve the small church in Welsh as part-time pastor. Miss Allen had already signed a contract to teach the second grade at Welsh during the 1906-07 school session. She found a room, but had to take her meals at the boardinghouse where most of the other teachers, and Mr Leeds ate. He left many half eaten desserts in order to walk back to school with her. The courtship progressed and on May 1, 1907, Miss Allen and Brother Paul Leeds were married. They lived in Welsh until October 18, 1907 then they moved for the last time into the parsonage at Kinder. On June 22, 1908 their only daughter Elizabeth Marie was born.

Brother Leeds' ministry lasted sixty-five years. He remained active until his death on October 15, 1958. The practice of prayer began early in the Christian life of Paul Leeds. Its efficacy was forcefully impressed upon him when he learned that he and a companion had been on the prayer list of friends who had faithfully and definitely petitioned for the salvation of the two young men until both were converted. While doing personal work in Dallas, many of his own prayers were answered in such astounding ways that the words of Jesus became literally and eternally a 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." Throughout sixty-seven years of Christian service, Paul Leeds proved that, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." 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.

During the months following his death, a number of churches held memorial services. Scofield Memorial Church in Dallas held one in connection with their Annual Missionary Conference, October 26 through November 2, 1958. A note in the church bulletin read:

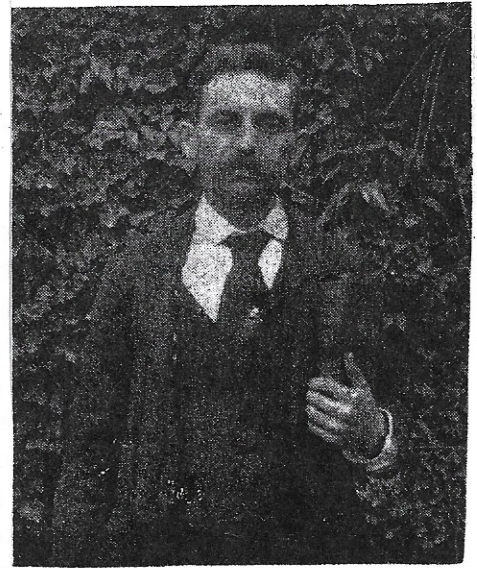
*In addition to Mr. Leeds' work at Kinder, he was instrumental in organizing more than twenty missions and churches. Since 1895 he has performed 656 weddings and preached 1,164 funerals besides assisting in many others. **

* This article taken from "Patteran" copyright 1964 by Kathryn S. Johnson and "Looking Back At Kinder" by Ethelinda J. Andrus and Grace H. Cornish



Paul Leeds in 1893, as he looked when he came to the Piney Woods.

Rev. Leeds (while pioneering).
1898



Rev. and Mrs. Paul Leeds and Marie.
1915



Rev. Paul Leeds.
1940



Mrs. Paul Leeds.
1940



Rev. Paul Leeds at Green
Oak Church.

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, 2009.

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.

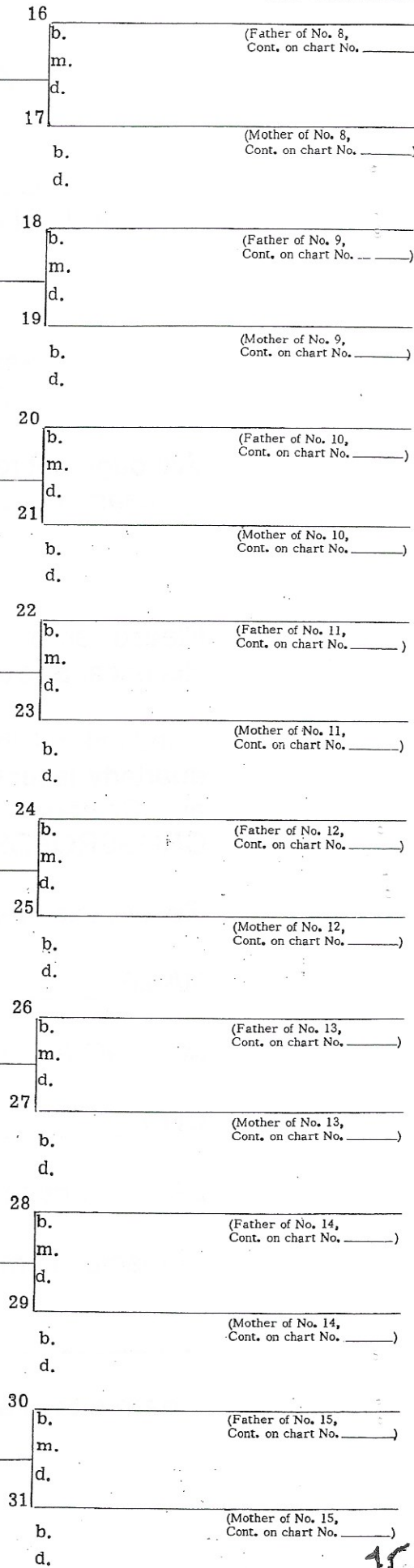
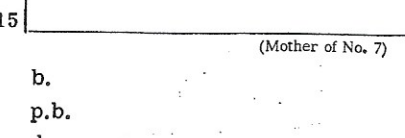
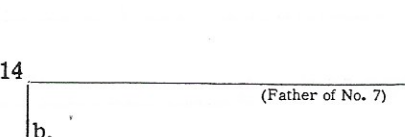
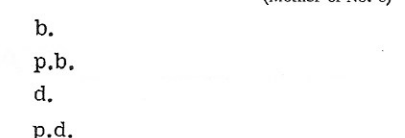
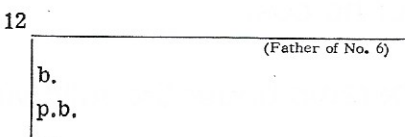
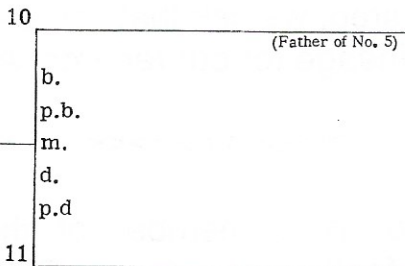
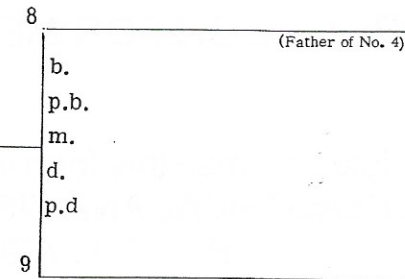
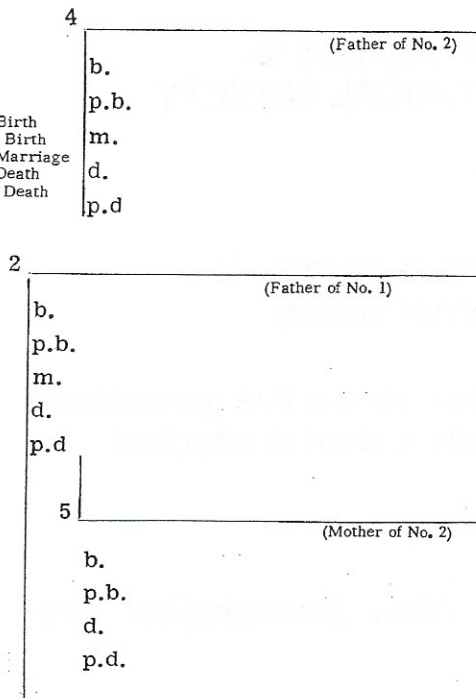
Ancestor Chart

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



Form A2. Copyright 1963 by The Everton Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 368, Logan, Utah, publishers of THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER. Send for a free catalogue with lists and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

(Spouse of No. 1)
 b. _____ d. _____
 p.b. _____ p.d. _____

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